

# SPRING 2026 **ADULT EDUCATION**



**BMPC**  
Adult Education

# SUNDAY CLASSES

8:30 A.M.

## SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

Starting January 4, 8:30 a.m.

Cannon Room

The Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray leads this engaging study on First John, a letter that invites us to explore the heart of Christian faith through the themes of love, truth, and authentic discipleship. Each week will delve into the text's powerful call to live as children of God: people who walk in the light, practice compassion, and embody Christ's love in community. Whether you're new to Bible study or a longtime participant, this class offers a warm, reflective space to grow in faith and understanding.

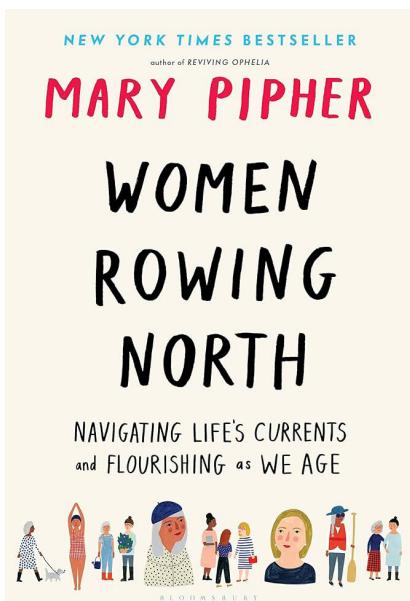


8:45 A.M.

## FILLING THE WELL

Starting January 11, 8:45 a.m.

Children's Library, Education Building



Join a welcoming community of women for a thoughtful exploration of Mary Pipher's *Women Rowing North*, a powerful guide to navigating the emotional, relational, and spiritual challenges of growing older. Through conversation and reflection, we'll consider how to navigate life's transitions with wisdom and grace. Whether you are already familiar with Pipher's work or reading her for the first time, you'll find companionship and encouragement as we journey through this transformative book. This class is led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick, [RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmmpc.org](mailto:RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmmpc.org)

# SUNDAY CLASSES

8:45 A.M.

## DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY: NAVIGATING MAJOR LIFE TRANSITIONS

February 22 through March 15, 8:45 a.m.

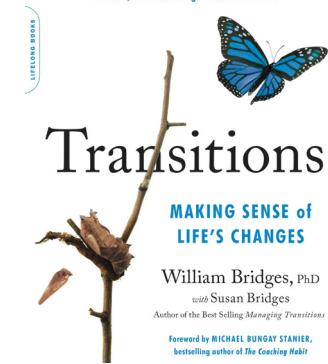
Gloucester Room

The Rev. Melanie Hardison will present a framework for understanding and managing transitions, based on William Bridges' book *Transitions*, which she used to guide her transition from Kansas City to Bryn Mawr last summer. Bridges provides a simple yet profound roadmap for navigating major life transitions with meaning and intention. Using experiences from her own life as well as stories from the Bible, Melanie will facilitate discussion about how we can apply the framework to all types of life transitions. Contact [MelanieHardison@bmpc.org](mailto:MelanieHardison@bmpc.org) to register and reserve a book.

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

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Strategies For Coping with the Difficult,  
Painful, and Confusing Times in Your Life



11:15 A.M.

## FAITH IN ACTION: RESPONDING TO A CHANGING WORLD

January 18, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall

In a time when many of us feel the weight of the world, its conflicts, its injustices, and its urgent challenges, we invite you to gather for an open forum of conversation, prayerful reflection, and shared hope. This space is especially for those concerned about environmental issues, racial justice, peacemaking, and the experiences of immigrants and refugees. Together we will name what is on our hearts, listen deeply to one another, and explore faithful ways our church can respond with compassion and courage. This is not a presentation but a community conversation: a chance to connect, dream, and discern how we move forward together as a people committed to justice, mercy, and meaningful action. For more information, contact [RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org](mailto:RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org)



# SUNDAY CLASSES

11:30 A.M.

## WENDY CADGE, PRESIDENT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

January 25, 11:30 a.m.

Congregational Hall

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Wendy Cadge, President of Bryn Mawr College, for a special presentation at our church. A nationally recognized scholar of religion in public life, Dr. Cadge has written extensively on chaplaincy, spiritual care, and how people seek meaning in times of change. Before coming to Bryn Mawr, she served as the Barbara Mandel Professor of Humanistic Social Sciences at Brandeis University and founded the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, a groundbreaking initiative supporting spiritual care professionals across diverse settings.



11:15 A.M.

## STORIES OF WELCOME: WALKING WITH OUR AFGHAN NEIGHBORS

February 8, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall



The Refugee Support Committee invites the congregation to hear firsthand stories of welcome, resilience, and hope from the Afghan families with whom our church partners. Through shared reflections and lived experience, this presentation will offer a window into what it means to begin again in a new country—and how faithful accompaniment makes that journey possible. Committee members will highlight the work our church is doing alongside refugee families, from practical support to deep relationships of trust and care. The presentation will also explore the many ways individuals and families in our congregation

can participate in this ministry, including volunteering, advocacy, and hospitality. Come listen, learn, and discover how our shared faith is calling us to welcome the stranger among us.

# SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

## SACRAMENTS IN THE PRESBYTERIAN TRADITION

February 15, 11:15 a.m.  
Sanctuary



What do Presbyterians mean when we say that the sacraments of Baptism and Communion are a visible sign of an invisible grace? In this experiential class, we will learn by doing. Using a teaching liturgy, the Revs. Rachel Pedersen and Rebecca Kirkpatrick will walk through the sacraments step by step—acting out the ritual actions while pausing to reflect on their theological meaning. Along the way, we'll explore how water, bread, and cup communicate God's promises; how the sacraments shape identity and community; and why Presbyterians emphasize God's initiative over human effort. This class is designed for those who want a deeper, embodied understanding of the sacraments at the heart of Reformed worship.

## MARIAN: THE AMERICAN STORY

February 22, 11:15 a.m.  
Congregational Hall

Celebrate the life, music, and career of world-renowned contralto Marian Anderson. Jillian Pirtle, opera and musical theater artist and CEO of the National Marian Anderson Museum and Historical Society, will perform and share videos and artifacts from the museum to illustrate how Ms. Anderson used her voice and art to overcome racial barriers and advocate for equality and justice. This presentation is co-sponsored by the BMPC Senior Adult Council, the Anti-Racism Committee, and the Music and Fine Arts Council.



# SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

## JESUS THE KING IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

March 1, 11:15 a.m.  
Fullerton Room

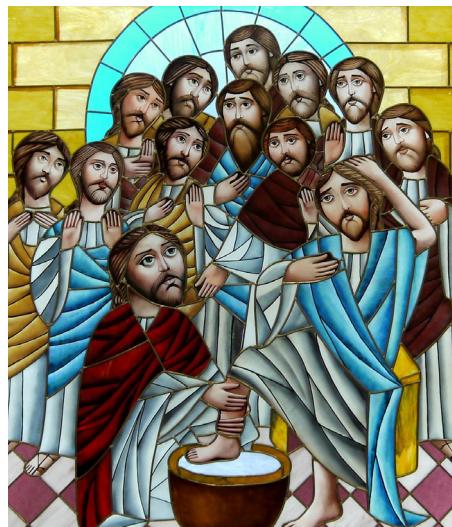


Join Dr. Diane Chen, New Testament scholar at Eastern University, for an in-depth exploration of kingship in the Gospel of John. Dr. Chen's teaching and research focus on the Gospels, early Christian interpretation, and the theological worlds of the New Testament. In this class, she will examine how John presents Jesus as king in striking ways—despite the absence of the infancy narratives found in Matthew and Luke. Through close attention to key texts, literary themes, and historical context, Dr. Chen will show how John affirms Jesus' messianic, Davidic identity. Together, we will consider how John reshapes our understanding of kingship, authority, and what it means to confess Jesus as Lord.

## JESUS THE SERVANT IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

March 8, 11:15 a.m.  
Fullerton Room

Join Dr. Joshua Yoder, New Testament scholar, for a close look at Jesus as servant in the Gospel of John. While John is often associated with high Christology and exalted language, it also offers one of the clearest portrayals of Jesus' humble, self-giving service. Dr. Yoder will explore how service, love, and obedience define Jesus' identity and mission in John. This class will examine key passages that reveal how servanthood is not a contradiction of Jesus' authority, but its deepest expression, shaping both discipleship and the life of the church.



# SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

## PRESBYTERIANS AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

March 22, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room



As the nation prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, join Dr. Heath Carter of Princeton Theological Seminary for an introduction to the historical connections between the Presbyterian Church and the Revolution. A leading historian of American religion, Dr. Carter will outline how Presbyterian beliefs, church governance, and clergy intersected with revolutionary ideas about liberty, authority, and self-rule. This class will explore why Presbyterians were often associated with

revolutionary sympathies, how sermons and congregations shaped political imagination, and what role Presbyterian networks played in colonial and early American life. The class will offer an engaging overview of how faith and revolution became intertwined—and why Presbyterians were so visible during this formative moment in American history.

## DARBY CREEK WATERSHED

March 29, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room

Join us for a special presentation with Jaclyn Rhoads, President of the Darby Creek Valley Association, who will guide us in exploring the importance of our local watershed and its impact on our region's health.

Darby Creek shapes the ecosystems, neighborhoods, and communities around us—yet many of us don't realize how closely our daily lives are connected to its well-being. In this session, we'll learn about the watershed's history, current environmental challenges, and ongoing restoration efforts that protect water quality and wildlife habitat. We'll also discuss practical steps individuals and congregations can take to care for this vital resource. Come discover how stewardship of our local watershed supports the flourishing of our community and reflects our commitment to creation care.



# SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

## THE BEAUTY OF MISSA GAIA

April 19, 11:15 a.m.  
Fullerton Room



As a complement to the BMPC Sanctuary Choir's performance of *Missa Gaia*, we invite you to a special adult education class led by our Director of Music and Fine Arts, James Kealey. *Missa Gaia*—the “Earth Mass”—weaves together traditional liturgical elements with global musical styles, the sounds of nature, and themes celebrating the interconnectedness of creation. James will guide us through the work's musical structure, spiritual vision, and ecological inspiration, helping us understand how this groundbreaking piece invites worshipers to hear creation's voice and join in its praise. Whether you are new to the piece or already love it, this session will enrich your listening and deepen your experience of the performance.

## HOTTER, WETTER WEIRDER: CLIMATE CHANGE IN PHILADELPHIA

April 26, 11:15 a.m.  
Fullerton Room

In recent years, our region has been hit by an epic drought, heat waves, wildfire smoke, and even flooding from 1,000-year storms. Yes, climate change is already happening in the Philadelphia region as our climate gets hotter, wetter, and decidedly weirder. But what's the evidence for climate change locally? What are the trends in temperature and rainfall? And what does the data say? You'll not only be surprised but motivated to find solutions. Environmentalist and author Mike Weilbacher will walk us through the science, carefully answering your questions while weaving in politics, pop culture, and even a pop quiz.



# WEDNESDAY CLASSES

10:00 A.M.

## COFFEE CUP BIBLE STUDY

Starting January 7, 10:00 a.m.

Cannon Room & via Zoom

This weekly Bible Study brings together women of all ages to read and reflect on scripture – what it has meant for communities in the past and how it speaks to us as individuals, as women, and as a church today. This class will continue to meet in a hybrid format. Sponsored by BMPC's Presbyterian Women, this class is led by the Rev. Rachel Pedersen. For more information about joining the class, contact [RachelPedersen@bmopc.org](mailto:RachelPedersen@bmopc.org)



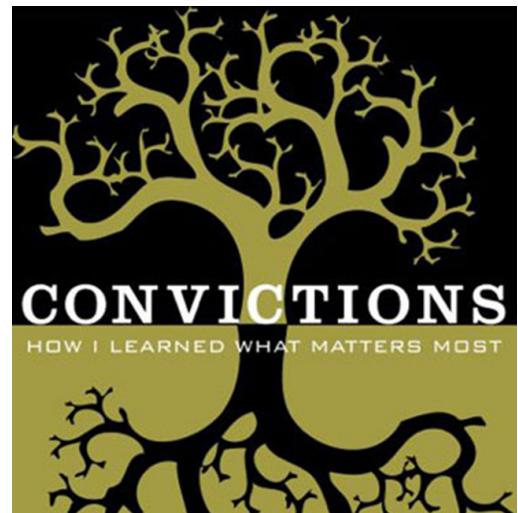
## MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

2nd and 4th Wednesdays,

Starting January 14, 10:00 a.m.

Converse House Parlor

This Wednesday morning class for men will explore *Convictions* by Marcus Borg, a renowned scholar, which argues that what matters most is moving beyond divisive, exclusive faith to create communities focused on hope, transformation, justice, and a deep, lived relationship with a mysterious God, embodied through the person and teachings of Jesus. The Rev. Andy Greenhow leads this class. To register and purchase the book from the church office for \$10, contact [AndyGreenhow@bmopc.org](mailto:AndyGreenhow@bmopc.org)

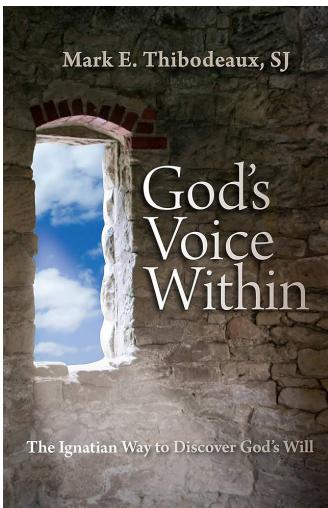


# EVENING CLASSES

7:00 P.M.

## GOD'S VOICE WITHIN: THE IGNATIAN WAY TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL

Tuesdays, January 20 through February 10, 7:00 p.m.  
via Zoom



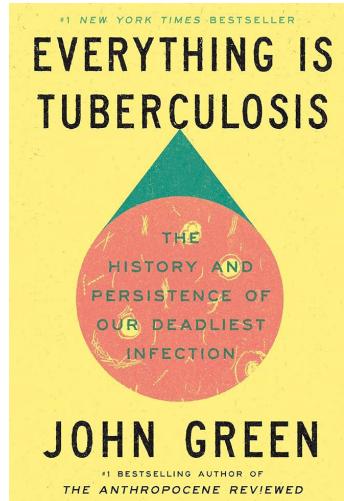
Join Patricia Danzon, Spiritual Director at the Middleton Counseling Center, as we explore *God's Voice Within*, written by spiritual director Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ. We will discover how to use Ignatian discernment to access our own spiritual intuition and understand that the most trustworthy wisdom of all comes not from outside sources, but from God working through us. *God's Voice Within* is intended for people who know that there is more to the spiritual life than they are currently experiencing and are ready to take the next step in their walk of faith by making effective discernment—specifically Ignatian discernment—a daily practice. To register, [KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org](mailto:KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org)

## PASTORS' BOOK GROUP - EVERYTHING IS TUBERCULOSIS

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m.  
Fullerton Room

Join us for a one-time conversation on John Green's new book, *Everything Is Tuberculosis*, which weaves together memoir, history, public health, and Green's signature compassion. We'll explore the lasting impact of tuberculosis—its medical realities, global inequities, and the human stories that shape how we understand illness and healing. Together, we'll reflect on themes of empathy, responsibility, and hope. Whether you've read the book or are simply curious, all are welcome. This conversation will be guided by the Revs. Rebecca Kirkpatrick and Andy Greenhow.

To reserve a copy of the book, contact [JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org](mailto:JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org)



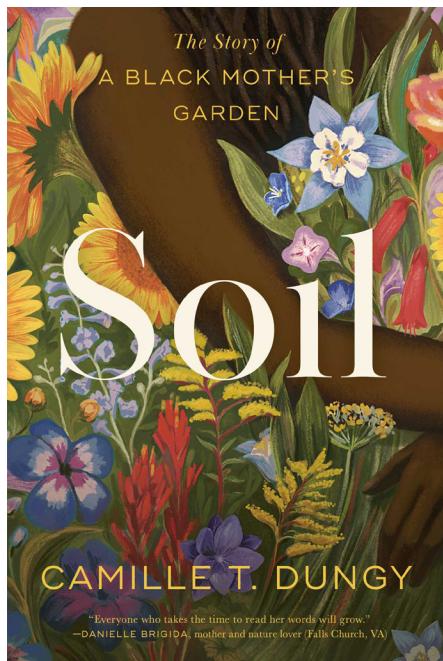
# EVENING CLASSES

7:00 P.M.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION - SOIL, THE STORY OF A BLACK MOTHER'S GARDEN

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.

Witherspoon Parlor



Join the Environmental Justice Committee for a thoughtful discussion of *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* by Camille T. Dungy. Part memoir, part cultural history, and part ecological meditation, this powerful book invites readers to consider how tending the earth can also nurture resilience, identity, and community. Dungy's reflections on creating a garden as a Black woman in America open a broader conversation about belonging, environmental stewardship, and the stories landscapes carry. Together, we'll explore how gardens become places of healing, resistance, and hope—and what her insights mean for our own commitments to justice and creation care. All are welcome to this rich, reflective conversation about soil, story, and the sacred work of cultivating life. Contact [JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org](mailto:JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org) to register and reserve a book.

## CONNECTING TO TEACHERS, CLASSES & GROUPS!

If you need additional information about participating in Adult Education here at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, please reach out to [JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org](mailto:JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org).

To purchase a book for classes this fall, use this QR Code to visit our book pick-up page. While some facilitators ask participants to buy a book on their own, any book available to buy directly from BMPC is sold for \$10.00.



# EVENING CLASSES

7:00 P.M.

## BEING PRESBYTERIAN IN A DYSVANGELICAL AMERICA

Mondays, April 20, 27, May 4, 7:00 p.m.  
Witherspoon Parlor

Join us for a three-week study of *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America*, a timely exploration of what it means to practice a Reformed, grace-centered faith in a culture shaped by polarization, Christian nationalism, and competing visions of the gospel. Together, we will examine how Presbyterian theology, rooted in covenant, community, and God's sovereignty, offers a distinctive and hopeful witness in uncertain times. Each week will focus on key themes from the book, inviting honest discussion about identity, discipleship, and the church's public role. Participants will have space to reflect on current challenges while imagining faithful, constructive responses. Whether you're new to Presbyterianism or long formed in its tradition, this short series offers clarity, grounding, and meaningful conversation for today's complex landscape. This class will be led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick. Contact [JenniferMcArthur@bmmpc.org](mailto:JenniferMcArthur@bmmpc.org) to register and reserve a book.

TED V. FOOTE JR. AND P. ALEX THORNBURG

## BEING PRESBYTERIAN IN A DYSVANGELICAL AMERICA

A Guide to Reclaiming  
the Good News of God's Grace

