

of parents at WPC. All fall - **Sept. 16 - Dec. 16**, Adrienne Kim Bird, Molly Peck, Elizabeth Schlipper, Derry Wade, Lounge.

Opening Doors welcomes all adults and is designed to accommodate those with mental and/or physical challenges. Music, fellowship, and Bible stories are the foundation of the class. Participants also have the option of sitting together during worship service. If transportation is needed, Jaunt service usually is available. Opening Doors was started in 1992 by leaders at Westminster, including Joyce and Forrest Kerns, Lee Walters, Kathie Beard, and Virginia Fisher. Inclusion of all is the hallmark of the class. Questions? Contact Leanna Whitmore. **All year**, Room 208.

Westminster Prayer Shawl Ministry: The prayer shawl ministry meets the **3rd Mondays** of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Lower Lounge. For more information, contact Beth Hostetler.

SPIRITUALITY

An Italian Journey: Ken will share with us his experience of hiking for six days in August through the Dolomites of northern Italy. Through his stories and

photos, we will share in the adventure. Ken will also talk about his side trips to Assisi, Montepulciano, and Florence. Ciao! **Sept. 30**, Ken Henry, Room 209.

Your Brain and Spirituality: Everyone has spiritual needs and spiritual values, based on the biological functioning of our brains. Humans have developed a wide range of mythologies and religious faith systems to respond to those needs. Much strife and suffering has occurred as various nations, cultures, and ethnic groups have attempted to defend and propagate their particular expressions of those universal needs. As Presbyterians we believe much good has been and will be accomplished through the living out of our Christian faith. We believe we have a relationship to God and His purposes. This course will explore how our brains develop, mature, and change as we each arrive at our adult patterns of thinking about and practicing our faith in this time and this place. **Nov. 4 & 11**, Abe Hostetter, Room 209.



Westminster Presbyterian Church
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903
www.westminsterva.org ♦ 434-293-3133

Adult Christian Education *and* Spiritual Growth Opportunities

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS



Fall 2018

September 16 – December 16

Sunday Classes meet

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Class Descriptions

Rooms subject to change

THE CHURCH:

HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY

PCUSA General Assembly: In June, Winston Barham attended the biennial General Assembly, our denomination's largest governing body, as a Ruling Elder Commissioner on behalf of the Presbytery of the James. There was work, there was worship, there was connection with Presbyterians around the world in St. Louis. Come and hear about Winston's experience and bring your questions about the work of General Assembly and our connections with the larger church. **Sept. 16**, Winston Barham, Room 209).

Contemporary Theology Class: The class begins the fall with a study of *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*, edited by Serene Jones and Paul Lakeland and published by the Workgroup on Constructive Theology in 2005 with 50 contributors. As described by the publisher, the editors "have devised a text that allows students to experience the deeper point of theological questions, to delve into the fractures and disagreements that figured in the development of traditional Christian doctrines, and to sample the diverse and conflicting theological voices that vie for allegiance today." It is available from Amazon. Subsequent studies will be selected by the class. **Sept. 16 – December 16**, Chip Sanders, Choir Room.

Rev. Floyd Thompkins (and others): Floyd Thompkins, Director of the Center for Innovation in Ministry at San Francisco

Theological Seminary, is returning to Westminster to participate in the conference we are hosting on how churches and pastors care for transgender persons and their families. He will participate in a class on October 21, likely with others also attending the conference. Rev. Thompkins previously served as the senior pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in San Jose, CA and served as Dean of Religious Life at both Stanford and Princeton Universities. Details to follow, **Oct. 21**, Library.

BIBLE STUDY

Early Christians and their Jewish Milieu:

This class will address the relationship of early Christians in the 1st and 2nd century to Judaism, Jewish leaders and the Jewish community of the time. Earle Hilgert will lead the class on Oct. 7 and cover the overall historical, doctrinal and institutional issues involving early Christians and the Jewish community. Dick Riley will lead the Oct. 14 class and focus on New Testament passages addressing the relations between early Christians and Jews and Judaism. **Oct. 7 & 14**, Earle Hilgert and Dick Riley, Room 209.

Jesus' Birth, from Tribal to Universal:

How Matthew and Luke re-purposed

Bethlehem for the world: a Bible study of the early chapters of Matthew and Luke. We'll try to understand how these lovely stories subtly prepare us for the larger themes of salvation without ignoring problems such as the virgin birth, historical inaccuracies and inconsistencies as well as "God stuff" that seems irrelevant or inconvenient to modern concerns. Bring your Bible and your skepticism. **Dec. 2, 9 & 16**. David Garth, Room 209.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: The Women's Tuesday Evening Study Group meets on 2nd Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. in the Lower Lounge. The first meeting is September 11, using the Horizon Bible study, *God's Promise - I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherland. The study books, by group agreement, are large print versions, and copies are available from Barbara Deaver for \$15. For more information, call Barbara. **2nd Tuesdays** of the month, beginning Sept. 11, Lower Lounge.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: CHRISTIAN RESPONSE IN TODAY'S WORLD

Group discussion on The Hate U Give by Angie Taylor. Join us as we discuss this

book, recent headlines, and the multitude of social-justice issues this acclaimed novelist has raised. This best-selling book has been recommended/required reading in local high schools, and opposed by others. What's so controversial? How can we be a positive influence in our society? We'll grapple with these questions by using other media and taking resources developed by other groups, but adapted to our use in #Charlottesville. What is or isn't applicable here? From whose perspective? How do we break down barriers? What are we called to do, and be? Please read the book before class starts so our discussions can be as productive as possible. Copies of the book are available in the church library. **Sept. 16 & 30, Oct. 7 & 14**, Sarah Bedford, Zanne MacDonald, and Gail and Ron Wiley, Library.

Food Justice: Is enough food to thrive a universal God-given right?: Led by Jim Hassmer, this discussion-based class will address the question posed in the class

title over three Sundays. On Oct. 28, focusing on Bible passages, we will discover that God says, "YES! Do justice for all that way!" Over the next two classes, we will discuss how we respond to the question regarding our neighbors – Do we act out a YES for each neighbor in town and across Virginia? Do we act out a YES for each world neighbor? **Oct. 28, Nov. 4 & 11**, Jim Hassmer, Library.

Prophets for Our Time: Speaking Truth to Power:

This class explores the idea that prophetic witness involves "speaking truth to power" in uncomfortable and challenging ways, given our current political and cultural situation. Based on Walter Brueggemann's classic work, *The Prophetic Imagination*, a biblical/theological framework will be laid out for reading and grappling with five contemporary "prophets" who are speaking truth to power – Walter Wink, Ibram Kendi, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Bandy Lee. **Nov. 18, Dec. 2, 9 & 16**, Gene Locke, Library.

LIFE AND FAITH

Faith and Family: No matter where you may be on the parenting journey, join us in an open conversation each week where we explore a variety of topics from screen time to cultivating gratitude and beyond. Together we will move through our collective hopes and fears, bolstered by fellowship and food. How can we guide our children to the light when it's hard for us to see it? How do we raise our children to be caring, engaged members of the community in a society that emphasizes self-centeredness above all? Let's look for answers together as we create a network

The Church

Historic and Contemporary

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Christian Response in
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Life and Faith

Faith and Family: Sept. 16 - Dec. 16,
Adrienne Kim Bird, Molly Peck, Eliza-
beth Schlipper, Derry Wade, Lounge

Opening Doors

All Year, Room 208

Prayer Shawl Ministry: 3rd Mondays,
6:30 p.m., Beth Hochstetler, Lower
Lounge

Rooms subject to change.

*Complete class descriptions are avail-
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www.westminsterva.org.*

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