

BUILDING NEW FRIENDSHIPS: EXPLORING THE ISSUES OF RACE

Facilitated by Drs. David B. Freeman and Mitchell Walker
Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 24

This class will meet with members from the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, our new partnership congregation. The class will discuss race relations and build friendship across racial lines. The classes will alternate between the Weatherly and Church Street campuses. Here is an outline of the four sessions that will make up this class:

Fifty Years of Race Relations in Huntsville and Madison County led by Rev. Earla Lockhart from First Missionary Baptist Church. This class will meet at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church on February 24.

The Church's Role in Confronting Systemic Racism led by Rev. Sheri Birney, Pastor of Grateful Life Church. This class will meet at Weatherly Heights Baptist Church on March 3.

Telling Our Stories. Two or three participants from each church will share their race related story of growing up on March 10.

Where Do We Go From Here? The class will break into small groups to brainstorm about a path forward. The groups will then share their ideas with the class on March 24.

On the nights we meet at Church Street, our van will be available to transport participants. When the class meets at Weatherly, it will meet in Room 215. Dr. Freeman and Dr. Walker, pastor at Church Street, invite you to join them on Sundays in this exploration of race relations.

Weatherly Heights Baptist Church

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Weatherly Heights Baptist Church

An inclusive, discovering fellowship

Discovery Hour Classes Spring 2019

Classes meet at 5:30 pm
Nursery is available for Sunday classes.

Phone: 256.881.6882

A GEOGRAPHY OF GRACE

Led by Rev. Jim Norris
Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 11, 18, 25

The material in this class is based on the work of Parker Palmer. It is a process called the Circle of Trust and was developed through The Center for Courage and Renewal. It is designed to create a safe, confidential, and sacred space where participants support one another in accessing the voice of their souls and inner lives. Because of the nature of this work, a quiet space is essential. That is why the class will meet on Monday evenings rather than Sunday evenings. The class will meet six times for an hour and a half. It will be limited to 12 participants. Since the language of the soul is metaphor, symbol and intuition, we use “third things”—poetry, stories, music, art—to facilitate connection with the soul’s deepest yearnings and truths. Metaphors from geography and nature offer images which speak deeply of the inner life.

Rev. Norris is the co-founder of The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center and a licensed professional pastoral counselor. He invites you to join him in this quiet exploration of the inner life. The class will meet on Mondays starting on February 11 in Room 215. Class will meet from 6:00-7:30.

A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL?

Led by Keith Noren
March 31, April 7, 14, 28, May 5

Why doesn’t a loving God prevent genuine evil? This class will read and discuss Dr. Thomas Jay Oord’s newest book *God Can’t*. This provocative book preserves God’s goodness while calling into question God’s meticulous control of creation, both people and matter. The five chapters of the book are:

1. God Can’t Prevent Evil
2. God Feels Our Pain
3. God Works to Heal
4. God Squeezes Good from Bad
5. God Needs Our Co-operation

The class will discuss whether Dr. Oord’s approach is believable, helpful and biblically supportable. The book (\$7.78 on Amazon) comes with seven discussion questions for each chapter. It is currently the number one book in sales on Amazon in nine categories.

Keith Noren invites you to join him in this stimulating study. The class will meet on Sundays starting on March 31 in Room 214.

FAITH AND FICTION

Led by Dr. Leslie Kaiura
March 31, April 7, 14, 28, May 5

Jesus understood the power of fiction. He knew that we are attracted to stories: to family dramas, to villains and victims, to characters like the prodigal son and the good Samaritan. We still engage with Jesus’ parables, trying to puzzle out and apply their lessons for us because a good story has a way of sticking with us in a way that lists of rules or theological concepts don’t.

This class will explore literary fiction--primarily short stories--that treat themes of religion and faith. These stories may reflect what we believe, or they may challenge us to explore a new point of view. We will explore stories by Flannery O’Connor, Shirley Jackson, Ursula K. Le Guin, Phillip Roth, Miguel de Unamuno, and other great writers. Most readings will be distributed via email and/or photo copy.

Dr. Kaiura is an Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She invites all to join her for this literary/faith exploration. This class will meet on Sundays starting on March 31 in Room 206.



