



**TOMORROW!**  
PUMPKINS ARRIVE 4 PM

# The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | OCTOBER 10, 2017

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Kennon and Stephanie Askew  
with Batton and Rowan  
October 8, 2017



**FALL Festival**

October 28th, 2017

Pony Rides ♦ Bounce Houses ♦ Train Rides  
Face Painting ♦ Games ♦ Food Trucks

10am to 2pm

Visit  
[www.woodmontchristianpreschool.com](http://www.woodmontchristianpreschool.com)  
for more information  
or call  
(615) 297-9962

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE *Woodmont Christian Fall Fest* CHILI COOKOFF

Bring your best chili & join in on Fall Fest fun!

October  
28

Competition & tasting begins at 11AM

FOR INFO ON HOW TO ENTER VISIT  
<http://www.woodmontfallfest.org>





## "Is My Spiritual Life on Track?"

2-week class for Woodmont Deacons\*

Wed. October 18 & 25, led by Clay Stauffer, Boardroom, 6:30-7:30 pm.

**\*All deacons expected to attend one or both**



## Spiritual Writing Retreat at Woodmont Saturday, Nov. 4

by Donovan McAbee

As Minister of Spiritual Formation at Woodmont, one of my goals is to empower our members to nurture their spiritual life, to learn to listen to God in a variety of ways. One of the ways my spiritual life has been nurtured has been through the practice of writing. In the hopes that others at Woodmont might want to explore writing as a way of listening for God, I'm excited to invite you to a **Spiritual Writing Retreat at Woodmont**. This Retreat will be led by one of today's most accomplished spiritual writers, **Robert Benson**.

Critically acclaimed in publications as diverse as The New York Times, USA Today, Publishers' and Weekly, Benson is recognized for his lyrical, gentle, humorous writing and his quiet, humble insight into living contemplatively and prayerfully in the modern world.

Benson has published more than twenty books ranging from books on prayer and liturgy and spirituality and vocation, to travel and gardening and baseball and the Rule of St. Benedict. His books include Between the Dreaming and the Coming True, Living Prayer, In Constant Prayer, That We May Perfectly Love Thee, Dancing on the Head of a Pen, and his most recent work Punching Holes in the Dark.

Benson's Spiritual Writing Workshop will take place **Saturday, November 4th from 5pm-9pm. Dinner from Panera and childcare will be included. While there is no cost to attend, please register, so we can have an accurate headcount for dinner and childcare.**

**Register for Spiritual Writing Retreat here:**  
**[woodmontchristian.org/signup](http://woodmontchristian.org/signup)**



**WOODMONT**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
[www.woodmontchristian.org](http://www.woodmontchristian.org)

### OUR MISSION:

Growing disciples of Christ by seeking God,  
sharing love, and serving others

### OUR CORE VALUES:

Welcoming  
Outstanding Worship  
Outreach  
Different Traditions  
Mission & Ministry  
On The Move  
Nurturing  
Transforming

### WOODMONT'S MINISTERIAL STAFF

**Dr. Clay Stauffer, Senior Minister**

Dr. C. Roy Stauffer • Minister of Adult Education & Church Life

Rev. Justin Gung • Minister of Children & Congregational Care

Rev. Chris Cox • Minister of Youth & Their Families

Dr. Donovan McAbee • Minister of Spiritual Formation

Farrell Mason • Minister of Family Life & Pastoral Care

Michael Graham • Director of Music Ministry

Abby McLean • Children's Ministry Director

Katie Sheridan-Gossage • Assistant Youth Ministry Director

Thom Schuyler • Young Adults, Missions & Outreach Director

Anne-Marie Farmer • Small Groups & Connections Director

Andra Moran • Creative Director, The Bridge

Stephen Daniel King • Worship Leader

Mary Clare Pyron • Parish Nurse

Russell Davis • Accompanist

### WOODMONT'S SUPPORT STAFF

Chris Beck • Business Administrator

Mandy Barton Brown • Executive Assistant

Martha Duff • Preschool Director

Sam Marsh • Property & Facilities Manager

Jan Anderson • Administrative Assistant

Matt Diffenderfer • Communications Director

For assistance, please call the church office at  
615.297.8563 or email [info@woodmontcc.org](mailto:info@woodmontcc.org)

Get the most up-to-date information at  
[www.woodmontchristian.org](http://www.woodmontchristian.org)

Woodmont Christian Church  
3601 Hillsboro Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
615.297.8563

[www.woodmontchristian.org](http://www.woodmontchristian.org)

# Vegas, Guns, God, and Peace

by Clay Stauffer



It's happened again, only worse than the last time.

Last Sunday night, 22,000 people were enjoying the final night of a country music festival on the Vegas strip excited to hear Jason Aldean when they became open targets for a sick, deranged man shooting from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay resort and casino. These were sons and daughters, husbands and wives, children and grandchildren, good people living their lives. Now many of those lives are over with their families grieving and picking up the broken pieces.

Fifty-nine are dead, over five hundred injured and many are still fighting to stay alive. Words are simply inadequate in trying to describe this horrendous act of evil. Our culture has become desensitized to violence. It no longer takes us by surprise. To say we have a gun problem in this country is like saying Nashville has a traffic problem. We all know it's true, but will we do anything about it?

The Second Amendment of the Constitution is not a black and white issue. There are nuanced positions that require reason, common sense, and compromise. If we want to cling to what our Founders intended, then let's pass out muskets. Sensible laws could be passed and provisions made that might prevent these kinds of attacks in the future. And if they don't, at least we can say we tried. Buck up congress! Muster up the courage to act rather than being completely owned by the gun lobby. You can support the Second Amendment but find a way to make semi-automatic weapons less available. How many innocent people have to die in one place?

Of course, if Sandy Hook didn't move the needle, then it's hard to imagine what will. Hopefully Vegas. No other civilized country has this kind of carnage on the streets. The statistics are alarming. An overwhelming majority of American gun owners support sensible restrictions yet we still can't seem to get them in place. An even bigger concern is the lack of peace and civility in our culture. There is too much hate, too much anger, too much loneliness, too much fear, too much resentment, and too much rage. These are all signs of a nation in a spiritual crisis.

Spiritual emptiness and isolation is a universal disease. How are we going to change this? It starts with listening to one another, loving one another, serving one another, and respecting our differences. Peace begins in the heart and grows from there. You can't spread peace until you first find it yourself.

After the tragedy at Sandy Hook, Archbishop Charles Chaput offered these words: "God is good, but we human beings are free, and being free we help fashion the nature of our world with the choice we make...We're free, and therefore responsible for the beauty and the suffering we help make. Why does God allow wickedness? He allows it because we – or others like us – choose it. The only effective antidote to the wickedness around us is to live differently from this moment forward."

Human beings are not puppets. We have free will and responsibility. We can't seem to understand why Las Vegas happened. On the surface, it doesn't make any sense. But all of us can do our part to help bring more peace, love, and hope into this world. And we can all agree, that our world needs much more of that!



**Dinner Groups Are Forming Now!**  
Sign up for Woodmont's Fall 2017 Dinner Club  
at [woodmontchristian.org/dinnerclub](http://woodmontchristian.org/dinnerclub)



**Next Intro to Woodmont is October 22**  
Sunday, October 22, 12:15 PM in the Boardroom

During "Intro", Clay Stauffer answers all your questions, gives a tour of our church campus, and walks us through what God is calling this church to be and do, in order to help you make an informed decision about joining us in fulfilling our mission here at Woodmont.



# I'm a Giraffe and I'm Okay

by Chris Cox



It is hard for me to believe that I have been at Woodmont for over a year now. Looking back at my time with the youth thus far has been wonderful. I have gotten to meet so many wonderful people in this church, be a part of some awesome ministry, and have vocationally gotten to do something that I love. But I have a confession to make: this time a year ago, I was kind of terrified. Not because of you, but because doing new things is difficult.

In a way, I felt like a baby giraffe. Baby giraffes can typically walk within an hour of being born and then they are off and running by the end of their first day. But there is no creature on God's green earth that looks more awkward than a baby giraffe. They are all gangly legs and neck. As giraffes grow, their run gains a more graceful gait. They still look kind of weird, because, well, giraffes are kind of weird creatures in the animal kingdom. But that's who they are and they're awesome for it.

So I came to somewhat of a peace that I had to grow into my ministry here and, in fact, I still am growing. There were times when I probably looked (and look) conspicuously awkward as I got my legs underneath me. But the good news is there was a community—from our staff to our assistant youth director Katie to our Youth Sponsors to our students themselves—that granted me the grace to cover that awkwardness. Even more, God is always there to guide me just as God is there for each of us. Because I learned a long time ago that if I try to do this on my own then I might as well be a baby giraffe trying to perform a triple axel on ice skates.

I don't think the baby giraffe gets consumed with thoughts about how gangly it is. They just put one foot in front of another and slowly gain a more graceful gait over time. It's hard to not be self-conscious in a world so driven by how we appear to others. But that gaze on what others think versus who we are or what we need to do can cause us enormous heartache. It makes us forget that God's works are wonderful; even those of us that feel like gangly baby giraffes.

Maybe you are trying something new or life is incredibly difficult for some reason. Teenagers often feel like they are in that stage of perpetual awkwardness, but I know many adults who feel like that too. For whatever reason, you don't feel like you have your legs underneath you. That's okay. More people probably feel that way than you realize. I'm one of them so you're at least not alone in this church. Just continue to be who God created you to be. Keep following your calling as best as you can understand. Take things step by step. Grace will increase with each of those steps. There will surely still be more awkwardness to come, but it will be okay. It is all the more reason to lean on this community and trust in God.

## Woodmont is Collecting Backpacks for Guatemala

**With the mail system currently down in the country of Guatemala, Woodmont's traveling group would like to serve as couriers for the members of Woodmont who sponsor a child or elderly person in the country. This is an opportunity not only to send a letter and photo but also a small package for the holidays.**

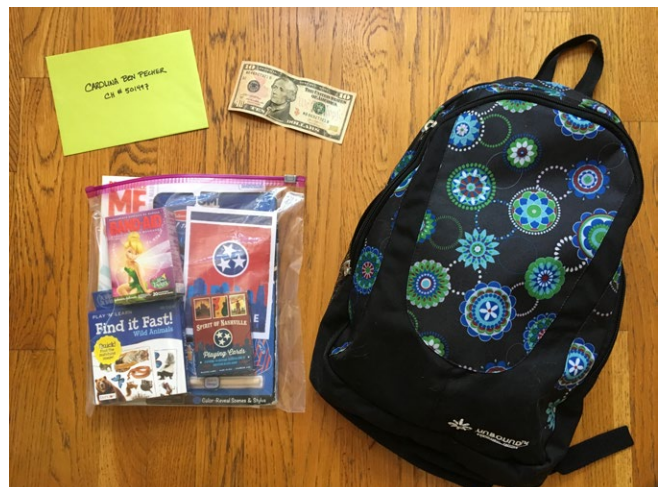
If you would like to send something to your sponsored friend in Guatemala, it's as easy as:

- 1. Package the items you want to send in a 1 or 2 gallon Ziploc bag**
- 2. Add a letter with your sponsored friend's full name and Unbound CH#.**
- 3. Add a \$10 bill**
- 4. Deliver your package to the Gathering Hall (or the church office) on or before Sunday, October 29.**

We will be purchasing backpacks that are made by fathers in the Unbound sustainability program. The cost is \$10, and they have the Unbound logo on them! We will put your package in the backpacks in Guatemala, and the Unbound staff will hand deliver them to your friends during the month of November.

### Tips:

1. Weight matters- think of small, light weight items
2. Candy is fine in small amounts- nothing that will melt.
3. Send items based on your friend's age & gender. Items from the US or Nashville are fun and appreciated.
4. Include a letter from your family and a photo. It will be received as a special treasure.
5. Gift ideas include: pens and pencils, sunglasses, baseball cap, small games or toys, craft items, comb, toothbrush, bandaids, socks, purse, earbuds, yarn or sewing supplies, work gloves, sports team t-shirt, stickers, educational flashcards.





# TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, Oct. 29, 4 PM



## New Study: "Lessons from the Acts of the Apostles"

The New Testament book of "Acts" picks up right after the four gospels end with the death and resurrection of Jesus. The church was established after this unprecedented event. It faced tough social challenges just as we do today. Studying the book reveals timeless principles the early Christians were taught that remain relevant and vital to us today.

Come be a part of a new study on "Acts" with Seekers on Sunday mornings at 8:30 in Room 105. (Hot coffee, a breakfast treat and fellowship begin at 8:15). Copies of N.T. Wright's "ACTS: 24 Studies for Individuals and Groups" are available in the Spire Bookstore and Amazon.

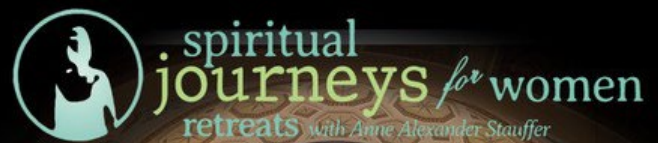
## MISSION TEAM

### MORGAN SCOTT MISSION TRIP OCTOBER 26-29

JOIN THE WOODMONT MISSION TEAM IN HELPING  
*TENNESSEE'S MORGAN AND SCOTT COUNTIES*

**GROUPS LEAVING THURSDAY, FRIDAY AFTER  
WORK AND FRIDAY MORNING!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
[JEREMIAH.WEEDENWRIGHT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JEREMIAH.WEEDENWRIGHT@GMAIL.COM)



## The POWER of the Rested SOUL

*Moving from Chaos to Calm*

Campbell West (the redone parsonage) Saturday  
Nov. 11th & Sunday morning the 12th. To register,  
contact Anne Stauffer: [cottageinthewoods@gmail.com](mailto:cottageinthewoods@gmail.com)

## "Miracle Day" at Bethany Hills is Saturday, Nov. 11.

Due to recent challenges, our youth camp Bethany Hills is in need of significant repair. A task force was recently assembled to finalize the plan for Phase 1 of the lodge and cabin repairs, which includes painting, flooring, and bathrooms.

Saturday, November 11, from 10 AM-2 PM there will be a "Miracle Day" Fundraiser at Bethany Hills in Kingston Springs, TN. In addition to fundraising, we will be there to do some cleaning and light work. There will be BBQ sandwiches and t-shirts for sale with all proceeds going to Bethany Hills.

If Bethany Hills has meant something to you and the people in your life, make plans to come out to pray, play, and donate!



## It's that time... Pumpkins are here!

by Katie Sheridan-Gossage

All proceeds from the Pumpkin Patch go directly to the Woodmont Youth's work in Guatemala through the sponsorship charity, Unbound. For more on this amazing organization, visit [unbound.org](http://unbound.org).

**The Pumpkin Patch is a community effort - there are shifts to be covered, bread to be baked, and pumpkins to be bought! Please consider helping support our youth in one of the following ways:**

### Volunteer Selling Pumpkins

Sign up here! [bit.ly/pumpkinpatch17](http://bit.ly/pumpkinpatch17)

- Skills needed: navigate an easy-to-use sales app on an iPad, sit and stand for a 3-hour shift.
- Shifts are daily from 10am-1pm, 1pm-4pm, or 4pm-7pm.
- For detailed instructions, visit [bit.ly/patchinstructions](http://bit.ly/patchinstructions) - take a look and see just how easy it is!

### Bake Pumpkin Bread

Sign up here! [bit.ly/pumpkinbread17](http://bit.ly/pumpkinbread17)

- Pick up supplies in the Gathering Hall, Narthex, or Drowota Hall anytime.
- For detailed instructions, visit [bit.ly/breadinstructions](http://bit.ly/breadinstructions).

### Buy Pumpkins at Woodmont

- Post pictures of your family buying your pumpkins at Woodmont on social media and encourage your friends to do the same!
- Spread the word that the proceeds are changing lives, both here & abroad!

We are grateful for the amazing support that Woodmont gives to the Youth program... Thank you!!! Email [katie@woodmontcc.org](mailto:katie@woodmontcc.org) with any questions. No question is too small!

## WOODMONT KIDS

### October 1-15 Birthdays:

River Kolakowski 10/8  
Senna Shaffer 10/14  
Davis Amrhein 10/7  
Noah Jobe 10/7  
Riley Turner 10/15

### October Memory Verse:

"Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son." - Genesis 18:14

## NEW! Centering Prayer Group

Contemplative Prayer is the opening of mind and heart – our whole being – to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts. Centering Prayer is a method designated to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift.

There is a new Centering Prayer Group at Woodmont which meets every Tuesday morning at 7:00 AM in Room 100. (Park in back. Come in the back door like we do for Wednesday night dinners.) This group is open to anyone who would like to engage in this spiritual practice.

**If you have any questions about this group, feel free to contact Tom Patten ([William.t.patten@gmail.com](mailto:William.t.patten@gmail.com)) or Roy Stauffer ([rstauffer@woodmontcc.org](mailto:rstauffer@woodmontcc.org)).**

## Next Week's Calendar

### Sunday, October 15

8:15 a.m. *Seekers Bible Study*, Room 105  
9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School  
9:45 a.m. Worship at The Bridge, Drowota Hall  
10:45 a.m. *Life in the Balance* class, Room 100  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School  
5:45 p.m. Youth Group, Youth Wing

### Monday, October 16

**10:00 a.m. NEW! The Baby Bunch, "Puppies" Room**  
3:30 p.m. "Geezers" Men's Bible Study, Boardroom

### Tuesday, October 17

**7:00 a.m. NEW! Centering Prayer Group, Room 100**  
9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group, Campbell-Stone  
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Room 200  
10:30 a.m. Book Club, Room 107  
6:00 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal, Choir Room

### Wednesday, October 18

6:15 a.m. Men's Small Group, Room 100  
7:00 a.m. "Original" Men's Bible Study, Room 105  
7:00 a.m. Younger Men's Bible Study, Boardroom  
5:30 p.m. Grace Notes practice, Kids' Commons  
**5:45 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, D.H.**



**MAIN ENTREE: Roasted Root Vegetable Salad with cranberry, feta, crouton, shaved carrot, dressing.**  
**Chicken Cassoulet.**  
**French Baguettes.**

**VEGETARIAN OPTION:**  
**Vegetarian Cassoulet**

**KIDS:**  
**Chicken Flatbreads**

6:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, **Room 200**  
6:15 p.m. *DivorceCare*, The Bay Room  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
6:30 p.m. *Conversations on Racial Justice* week 1 with Alexis Waggoner & April Gung, Room 100  
6:30 p.m. *More Than A Fig Leaf: A Theology of Grace* week 2 with Rubel Shelly, Room 105

### Thursday, October 19

10:00 a.m. Sit and Stitch, Gathering Hall

# DOESN'T GOD ANSWER MY PRAYERS?

DANIEL 3:8-15

"WHY?" SERIES • REV. JUSTIN GUNG • SUNDAY, OCT. 15

## ELDERS & DEACONS SERVING

**9:30 AM - Informal Sanctuary Worship**  
 Service Coordinator - William Liles  
 Welcome Center - Benson Hadley  
 So. Entrance Greeter/Offering - Nick Holscher  
 Greeter/Offering - Marty Jordan  
 Greeter/Offering - Randy Drinnon  
 Greeter/Offering - April Gung  
 Usher/Cleanup - Emily Patten  
 Usher/Cleanup - Daniel Patten  
 Usher/Cleanup - Gavin Duke  
 Usher/Cleanup - Jim Batson  
 Bread - Pam Richardson  
 Cup - Faye Tevebaugh

**9:45 AM - The Bridge Worship**  
 Service Coordinator - Kristen Greer  
 Greet/Serve/Clean Up - Kristen Newman  
 Greet/Serve/Clean Up - Erik Milam  
 Greet/Serve/Clean Up - Andrew Chelton  
 Greet/So Entrance/Serve - Stephanie Chelton  
 Bread/Cup: John Hobby

**11 AM - Traditional Sanctuary Worship**  
 Service Coordinator - Bob Faricy  
 Welcome Center - Don Rollins  
 So. Entrance Usher/Offering - Tom Bond  
 Greeter/Offering - Anne Arney  
 Greeter/Offering - Jacob Garner  
 Greeter/Offering - Terrell McWhirter  
 Usher/Cleanup - Maryanne McWhirter  
 Usher/Cleanup - Denise Sesler  
 Usher/Cleanup - Emily Carpenter  
 Cleanup/Flowers - Don Hart  
 Bread - Jade Forlidas  
 Cup - John Stauffer

Communion Preparation: Don Rollins

Hospital: Pam Richardson

## BY YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR GIFTS:

DATE:	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	TOTAL ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
SEPTEMBER 17	403	875	\$50,793
SEPTEMBER 24	369	845	\$22,743
OCTOBER 1	391	840	\$68,404
OCTOBER 8	381	817	\$31,688

## GEMS October Meeting to Feature History of the Belmont Mansion

Mark Brown, executive director of the Belmont Mansion, will be our next GEMS luncheon speaker. He will be talking about the history of the mansion and the lady who had it built in the 1850s. It's quite a story.

**Buffet Luncheon begins at Noon**  
**Tuesday, October 24**  
**\$10 reservation needed by Friday, Oct. 20**

Reservations can be made on the church website or by calling the church office.



Adelia Acklen, the Belle of the Belmont Mansion

## Holy Yoga Gratitude practice begins October 18!

We will be practicing gentle yoga and meditation on scripture to fix our gaze on Jesus and develop and/or strengthen an attitude of gratitude. All levels of meditation and yoga welcome - newcomers to the practice, too! Wednesday nights 6-7pm in Room 105 meeting from Oct 18-Nov 15. \$7 donation for Holy Yoga certified instructor appreciated but not required. RSVP to Brooke Lovelace at brookelovelace@me.com or 615-521-5722 or drop in.

## SERVERS NEEDED!

Help serve your congregation by plating up food prepared by our new catering company on Wed. nights!

Sign up at  
[woodmontchristian.org/serve](http://woodmontchristian.org/serve)

## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

### SYMPATHY TO:

John and Kathy Gibson on the loss of John's mother, Frances Gibson on Oct. 8, 2017. Service on Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 3:00pm at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Dominick and Lindsey Smith on the birth of their daughter, Marilyn Madge Smith born on 10/7/2017.

### IN THE HOSPITAL:

Susan Hammonds-White, St. Thomas Mid Town  
 Ben Cherry, St. Thomas Mid Town,  
 Maggie Kunkel, Erlander Hospital, Chattanooga, TN

### NEW CONCERNS:

John DeVoe, Elisa Clark's father, leukemia returned  
 Brent Bower's mother, El Paso, TX

### CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Willie Bandy, Woodcrest Rm 244  
 LuAnn Brent  
 Ben and Gayle Cherry  
 Mary Gaston  
 Stephanie Gerding, Nicole Herndon's sister, hospital in Seattle, WA  
 Frances Gibson, John Gibson's mother, in Hospice  
 Nancy Hooper  
 Gloria Jackson  
 Renee Lewis, at home  
 Mary Jo Phillips, at home  
 JoAnn Patterson  
 Vicki Phillips  
 Tammy Regen, daughter in law of Gene & Elizabeth Regen, Knoxville, TN  
 Al Richardson, Belmont Village  
 Robbie Richardson, Woodcrest  
 Wilbur Sensing  
 Mike Shipp  
 Beverly Small  
 Kevin Weldon, son of John and Rosemary Weldon  
 Pam Zimmerman's mother, Winchester

## WOODMONT'S ELDERS ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

Victims of the Las Vegas Shooting and their families.

First responders in Las Vegas.

Victims of Hurricane Nate & first responders. Recovery and rescue from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

The Elders & Deacons who serve our church.





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# The Spire

## CONVERSATIONS ON RACIAL JUSTICE

Every week it seems new manifestations of racial tension surface in our nation. But the issues can feel so overwhelming that it's hard to know how to start dismantling our own preconceptions, let alone those that exist in wider culture. What is our role as advocates for racial justice? How do we respond in love to those who feel oppressed? How do we convey Jesus' message of liberation to communities that need it, while at the same time speaking with conviction to our own stereotypes?

Join us as we create sacred, shared space for those feeling a calling toward anti-racism efforts to join together in a conversation about racial justice issues, anti-racism advocacy, and Christian racial reconciliation efforts. Hosted by Alexis Waggoner and April Gung. Email [alexis@woodmontcc.org](mailto:alexis@woodmontcc.org) with questions or for more information.

Wednesdays 6:30 PM, Oct. 18-Nov. 8

## MORE THAN A FIG LEAF

THEOLOGY OF GRACE

RUBEL SHELLEY

Wednesdays 6:30 PM, Oct. 11-Nov. 8

