

We, the People: Strengthening Our Collective Resolve to Make God's Love Visible in the World

September 13 - November 22

9:45-10:45 am

Various Speakers

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83131401377?pwd=ZVdpRHlYKoJNVolHMzdWUFhwTkIdz09>

Meeting ID: 831 3140 1377

Passcode: 3003

In light of a global pandemic and social unrest, this extraordinary year 2020 has raised a number of issues demanding our full attention. This class will feature an exciting spectrum of speakers sharing thoughts and information from the perspective of their respective fields of expertise and experience. What questions do we have, what answers do we need, from those on the front lines as we seek to form a more perfect union for one and all? to build a healthy, independent, and productive society.

What did we do with our moment in time? - John Lewis

September 13

We, the People—in a time of upheaval and change—seeking the paths forward toward the making of a healthy, independent, and productive society: an Introduction (Jim Ledbetter, former chair of GA. Dept of Human Resources, currently in advocacy with Presbyterians for a Better Georgia)

Trinity member Jim Ledbetter will lay the groundwork for our ongoing exploration of issues facing us today, addressing the essential question driving our conversation and time together: what do our Christian beliefs require of us as we strengthen our resolve to make God's love visible in the world?

September 20

Voting Rights Revisited (Halsey Knapp, Atlanta attorney and legal advocate for fair elections)

"Is what happen at the polls on June 9 going to happen again in November?" In a follow-up to his Trinity class on Voting Rights several months ago, Knapp will cut through the red tape, tweets and confusion to shine the light on what is going on today in Georgia to prepare for the upcoming Presidential election. He'll address questions about who is pushing and why for changes in the distribution of absentee ballots, early voting, the State's new BMD system, and hand-marked paper ballots, while offering an update on the latest issues playing out before county boards of election and courts throughout the State. There will be something for voters of every age and every persuasion to think about before Election Day.

September 27

WomenLead: How do we become catalysts for change? (Nancy Reeves Mansfield, GSU professor, creator and developer of the WomenLead seminar)

This moment in our history, unlike any we've known, opens new options for female leadership across all sectors. The Pandemic also takes a disproportionate toll on women as they are left behind caring for children, facing the burden of unpaid work and losing jobs in the recession. How do we expand women's power and influence—and give them voice—so they become catalysts for change? The WomenLead program at Georgia State builds students' confidence and ambition and places them on a trajectory for success. Join the discussion of a call to action around equality and empowering women and men to impact systemic inequalities.

10/4 All-Church Event

October 11

Work/Life Economic Reset (Michael Thurmond, author of *Freedom: An African-American History of Georgia*, creator of the innovative Work First program, and current CEO of DeKalb County)

Michael Thurmond will break down the complexities of our current economy, guiding us in ways to remain tuned in and well-informed, while sharing what's happening in real time and what we might expect—and hope for—going forward. Given his substantial service focusing on the world of work, Thurmond will lead an interactive discussion about how to weather the pandemic and emerge stronger and better than before.

October 18

The Politicization of Non-Political Issues is Unnecessarily Killing Us and our Planet (Megan Desrosiers, CEO of One Hundred Miles, a non-profit dedicated to protecting and preserving Georgia's coast)

In 1970, when President Nixon signed the National Environmental Protection Act into law, establishing the Environmental Protection Agency, it was one of six major civil and environmental laws passed by Congress and signed by a president in just 8 short years. This level of progress would be unthinkable today. That's because anti-environmentalists pitted environmentalists against civil rights advocates in the late 1970s. This fissure has only widened over the last 50 years. This class will offer participants a path forward that isn't about politics or judgment. Rather, to save our planet, we must focus on doing what is right. This means not having to choose between human lives and butterflies. Rather, it is to acknowledge that we all share the planet, we all drink the same water, and we all breathe the same air.

October 25

The Federal Deficit, in an Era of Covid 19 (Tori Gorman, Policy Director of The Concord Coalition, a non-partisan organization dedicated to educating the public about federal budget issues and their consequences for the future)

The federal budget deficit reached \$3 trillion in the 12 months prior and through June 2020, as stimulus spending soared and tax revenue plunged, putting the federal government on pace to register the largest annual deficit as a share of the economy since World War II. In this class, Ms. Gorman will address the fiscal effects of legislation passed in response to the coronavirus pandemic and the various effects of the pandemic on the federal deficit. Even before the pandemic, the federal budget deficit was high by historical standards. Ms. Gorman will discuss the effects of this debt growth on the economy, our standard of living, and future generations.

11/1 All-Church Event

November 8

Trusting the News (Richard T. Griffiths)

At a time where trust in journalism seems determined by party affiliation, the President Emeritus of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation and former CNN news executive Richard T. Griffiths shares and gives context to the advice he gives to news organizations about how to build reader and viewer trust. The, data, tools and techniques he describes also allow news consumers to evaluate news providers for quality, transparency and editorial standards.

November 15

Global Health and a Once in a Century Pandemic: the impact of public health in our lives and on our well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic (Jeff Koplan, MD)

Now Vice President for Global Health at Emory University, Dr. Koplan founded the Emory Global Health Institute in 2006 and served as its Director until March 2013. He remains actively involved in the Institute's daily operations. EGHI helps Emory University and its global partners bring health issues into focus and improve health around the world. Prior to his work at Emory, Dr. Koplan worked at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 26 years, serving as Director of CDC from 1998 to 2002. Following this update on the status of our health and public health systems, there will be opportunity for questions about the present and future status of the global pandemic.

November 22

The End as Beginning: Reflections on where We, the People, have been and where we might go from here

11/29 No Classes, Thanksgiving weekend