

At Covenant Presbyterian Church in Racine

WAKING UP WHITE—OCTOBER BOOK STUDY

A sub-group of Covenant's elders on the Session have been meeting to discern how our congregation might act to add more light than heat to our nation's racial tensions. While the entire Session will discuss and develop plans for this church year at their September meeting, the sub-group wanted to get us started with conversations around another book they're reading called *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. This book has been recommended for months by our denomination's Co-Moderators and comes highly recommended by your elders and other churches in our Milwaukee Presbytery.

As the back of the book reads: "For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing... Then, in 2009, one 'aha!' moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan."

"In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her – and ultimately for all of us." Irving works with other white people to transform confusion into curiosity and anxiety into action, and as her husband, Bruce, likes to say, "It couldn't have happened to a whiter person."

If you are frustrated or confused by all the rhetoric around racism and privilege, take this opportunity to learn and share in honest discussion together so we can sort out what God might be asking of us, as individuals and as a community.

Discussions will be facilitated by our Co-Pastors and will be held at the church on the days and times below. Please contact Ministry Assistant Kathy Miller (kmiller@covpres.org or 262-634-4597) to register so we can plan for food and for space.

Sunday, October 15, 11:30am-1:00pm

Wednesday, October 18, 10:30am-Noon

Wednesday, October 18, 5:00-6:30pm

In addition, once we have had these general discussions, small group opportunities will be available to those with ongoing interest to discuss the book and its ramifications for our lives in more depth together. Whether for one discussion or for many, we hope you will add your ear and your voice to this timely study.

Note: One of the PC(USA)'s General Assembly Co-Moderators, Rev. T. Denise Anderson, will speak at the Tuesday, September 26, Presbytery meeting. Among other things, she will be discussing this book, which is designated as a PC(USA) read.