

## Morning Classes – Meet Monday-Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

**Gospel Justice & Congregational Transformation** – Congregations are changing and it is easy to lose a Gospel focus and embrace the anxiety of our culture. Our anxiety can lead to chasing after programs and methods as a way to rejuvenation but in reality, place so many layers so much on top of the Gospel that we lose our spiritual call to justice. This course will explore the call to Gospel centered justice as a means of transformation. We will develop a definition for Gospel Justice, share stories, and wrestle with the call to be God's body of justice in our local communities. **Matt Sauer** is a husband, father, and community activist for justice. Matt is co-pastor of Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry specializing in Community Engagement and Administration

**Causes & Cures of Poverty** – As we drove into Walmart, we saw several people panhandling. One grandson asked, “Are poor people to blame for being poor?” The other immediately responded, “That depends.” This class will continue that conversation. We will review the stories and opinion of service providers and poor people, and the resulting project “Bootstrap Partners” that would equip people who have been in poverty to be mentors for those who are still struggling. We bought the grandsons Legos that were invented in Denmark, known for its government welfare measures, and that have components manufactured in China, a trade rival, and that were sold by a company whose tax and employee payments have been questionable. These are also among the “that depends” factors of why people are poor. **Jim Krapf** is a retired Presbyterian pastor living in Worthington, Minnesota who has been interviewing people regarding the “Causes and Cures of Poverty” and developing community responses.

**Wahoo! I Get to Preach from the Lectionary (Gospel of Mark)** Join us as we work our way through Mark, getting ready for Year B of the Lectionary. Ideas, themes, and stories help us see Mark's story in our worlds! **Sarah Henrich** is a retired New Testament professor, interim pastor, and lover of Synod School!

**BIG ministry in small churches** – Big ministry can happen in all places. Many times, churches are so focused on the 3 B's (butts, buildings, and budgets) that they forget that the church's real calling is to ministry. Any size church can have BIG ministry when they concentrate on the gifts which God has given them to do ministry. This course will encourage churches to look beyond the four walls of the church and the three B's, but instead to look in the community for ministry opportunities. We will root our conversation in Scripture and lift up examples of small churches doing BIG ministry. After all there are more churches under 100 members than over 100 members. We need to find ways to help these ministries to thrive!! **Paul Snyder** has been in small congregations all of his life – as a child, as a member, as a ruling elder, as a non-ordained staff member, as a “For Such a Time as This” resident pastor, and as an installed pastor. He has real passion for serving in small rural settings and rejoices that these congregations have BIG ministry!

**1 John** – This short but powerful letter, heavily influenced by the gospel of John, is believed to have been written by an authoritative figure to those left after a split in the church. What led to the division was the behavior and theology of some of the members. This Bible study will focus

on such topics as the role of love in community, who Jesus is, and how faith is formed and expressed. We will learn and discuss together the basis of life and community of the people of God. **Tim Gerarden** is pastor of two churches in SE Minnesota.

**China... new Cold War enemy?** Americans have a long and complicated history with China. We will look at political dimensions, Christian missions, the “Who Lost China?” debate, trade disputes, and the current question – is China today a competitor or an enemy? **Bill Davnie** is a retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer, and a minister member of Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, which he formerly served as Stated Clerk.

**More Mindfulness** This year we will be looking at five qualities of living mindfully and assessing where our strengths lie and where there is room for improvement. We will learn practices and exercises for each of the five steps of mindfulness (Observe, Describe, Detach, Love Yourself, and Act Mindfully). Students will learn more about these practices and themselves to help overcome stress by living a more purposeful, joy filled life through mindfulness. **Jane Johnson** is a teacher in the St. Paul Public Schools.

### Afternoon Classes – Meet Monday-Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

**White Privilege: Let’s Talk** How do race, power and privilege impact your life? Participants will learn definitions and basic concepts of white privilege, some of its manifestations in the social system, and its impact. This curriculum from the United Church of Christ was designed to help white people to see and understand how white privilege functions in the United States. When activist and writer Peggy McIntosh published “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” in 1988, she made white privilege visible. What she proposed in her writing was... The systems that benefit white people in obtaining jobs, housing, healthcare, education, etc. must themselves be challenged, disempowered, and changed. **Rebecca Tollefson** is honorably retired in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, OH. Previously she was the executive director for the Ohio Council of Churches for 20 years.

**Art of Mindful Leadership** As leaders, we’re expected, in the words of one theorist, to be “a non-anxious presence”. Or, to put it another way, to keep our cool in all situations, even highly stressful ones. This workshop will focus on mindfulness as a path to develop this leadership skill. We’ll look at the research on the effectiveness of mindfulness, both for personal well-being and for workplace satisfaction, and practice its basic techniques. We will also learn how to apply these practices to our leadership roles. This workshop is aimed at all leaders, both in the church and the wider world. **Mark Sundby** is executive director of LeaderWise, licensed psychologist, and long-term mindfulness meditation practitioner.

**Creating Short Videos for Church to use in Online Worship** How do we spread the word about our church? One great way is with short videos. Short (3-5 minute) videos be put on church websites, Facebook, or Youtube. They can be used in worship or emailed to people. They can introduce your church, highlight a ministry, or share short interviews with the pastor or members. Most cell phones and simple cameras have the ability to take video. With inexpensive programs and a few basic skills, you can put together videos for your church. In class we’ll discuss different kinds of short videos, basic videography skills, the equipment you’ll need, and

how to get started with your first video. **Suzanne Gorhau** is an amateur photographer/videographer, pastor and retreat leader.

**A Theology of Interfaith Engagement** – Religious Diversity is a fact of the changing American landscape. We have an opportunity to build relationships and understanding with our neighbors of other religions. Not only is this an opportunity to strengthen our communities, but interfaith engagement is also a way for Christians to explore and grow in their own faith. This course will explore strategies for interfaith engagement and offer resources for your own faith development. **Sarah Trone Garriott** is the Coordinator of Interfaith Engagement for the Des Moines Area Religious Council. Ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), she previously served congregations in rural Virginia and suburban Des Moines.

**Spiritual Gardening** – God desires for us to bloom, growing and maturing into those in whom God’s character is seen. Seeking to increase our knowledge of this process, we will focus on the following: (1) God our Gardener, (2) The Seed of our souls, (3) The Soil of our nurturing community, (4) Our Roots which grow deep through spiritual disciplines, (5) Our Blooms whose beauty and fragrance glorifies God. Come explore the flowering of your spiritual personality as you grow in God’s garden of love and grace. You shall be as a watered garden. Isaiah 58:11 We are a mom and son ministry team made up of **Dee Waggoner**, a spiritual director, and **David Waggoner**, a wise and gifted tech guy. Together we strive to promote the health of God’s people by teaching practical Kingdom living.

**The Art of Resurrection** –Resurrection Art is a hands-on and experiential workshop-based class that will explore art that is done with trash/junk/recyclable products, etc. As part of the class, we will be making art with repurposed materials. We will also be discussing how to incorporate “repurposed” art into church programs, such as confirmation, Sunday School, VBS, and adult retreats. We may also spend some time discussing the theology behind repurposed art and how it pushes against our culture of consumption, as well as looking at artists that work in this field for inspiration. **Cathy M. Kolwey** is an artist, writer, and United Church of Christ minister who pastors in rural Minnesota. She has worked in Christian education and youth ministry for over 15 years, writing art-based curriculum for all ages.

**Glimpses of China from Modern Chinese Fiction** – Fiction gives us an intimate, close-up, on-the-ground picture of other cultures and peoples that complements the larger picture that history and political analysis provide. Even though Chinese writers have had to contend with rigorous state censorship and sometimes even persecution and imprisonment, they have nonetheless succeeded in carrying on China’s long tradition of literary accomplishment. Using short passages from an array of writers (Lu Xun, Eileen Chang, Ding Ling, Gao Xingjian, Mo Yan, Ji Xianlin, Ma Jian, Yan Lianke), our course will try to create a mosaic portrait of China in the 20th and early 21st centuries. Note: AM1-10 looks at this theme from policy lens. **Scott Stanfield** teaches in the English Department of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

**All who register will receive an email with the link to the classes a few days for they start.**