

Adult Sunday School Offerings

Jesus Deported:

The Foreigner in the Bible and in Today's Political Climate

From the account in Matthew's gospel of Jesus' family fleeing as refugees to Egypt to repeated outcries from the prophets against mistreatment of the foreigner, the Bible is filled with references to strangers in a foreign land. In our present political climate, with demonization of foreigners from the highest office in the land and vitriol on social media, we gather to consider our response, and our responsibility. For each class, we look at a contemporary example of the plight of foreigners in our own country, and an example of what biblical authors had to say about this same problem in their own time.

Facilitator: Micheal Palmer

Location: Lounge

The Book of Job:

The Bible in a Nutshell or a Nutshell in the Bible?

It's been said that there are only two problems with legal writing: style and content. When it comes to the Book of Job, those are the very reasons to study it: style and content! Both the literary stature and the theological impact of the Book of Job deserve attention. This fall we explore a number of interpretations of the Book of Job, a literary masterpiece. We have plenty of readings in addition to the Biblical book, and we encourage lively discussion.

Facilitator: Joe Templeton

Location: Room 17



Christian Messages that Wound

Many of us received religious messages or teachings in churches, from parents and from others, that hurt us rather than nurtured us. Maybe they had to do with sin, or self-worth, with sexuality, or patriarchy, or a frightening image of God.

In this class we name the wounding messages, and share how they influenced us. We also look at the origin of these messages in the history of Christian doctrine and Biblical interpretation, with short weekly presentations from Binkley folks educated in theology and Christian thought.

Our class welcomes all persons with insights on this road to healing. Please do come with your personal stories; they are the real "text" of the class!

Facilitator: Cate Alexander

Location: Chapel

The Way of the Pilgrim:

Saintly Outlaws, Wayfaring Strangers, and Souls on Fire

From David the psalmist to Annie Dillard, Leo Tolstoy to Eldridge Cleaver, Dante Alighieri to Rumi, many courageous mystics, outlaws, and poets have written to us across the centuries of their tender, sometimes halting, sometimes all-consuming yearning for God. In this class, we reflect together on their stories of wrestling with the Presence of the Divine--or suffering its Absence— through discussion of the texts, and with meditations on hymns and ballads.

I hope these intimate spiritual "soundings" will resonate for us over and over again in our lives as we walk on our own spiritual journeys.

Facilitator: Susan Ketchin

Location: Library

Text: *Pilgrim Souls: A Collection of Spiritual Autobiographies* (available from any online bookseller: used, \$5.99 at Amazon.com)



Mindful Parenting

Each week we look at some current ideas on parenting, drawing from resources that have caught our eye. Our group uses a simple format of prayer, check-in, summary of the week's article or book, and discussion, using questions as prompts. We welcome novice parents and experienced parents to share laughter, support, and hope in the journey of parenting.

Facilitators: Megan and Miles Highsmith

Location: Sunroom

Easy English Bible Study

This class is presented in simple English for any person whose native language is not English, with the aim of enabling participants to understand and engage more fully in our church's worship experience. We focus on Christian concepts, the life and teachings of Jesus, and specific beliefs of Binkley. We read Bible texts, explaining unfamiliar words and discussing meanings. We welcome questions, encourage discussion, and always take time to work with pronunciation. We draw on the weekly order of worship for the 11 AM service: the art, readings, hymns, even announcements!

All are welcome: we especially invite visiting Chinese scholars, international students and members, and any interested in deepening their understanding of Christian practices. Our facilitator is certified in ESL (English as a Second Language).

Facilitator: Bo Lloyd

Location: Room 18



THE OLIN T. BINKLEY MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH



**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

The mission of Binkley Baptist
Church is:

*building compassionate
and joyful community,
freely exploring spiritual paths,
and pursuing justice and peace
in the way of Jesus.*

THE OLIN T. BINKLEY
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
1712 Willow Drive ♦ Chapel Hill, NC
919.942.4964 ♦ binkleychurch.org ♦

 [@binkley.church](https://www.facebook.com/binkley.church)



Christian Formation at Binkley Baptist Church

Christian Formation at Binkley strives to create a variety of sacred spaces in which all people feel welcome and can nurture their spiritual lives no matter where they are on their journey. Our church programs flow from this desire to love God, each other, and our neighbors.

- ◆ We explore biblical narratives and Christian theology, and we ground ourselves in the free-church tradition.
- ◆ We foster discussion and encourage action in areas of peace and justice, striving to be a community inspired by Christ's example.
- ◆ We create safe spaces to explore faith in Christian traditions and in other traditions, and challenge ourselves to grow spiritually.
- ◆ We welcome long-time churchgoers and those who are experimenting with church, and the questions that enliven our conversations around faith and doubt.

In addition to opportunities for adults, we have an active children's program that includes Sunday School, service projects, picnics, and year-around events. Contact stephanie@binkleychurch.org or see our Children's brochure for more information.

Other Opportunities for Learning

Wednesday Dinner and Program

Our dinners begin again on September 18! Each Wednesday evening we gather at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal, and then enjoy a presentation, with time for questions, on a topic of interest. The program ends at 7 PM. Please drop in and join us! The meal cost is \$7 for adults, and \$4 for children.

Circles of Compassion

As part of this Year of Compassion at Binkley, we're forming small groups for learning the ways of compassion as taught in Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Native American and other faith traditions. Using Joyce Rupp's book as a guide, with its wide variety of reflections, poems, and prayers, we explore self-compassion, compassion to other people, and compassion to all Creation. This six-week class begins the week of September 15, and with two facilitators, each group can stay small (up to 8 participants).

Facilitators: Stephanie Ford, Cate Alexander

Location and time: TBD (participants are invited to help choose a good meeting time by joining Cate in the Narthex after 11:00 worship on Sept. 15, or by emailing her (alexandercatherineb@gmail.com)).

Text: *Boundless Compassion*, by Joyce Rupp (\$14 new at Amazon)

Note: term for this class is Sept-Oct.

Adult Formation Classes at Binkley Baptist Church



Fall 2019

**Join us for Launch Sunday in
the Sanctuary
at 9:30 AM on September 8**

Fall Term: Sept. 8 - Dec. 8