

WHAT ARE SACRED GROUND CIRCLES?

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. The series is open to all and is especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day—all while grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love.

WHAT IS A DIALOGUE CIRCLE?

The invitation is to form a dialogue circle or circles in your congregation that would meet for 10 sessions to engage with the films, videos, written materials, and each other – a study group essentially.

WHO CREATED SACRED GROUND AND WHY?

The dialogue series developer and author is Katrina Browne, producer/director of the documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*. Browne is a lifelong Episcopalian who is dedicated to racial justice and healing. As a white woman, she is particularly concerned with the important work white people need to do in conversation with each other, as part of the larger project of *Becoming Beloved Community*.

WHAT IS IN THE CURRICULUM?

- A set of documentary films and short videos, available for free to registered dialogue groups via password-protected streaming
- A set of readings, also available for free to registered dialogue groups as password-protected PDFs
- Note: Participants will need to obtain copies of two books: *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving and *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman.

For more detailed information, please visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/about>.



SACRED GROUND CIRCLES AT ST. PAUL'S

In 2021, eighteen members of St. Paul's participated in two Sacred Ground Circles, one facilitated by Dale Nienow and Ann Raymond and the other by Joanne Rittmueller and Rev. Dianne Andrews. St. Paul's is offering the series again in 2022, facilitated by Jan Chappuis and Tracy Garrett.

DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATION FOR THE 2022 SACRED GROUND CIRCLE

We will meet every other Tuesday morning for ten sessions beginning on Tuesday, January 11 and ending on Tuesday, May 17. The first and last meetings will be held in person at the parish hall and are two and a half hours in length. The second through ninth meetings will be held via Zoom and are two hours in length.

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
1	Tuesday, Jan. 11	9:30 to noon	Parish Hall
2	Tuesday, Jan. 25	9:30 to 11:30	Zoom
3	Tuesday, Feb. 8	9:30 to 11:30	Zoom
4	Tuesday, Feb. 22	9:30 to 11:30	Zoom
5	Tuesday, Mar. 8	9:30 to 11:30	Zoom
6	Tuesday, Mar. 22	9:30 to 11:30	Zoom
7	Tuesday, Apr. 5	9:30 to 11:30	Zoom
8	Tuesday, Apr. 19	9:30 to 11:30	Zoom
9	Tuesday, May 3	9:30 to 11:30	Zoom
10	Tuesday, May 17	9:30 to noon	Parish Hall

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WORK BETWEEN MEETINGS

Generally, the assignment between meetings will be to watch one or more videos or film clips, to read one or more articles, and to read selections from the two books *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving and *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Participants will be given password-protected access to all materials except these two books, which must be purchased or borrowed. Past participants have found that each meeting's preparation takes between three and four hours, which is one of the reasons the sessions are scheduled two weeks apart.

MORE INFORMATION

For general information on the Sacred Ground program, go to <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/about>

Or contact Dianne+, Joanne Rittmueller, Dale Nienow, Ann Raymond, Tracy Garrett, or Jan Chappuis.