

**“BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS”**

**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES  
APRIL THROUGH AUGUST 2021**



330 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776  
Phone: 978-443-9151  
Email: [pcsudbury@pcsudbury.org](mailto:pcsudbury@pcsudbury.org)  
Web: [www.pcsudbury.org](http://www.pcsudbury.org)

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## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR APRIL - AUGUST 2021

### SUMMARY BY DAY-OF-WEEK

#### Sunday

Time	Topic	Dates	Page
9:00 a.m.	Adult Education	Every Sunday	4
9:50 a.m.	Children's Bible Stories	Every Sunday	4
After Worship	Practice of Including	April 18 and May 16	4
Sunday evenings	Biblical Concepts of Racial Justice and Equity*	Every Sunday	6

#### Tuesday

Time	Topic	Dates	Page
3:00 p.m.	Biography Hour: Stories That Inspire and Make Us Think	Every Tuesday	4

#### Wednesday

Time	Topic	Dates	Page
10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study	Every Wednesday	4
7:00 p.m.	Part 1: The New Testament	June 2-30	4
	Part 2: Biblical Women of Courage	August 4-18	4

#### Friday

Time	Topic	Dates	Page
5:00 p.m.	TGIF! Happy Hour!	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Fridays	5
7:30 p.m.	Book or Movie Group <i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i> by John Kennedy Toole	April 30	5
7:30 p.m.	Book or Movie Group <i>Hallowed Ground</i> by James M. McPherson	June 4	5
7:30 p.m.	Book or Movie Group "Simon Birch" movie (screenplay adaptation of the book, <i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i> by John Irving)	July 30	5
7:30 p.m.	Book or Movie Group <i>Walden</i> by Henry David Thoreau	August 27	5
7:30 p.m.	Book or Movie Group <i>The Book of Longings</i> by Sue Monk Kidd	September 24	5

#### Saturday

Time	Topic	Dates	Page
6:30 p.m.	Bon Appétit Menu: Chicken Enchiladas w/Salsa Verde (in honor of Cinco de Mayo)	May 8	5
6:30 p.m.	Bon Appétit Menu: Gazpacho and Grilled Cheese Sandwiches	June 12	5
6:30 p.m.	Bon Appétit Menu: Pasta	August 14	5

#### Days-of-the-Week To Be Determined

Time	Topic	Dates	Page
TBD	Relationship with The Outdoor Church*	TBD	5

\*Youth Ministry Program

## INTRODUCTION

In Joshua 1:9, we are reminded that during times of change and transition we need courage. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua is just one of the many people we meet in the Bible who lives courageously despite the odds. This quarter we will take a look, not only at courageous Bible characters, but also at contemporary stories of courage.

Joan Gray speaks of courage in the *Sailboat Church*. In the chapter entitled Moving with the Wind Joan states, "*Sailboat congregations live out the truth that success is about faithfulness, which sometimes requires taking risks. They know that God calls us to walk by faith and not by sight, and they are willing to call one another to take a leap of faith when it seems necessary...This can be a frightening call. But those who are willing in faith to take the risk will receive the commendation of the Master: 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'*" (page 72) Although being led by the Spirit of God can cause fear and anxiety at times, Joan Gray, as well as the lessons from the book of Joshua, reminds us that to live a courageous life requires faith.

The catalog is organized around the three, class formats:

1. Scripture-based discussion
2. Workshops
3. Book, Movie and Other Discussion Groups

Scripture-based discussions are scheduled for once a week, while the workshops and discussion groups will be on a less regular schedule. You can choose to participate at your own pace in one or several of the offerings. Almost every offering will be conducted remotely, via the Zoom platform. Information necessary to log into each session and connect to the class will be included in the list of activities in the daily PCIS email and in the weekly summary of activities.

Be strong  
AND COURAGEOUS  
FOR I AM WITH YOU  
Joshua 1:9

## 1. SCRIPTURE-BASED DISCUSSIONS

- ✦ **Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** Ron Ten-Hove will continue to lead an **Adult Education** discussion exploring the same scripture that will be the focus of that day's sermon.
- ✦ **Sunday mornings at 9:50 a.m.** Catherine Crow, Megan Hollembaek, Debbie Johnson and Andy Roosa will read and discuss **Children's Bible Stories** that are appropriate for ages 4 – 12.
- ✦ **Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m.** Matt Crane will lead **Biography Hour: Stories that Inspire Us and Make Us Think**. For the 2021 spring/summer term, Biography Hour will place special emphasis on those biblical characters and historical figures who demonstrated the courage of their convictions in extraordinary ways. Persons of interest for this spring/summer will include Mary Magdalene, Shusaku Endo, Paul the Apostle, Simone Weil, Noah, Frederick Douglas, Peter Chelcicky, Priscilla, Fyodor Dostoevsky and Rosa Parks.
- ✦ **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** Jessie Robinson and Jean Olson will lead the **Women's Bible Study**. We are continuing our study of Isaiah, in three parts.
- ✦ **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. from June 2-30 and August 4-18.** Pastor Desiree Lawson will lead two separate courses in June and August.
  - **June 2 - 30. The New Testament.** The June course will focus on the New Testament and on one of the most courageous and admired persons in history—Jesus Christ. We will learn about the Gospels, the early life of Jesus and his ministry to the world. We will also have an opportunity to learn from those who personally knew Jesus, his apostles, some of whom wrote letters to the early churches in Asia Minor. These teachings are instructional for daily living and give us deep insight into the ways we can courageously live our faith and love our neighbor with the same grace and love Jesus so generously gives to us.
  - **August 4 - 18. Biblical Women of Courage.** The August course will take a look at women in the Bible who have been largely misunderstood and misrepresented. They have been perceived as second-class citizens with little-to-no power at all. Oftentimes, what others view as meekness or weakness in reality requires great strength and courage. If you are interested in gaining a broader perspective about our biblical heroines and seeing some of these incredible women anew, this offering is for you. This class will also offer an opportunity for us to reflect on our present-day relationships with the women in our lives. It will deepen our understanding and awareness of the struggles that women of different origins and creeds encounter. The goal of this study is to enlarge our global sisterhood by reclaiming and reconstructing the stories of biblical women.

## 2. WORKSHOPS

- ✦ **April 18 and May 16 after the Worship Service.** Jean Olson will facilitate a **Practicing Workshop** based on the book *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World* by Kathy Escobar. In the introduction to the book the author defines “practicing”:
  - To participate in an activity or implement a skill repeatedly to develop greater proficiency;
  - To intentionally work toward growth through repetition and experience.

The **Practice of Including** will be centered on creating a space that makes room for all people. We will learn how to intentionally embrace and value differences. We will also consider whose voices are not being heard. There will be a handout that will be included in the Friday e-blast to the congregation before each session.

### 3. BOOKS, MOVIES, AND OTHER DISCUSSION GROUPS / ACTIVITIES

- ✦ **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month at 5:00 p.m.** The **TGIF! Happy Hour!**, led by Christine Clark, gets into full swing twice a month. People join us on Zoom for lively conversation and a toast to great company! It is a time to relax, and share some of our favorite ways to stay connected. We have different virtual activities each time we get together. So, come join us. Cheers!
- ✦ **On a Saturday each Month at 5:30 p.m. Bon Appétit Group** will participate in a spirited discussion as they show off the creation they have lovingly concocted. The schedule for this quarter is as follows:
  - **May 8:** Chicken Enchiladas with Salsa Verde, in honor of Cinco de Mayo
  - **June 12:** Gazpacho and Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
  - **July 10:** On sabbatical in July
  - **August 14:** Pasta
- ✦ **On a Friday each month at 7:30 p.m.** The **Book or Movie Group** will meet to discuss a book and/or movie that has relevance to what is happening in our world, country, or region. Or, sometimes, it is fiction that is humorous but will promote thoughtful conversation.
  - **April 30:** *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole. This book is an American comic masterpiece. John Kennedy Toole's hero, Ignatius J. Reilly, is huge, fractious, and fastidious; a latter-day Gargantua, a Falstaff of the French Quarter, who carries the story. He is a modern-day Quixote beset by giants of the modern age. Rev. Wayne Parrish will lead April's discussion.
  - **June 4:** *Hallowed Ground* by James M. McPherson. McPherson takes us to the battlefield at Gettysburg July 2-4, 1863 to set the scene and describe the courageous struggles that yielded so much American blood and changed the course of the Civil War. Andy Roosa will lead June's discussion.
  - **July 30:** "Simon Birch" movie, a screenplay adaptation of the book, *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving. Even though Simon Birch is the smallest kid in town, deep down he knows that he was born to do something big! He's on a constant search to discover his destiny, but somehow manages to find nothing but trouble! Meanwhile, Simon's loyal best friend, Joe, is searching for the identity of his father, a secret his beautiful mother has guarded Joe's entire life. These two share the hilarious, and sometimes tragic, ups and downs that will forever bind them together! Jessie Robinson will lead July's discussion.
  - **August 27:** *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau. In 1845, Thoreau moved into a cabin by Walden Pond. With the intention of immersing himself in nature and distancing himself from the distractions of social life, Thoreau sustained his retreat for just over two years. *Walden* is a paean to the virtues of simplicity and self-sufficiency. Catherine Crow will lead August's discussion.
  - **September 24:** *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. This is a story of a young woman named Ana, who is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. But, an encounter with 18-year-old Jesus changes everything. The marriage of Jesus and Ana evolves with love and conflict, humor and pathos in Nazareth, where Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers, and their mother, Mary. Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, this book is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. Peggy Harrison will lead September's discussion.

### 3. BOOKS, MOVIES, AND OTHER DISCUSSION GROUPS / ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

- ✦ **At various times**, Matt Crane will organize Youth for a **Relationship with The Outdoor Church**. Youth will work to provide food to a vulnerable population. They are building a relationship with the people of The Outdoor Church, and getting to know their stories and how their stories fit into the framework of larger social systems. They are examining how they can address the injustices experiences by the vulnerable people of Cambridge whom they are getting to know.
- ✦ **Sunday, April 18 at 3:30 p.m.** The **Sudbury Youth Ministry Collaborative** event will get together again with PCIS friends from multiple Sudbury churches. This event is an outdoor, in-person, socially-distanced, high school and middle school youth group event at Sudbury United Methodist Church, and it should be a blast!
- ✦ **Sunday, May 23 at 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Our Youth Ministry community will again honor our graduating seniors at the **High School Graduation Party**. We will gather for a festive celebration at Debbie Johnson's backyard. It will be a memorable evening, and a creative one, as we celebrate our seniors and wish them Godspeed in the next season of their lives.
- ✦ **Sunday evenings**. Matt Crane will facilitate a Youth Group Discussion called **Biblical Concepts of Racial Justice and Equity**. Participants will examine scriptures and look at their present-day realities including the social and economic disparities we see in Cambridge. The same scriptures and others will lead us into a consideration of racial justice and equity in our everyday experience as well as in the larger systems of education, health care, housing, etc.

### CONCLUSION

We hope that this Spring and Summer you will be challenged to step out of your comfort zone to "Be Strong and Courageous". That challenge comes from God in Joshua 1:9, and is a recurrent theme in the Bible.

We learn over and over that strength and courage come to us only with faith and practice. Faith in God and practice in authentic settings. These interactive classes and workshops are an opportunity to practice with our peers. Together we can hone the skills that will help each of us to meet the challenge from God.