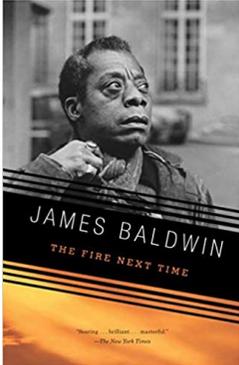


Educating Ourselves about Race & Racism
James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*, & Related African American authors
Led by Laura Metzger

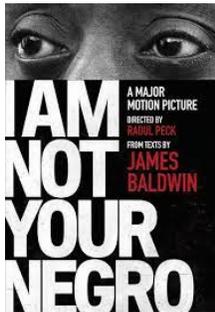
April 19-May 10, 2021
7-8pm



April 19th – *The Fire Next Time*: We will discuss the first essay, “My Dungeon Shook,” as well as the first part of the second essay, “Down at the Cross,” through the segment where Baldwin states it is time to “get rid of God.”

In addition to hearing a little background music and information, we will visit questions such as Baldwin’s view of race relations, how blacks should view whites, and discuss the intersection between Christianity and race. We will reflect on how our faith, and our basis for it, differs from Baldwin’s perception of Christianity.

April 26th – *The Fire Next Time*: We will hear a little more background about James Baldwin’s life. We will also discuss his views of the Nation of Islam and their views of whites compared to his own. We will review his thoughts on the last part of his essay discussing the interconnectedness of blacks and whites in America, and what he believes is needed to achieve true racial equality. We will also spend a few minutes thinking about whether or not there have been advancements in race relations since 1962, if there is hope for the future, or if humans will always be trapped by the peculiarities of human nature.



May 3rd – “*I Am Not Your Negro*”: (Before class: watch “I Am Not Your Negro” on Netflix, Amazon Prime or YouTube). We will either watch clips of “I Am Not Your Negro,” and/or discuss the movie. We’ll talk more about James Baldwin’s life, and his connection with other prominent black Americans of that time.

May 10th- 20thC African American Authors: We will briefly review some of the most important books of the 20th century written by African American authors, so class members can have an introduction to books that they may want to read in the future.

**(all subject to change)*

Sponsored by Salem First United Methodist Church, a part of Open Door Churches.

Questions? Want to get a Zoom link? Contact Cesie Delve Scheuermann at cesiedelve@gmail.com