

Fall Sacred Ground Study In-person at St. Mary Anne's

What is Sacred Ground?

- It is a race dialogue series designed for these times: a spiritual journey grounded in Christian faith in the example of Jesus Christ and the power of scripture, prayer, God's grace, and the Holy Spirit to help us step closer to the dream of beloved community.
- It is an attempt to be responsive to the profound challenges that currently exist in our society. It is focused on the challenges that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them.
- It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, and to do so in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story.
- It holds the vision of beloved community as a guiding star – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.
- It is built around powerful documentary films and readings which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue.
- The series brings participants' attention to various key chapters in U.S. history of race and racism, as well some of the latest thinking by scholars and practitioners of racial healing, racial equity, and whiteness.
- It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories.
- It emphasizes personal story-sharing and deepening relationships. It invites exploration of how people of color have been harmed by racism, and how white people have been hurt in other ways, creating a shared – if deeply unequal – brokenness that compels us to overcome these legacies in deliberate partnership. This work can take various shapes.
- It puts attention on issues related to race, while also examining how those issues intersect with family history, class status, regional identity and political identity.

We will meet in St. Mary Anne's Parish Center. The first and last meetings will be longer, we will watch one of the documentaries together and share a meal. Our schedule: Saturday, September 18th 9:30-12:30 with lunch, Wednesday, September 29th 7-9 PM, Wednesday, October 13th 7-9 PM, October 27th 7-9 PM, Wednesday, November 10th 7-9 PM, Saturday, November 20th 9:30-12:30. The cost is \$25 per person to cover copying and meals. Limited scholarships are available upon request. If you are interested in joining this study, please email jmflood45@gmail.com or call 443-553-3436 or call St. Mary Anne's Office 410-287-5522 by September 14th. You will receive an email with the information for the online Sacred Ground site and will receive a notebook at the first session. You can check out the guest part of the site at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>.