Ordinary Life
Save the Date
Monday June 3 - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Reshaping Religious Imagination and Thinking

Michael Morwood
Learning to live in the current world with more faith, hope, & joy. Offering enduring wisdom for changing times.

A Focus on Becoming
There is no path that brings you to yourself. There is no method to make you what you have always been. True Spirituality is only a matter of becoming who you truly are.

This is not a class for the faint of heart but for those who are willing

A Focus on Practicing
The principles of Ordinary Life lead to fullness. Not life without death or difficulty, for that’s not life. Our goal is to BE in ordinary life. One can embody the principles by adopting a daily spiritual practice.

Rather than encouraging “right”

Podcast
If we are to be open to wise and useful teachings that lead us to grow in wisdom and compassion, we have to move beyond the world of words and ideas, though they are useful, into a world that cannot be contained or constrained by words and ideas. Dualism is useful, indeed vital, but
My Encounter With Michael Morwood

April 19, 2019

I am very committed to increasing both religious and spiritual literacy. They are not the same.

Religious literacy has to do with what knowledge and information people know about various religions, including the one they profess. For example, many people cannot name the five largest religions in the world, the Five Pillars of Islam or the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism.

Spiritual literacy has to do with wisdom and understanding, with awareness of and growth in the values that unite us as humans, connect us to each other and to all of the earth. I am thinking of how we experience, grow in and express values like peace, love, joy, patience and humility.

Religious literacy is about opening up “head space.”

Spiritual literacy is about opening up “heart space.”

As a spiritual teacher I feel one of my moral obligations is to work diligently at keeping my “head space” open. I want to grow in knowledge and information about religion and religious matters. The major way that I do this is by reading
Most 21st century Christians have grown up indoctrinated by a conventional religious experience that offers the assurance of having all the answers tied up in a little bow, just for the believing. Many still find this to be comforting, but a growing number are antsy. On the verge of becoming what Bishop Spong calls “church alumni/ae,” they know too much. Archaeology, astrophysics, and any number of other scientific disciplines continue to make discoveries that compel us to re-evaluate our true place in the universe – and we are right to be feeling increasingly humble.

So, many are feeling stuck. Even as deeply religious questions of origins and purpose continue to persist, the Bible seems to be more of a hindrance than a help. Rational thinkers know that the Bible and much of what people consider to be “core doctrines” of Christianity reflect the fanciful notions of a pre-scientific mindset. Cosmologists have shown without a shadow-of-a-doubt that the ancient notion of a three-tiered earth-centric cosmos is just a quaint throw-back to the fertile imaginations of primitive thinkers.

The question is, can religion as a whole adapt to a new template? A new reality? A brush with mystery? Can religion reflect modern scientific discoveries, honor the mysteries of the universe, and down the
Dr. Jacquelin Lewis
coming
October 16 - 18, 2020
Living an EXAMINED LIFE
Wisdom for the Second Half of the Journey

James Hollis, PhD
No matter who you are, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.
Every morning we rise to find two gremlins at the foot of the bed. One is named Fear. The other, Lethargy.
There is really no way to live the examined life without asking some very intense questions of ourselves and about ourselves on a very regular basis.
Questions are designed to reposition us. Questions are asked to make us aware of their unconscious biases, to break us out of dualistic mind, to challenge how we think about God or Divine Presence, how we think about the world in which we live.
Why are you afraid?
Jesus was always breaking barriers and transgressing borders.
“Fear lies not only behind all of our personal and relational problems but also behind every crisis in the world.”

- Thomas Merton
The “Christian Fundamentals”

- the Bible is literally true,
- the miracles Jesus is said to have performed are literally true,
- the literal nature of the virgin birth,
- the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus,
- and, the substitutionary atonement of Jesus’ death on the cross.

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The early Jesus followers held on to the memory and teachings of Jesus as both their anchor and their compass. That is what enabled them to endure the storms they were going through.
The “rule of God” according to Jesus -

is not under our control
shows up where and when we least expect it
disrupts business as usual
is a rule of justice and forgiveness
More trouble is caused in this world by those who take offense than those who cause offense.
To be a Christian is seeking to have a growing relationship with the God of Jesus and having the faith and trust that this relationship will not leave us unchanged.
Your life is not about you. You are about Life.
Everything changes.
Everything and everyone is connected.
Pay attention.