

## **Adult Formation 2023-2024**

### **All Souls Episcopal Parish in Berkeley**

All Souls Episcopal Church is delighted to present Adult Formation classes at 9:15am each Sunday morning in addition to the regularly scheduled “Reading Between the Lines” bible study offered at 7:00am and 9:15am. Many of the classes listed here are offered in lecture/discussion format in the Parish Hall and on zoom. Some of the classes are intended as small group, experiential classes and are offered in the Common Room downstairs. (Those classes are indicated as such below.) Please join us as often as you are able!

#### **Giving Thanks and Praise (The Rev. Dr. Ruth Meyers)**

A central prayer of our eucharistic celebration is the Great Thanksgiving. We begin by affirming that “it is right to give thanks and praise,” and then the presider leads us in giving thanks to God for all that God has done for us. At All Souls, these prayers change every season. In this series, we’ll explore the different ways we give thanks, including some from our history, digging deeply into the meaning and significance of eucharistic prayers. (August 27, September 3, 10)

#### **Jesus, Power, and Privilege (The Racial Justice Committee)**

What is your agency to create change in someone’s life, in your community and in the world? How did Jesus address power and privilege? Join the racial justice committee in examining this and how to apply it in our own life and at All Souls. (October 1, 8, 15)

#### **Introduction to the Spiritual Autobiography (Jane Vandenburg)**

Struggling with doubt and faith? This is one of the age-old dilemmas for thoughtful Christians, how much of this can we come to believe and what must be left to the ineluctable mysteries. Throughout the ages Christians have turned to writing their spiritual autobiography to help them find their way. Join us as we look at St. Augustine, Thomas Merton, Anne Lamott, Cole Arthur Riley, and others. (October 1, 8, 15) *Small group – not on zoom*

#### **12 Greek Words Every Christian Should Know (L. Deihl and the Rev. Phil Brochard)**

The cultures that produced the Christian testament are significantly different from 21st century American life. By contextualizing 12 seminal Greek words found throughout the New Testament, we will grapple with the impossibility of translation, consider textual traditions and editions, try to enter into the cultural imagination of the Greek-speaking Mediterranean of the 1st century, and find out what difference that makes for us as Christians right now, today. (October 22, 29 November 12, 19)

#### **Mid-sentence with Mark: the First Gospel (The Rev. Michael Lemaire)**

In this class, we will explore the Gospel of Mark including what we know about the origins and authorship of the Gospel, its unique Christology, as well as some of its notable parables. This gospel is also used extensively as a source for the Gospel of Matthew and Luke and we will discuss some of the synoptic parallels. This class is a way to get acquainted the Gospel of Mark and help understand and interpret the gospel as we move through the readings of the coming liturgical year. (November 26, December 3, 19, 17)

#### **When Notes Meet Words (Dent Davidson and the Rev. Phil Brochard)**

Join the rector, the Rev. Phil Brochard, and the Associate for Music Dent Davidson as they explore the connection between theology and music in the congregational song of the church. How do the words and music come together in expressions of faith? How does changing the music for a hymn alter the experience of singing it? Bring your voice to this interactive class. (January 7, 14, 21)

### **An Invitation to Wholeness and Holiness with Hildegard (The Rev. Peggy Patterson)**

In this experiential class, we will welcome our guide, Hildegard of Bingen - mystic, musician, healer, poet, lover of creation, wisdom friend, abbess, greening prophet of the earth – as we consider the experiences of wholeness and holiness in our own lives. We will explore Hildegard’s colorful illuminations, create our own mandalas, and consider how our lives might change if we, like Hildegard, considered ourselves “a feather on the breath of God.” (January 7, 14, 21) *Small group – not on zoom*

### **The Jewish Origins of Christianity (Rabbi Harry Manhoff)**

Before Judaism (as we know it today) and Christianity, the people of Israel were learning how to live according to the Hebrew Bible. In the Jewish Origins of Christianity series, Rabbi Harry Manhoff will present the rabbinic traditions of the first century that are shared in the New Testament. We will see that Jesus of Nazareth, called Rabbi (in Greek letters), taught many of the same traditions as sages of the people of Israel. (February 4, 11, 18)

### **Is THIS Anglican Music? (Dr. Anne Yardley)**

Just as the *Book of Common Prayer* has changed and adapted, so too has the musical repertoire in churches of the Anglican Communion grown. In this three-part class we will look at the development of English hymnody and choral music and the subsequent movement of that repertoire around the globe as the Anglican church expanded. We will then try to answer the question “what is Anglican music?” (February 25, March 3, 10)

### **Book Group: *The Confessions* by St. Augustine (Jack Shoemaker)**

Saint Augustine’s *Confessions*, written in the fourth century, is among the first autobiographies ever composed. It has been extraordinarily influential, and yet it may now be one of the least read of the Christian classics. Whether this is your first time reading it or your tenth, you are invited to join in lively discussion with small reading groups. (February 25, March 3, 10) *Small group – not on zoom*

### **Written That You May Believe: the Gospel of John (The Rev. Michael Lemaire)**

In this introduction to the Gospel of John, we will explore this most unique of Gospels emphasizing how its Theology and Christology enrich the Christian faith. (April 7, 14, 21)

### **Discovering Practices of Hope with William Stringfellow (Dr. Scott MacDougall)**

Our social and political climate could easily lead us to despair. The same was true for William Stringfellow (1928–1985). Stringfellow was a lifelong Episcopalian with a fierce loyalty to God’s justice, truth, and love. For him, despair was not an option and active hope the only Christian response to suffering, chaos, and death. This series will ignite our own hope through his inspiring example. (April 25, May 5, 12)