



**BMPC**  
Adult Education

**Fall 2019**



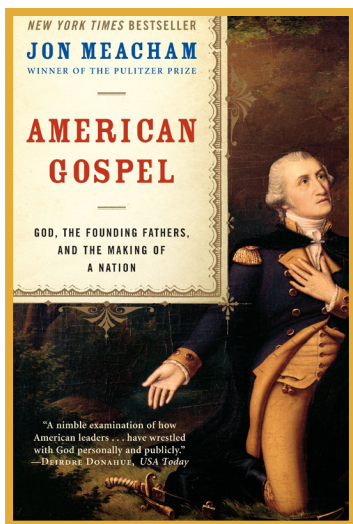
# SUNDAY CLASSES

## 8:45 A.M.

## STARTING SEPT. 15

### SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

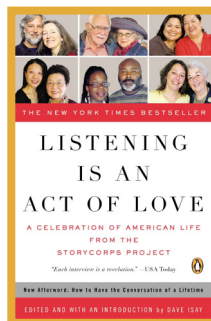
THE REV. DR. PAUL MACMURRAY  
*Congregational Hall*



*American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation* by Jon Meacham. At a time when our country seems divided by extremism, *American Gospel* draws on the past to offer a new perspective. Meacham re-creates the fascinating history of a nation grappling with religion and politics—from John Winthrop’s “city on a hill” sermon to Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence; from the Revolution to the Civil War; from a proposed nineteenth-century Christian Amendment to the Constitution to Martin Luther King, Jr.’s call for civil rights; from George Washington to Ronald Reagan. [CarolSchmidt@bmppc.org](mailto:CarolSchmidt@bmppc.org)

### FILLING THE WELL

THE REV. REBECCA KIRKPATRICK  
*Converse House Parlor*



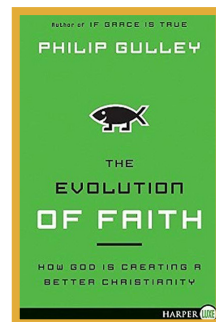
*Listening is an Act of Love*  
Each week the class will listen to and discuss one of the many stories collected by the Story Corps Project as a way to reflect on relationships, meaning and connection in our families and community. Filling the Well is sponsored by BMPC Presbyterian Women and is open to women of all ages. [PeggyHermann@hotmail.com](mailto:PeggyHermann@hotmail.com)

### DIGGING DEEPER

THE REV. FRANKLYN C. POTTORFF  
Sundays, October 6 - November 10  
*Main Line Adult Day Center Living Room*

#### *The Evolution of Faith*

Renowned Quaker minister Philip Gulley, bestselling author of *If the Church Were Christian*, delivers a practical, insightful guide to developing a living, flexible, personal Christianity—a faith that allows you to confront the profound challenges facing every believer in today’s difficult world. Contact Barbie Heaton for more information: [barbhheaton@gmail.com](mailto:barbhheaton@gmail.com)





# SUNDAY CLASSES

## 11:15 A.M.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 REPORT FROM THE BMPC SCOTLAND TRIP

*Chapel*

This past spring, 50 members traveled together to Scotland to experience the beauty of the country as well as to learn more about the roots of our Presbyterian traditions. Join the participants in the trip to see images from the tour and to hear about their experiences and how the trip impacted their connection to our theological heritage.



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES ON BIODIVERSITY

*Chapel*



The BMPC Environmental Justice Committee welcomes Lisa J. Rodrigues, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Geography and the Environment at Villanova University, as she walks us through the *The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019 Assessment*, a report which shows that nearly one million species on earth are at risk of extinction today. Come be a part of our ongoing conversation about how we can be good stewards of God's created world and learn about hopeful things that each of us can do.

# SUNDAY CLASSES

## 11:15 A.M.

### THREE SUNDAYS IN AFRICA

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

**CHARLES AND MELISSA JOHNSON**

*PCUSA Mission Co-Workers Chasefu Theological Seminary in  
Zambia, 2018 Richard Shaull Award Recipients, Chapel*

Since 2016 Charles and Melissa Johnson have been serving alongside Presbyterian partners in Zambia, working to help the church expand its holistic ministry of community development, food security and improved health. In 2018, Chasefu Seminary received the Shaull Award to fund the expansion of its leadership training for seminary students which has helped to enhance the work that Charles and Melissa are doing there.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6**

**PATRICK COUGHLIN**

*Vice President, Medical Benevolence Foundation, Chapel*

Come celebrate World Communion Sunday, by hearing about the vital work of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, one of our longest term international partners working around the world to support the medical needs of hospitals, schools and communities. This year MBF received the Shaull Award to help expand the LifeSavers Clinic Network in Malawi, Africa, standardizing care across the region and leveraging the strength of smaller community clinics.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**

**THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND  
ALL-CHURCH LUNCH AND MOVIE**

*Congregational Hall*

As we wrap up three weeks focusing on our partnerships in Africa, join us in Congregational Hall for this all ages screening of this award winning film based on a true story based in rural Malawi. A 13-year-old boy is removed from of the school he loves when his family can no longer afford the fees. He sneaks into the library and finds a book that teaches him how to build a windmill, saving his village from a famine.



# SUNDAY CLASSES

## 11:15 A.M.

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 20

#### SHANE CLAIBORNE

*Beating Guns: Hope for People Who are Weary of Violence, Chapel*

Popular author, activist and local Philadelphian, Shane Claiborne joins us to share more about his new book - *Beating Guns*, in which he and his co-author Michael Martin explore how we all can be part of the solution to end gun violence in our community and the nation. Shane is the founder of the Simple Way in Philadelphia as well as the head of the Red Letter Christian Movement.

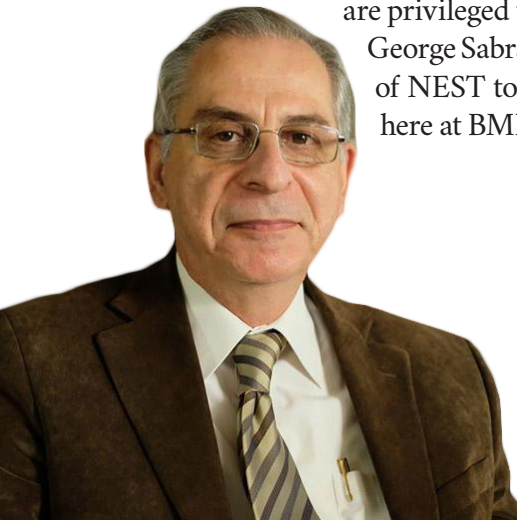


### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

#### THE REV. DR. GEORGE SABRA

*President, Near East School of Theology, Chapel*

BMPC has a longstanding relationship with the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, one of the preeminent Christian seminaries in the Middle East. Today, NEST works faithfully to train the next generation of clergy serving in Presbyterian Churches in Lebanon and Syria facing one of the greatest humanitarian crisis of our generation. We are privileged to welcome George Sabra, President of NEST to be with us here at BMPC.



### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

#### THE REV. DR. PAUL MACMURRAY

*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Religion But Were Afraid to Ask, Chapel*

The Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray leads an informal conversation on the basics of Christian theology, the Bible and tradition based on the questions that participants bring to the class.

### SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 1 - 15

#### DR. TIM HORNER - THE PROPHETS IN ADVENT

*Assistant Professor, Villanova University, Chapel*

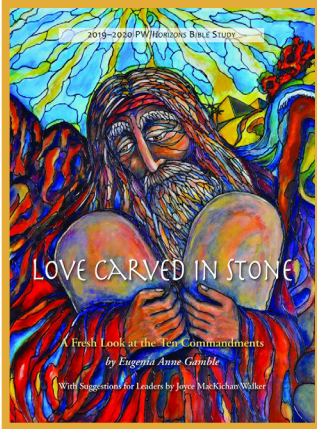
The Season of Advent is one of expectation, both our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ as well as our hope in the future coming of Christ to earth again. Our hopes and our vision for that future coming are shaped by the language and imagery of the Old Testament prophets who envisioned a future of peace, restoration and a fulfillment of God's plans for humanity. Spend these three weeks of Advent with Dr. Horner claiming the prophets call for justice then and now.

# WEEKDAY CLASSES

## ROSEMONT BIBLE STUDY

*First Wednesday of the month, Sept. - May, 10:30 a.m.*

*Rosemont Presbyterian Village*



### *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*

A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. “Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community.” *Love Carved in Stone* is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world. This class is taught by the Rev. Brian Ballard, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Senior Adults. *Joyce Mallot - okf405@gmail.com*

## MEN’S STUDY GROUP

*Second and Fourth Wednesdays of the month, Sept. - May, 10:00 a.m.*

*Converse House Parlor*

The Rev. K. Brian Ballard, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Senior Adults, leads this discussion of Church Historian Mark Noll’s book *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*. Viewing the Civil War as a major turning point in American religious thought, the book examines writings about slavery and race from Americans, both white and black, northern and southern, and includes commentary from Protestants and Catholics in Europe and Canada. Though the Christians on all sides agreed that the Bible was authoritative, their interpretations of slavery in Scripture led to a full-blown theological crisis.

*BrianBallard@bmpc.org*

## COFFEE CUP BIBLE STUDY

*Every Wednesday - 10:00 a.m.*

*Sept. - May, 10:00 a.m.*

*Congregational Hall*

The Rev. Rachel Pedersen leads this weekly Bible Study open to all women of the church and community. Together this group explores the meaning of scripture, its connection to our faith and life, and its challenges to us in our world today. Each semester the group chooses a particular theme or study such as Psalms or Parables covering the breath of the Old and New Testaments. This class offers grace-filled conversation for women at any point on their faith journey.

*RachelPedersen@bmpc.org*

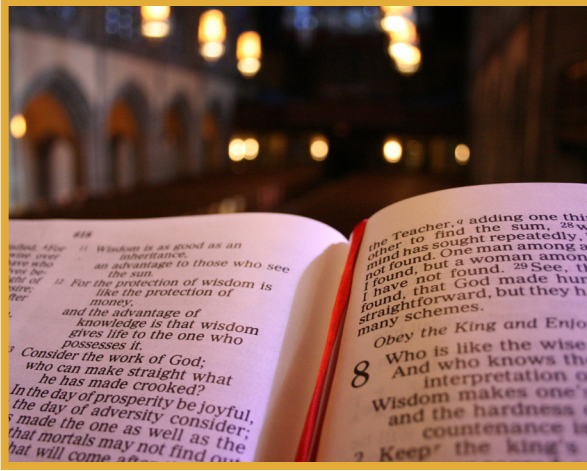




# WEEKDAY CLASSES

## BIBLE FROM SCRATCH

Fourth Thursday of the month, Sept. - May, 7:00 p.m.  
Converse House Parlor



This class led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick, will explore both the basic content and interpretative practices of reading and following scripture. If you have never really studied the Bible, this will be a open and gentle place to start. If you are ready to think about scripture in new and creative ways, this is also the class for you. In addition to reading directly from the Bible, this class also will use: *A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World*, by Jonathan Walton and *The Bible: a Biography* by Karen Armstrong. [RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org](mailto:RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org)

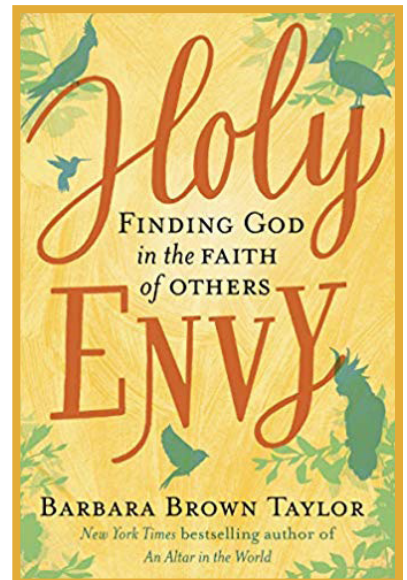
## PASTOR'S BOOK GROUP

### **HOLY ENVY: FINDING GOD THROUGH THE FAITH OF OTHERS BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR**

The Rev. Franklyn C. Pottorff

Wednesday, November 6, 6:30 p.m., Chapel

Throughout *Holy Envy*, Taylor weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions—even those whose truths are quite different from hers. The one constant in her odyssey is the sense that God is the one calling her to disown her version of God—a change that ultimately enriches her faith in other human beings and in God. Join the Rev. Franklyn C. Pottorff in a discussion of this New York Times best seller. *Books are available to purchase in the BMPC Book Center for \$18.*



# SAVE THESE JANUARY DATES!

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SPEAKER

### THE REV. DR. CHARLES H. HOWARD

*Chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania*

*Sunday, January 12, 11:15 a.m., Chapel*

Dr. Howard is the editor of *The Souls of Poor Folk*, which explored new ways of considering homelessness and poverty, *The Awe and The Awful*, a poetry collection and Lenten Devotional, *Black Theology as Mass Movement*, a call to theologians to expand the reach of their theological work, and *Pond River Ocean Rain*, a small book about going deeper with a big God.



## THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

### THE REV. DR. SERENE JONES

*President of Union Theological  
Seminary, New York*

*Saturday, January 25 and  
Sunday, January 26*

A highly respected scholar and public intellectual, the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones is the 16th President of the historic

Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. She is the author of several books including *Trauma and Grace* and, most recently, her new memoir *Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World*. Jones, a popular public speaker, is sought by media to comment on major issues impacting society because of her deep grounding in theology, politics, women's studies, economics, race studies, history, and ethics.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

*Please contact [CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org](mailto:CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org)*

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