

SUNDAY SPIRITUAL GROWTH OFFERINGS

Join us for coffee at 8:45 a.m. in the Meeting House

9:00 a.m.

THE TIMELESSNESS OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

September 25, October 2, 9 & 23

Join us as we explore the life and timeless writings of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. See further information below. *Tom Evans, facilitator*

CONTEMPLATIVE DIALOGUE November 13-December 18

This 5-week Advent series will teach “contemplative dialogue” as a small-group faith practice, utilizing *Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton*. Participants will enter into periods of reflection, silence, and sharing based on the principles of contemplative dialogue, in light of weekly readings from scripture and Thomas Merton. Preparation prior to each class is not required; however, a commitment of presence for at least four of the five scheduled classes is important for developing the group dynamic of contemplative dialogue sessions. This Advent Class is limited to twelve participants due to the nature of the course—be on the lookout for sign-up information to come! *Pastor Katie Strednak Singer, facilitator* (Note: No class on 12/4)

CURRENT ISSUES Session Room

This class explores worldwide issues that impact our lives, call upon the resources of our faith, and invite us into dialogue on challenges we face as followers of Jesus in an imperfect world. Join us as social, spiritual & political topics are discussed.

11:20 a.m.

Throughout the year, we offer forums to hear a speaker, explore an issue or become more familiar with a significant church program. This includes the *Real World, Real Faith* series, in which an IPC member shares how their faith impacts their life and work on a daily basis.

October 16

Guest Lecture: “Resurrection & the Walking Dead”

with Theologian-in-Residence, Dr. Brian Blount (See reverse side for details)

November 20

Real World, Real Faith, with Leila Surratt

6:45 p.m. (See reverse side for class details)

September 11, 18, & 25

Christian Spiritual Disciplines for the 21st Century

October 2, 9, & 16

Poetry & the Bible: Would A Book By Any Other Name Smell As Sweet?

October 23

In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals
(with Guest Speaker Dr. Eileen Guenther & book signing)

October 30, November 6

Leaders in the Hebrew Bible: Politics Then and Now

November 13

After This Contentious Election, Now What?

MIDWEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH OFFERINGS

These small group spiritual growth opportunities occur weekly and welcome new participants any time during the year.

FAITH MATTERS MONDAYS, 1:30PM, ROOM 205

Join us as we learn, grow, and deepen our faith through study and discussion of books selected by the group. Author and pastor Ruth Everhart will join our group on October 3rd to discuss her book, *Ruined*. This memoir is an emotional and spiritual journey that begins with an unspeakable act of violence but ends with tremendous healing and profound spiritual insights about faith, forgiveness, and the will of God. Newcomers are always welcome!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY TUESDAYS, 7:30-8:45AM, ASSEMBLY HALL

Topics range from Biblical studies, to theological issues, to reading & discussing books related to faith & spiritual practices.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL STUDY TUESDAYS, 9:30AM, ROOM 204

This small group engages in wide-ranging discussions of “big picture” ideas. We'll be choosing our next subject of study when we reconvene in September.

READ, THINK, QUESTION LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 1:00PM, SESSION ROOM

Interested in reading and discussing books with a theological, spiritual and/or religious theme? Then join our curious band!

September 27 *Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates

October 25 *What We Talk About When We Talk About God*, Rob Bell

November 29 *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People*, Harold Kushner

LECTIONARY STUDY GROUP THURSDAYS, 9:45AM, ROOM 205

This group meets weekly with our pastors to explore the Biblical texts they plan to base sermons upon for upcoming Sunday worship services.

SPIRITUAL HEALING MEDITATION TUESDAYS, 7:15PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Fellowship Hall, \$15 per class. Experience a weekly reading of a meditation from a modern Christian mystic. These meditations are associated with an often tangible spiritual experience and sense of deep peacefulness. *Sue Johnston, Instructor*

WOMEN OF SPIRIT WEDNESDAYS, 7:30AM, ROOM 202

This group meets weekly for spirited discussion, including sharing celebrations and concerns. We read and discuss specific books of the Bible as well as other recommended books, often in conjunction with Lenten or Advent books that are being read by our congregation as a whole.

GRACE YOGA TUESDAYS, 10:30-11:45AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL, \$15 PER CLASS

An ongoing exploration of movement and breath to encourage flexibility, strength, balance and peace of mind in a welcoming, light-hearted environment. This multi-level class welcomes newcomers! Mats & props provided. *Kathy Bagden, Instructor*

IMMANUEL BOOK GROUP MONTHLY, 11:45AM, ROOM 205

Meets for a brown-bag lunch and book discussion led by one of the participants. All are welcome, especially newcomers! We read both non-fiction and fiction across many genres and topics.

September 13 *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, Jennifer Boylan

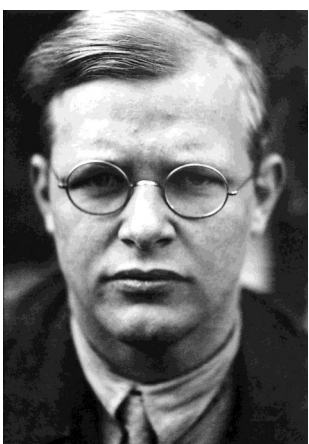
October 11 *Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates

When a Great Theologian Is Also an Experienced Pastor: The Timelessness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Join us on Sunday mornings as we explore the life & timeless writings of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (Tom Evans, facilitator)

Sessions will include:

- ◆ Short videos on Bonhoeffer's life and writings, prepared by Eric Metaxas, author of *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*
- ◆ Selections from Bonhoeffer's writings, including *Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible*; *Christ the Center*; *Ethics*; and *The Cost of Discipleship*.



Thoughts of a Bonhoeffer student:

“Nowadays, we often ask ourselves whether we still need the Church, whether we still need God, but this question, [Bonhoeffer says] is wrong. We are the ones who are questioned. The Church exists and God exists, and we are asked whether we are willing to be of service, for God needs us.”

Course Study Guide available at:

<http://www.thomasnelson.com/bonhoeffer-study-guide>

Questions? Email Tom Evans at evanst@kmksystems.com



SoulCollage at IPC!

Saturday, October 29th

9:00am-1:30pm

SAVE THE DATE!

SoulCollage is an inspiring process that begins with collaging on 5" x 8" mat board cards. As we allow our intuition to select images, we discover and celebrate the unique parts of ourselves. In a small group setting, participants will learn how these cards can be used to help guide decisions one has to make such as transitions in work, relationships, and life direction. There is no need to be an artist or even consider yourself to be at all artistic. Art-making, but not an art class; therapeutic, but not therapy. (*Sue Johnston, facilitator*)

To Register:

Details on price & registration will be forthcoming shortly.

Bring:

Yourselves and your curiosity!

All images are provided.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
1125 Savile Lane
McLean, VA 22101

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Upcoming Fall/Winter 2016 Spiritual Growth Opportunities at Immanuel!

VISIT US ONLINE! WWW.IPCMCLEAN.ORG

For **Saturday, October 15**, our Theologian-in-Residence will be author & pastor, **Ruth Everhart**, who will lead a presentation & discussion on her book, *Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land*. For more than two decades, Ruth has served Presbyterian churches (PCUSA) in upstate New York, central Illinois, and Virginia. Join us on **Saturday, October 15th** (9:30am-2:30pm), for a presentation, Q&A and book signing. Lunch & refreshments will be served. On **Sunday, October 16**, Pastor Everhart will be preaching during our 5:30pm *Immanuel in the Evening* service.

Visit ipcmclean.org for a registration form & full schedule!

Join us on **Sunday, October 16**, as our guest minister & speaker after the service will be **Dr. Brian Blount**, President and Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Dr. Blount's sermon topic for our 10:00am morning service will be, *Live Your Life Like It Means Something*, with the scripture text of Revelation 12:10-11. Following the morning service, join us for a forum with Dr. Blount as he discusses *Resurrection and the Walking Dead*. Several of his books will be available for purchase prior to the book-signing. A light lunch will be served.



Ruth Everhart



Dr. Brian Blount

Meet Our 2016 Theologians-in-Residence!

Sunday Evening Spiritual Growth Offerings

Christian Spiritual Disciplines for the 21st Century September 11, 18, and 25

Do Christians meditate? Join *Immanuel in the Evening* as we explore three spiritual disciplines Christians have used throughout the centuries to encounter the ineffable, experience community, and gain strength for their journey. Each week we will discuss the history and diversity of a discipline and then allow for personal practice; this fall, we will discuss *Lectio Divina*, meditation, and visual art-based disciplines. No prior knowledge or practice is required. Each week is a standalone class; come to one or all three! *Facilitated by Susan Graceson & Billy Kluttz*

Poetry and the Bible: Would A Book By Any Other Name Smell As Sweet? October 2, 9, and 16

"Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from the hills of Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing" (Song of Songs 4:1-2)
 The Bible is filled with poetry. Explore the history and literary devices at work in the metaphors and similes of Scripture with this three-week course on poetry and the Bible. How does reading Scripture as poetry change our interpretation of holy texts? How might seeing Scripture in a specific genre nourish your spirituality in new ways? *Facilitated by Andrew Gregory*

In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals October 23

On October 23, we'll welcome scholar & renowned organist, Dr. Eileen Guenther, as she discusses her book, *In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals*. This groundbreaking study of slavery and spirituals is the first to place the unique voices of an enslaved people squarely within the context of their daily lives. Dr. Guenther's deeply researched account weaves a succinct history of America's original sin into an examination of the role of singing and religion in slave life and directly correlates slave testimonies in their own words to the themes of Spirituals. Join us for a meaningful conversation on the power of music. Dr. Guenther is Professor of Church Music at Wesley Theological Seminary & former President of the American Guild of Organists. Copies of *In Their Own Words* will be available for purchase during the book-signing portion of the evening. *Facilitated by Dr. Eileen Guenther & Billy Kluttz*

Leaders in the Hebrew Bible: Politics Then and Now October 30 and November 6

Political leaders have caused controversy well before our current presidential election. Join us as we compare leadership in the Hebrew Bible & recent American political leaders. Beyond simple parallels and divergence, we'll probe the fundamental questions: what makes a good leader? Does power always corrupt? How do we live together more faithfully in community? *Facilitated by Pastor Aaron Fulp-Eickstaedt*

After This Contentious Election, Now What? November 13

After the divisive presidential election, how do we come back together as a community & nation? How are we working together across political and social divides? What are strategies for better conversation and cooperation? Join us for an open forum on our failures and future as a diverse and beloved community. *Facilitated by Bill Wallace & Lee Rainie*

