



Pathways Adult Education

2011 - 2012 Program Year

Session 1: September 11 - October 16

The Prodigal God

There is a well known story about a father who had two sons, one who kept the rules religiously and one who broke them all. Yet, he was one father who loved both sons beyond anything they could imagine. This class will follow along Timothy Keller's best-selling book *The Prodigal God*. Come discover *the* amazing depths of God's extravagant love. Taught by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas in the Ministry Center.

Mere Christianity

Famed Oxford Professor, Christian apologist and lay theologian, C.S Lewis, takes Christianity and breaks it down into its most basic definition and explanations. Lewis answers basic questions, such as; What makes a Christian a Christian? What do Christians believe? How can we rationally believe God and specifically the concept of the Trinity? As well, Mere Christianity has much to say regarding Christian morality, discipleship in the "modern" world, as well as being a snap shot of the joys and difficulties of being a Christian in post-World War II Britain. Join us for an interactive six week study of Mere Christianity. Taught by Michael Spires in the Living Room.

Two Shall Become One: Understanding and Improving Love Relationships

There is no doubt that relationships take work. Some couples are naturally good at managing their relationship while many of us have our struggles from time to time. Maintaining and sustaining marriage and other committed relationships requires understanding, commitment and positive communication. In this class we will explore relationship stages, understanding sources of conflict, and communication skills. Feel free to attend alone or with your spouse (or significant other). Taught by Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck in Sanctuary Hall.

Session 2: October 23 - November 6

The Bible By the Numbers

Come explore with us the repetitions of certain numbers in the Bible and how they relate to our Christian faith. Numbers can be windows into deeper truth, such as: The number one as the Oneness of God, the number 2 as a symbol of the Division of Light from Darkness, and of course the number three as the Trinity of faith, hope and love, and the powerful Christian transformation of 3 (days in the tomb) moving to 8 (the first day of the week). If you like these kinds of questions you'll love this class! Taught by Robert Harrington in SH 101-102.

The Nature and role of Conflict: A Christian Approach

Conflict is often approached with fear and anxiety due to the typically negative view we have of conflict. However, conflict need not be bad; it can be an opportunity for growth. The Bible supports a positive view of conflict; indeed the Bible makes it clear that conflict can be an arena for divine revelation. This session will discuss the role of turning conflict into transformation, using the full range of communication skills with particular attention given to listening and other collaborative skills. Given the "hands-on" nature of the training, participants will have ample opportunity to practice the skills during the sessions. Taught by Victoria Wilcox from the Lombard Peace Center in the Living Room.

Cyber Sticks and Stones: Why can't we talk?

Sticks and stones of the school yard, boardroom, office and garden club are now found via the web's easy access and anonymity. Learn steps for helping your children, spouse or friend deal with the bullying and harassment of broken electronic boundaries. Staff from the Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center will lead the discussion, and identify tools for protecting your children and yourself, and even improving communication and connection in this electronic age. Taught by staff from the DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center in the Ministry Center.

Advent Session: November 27 - December 18

Christianity in the Middle East: Turning and Turmoil

Having faced theological conflict, political turmoil, religious reversal and the 'crusading' effects of both Western Christendom and colonization, the Christians of the Middle East have a unique and powerful witness to share for those who will hear it. This class will journey along a powerful reminder of the lessons of the past and the pressing needs of the future for those living in a land called "Holy." Taught by Pastor Paul in the Ministry Center.

Heaven is for Real

This book is Colton Burpo's astonishing story: He had died and gone to heaven just before his fourth birthday, where he met his great-grandfather, the biblical figure Samson, John the Baptist, and Jesus, who had eyes that "were just sort of a sea-blue and they seemed to sparkle," Colton, now 11 years old, recalled while talking with his father, an evangelical pastor in Imperial, Nebraska. Since the book came out in November, it has gone back to press 22 times, with more than 1.5 million copies in print. This book has been on the New York Times best-seller list for paperback nonfiction. Taught by Lynne Danekas in LL107.

Advent Time

Join us for a stimulating discussion of "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton. This familiar story of Jesus' birth is explored through an in-depth look at the characters and settings of the story. Co- Led by Agnes Kenton and Bob Young in the Living Room.

Session 3: January 8 - February 5

Lessons from Pine Ridge

The Lakota Indians of South Dakota are an intriguing story and microcosm of the plight and problem of indigenous peoples today. This class will share this particular story, as well as the necessity and difficult processes of forgiveness and reconciliation which North American Christians must wrestle with for a truly full and concrete gospel. Taught by Pastor Jay in the Ministry Center.

Grace: How Amazing

In the fall of 2006, when a gunman killed five Amish children and injured five others in a Nickel Mines, Pa., one-room schoolhouse, media attention rapidly turned from the tragic events to the extraordinary forgiveness demonstrated by the Amish community toward the murderer and his family. We will explore the tenets of the book and film entitled *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*. With the questions why—and how—did they forgive, we will explore a compelling study of Amish grace. The concept of forgiveness is embedded in Amish society through five centuries of Anabaptist tradition, and grounded in the firm belief that forgiveness is required by the New Testament. The book carefully distinguishes between *forgiveness, pardon and reconciliation*, as well as analyzes the complexities of mainstream America's response and the extent to which the Amish example can be applied elsewhere—even here at First Pres. This intelligent, compassionate and hopeful book is a welcome addition to the growing literature on forgiveness. Taught by Robb Frank in the Living Room.

Walter Percy: Many Questions and Some Answers

Walker Percy, the southern, Catholic novelist, once described his task as that of "diagnosing the modern malaise." In this 5 week class we will explore his view of both spiritual "sickness" and its potential "cure" through reading and discussing his novel, *The Second Coming*, as well as viewing a recent documentary of his tragic yet quietly inspiring life. Taught by Richard Lauber in LL107.

Lent Session: February 19 - March 25

The Mission of Easter

Christians normally think of the future in terms of 'heaven', but the promised reality is far greater: a new heaven and a new earth, a whole new creation. This class, using the insights of world renowned theologian N.T. Wright, will help you grasp the biblical vision of God's future, and in the process, hopefully transform your understanding of life in the present. Taught by Pastor Paul in the Ministry Center.

24 Hours That Changed the World

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. The aim of this inspiring book, *24 Hours That Changed the World* written by Adam Hamilton, is to help us better understand during the Lenten season the events that occurred during the last 24 hours of Jesus' life, see more clearly the theological significance of Christ's suffering and death, and reflect upon the meaning of these events for our lives. Whether you are a longtime Christian or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you are invited to participate in this Lenten journey. The class will be led by Dr. Ronald Brushwyler in the Living Room.

Session 4: April 22 - May 6

Beyond Taboo: A Practical Guide to Planning for the End of Life

One of the greatest gifts we can give our loved ones is clear instructions about those often difficult decisions we face at the end of our lives. This class will include information on starting the conversation, living wills, memorial services, organ donation, hospice, and all kinds of practical decision making for ourselves and our loved ones. Taught by Pastor Kyle in the Living Room.

Keeping Wolves at Bay (Part 2 of Cyber Sticks and Stones from Fall of 2011) (4/22 & 4/29 only)

One of the primary concerns in our lives is safety. Many economic, social and moral problems/evils face our community. Crimes are committed every hour of every day. As Christians we strive to protect ourselves and others against becoming a victim. Dave Chiesa, a Detective and sixteen year veteran of the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, will offer us some information and education on current issues and topics facing our community. These topics include but are not limited to Cyberbullying, Confidence Crimes, Online Stalking, Identity Theft, etc. Taught by David Chiesa in the Ministry Center.

Roman Catholic Presbyterians: Balancing Multiple Faiths

If Mom is Presbyterian and Dad is Roman Catholic, "What are the kids!?" With both the burst of ecumenical activity in the Roman Catholic and Protestant worlds AND the transitory path of most families in their church homes, having feet in 'multiple' paths is becoming more and more the norm. This class will focus on the Roman Catholic Church's relationship with the Presbyterian Church (and vice versa); can Geneva and Rome survive together? Many families are not asking but living this question in their lives. Taught by Pastor Jay in Sanctuary Hall.

Possessions and their Price (4/22 & 5/6 only)

In this class we will explore the questions of how Christians should use their time, talents and money. In truth, all resources come from God. For the time we have the opportunity and privilege to be stewards of God's resources, we need to carefully think how we should use them. We are like a trustee who has a "fiduciary responsibility" to use these, and other, resources for not only ourselves but others. Just as a trustee is given the responsibility to oversee assets on behalf of others, we are given the opportunity to not only oversee but use the assets for our own purposes. What split do we consider when spending or using these assets? Taught by Jim Carr in 101-102.