

# SHAPING, STRENGTHENING AND ENGAGING OUR FAITH

September 2014

## SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

### **GREEN TEAM KICKS OFF A NEW "SCHOOL YEAR!"**

*Sunday, September 7 @ 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel*

It's a new "school year" of learning and activities related to two earth stewardship themes: climate change and water. Come and see nine four-minute videos about how climate change is affecting Wisconsin. These videos tell stories of real people whose lives are changing because the climate is changing. Warmer winters affect maple sugaring; earlier springs affect when flowers bloom and when birds migrate; and heat waves – the effect on urban, impoverished Milwaukee with no air conditioning turns their apartments into ovens. These and other stories convey personalized messages to help all of us better understand what seems like an overwhelming and challenging topic. Over the next few months, we have other programs planned that will lead us toward action-oriented goals and activities to address climate change. Later in the "school year," we'll learn about one of our state's most precious resources – water.

### **SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES TOGETHER**

*Sundays beginning Sept. 14 @ 10:30 a.m. in room 214, facilitated by Milton Ford*

Using the *Upper Room Disciplines* book, this group will focus on the biblical texts for each week. The book is lectionary based and often speaks to the heart about our own lives. Group members will read the same passages during the days of the week leading up to Sunday. Time together on Sundays will be used getting better acquainted and listening to each person's reflections/insights which grow out of the readings for the week. The group will record ideas which reflect the impact the scripture passages make on each one's life journey. Copies of the *Upper Room Disciplines* book are available at the Information Desk in the narthex. Share scripture's messages of hope, challenge, and joy on a daily basis in your home and within the supportive context of community each Sunday morning at church.

### **THE RELIGIOUS LIFE AS BATTLE: JUNGIAN AND BIBLICAL INSIGHTS**

*Sundays, September 14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5 @ 10:30 a.m. in Room 208*

*Facilitated by Boris Matthews and Mel Vance*

Recent findings of psychology, spirituality, and theology have reminded us that the religious life and the journey to personal maturity are battles. The discussions in this class will be led by a Jungian psychologist and an historical theologian who will help the class explore the wisdom available for fighting the good fight against deep tendencies within and, often unrecognized, spiritual powers from without. While committed to Christianity as a movement for the transformation of society, the leaders believe that psychological work and spiritual practice form a piece of social action too. Can we hope to transform society without entering the struggle to be continually re-formed in the image of God ourselves? A week before each session, class members will receive a couple of short biblical and theological quotations and a printed excerpt from *Facing the Dragon: Confronting Personal and Spiritual Grandiosity*, by Robert L. Moore, Professor of Psychology, Psychoanalysis and Spirituality in the Chicago Theological Seminary at the University of Chicago.

## MID-WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

### **COME AS YOU ARE WORSHIP**

*Mondays & Wednesdays @ 9:30 - 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, September 18 and beyond*

This half hour of worship is for anyone who wants to grow closer to God through prayer, music and Scripture. Fellowship time, with coffee and a light breakfast, begins at 9 a.m.

### **FULL MOON FOCUS KICKS OFF FALL MEDITATION GROUP**

*Mondays @ 7 p.m. in the Chapel beginning September 8*

From the book titled, *Spiritual Politics: Changing the World from the Inside Out* comes a concept of full moon meditation: "The full moon each month is a very powerful time to meditate...at this time, greater spiritual energy flows into the earth, as there is an impending alignment between the earth and the sun when the moon is out of the pathway between them." Anyone interested in starting or continuing to build their meditation practice is welcome to come and explore the possibilities on September 8 and any Monday after.

### **FAITH AND REASON**

*Tuesday, September 9 @ 9 a.m.*

*Capitol Lakes, 333 W. Main*

Is not science merely that branch of theology which explores the manner in which God made the universe? This question and a host of others are vetted in gatherings held the second Tuesday of each month. Group members facilitate the discussions on a variety of current topics.

### **SPOUSES NEWLY ALONE**

*Tuesday, September 30 @ Noon*

*The Concourse, 1 W. Dayton Street*

Persons who have recently experienced the death of their spouse meet on the last Tuesday of each month for lunch, conversation and fellowship.

## SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued)

### **THEOLOGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

*Sundays, September 14, 21, 28 and beyond @ 10:30 a.m. in Room LL05*

This group begins a new year of learning by reading and discussing Victor Frankl's book, *Man's Search for Meaning*. Based on his own experience in Nazi concentration camps, and the experiences of others he treated later in his practice as a psychologist, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose. Frankl's theory-known as logotherapy, from the Greek word logos ("meaning")-holds that our primary drive in life is not pleasure, as Freud maintained, but the discovery and pursuit of what we personally find meaningful. Copies of the book are available at the Information Desk in the narthex.

### **BEING FAITH-FILLED CITIZENS**

*Tuesdays, September 23, 30 and October 7, 14 @ 6:30 p.m. in Room 208*

In a democracy, there's always another election coming up, but a citizen is more than a voter. Being a faith-filled citizen is a way-of-being in the on-going process of speaking out and listening up with honesty and respect. How can we gather heart-to-heart, even if we don't see eye-to-eye? Come and let Parker Palmer's book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy* help you learn how! This series is co-sponsored by Wisdom's Well Spirituality Center and will be facilitated by Sister Lynn Lisbeth, a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa WI, co-director of Wisdom's Well Spirituality Center here in Madison and a member of Spiritual Directors International. As an intuitive, color-blind, left-handed, sci-fi loving, night person she brings a fresh perspective to ministry. For more information and registration form go to [www.wisdomswell.org](http://www.wisdomswell.org). Registration deadline is Sept. 16 and registration fee is waived for members of FUMC.

## IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY

### **AGRACE GRIEF SUPPORT**

In September, two grief support opportunities are open to the public and provided without charge. All groups are held at Agrace, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, Madison.

**Bridges Weekly Support Group** is held every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pre-registration is not required.

**Kids Support Group** will be held Thursdays, September 25 – October 23 @ 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. The five-week group is for elementary through high-school aged children who are grieving a death. For more information please call Jessie Shiveler at (608) 327-7135 or visit [agrace.org](http://agrace.org).

## MID-WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued)

### **JESUS: GETTING REACQUAINTED**

*Wednesdays, September 17, 24 and into October @ 1:00 p.m. in Room 214*

*Facilitated by Tina Lang*

Who was Jesus? What can we know of Jesus and how will it inform our daily living? Join others for exploration and conversation prompted by film clips of 21<sup>st</sup> century scholars like Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Walter Brueggemann, James Forbes, Brian McClaren, Amy-Jill Levine, Helen Prejean, Tex Sample and John Shelby Spong.

### **BIBLE STUDY:**

#### **THE NEW TESTAMENT**

*Wednesdays, September 17, 24 and into October @ 6:30 p.m. in Room 214*

*Facilitated by Carly Kuntz*

This survey looks at how the early church took ownership of and was shaped by the story of Jesus and how the church learned to develop as disciples and create communities of faith. Participants will find a deeper conversation with the writers of the New Testament and a renewal of our commitment to be shaped---personally and communally---by the story of Jesus.