

SHAPING, STRENGTHENING AND ENGAGING OUR FAITH

SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

GREEN TEAM FORUM

Sunday, October 5 @ 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Sara Roberts (a member of Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ) and Steve Coleman (member of St. Dennis parish) have been involved in their own congregations and with Citizens Climate Lobby to help re-engage citizens with their democracy as we face a climate crisis. Climate change poses many challenges and it can be very confusing! Come and learn about a simple proposal using a proven model that has bi-partisan appeal and is thought to be able to lower U.S. carbon emissions 52% in 20 years. God's creation—this beautiful web of life on Earth—needs us to act now to protect it. Let's learn together how we can help.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES TOGETHER

Sundays throughout October @ 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 that grow out of the readings for the week. The group will record ideas that reflect the impact the scripture passages make on each person's life journey. 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

Sunday, October 5 @ 10:30 a.m. in Room 208 - Final session of four-week series

Facilitated by Boris Matthews and Mel Vance

Can we hope to transform society without entering the struggle to be continually re-formed in the image of God ourselves? This course discusses references 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.

FINDING HOME

Sundays, October 12 & 19 @ 10:30 a.m. in Chapel (10/12) & Room 208 (10/19)

Abraham and Sarah knew what it was to search for home and so have folks in every generation since. Come to hear a contemporary experience of searching. On **October 12**, we welcome Mona Augustin, a Haitian musician, human rights activist, and the man considered "Coordinator General" for a community of Haitian refugees that call themselves Vilaj Mozayik (Village Mozayik). More than four years after the devastating earthquake displaced these people from their homes, they are still searching for permanent shelter and a safe space to recreate their community. On **October 19**, we welcome Madison resident, Mike Nowakowski, who spends winter months in the southern Arizona desert volunteering with Green Valley Samaritans, a program that conducts searches for migrants lost, hungry, dehydrated, or in any way in need of human aid. Come to hear from Mike about his work on the border. *(See related announcement about collection of items to be taken to Arizona in November.)*

MID-WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

COME AS YOU ARE WORSHIP

Mondays & Wednesdays @ 9:30 - 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

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.

MEDITATION GROUP

Mondays @ 7 p.m. in the Chapel

Anyone interested in starting or continuing to build their meditation practice is welcome to come and explore the possibilities on Monday evenings.

FAITH AND REASON

Tuesday, October 14 @ 9 a.m.

Capitol Lakes, 333 W. Main Street

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, October 28 @ 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 throughout October @ 10:30 a.m. in Room LL05

This group concludes Victor Frankl's book, *Man's Search for Meaning* on October 5 and begins a new book on October 12. Hal Taussig, the 2015 Lyons Lecture presenter is the author of several books. Through the rest of October this class will read and discuss *A New New Testament: A Bible for the 21st Century Combining Traditional and Newly Discovered Texts*. In the book, Taussig, with help from a council of scholars, has compiled a new testament with 10 "new" books from first and second century sources. Each "new" book is prefaced with an essay explaining the context and history of its writing and why that book was included. A study guide included with the book will prompt interesting discussions.

IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY

GREEN VALLEY SAMARITANS – GENTLY USED ITEMS NEEDED

(See related announcement about October 19 Finding Home Forum in Room 208.)

Last year our congregation collected items to be shared with migrants at the Arizona-Mexico border. Clothing items, food and water are distributed to deportees at the comedor in Nogales, Sonora. We'll be collecting clothing items again throughout the month of October to help replenish supplies in Nogales. Bring gently used shoes, boots appropriate for the rough terrain of the desert, jeans size 36 and under, belts and hats (baseball or stocking) and place them in the tubs near the reception office in the Narthex. Madison residents Mike and Lyn Nowakowski will travel to Arizona in November and take our contributions to the Green Valley Samaritans organization. For more information about this work visit www.gvsamaritans.org.

MINIMUM WAGE CHALLENGE

October 5-11

If you made minimum wage, you would have \$77 to live on this week. Could you manage? Take the Minimum Wage Challenge for just one week and see how different your life would be! There are a variety of ways to be involved: spending no more than \$11 every day for the whole week, keeping track of what you spend money on, and what choices had to be made; or doing a virtual challenge by keeping a running total each day and noting when you used up your \$11 allotment. For more information visit www.wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.org.

AGRACE GRIEF SUPPORT

Late September/October grief support opportunities are open to the public and provided without charge. All groups are held at Agrace, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, Fitchburg.

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.

MID-WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued)

JESUS: GETTING REACQUAINTED

Wednesdays, throughout October @ 1 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 21st 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 throughout 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.