Westminster Presbyterian Church

2020 Winter/Spring
Adult Education Offerings

Invitation to Create Community in a Divided World
Friends,

Authentic community rarely springs into existence or sustains itself without a lot of effort. Community has to be created. And maintained. And repaired from time to time.

The focus of our Adult Education opportunities for Winter and Spring 2020—Invitation to Create Community in a Divided World—speaks to the need for people of faith to form, tend, and expand community. The “invitation” comes from God, because community mirrors the very nature of God’s love and self-giving. Likewise community manifests the commitments God makes to us and to humanity’s well-being through Jesus Christ. Our goal is not merely to study community but to learn together how and why to make it happen.

The word “open” gets used frequently at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Maybe you’ve heard people walking around the newest parts of the building and commenting on how open the space feels. In our cultural climate of polarization, division, and alienation, how will we commit ourselves to be a community that is open to one another, our guests, our neighbors, the city, and the world? One piece of that involves cultivating trust, respect, and spirituality together. Those efforts take time, knowledge, and practice.

All of the events on our calendar are—wouldn’t you know it—open to anyone. None of them requires you to come with special knowledge or to make long-term commitments to a program. Look over the scheduled offerings and see which ones might fit your learning style and your curiosity. Whether it’s through books, music, discussions, the arts, small groups, or lectures, there will be teachers and topics that will open new doors for you. They will inform your faith, introduce you to others who might think differently, help you recognize and use your own gifts, and expand your understanding about the power of a community that can bring comfort to the places where people suffer as a result of our society’s flaws.

I’m excited about the educational opportunities ahead and how they will help us live into the new realities God has set before us. Make it a point to be a part of things on Sunday mornings (9:15-10:15) in Westminster Hall, Wednesday evenings (6:30-8:00) in the Meisel Room, and at the other times groups meet.

Thank you for the ways you manifest God’s love through the ways you contribute to community, in the various settings you find yourself in from week to week.

Peace,
Matt Skinner
Scholar for Adult Education
Education for Faith & Life

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As things may change, please confirm exact room details closer to the date of the class at westminsternpls.org/events.
Sunday Classes

January 5

Adult Education participants are invited to attend this Social Justice Forum

Mindfulness in Education
9:15 am | Meisel Room

Ann Viveros and Robert Reed from the Minneapolis Public Schools Social Emotional Learning Department will address promoting a positive and productive learning environment for all students.

January 12, 26

All-Church Book Read
9:15 am | Discussion Groups | Various Locations

Virgil Wander, by Leif Enger, is “a sweeping story of new beginnings against all odds that follows the inhabitants of a hard-luck town in their quest to revive its flagging heart.” It is a story of freedom, hope, community and new life. Its North Shore setting gives familiar life to our reading.

Virgil Wander reminds us that there is hope, that small acts of kindness aren’t small at all – and coupled with the contagious joy of flying a kite – they have the power to turn a flagging town’s frown upside down. — (Amazon Review)

January 19 | Martin Luther King Sunday

Fueling the Path to Economic Inclusion and Shared Prosperity
9:15 am | Tawanna Black | Westminster Hall

Adult Education joins the Social Justice Forum for a special presentation on this Sunday to honor Dr. King. We’ll hear from Tawanna Black, the CEO & Founder of the Center for Economic Inclusion, on how the Center works to align investments in human capital, economic development, transit and access to ensure that all residents, especially those who have been historically excluded, have the opportunity to benefit from and contribute to the economic prosperity of the region. Ms. Black will discuss the Center’s efforts, along with their strategic partners, to develop and curate a set of economic inclusion measures and goals to complement the 2019 MSP Regional Indicators Dashboard.

February 2

All-Church Book Read
9:15 am | Leif Enger | Westminster Hall

Leif Enger, a Minnesota author, will discuss his book, Virgil Wander. His first book, Peace Like a River, was a previous All-Church Book Read selection. He is also author of So Brave, Young, and Handsome. “Enger is a writer to be appreciated by
anyone who cares about words. The book is full of little gems” and phrases that will stay with you and work themselves into your own vocabulary. Don’t miss this time with an author of eloquence, humor, sensitivity, and human decency.

**February 9**  
*Arts Month*  
9:15 am | Pat McManus | Westminster Hall

*Let them praise God’s name with dancing...* —Psalm 149
Pat McManus will introduce us to the power of dance to broaden perspective, create trust, bring laughter, and find renewal.

**February 16**  
*Arts Month*  
9:15 am | Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz & Elizabeth Winga | Westminster Hall

Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz and Elizabeth Winga will talk about visual arts and the ways they can define communities and bring communities together.

**February 23**  
*Arts Month*  
9:15 am | Jeffrey Gram | Westminster Hall

Jeffrey Gram will invite us to explore the many ways that music contributes to creating community. There might even be drums!

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**  
*Lenten Covenant Groups*  
9:15 am | Small Group Discussions | Various Locations

*Losing Paradise: Faith and the Ecological Crisis* is the theme for Lent 2020. Trained facilitators will lead conversations based on the preaching texts for the season. Registration materials will be provided in February. Locations of Sunday discussion groups will be available at the reception desk.

**April 5**  
*Can We Find Community in a Hostile Crowd?*  
9:15 am | Dr. Guillermo Hansen | Westminster Hall

In the face of political and ideological hostility, this class will explore how we address community in the face of hostility. The crowd in Jerusalem hailed Jesus on Palm/Passion Sunday, but turned brutally to “crucify him” by the end of the week. How do we approach such situations as we seek to create community in a divided world?
April 12  Easter

No Classes

April 19

Earth Day
9:15 am | Westminster Hall

Education for Faith and Life joins with the Social Justice Forum to celebrate Earth Day and address issues concerning the care for God's creation.

April 26, May 3, 10

The New Community of the Church
9:15 am | Dr. Matt Skinner | Westminster Hall

This class will look at the biblical texts post-Easter to see what we can learn from the early church about community in light of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Wednesday Classes
January 8, 15, 22

Journeying Toward Wholeheartedness
6:30 pm | Martha Rockenstein | Meisel Room

This class will offer a sampling of contemplative spiritual practices that bring awareness of God’s love for each of us and the Divine light within. We live in a world with an abundance of brokenness, suffering, and pain. Yet, many of us long to rise out of these things that wound our souls. We yearn for wholeheartedness and to experience God’s healing love and a deeper connection with others, God, and ourselves. Our time together will begin with an introduction to contemplative spiritual practices. Each week we will learn a little of the history and why of the practices, and then spend a majority of the time partaking in the practices.

• January 8 – Meditation
• January 15 - Mandalas & Praying in Color
• January 22 - Labyrinths

January 29, February 5, 12, 19

The Beloved Community
6:30 pm | Dr. Sarah Henrich | Meisel Room

• January 29  The Heart of a Community (1 John)
• February 5  How Does a Community Protect Itself? (1 and 2 John)
• February 12  Why Can’t We All Just Get Along? (1-3 John and Revelation)
• February 19  How am I Free in Community? (Galatians)

Dr. Henrich brings her expertise to explore the teaching of New Testament texts as they contribute to our understanding of Community.
February 26  Ash Wednesday
  No Classes

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1
Lenten Covenant Group
6:30 pm | Small Group Discussions | Trinity Conference Room

*Losing Paradise: Faith and the Ecological Crisis* is the theme for Lent 2020. Trained facilitators will provide conversations based on the preaching texts for the season. Registration materials will be provided in February.

**Additional Opportunities**

**Social Justice Forum**
Sundays | 9:15 am | Meisel Room

*Well-Being* is the theme for Social Justice Forums this program year. Essential to the attainment of well-being are the establishment of good living conditions and investing in human capital. This encompasses physical, social, mental, and spiritual health. Social Justice Forums will include current aspects of climate change, housing, substance abuse, and mindfulness. We will explore issues from local, national, and global perspectives.

**Virtues, Values, Ethics & Character**
Sundays | 9:15 am | Hunter Room

“Come, let us reason together…” This class provides weekly opportunities for dialogue and conversation around topics of faith and life. Participants share ideas and experiences as they grow together.

**Family Matters - A Fellowship Group**
Sundays | 9:15 am | Bates Room

Family Matters is a place of welcome and connection for Westminster parents, providing both support and information about parenting in a faith-based setting. We will continue to discuss *God’s Big Table — Nurturing Children in a Diverse World* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell, retired Professor of Pastoral Theology. Also, about once a month, we will have age-specific breakout sessions led by Marie Kruskop and Sarah Hardy, both licensed parent educators. During Lent, we will serve as a Covenant Group. Contact Marie Kruskop, mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org for more information.
WOW (Westminster on Wednesdays)
Bible Study for Women and Men
Wednesdays | 9 am | Westminster

WOW includes time for coffee and fellowship, Bible study, and a weekly program featuring a wide variety of topics and speakers. Our winter/spring study will lead us through the Gospel of John, and will utilize Frances Taylor Gench’s study called *Encounters with Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of John*. This class is taught by Rev. Sarah Brouwer, Rev. Judy Kim, Rev. Bebe Baldwin, Shirley McKinney, and Sally Stinson. Join us April 8 for a final meeting with breakfast and conversation. A men’s Bible Study meets concurrently, and will study the upcoming text for Sunday morning.

Moms Group
Wednesdays | 10:30-noon | Westminster Nursery

Moms with children of any age are invited to affirm one another along the parenting journey. Our intent is to provide a time and space for conversation and fellowship as well as a place to be mindful of our own spirituality. Child care is provided. We will continue to discuss *This is Motherhood: A Motherly Collection of Reflections + Practices* by Jill Koziol and Liz Tenety, cofounders of the Motherly online community. During Lent we will serve as a Covenant Group. Contact Marie Kruskop, mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org.

The New Old Adventure
Various Wednesdays | 10:30 am | Various Locations

The New Old Adventure is for members who have sent their children on to lives of their own, have retired from their professional work, are facing a phase of life with new transitions and changes ahead, or are preparing a new life for themselves with their partner or alone.

- January 8 Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body
- February 1 Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?
- April 8 Aging with Gusto
- May 13, 20 Memorial Service Planning

Living the Faith in the 21st Century
Wednesdays | 5:30 pm | Bushnell Room

This interactive class explores what it means to live as faithful Christians today. Through study of books and other materials, participants grow through learning and conversation. The book selection for winter/spring is *I and Thou*, by Martin Buber. This classic can help us reflect—and act—in ways that help build community in this divided, even fractured world. During Lent we will serve as a Covenant Group.

8 | Additional Opportunities
WestConnect Drop-in Bible Study  
2nd & 4th Wednesdays | 7 pm | Westminster

Young adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to this drop-in style Bible Study on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Dinner and good conversation are provided.

Officer Training  
Phase I, Called to Discipleship  
Sundays mid-November - mid-April | Westminster

In preparation for their term, newly elected officers (Elders, Deacons, and Trustees) study everything from Bible and theology to group dynamics, budgets, and meeting facilitation. In April they attend an overnight retreat to further build relationships with one another. Open to anyone seeking to seriously consider a call to ministry in some capacity. To audit the class contact Sarah Brouwer.

Phase II, Nurturing Spiritual Leaders  
Sundays January through Lent | Westminster

Officers who have already completed “Called to Discipleship” and are nearing the end of their term are asked to serve a second term. Those who answer this call, participate in Nurturing Spiritual Leaders, which includes a group book study with focus on spiritual leadership and facilitating covenant groups.

Westminster Town Hall Forum & TownTalks  
Various times & locations

The Westminster Town Hall Forum provides unique opportunities to explore the key issues of our day from an ethical perspective. In just an hour, our guest speakers will expand your mind, inform your views, maybe even change your perspective. TownTalks was created to engage the next generation in conversation and reflection on critical issues from a just and equitable perspective. Both series are held at Wesminister throughout the year. Free and open to all. To learn more, visit westminsteforum.org and towntalksonnicollet.org.
Faculty

Jeffrey Gram

Jeffrey Gram is an Estate Planning Attorney and an accomplished musician. A member of Westminster, he currently serves the church as Artist-in-Residence. Jeffrey taught percussion and directed percussion ensembles at the University of Pittsburgh and Muskingum College after earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in classical percussion performance from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) and The University of Akron (Akron, OH). Three guiding principles guide his dual career: Service - Serving others as trusted advisor and collaborating artist; Peace - Creating peace-of-mind with a personal approach and professional results; and Joy - Living in gratitude, encouraging community, pursuing justice.

Guillermo César Hansen

Guillermo César Hansen is Associate Dean of Graduate Theological Education at Luther Seminary. He is Professor of Global Christianity, Societies and Cultures as well as MLK Chair for Justice and Christian Community. Hansen joined the Luther Seminary faculty in 2008 as associate professor of systematic theology. A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Hansen served as tenured professor of systematic theology and ethics, as chairperson of the department of systematic theology, and director of post-graduate and doctoral studies, at ISEDET - Ecumenical Theological University, Buenos Aires. Hansen received the Master of Divinity degree from ISEDET, the Master of Sacred Theology degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, the Master of Theology degree and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). His areas of teaching expertise include Lutheran Theology, Systematic Theology, Liberation Theology and Post-colonial theologies, Theology and Sciences (concentration in the mind sciences, evolution and memetics), and Theology and Culture/Society (concentration on late-modernity, globalization, secularity, and pluralism).

Sarah Henrich

Sarah Henrich is Professor of New Testament Emerita at Luther Seminary. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University and is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature. She is author of numerous Bible studies including Great Personalities of the New Testament and Acts: See God’s Amazing Grace. Following her retirement from Luther, she served interim positions at Westminster in Adult Education and Pastoral Care before becoming an interim pastor for various Lutheran Churches.

Patricia (Pat) McManus

Pat McManus is a seasoned marketing executive with The Lacek Group, (an Ogilvy agency). She designs consumer loyalty programs and manages the teams responsible for taking these large-scale programs to market. Pat has a life-long
passion for modern and interpretive dance. Performances include working with Oxheart Productions and other notable Twin Cities dance choreographers and companies including, Off-Leash Area, RightHere Showcase, GT Players, MN Fringe Festival, choreographer Vanessa Voskuil, and several Bryant Lake Bowl 9x22 dance labs.

**Martha Rockenstein**

Martha Rockenstein is a trained Spiritual Director and Educator. She received her Master’s degree in Christian Education at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. A life-long member of Westminster, Martha teaches classes in Contemplative Spirituality at churches in our Presbytery.

**Rodney Allen Schwartz**

Rodney Allen Schwartz is Director of the Westminster Gallery and Archive. He has been a member of Westminster for many years and has served as a deacon and usher. His particular gifts in art acquisition and display have transformed Westminster in ways that use art to convey spiritual and biblical understanding.

**Elizabeth Winga**

Elizabeth’s career as an arts administrator and educator spans over 40 years. She received her B.A. and M.A. degrees in art from the University of Iowa. Teaching graduate courses about multicultural and contemporary art to educators across Iowa remains one of her favorite experiences. The unique fused-glass windows in her former church, First Presbyterian in Mason City, Iowa, inspired her to explore the spiritual depth of contemporary art. Since moving to Minneapolis a decade ago, she has been active as a docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

**Matt Skinner**

Matt Skinner is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Before joining the seminary’s faculty, he earned graduate degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and a bachelor’s degree from Brown University. In his teaching and writing, he emphasizes the importance of knowing about the cultural settings of the New Testament writings, the ways these books tell their stories, and the Bible’s ongoing potential for fueling our imaginations about who God is and what difference God makes for the world. He explores the Bible’s connections to faith and life in his writings and other resources, including his most recent books, *A Companion to the New Testament* (3 vols.), and a weekly podcast for preachers that he co-hosts, *Sermon Brainwave*. Ordained as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Skinner has a reputation as an engaging and accessible teacher in classrooms, conferences, and congregations.