



Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

## The Bible Then and Now

### Inclusion – Exclusion: It's Hard to Know How to Be the Church

*Fall 2020*

The New Testament offers stories of radical welcome on some pages and fearful warnings about “outsiders” on others. It’s hard to know how to make sense of the combination of hospitality and suspicion. The mixed perspectives can create confusion that manifests itself when churches wonder about how open they should be to their surrounding culture and “the ways of the world.” What was going on when the New Testament was written, when the Christian movement was just beginning to define itself? How do we read stories of inclusion and exclusion in our own settings in ways that are faithful, humble, and full of generous concern for our neighbors?

**Dates:** Five Mondays, from October 19 through November 16, 2020

**Time:** 7-8:30 pm (CT)

**Format:** Each session will begin with a presentation by the instructor, Rev. Dr. Matt Skinner, followed by him answering questions from the participants. The final half hour will consist of informal small-group conversations, for those who choose to participate. The conversations will focus on discussion questions designed to help us consider how the Bible can continue to inform our faith and common life, especially during these challenging times.

**Where:** This program is conducted entirely on Zoom (a free, internet-based teleconferencing service).

To participate in the series, send an email to Mahin Hamilton at [mhamilton@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:mhamilton@wpc-mpls.org) by **noon on Monday, October 19**. Each Monday, everyone who has signed up for the series will be emailed a Zoom link for that evening’s session.

Participation is open to all.

*Rev. Dr. Matt Skinner is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul and Scholar for Adult Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. As a writer and teacher, he is known for his ability to make biblical texts come alive and to illuminate how the Bible continues to fuel our imaginations about God and our faith.*