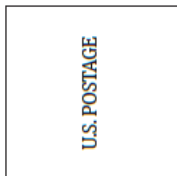


Book Discussion: *Waking Up White*, and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. **May 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th.**

- An adventure in discovery and insight that caused the author to begin questioning her long held assumptions about race and culture.
- The author shares her sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, offering a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance.
- Exercises at the end of each chapter prompt readers to explore their own racialized ideas.



Beyond Sundays Quiet Evenings & Retreats

The Music of Thomas Tallis, 6 - 7:30 pm **December 18th**
Lenten Reflections, 4 - 6:30 pm **April 7th**

"Going Deeper" Groups

Spiritual Discernment Group - 2nd & 4th Mondays beginning **September 24th, 6:30 pm in the Back Lounge**. New members always welcome. Learn to help others discern God's will in their decision making.

Potluck & Presentations

This is an opportunity for any parishioner to share their interests or concerns. Possible presentations include: theological exploration, movies, hobbies, book discussions, crafts, or cooking classes. **Dates TBD**. If you have ideas for a presentation contact Patricia Sprague.

Education For Ministry Wednesdays, 6 pm in the Library

EfM is an adult formation group studying Scripture, church history, theology, ethics, and interfaith relations. Emphasizes theological reflections as a path to grow in relationship to God, each other, and all creation. For more information contact David Ulirch.

Event Locations

Chapel - 225 French Street, Bangor - to the right of the church

Oratory - 234 French Street, Bangor - inside the church office

Bangor Room - 234 French Street, Bangor - inside the church office

Undercroft - 225 French Street, Bangor - church basement

If you need childcare for any of these events please contact the church office at 947-0156 or speak to Patricia Sprague.



St. John's Episcopal Church
234 French Street Bangor, Maine 04401
207-947-0156 www.stjohnsbangor.org

Address Service Requested

Adult Education & Formation

St. John's invites you to grow in both
love of God and love of neighbor.

234 French Street
Bangor, Maine 04401
(207)947-0156
www.StJohnsBangor.org



St. John's Episcopal Church

"Make God's Love Known"

Growing in Love of God and Neighbor

St. John's Episcopal Church Adult Education & Formation 2018 - 2019

In support of life-long Christian education and spiritual growth, St. John's offers a variety of learning and formational opportunities. Additional details will be announced in the weekly Sunday bulletins. For more information, email formation@stjohnsbangor.org or call the parish office (947-0156).

The adult formation year at St. John's is divided into three terms. Back to Basics (fall), Love of God (winter), and Love of Neighbor (spring).

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." - Romans 12:2

FALL : Back to Basics (late Pentecost/fall through Advent)

Scripture Study – The Gospel of Luke

1st Annual 50 Day Bible Challenge, using *A Journey with Luke*, edited by Marek Zabriskie. **September 30th - November 18th**

- Daily reflections, meditations, & prayers
- Weekly text discussions, 11:30 am in the Undercroft
- Three in-depth discussions:
 - **October 4th & 25th, 6 - 7:30 pm** in the Bangor Room
 - **November 18th at 11:30 am** wrap-up in the Undercroft

Sunday Morning Formation: 11:45 am, Chapel

Hearts & Hands : Peaceful contemplation of the season
Sundays, December 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd 11:45 - 12:30 pm in the Chapel

- Bring your handwork or just enjoy soft music of the season, candle-lit icons, and a time of rest in this the busiest of seasons.

If you need childcare for any of these events please contact the church office at 947-0156 or speak to Patricia Sprague.

Small Groups:

Book Discussion: *Who Needs God*, by Harold Kushner.

- Rabbi Kushner shows how religious commitment does have a place in our daily lives, filling a need for connection, joy, and community. **December 9th, 16th & 23rd. Sundays** between services in the Undercroft
- OR **Wednesdays** following the noon Healing Service. **December 5th, 12th & 19th.**

Exploring Spiritual Practices: 11:45 am, Chapel

Praying with Beads: Anglican & Catholic Rosaries, **November 11th & 18th.**



WINTER : Love of God (Epiphany through Lent)

Sunday Morning Formation: 11:45 am, Chapel

The Buddha, a PBS documentary film about the life of Siddhartha Guatama, on his path to become The Buddha, a journey especially relevant in our own bewildering times of violent change and spiritual confusion.

- Shows Buddhism as a major global religion with a complex history and system of beliefs.
- Portrays discipleship through other eyes, helping us take a fresh look at our own commitment to follow the path of Jesus.
- The two hour DVD will be shown over three Sundays, 11:45 - 12:30 in the Chapel. A discussion period will follow on **February 3rd, 10th & 17th.**

Introduction to Islam : Parishioner Bill Voss will introduce us to the teachings and practices of Islam.

- Learn about one of the worlds great religions
- Get to know your Muslim neighbors
- Four sessions **March 10th, 24th, 31st, & April 7th.**

Small Groups:

Sunday Afternoon Inquirers Group in Lent:
Sundays at 1 pm in the Back Lounge. **March 10th, 24th, 31st, April 7th & 14th.**

The inquirers group is open to all, especially those interested in learning the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal church, or those having questions and concerns regarding the Christian faith. The group meets to discuss a book together and there will be time for individual and group conversation with Mo. Rita about joining the church. This year's book will be : *Good News of Jesus*, by L. William Countryman.

- Within the church and outside of it, people today are in a period of refocus and rediscovery, asking what is really central to the Christian faith. Countryman shows that at the heart of Christianity stands the figure of Jesus and the message he embodied - The Gospel.

Exploring Spiritual Practices: 11:45 am, Chapel

Centering Prayer **January 13th & 20th**
Chanting the Psalms **February 24th & March 3rd**

SPRING : Love of Neighbor (Easter through Pentecost)

Sunday Morning Formation: 11:45 am, Chapel

Book Discussion : *Not in God's Name*, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks book discussion. **April 14th, 21st & 28th.**

- Tackles the phenomenon of religious extremism and violence committed in the name of God.
- Shows that religiously inspired violence has at its source misreadings of biblical texts at the heart of all three Abrahamic faiths.
- Looks anew at the book of Genesis, with its foundational stories of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Offers a radical rereading of many of the Bible's seminal stories of sibling rivalry.
- *"It is not our task to conquer or convert the world or enforce uniformity of belief. It is our task to be a blessing to the world. The use of religion for political ends is not righteousness but idolatry... To invoke God to justify violence against the innocent is not an act of sanctity but of sacrilege."*

