



Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, MI

Christian Formation for June / July 2021

We are beginning a five-week program called *Sacred Ground* with material from the National church. It will begin on Wednesday, June 2, and run every other week (on Wednesday's) through June and July.

This is part of a larger program that we are planning at Mediator called "Walking the Labyrinth to Building a Beloved Community".

Sessions will be held from 6-8pm (MI time) at The Episcopal Church of the Mediator (14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, MI). We plan to meet outdoors, but if there is bad weather, we will move indoors. To meet, we must follow the face mask and social distancing guidelines set by the diocese and the State of Michigan.

SACRED GROUND, A FILM-BASED DIALOGUE SERIES ON RACE AND FAITH SYLLABUS





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SYLLABUS

SESSION 1: STEPPING ONTO SACRED GROUND

June 2, 2021, 6:00-8:00pm, outdoors at Church of the Mediator

To read beforehand

- Summary sheet: *Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church's Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice*
- "Getting Started" sections of *Sacred Ground* webpages: "Invitation & Introduction" and "Organizing a Dialogue Circle," if not read already
- Column: "Black History Is Everyone's History" by Leonard Pitts, Jr.
- Excerpt from essay: "Not Somewhere Else, But Here" by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker
- Excerpt from book: *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill
- Selection from book: *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis (bottom of pg. 103 - 109 from hardback edition)

SESSION 2: THE ROOTS OF WHITENESS, AND DEEPER ROOTS

June 16, 2021, 6:00-8:00pm, outdoors at Church of the Mediator

To watch beforehand

- Short video: *The Myth of Race Debunked in 3 Minutes* (3 min.)
- Short video: *Decoded: Are Cracker, White Trash, & Redneck Racist?* (5 min.)

To read beforehand

Note: There is more reading for this session because there is no full film to watch (just the two short videos above). These opening sessions are a time to lay some important foundations.

- Article: "Roots Deeper Than Whiteness" by David Dean
- Article: "A Geography Lesson for the Tea Party" by Colin Woodard in *Washington Monthly* magazine. The core of this article provides a digest of his book: *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*. (You can just read from the paragraph that starts, "We're accustomed to thinking of American regionalism..." and stop at paragraph that starts, "Which brings us to the Tea Party movement...")
- Selections from book: *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo (15 assorted pages from paperback edition)
- Blog posts: "On the Five Stages & White People Waking Up to Racism" and "On White Tears" by Tad Hargrave
- Core book: *Waking Up White, And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving – Introduction and Chapters 2-3



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SESSION 3: WHOSE LAND? EXPLORING INDIGENOUS HISTORY

June 30, 2021, 6:00-8:00pm, outdoors at Church of the Mediator

To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *We Shall Remain*, Episode 1: “After the Mayflower” (77 min.)
- *The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery* (14 min.)

To read beforehand

- Audio story and article: “The Map of Native American Tribes You’ve Never Seen Before” by Hansi Lo Wang from NPR. Please look at Aaron Carapella’s map – see the link is at the very bottom of the article – to see which Native tribes lived at the time of European conquest in the region where you live now.
- Article: “Unshackled by Visions and Values” by Martin Brokenleg
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman – Forward and Preface
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapters 1, 4-6, and 30

SESSION 4: TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY: EXPLORING BLACK HISTORY

July 14, 2021, 6:00-8:00pm, outdoors at Church of the Mediator

To watch beforehand

- PBS series: *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Episode 1: “The Black Atlantic: 1500-1800” (56 min.)
- *Truth and Reconciliation Pilgrimage to Ghana*, three short videos featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and Bishop Andrew Waldo (23 min. total, or as many as you have time for)

To read beforehand

- Article: “New England’s Hidden History” by Francie Latour in *The Boston Globe*
- Essay: “White Man’s Guilt” by James Baldwin in *Ebony* magazine
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – first part of Chapter 1 (up to paragraph that starts “In the face of these alternatives...,” on p. 17 of 1996 paperback edition)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapter 11



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SESSION 5: WHOSE LAND? MORE LAYERS: EXPLORING LATINO HISTORY

July 28, 2021, 6:00-8:00pm, outdoors at Church of the Mediator

To watch beforehand or in the session

- PBS series: *Latino Americans*, Episode 1: “Foreigners in Their Own Land” (53 min.)
- YouTube video: *Guns, Germs, and Steel: How Europeans Came to Dominate the World, in 7 Minutes*

To read beforehand

- Selection from book: *Ripe Fields: The Promise and Challenge of Latino Ministry* by Juan Oliver (pp. 5-18 from paperback edition)
- Op-ed: “Moving Beyond the Black-White Binary” by Roberto Lovato
- Core book: *Jesus and the Disinherited* – second part of Chapter 1 (from paragraph that begins with “In the face of these alternatives...,” on p. 17 of 1996 paperback edition, to the end of the chapter)
- Core book: *Waking Up White* – Chapter 13