

Sunday morning and Wednesday evening courses

Adult education courses usually run for several consecutive weeks on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings and are designed to build community through shared reading and discussion of a longer text or book. Drop-in attendees are welcome to come any week, as the discussion will be enriching whether or not you've read the assigned selection!

PLEASE NOTE: Books for all classes are available through Bookie's book store, 2015 Ridge Road in Homewood, 708-377-0789.

(Continuing) Book Study: *Holy Envy*

Sunday mornings at 11 am in the Family Room
Running 8 non-consecutive weeks: January 5, 12, March 1, 15, 22, 29, April 26, May 3
Led by Trina Hayes

In January through May 2020, we will be continuing our chapter by chapter book study of *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. This book by Barbara Brown Taylor tackles the questions and concerns that arise when we encounter anything different or "other." We are exploring the spiritual riches God shares with us through the faith of others while we remain true to our own faith and beliefs.

Bible Study: Actually, the Bible Is Political

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Family Room
Running 4 consecutive weeks on January 8 -29
Led by Pastor Fred Lyon

This study will consider how political the Bible truly is. We will explore passages from Isaiah, Ezekiel, the Gospel of Luke.

Discovery Book Club memoir: *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime*

Sunday morning at 11 am in the Family Room
1 session only: January 19
Led by Trina Hayes

This youth reader edition of comedian Trevor Noah's 2016 book on his South African childhood is one of the three 2019-20 HF Reads book selections recommended to the community by Homewood-Flossmoor high school. Our discussion guide for this book has been created by H-F High librarian Alicia Rodriguez. Other editions of this book which are available and recommended: *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*. Don't miss the audio edition which is read by the author.



Celebrating Black History Month - February

Black History Month Course: excerpts from *The 1619 Project*

Sunday mornings at 11 am in the Family Room
Running 4 consecutive weeks, from February 2 to February 23
Led by Adult Education Committee

Our Black History month course curriculum will rely heavily on the August 18, 2019 issue of the *New York Times Magazine* called *The 1619 Project*. The living artists, writers and scholars who contributed to this magazine issue and broader project will receive the primary focus and place of honor as our course teachers. We will take time each Sunday morning class time to appreciate, in general, their broader life work, but also the courage and care they offered in wrestling with a particular topic or event of US Black history to make their individual contribution to the Project.

The course will be designed to provide introductory engagement with representative portions of this project each Sunday morning in February, with longer reading/study/response assignments for course enrollees to work on through the week for an hour or two as they opt in. This Project includes a 100-page issue with 35 contributing artists, writers, and scholars. It has 17 literary pieces, 11 essays, and 6 brief historical inserts. There's also podcast titled *1619*, with episodes that connect to several of the essays. The paper magazine copy is nearly impossible to come by, but there is free digital pdf access available at www.fccfaithful.org/adult-education.

Black History Month Book Study: Lenny Duncan's *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US*

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Family Room
Running 4 consecutive weeks from February 5 through February 26
Led by Pastor Fred Lyon

The black preacher and author is Lenny Duncan. The whitest denomination is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Duncan is now an ELCA pastor. But his often reckless youth and young adulthood would have predicted him ending up otherwise. One reviewer of *Dear Church* writes: "Duncan brings the truth about being black in the whitest church in the USA, about being queer in a queerphobic context, about the stigma brought against formerly incarcerated folk. Lenny reminds the church of our call from God to be church not just for the margins, or to the margins, but recentring ourselves in the margins." If you're up for a challenging read that generates compelling conversation, this may very well be the study you're looking for.

Please sign up for this class either at the Welcome Counter in the Gathering Space, or by emailing Pastor Fred at fclyon2@gmail.com.

Discovery Book Club novel: *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews

Sunday morning at 11 am in the Family Room
1 session only: March 8
Led by Trina Hayes

Women Talking is based on the true story of 130 Mennonite women and children in Bolivia who were drugged and raped for four years and had been told that ghosts had attacked them. Toews turns their story into a

propulsive novel showing how eight women in the colony might have reacted. As they were all illiterate, their story is narrated by a shunned man who keeps "minutes" of their conversations. This is an original and fierce manifesto that reveals itself in an irresistible story that it's tempting to read in one sitting.

Discovery Book Club novel: *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga

Sunday morning at 11 am in the Family Room
1 session only: April 5
Led by Trina Hayes

Other Words for Home is an exquisite view of the immigrant experience as seen through Jude, an eleven-year-old Syrian girl who accompanies her pregnant mother to live in Cincinnati. Told in verse, Jude makes being "other" come alive through her heart and her hope-filled story.

Sunday Morning Drop-in Classes

**Sunday mornings at 11 am in the Bell Chapel
unless otherwise noted**

Links for most articles are available at
www.fccfaithful.org/adult-education

A series of stand-alone classes, chats, and presentations which do not include a commitment of several consecutive weeks or lengthy assigned readings for class preparation. Each session will fit in with one or more of the following umbrella categories: Supporting Children and Families, Promoting Diversity and Safe Spaces, Developing Bible Literacy, and Community Engagement.

Old Testament Lecture Series: #4 - Abraham, Sarah, & Hagar January 5

This class will open with a viewing of the fourth lecture (30 min) in Professor Amy-Jill Levine's DVD course on the Old Testament. Lecture 4 comments upon Genesis 11-21, with a closer look at the tower of Babel story, as well as stories of Abram, his name change, his sojourn in Egypt, and his efforts to produce a child. The second half of the class will provide time for further group discussion of this section of Genesis. This lecture series will be presented once per month during the upcoming year to get up through Lecture 7.

Dear Ijeawele: Suggestions 4-6 January 12

In this drop-in class, we will discuss the second triplet of fifteen suggestions in a short pamphlet written by author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie to friend of hers from childhood. Her friend, Ijeawele, had asked Adichie for advice on how to raise her baby girl a feminist. We will read aloud together from our personal digital devices, so bring a tablet or smartphone with you. Digital link available on website.

LCFS' See the Change Tour March 1

Leslie Lopez, LCFS Director of Development, will facilitate a presentation from the organization of Lutheran Child and Family Services in Illinois. Attendees will hear about the impact they have on Illinois children and families. Presenters will share their own stories of triumph and success due to their hard work and the help of LCFS' programs and services.

How To Become a Positive Deviant **March 8**
Audrey Weidman, Certified Stress Mastery Educator of the American Institute of Stress, will share evidence-based findings on how to become happier. Audrey has been a student of Positive Psychology and wants to share simple actionable steps anyone can take to become happier starting right now.

Old Testament Lecture Series: #5 - Isaac **March 15**
This class will open with a viewing of the fifth lecture (30 min) in Professor Amy-Jill Levine's DVD course on the Old Testament. Lecture 5 comments upon Genesis 21-22, with a fuller discussion of the encounter between Isaac and his father that nearly ended in child sacrifice. The second half of the class will provide time for further group discussion of this section of Genesis. This lecture series will be presented once per month during the upcoming year to get up through Lecture 7.

Dear Ijeawele: Suggestions 7-10 **March 22**
In this drop-in class, we will discuss several more of the fifteen suggestions in a short pamphlet written by author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie to friend of hers from childhood. Her friend, Ijeawele, had asked Adichie for advice on how to raise her baby girl a feminist. We will read aloud together from our personal digital devices, so bring a tablet or smartphone with you. Digital link available on website.

Legacy Giving During Your Lifetime **March 29**
Janet Bolton, a financial advisor and certified investment management analyst, will give a presentation that helps members consider ways we can support FCC beyond the budget, and beyond our annual giving/pledge.

Old Testament Lecture Series: #6 – The Jacob Saga **April 5**
This class will open with a viewing of the sixth lecture (30 min) in Professor Amy-Jill Levine's DVD course on the Old Testament. Lecture 6 comments upon Genesis 25-36, with a fuller discussion of the relationship between Isaac and Rebecca's twin sons, Esau and Jacob. The second half of the class will provide time for further group discussion of this section of Genesis. This lecture series will be presented once per month during the upcoming year to get up through Lecture 7.

Dear Ijeawele: Suggestions 11-15 **April 26**
In this drop-in class, we will discuss the final group of fifteen suggestions in a short pamphlet written by author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie to friend of hers from childhood. Her friend, Ijeawele, had asked Adichie for advice on how to raise her baby girl a feminist. We will read aloud together from our personal digital devices, so bring a tablet or smartphone with you. Digital link available on website.

Old Testament Lecture Series: #7 – Genesis 25-36 continued **May 3**
This class will open with a viewing of the seventh lecture (30 min) in Professor Amy-Jill Levine's DVD course on the Old Testament. Lecture 7 comments upon Genesis 25-36, with a literary analysis of folklore and type scenes in these stories of Jacob and his family. The second half of the class will provide time for further group discussion of this section of Genesis. This lecture series will be presented once per month during the upcoming year to get up through Lecture 7.

Connect Events

Watch for occasional invitations throughout the year to join some fellow members to visit a presentation which may be hosted by a different organization or in a different location, but fits well with our scope and priorities for adult education. Here are two that are recommended at the date of this booklet's printing, but watch for more suggestions in Narthex and Bulletin publications throughout the year.

Movie and Discussion Outing: *Just Mercy*
Sunday, January 12
Marcus Theatres, Country Club Hills Cinema
4201 W. 167th Street | Country Club Hills, IL 60478, (708) 365-1380
Screening time: 1:30 pm

Just Mercy is a 2019 American legal drama film directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, and starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Rob Morgan, Tim Blake Nelson, Rafe Spall, and Brie Larson. It tells the true story of [Walter McMillian](#), who with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson appeals his murder conviction. The film is based on the memoir of the same name, written by Bryan Stevenson.

We will have a discussion and treats after the movie at the home of Jeff and Jessica Groen. The discussion will be facilitated by Kate Saunders, who has taught the *Just Mercy* book in her high school English classes, and by Bella VanderWoude, a high school student who did a research project on the book.

Movie Screening & Discussion: *Joseph Oliver Brown (JOB)*
Sunday, February 23 at 3 pm
Flossmoor Community Church Sanctuary

A free event hosted by the FCC Congregational Connections Board

From Director Nate B. Grant's company lakeshorefilm.com: "This film is an exciting adaptation based off of the book of JOB told from a millennial lens with a primarily millennial cast. This powerful story will engage and inspire viewers of all ages. Religious beliefs are put to the test, but this is a testament to the Endurance of one man who would not dishonor himself or his belief in God. A successful contractor miraculously gets the opportunity to bid on a multi-million dollar project, but the possibility of making the 45-day deadline is looking bleak as his faith is tested by one obstacle after another, each becoming increasingly insurmountable."



Flossmoor Community Church

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