



## Adult Education

### Upcoming Adult Education Forums

#### Sundays after Worship

The topics of our Adult Education forums continue to focus on spirituality through February and March. You are welcome to sign up for any one or more of the following classes, led by lay members of the congregation. A minimum of 5 participants is required. All sessions are held in Room 402 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

#### February 7 and February 14 - How to Pray

This is a two-part series, although attendance at just one session is allowed! In the first session we'll focus on defining prayer and see what the Bible says about it. The second session will teach various types of prayers through active participation.

#### February 21 – March 21: Spirituality across the Life Span

On the Sundays during Lent, our forums will focus on ways to develop spirituality at different stages in life. Each Sunday will feature a different life-stage. You are encouraged to sign up for one or more that apply to you or your family members. Topics will include:

- February 21 – Spirituality for Families, with a focus on Children
- February 28 – Older Adult Spirituality
- March 7 – Spirituality for Families, with a focus on Adults
- March 14 – Midlife Spirituality
- March 21 – Tween and Teen Spirituality

Please visit the Adult Ed table during coffee hour to sign up and receive a brief article to read in advance of the class.

### Other Lenten Series

#### Sunday Evenings

##### Jesus' Last Week

**Bible Study: Sunday evenings, February 21 – March 21, 7–8:30 pm**

**Teacher: Ned Edwards**

Universities have begun a tradition of “The Last Lecture” as a way of getting to what is truly important. We can discover what was truly important about Jesus as we look at his last week. What happened each day of the last week of his life in Jerusalem? What did Jesus do and what did he say? We will look at Mark’s chronology from Palm Sunday to Easter to gain further insight into who Jesus was, what he was trying to convey to the world, what he was willing to die for, and why he was calling others to follow him.

#### Wednesday Mornings

##### The Book of Revelation

**Bible Study: Wednesday mornings, February 24 – March 24, 10:30 am – 12 noon**

**Teacher: Ned Edwards**

To some it is frightening. To others it is comforting. To all it is confusing. And most of us don’t know what to make of it. As the most misunderstood book in the Bible, Revelation has some wonderful qualities but just like the word “apocalypse” in its title (The Apocalypse of John), it must be “revealed” to us that are far removed from its symbolism, drama, and history. This class will bring a new appreciation to the last book of the Bible and reveal the very simple moral of the story that began back in Genesis.



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### Wednesday Supper Series Returns During Lent!

What better time to give a little more attention to your spiritual life than during Lent? What better meal to enjoy on a cold winter night than a bowl of hot soup and a slice of hearty bread? Both of these will be available to you at First Church on Wednesday nights, February 24 through March 24. The meal will begin at 6:15, the classes at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up at the Adult Education table during coffee hour for one of the following classes (a minimum of five participants is required for the class to go forward). If you plan to come to dinner, sign up for that as well—but we'll also welcome last minute guests! If you need childcare, please let us know ahead so we can plan for it. The Adult Education Ministry Team thanks John Vincenzo for agreeing to make the soup for us! Classes include:

**Book Study: *A People's History of Christianity* by Diana Butler Bass**      **Facilitator: Ned Edwards**  
**Wednesday evenings, 7–8:15 pm (following supper at 6:15 pm)**

If you think history is boring, you have not read this book! Diana Butler Bass reveals the under-reported movements, personalities, and spiritual practices that continue to inform and ignite contemporary Christianity. It offers a much-needed “other side of the story” for progressive Christians, drawing from examples of alternative practices in every period of Christian history, including: care for the environment and celebrating God in nature; defining compassion, hospitality, and social justice as the primary function of the church; pacifism as the dominant Christian response to war; highlighting the female attributes of God; celebrating human sexuality as a gift from God. Join us for an interesting look at what Christianity has been and can be!

**God in our Lives**      **Facilitator: Kim Hoare**  
**Wednesday evenings, 7–8:15 pm (following supper at 6:15 pm)**

“*I love to tell the story...*” Lent is often a time of reflection and contemplation. In that spirit, we will establish a safe and affirming small group setting in which we will share with one another the stories of where we have experienced God in our lives through our church, family, friends, in nature and in moments of transition. We will use the book *God in My Life* as a guide to our discussions. (Our very own Erin Corcoran’s faith story is published in this book edited by Maren Tirabassi and Maria Tirabassi.) This class will be limited to 8 people so please sign-up soon to guarantee your spot. Book cost is \$14.

**The Gospel of Mark: The Gospel as Story or the Story as Gospel**      **Facilitator: Ron Brown**  
**Wednesday evenings, 7–8:15 pm (following supper at 6:15 pm)**

The writer of the Gospel of Mark invented a new literary form. By combining biography, geography, theology and even a little anthropology, the Gospel of Mark tells the story of our faith. In the pages of the Gospel we discover who Jesus is, learn about his mission and discover our own place in God’s Kingdom. This class will provide both an overview of the Gospel and study of several stories and events recorded in its pages so that we can understand better the Kingdom of God Jesus came to proclaim.

**Quilting Group**      **Facilitator: Marilyn Ostreicher**  
**Wednesday evenings, 7–8:15 pm (following supper at 6:15 pm)**

If you would like to try your hand at quilting with a group of patient, friendly, and experienced quilters, then perhaps Lent is a good time for you to join this effort! Sewing machines and materials are provided, though you are welcome to add your own to the mix! Quilts will be donated to Prudence Crandall Center in New Britain, a safe haven for women and children who are escaping domestic abuse.