

Weaving Wisdom

of the World

Sunday Morning
8:45 and 10:45 a.m.

Saturday
6:00 p.m.



What Jane's Reading

Some reading ideas to supplement this sermon series:

Chittister, Joan. *Welcome to the Wisdom of the World and its meaning for you: Universal spiritual insights distilled from five religious traditions.*

Gyatso, Tenzin, the 14th Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World.*

Kuchler, Bonnie Louise, ed. *One Heart: Wisdom from the World's Scriptures.*

Nhat Hanh, Thich. *Going Home: Jesus and Buddha as Brothers.*

Templeton, Sir John. *Wisdom from World Religions: Pathways toward heaven on Earth.*

I grew up in a church that had all the answers. We prayed for those people who followed religions that had different answers. By the time I became United Methodist and was preparing paperwork for ordination, I was asked about the meaning of Christ in a 'pluralistic' culture. By the time I had been in ministry several years, I was learning more and more about our brothers and sisters of many world religions, and a new term emerged in my vocabulary: interspirituality.

Joan Borysenko writes, "While different faiths developed through specific prisms of culture and contexts in space and time, there are universal spiritual principles which are foundational to all of them. Interspirituality is the common ground, where all of the wisdom traditions meet." Many authors now have added insights and understandings that respect the differences that are important to religious contexts while also learning of the themes shared by varied religious paths.

Oftentimes, people compare religions as a way to identify their differences. A study of comparative religions can be useful. However, it is also appropriate to find our commonalities. The wisdom traditions around the world share many of the same threads of truth. Enlightenment, Integrity, Humility, Acceptance of others, Lovingkindness and Compassion are some core beliefs religions share and foster around the globe.

Central questions have intrigued human beings from vastly different ages, contexts and cultures: Who am I? Why am I here? What does it mean to 'be good'? How are we to live meaningfully?

Join us for worship Jan 5- Feb 2 as we explore these golden threads of truth that weave through the sacred texts of the world where we find our unity as one.

Jane

WEDNESDAYS

Reviving Ophelia

Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

This book speaks to the real lives of teenage girls. Written by local authors Mary Pipher and her daughter Sara Pipher Gilliam, they note, "girls still grapple with misogyny, depression, and issues of identity and self-esteem. This new generation of girls has a greater chance than their mothers did of becoming depressed, anxious, or suicidal." This is a revised and updated version of the book originally published 25 years ago, and it's for anyone who has a teenage girl in their lives, as a daughter, granddaughter, niece, neighbor, client, or student. In reality, it's for all of us, because in our interconnected community, all girls are a part of our lives. Led by Marilyn Moore.

Myers-Briggs Personality Types

Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is an introspective personality test that isolates some of our core psychological preferences on how we perceive the world and make decisions. For our class, we will each take the personality test and then spend the following weeks discussing each of the traits, learning about preferences and how we function according to those preferences. This class will also give us insight into our interactions with others and they respond to our behaviors. Led by Rev. Lyn Seiser.

Meet the Mystics

Beginning Wednesday, Mar. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Christian mysticism has its roots in our Jewish heritage, Greek thought, and early Christian clerics. Early Christian mystics were ridiculed then revered, ostracized before venerated. They wrote Christian doctrine and challenged institutional hypocrisy. They shared a passion for relationship in union with God experienced in extraordinary visions and insights. Join in conversation and introduction to these remarkable figures such as: Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Augustine, Jean Vianney, Teresa of Avila, and Thomas Moore. Led by Rev. Jane Florence.

Mid-Week CONNECT Classes



KIDS



FOR CHRIST

**Mid-Week Connect:
for Kids**



**Wednesday Nights
From 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**



In 2020 we will continue our focus on Jesus and His characteristics, and how we can live our life to be more like Him.

Undecking the Halls



**Sunday, January 5
in the Dining Room
Dinner at 5:00 p.m.**

We will be taking down the Christmas decor and storing it away for next year. Join us in the Dining Hall at 5:00 p.m. for dinner. Undecking the halls will follow.



Winter 2020 Adult Formation Classes

SUNDAYS

The Wisdom Jesus

Beginning January 5 at 9:45 a.m.

Join in conversation with Rev. Jane and others to journey through this challenging and remarkable book by Cynthia Bourgeault. We start in January with transformative lessons in vocabulary, giving new meaning to perceptions like “head,” “heart” and “repentance”, common in Western teachings of Jesus. Cynthia Bourgeault’s writing introduces us to Jesus as a wisdom teacher providing fresh understandings of Matthew and Luke’s messages in light of Nag Hammadi discoveries. The text emphasizes a notion of “self-emptying love” that allows for a shift in consciousness from ego-based analysis to acceptance of divine abundance, which in turn sheds new light on examinations of the Passion, crucifixion and ensuing events. The last five weeks during Lent will offer wisdom practices in meditation, lectio divina, chanting and eucharist. Deepen and expand your knowledge and experience of Christ with these contemplative reflections.

Stories from Wild and Precious Lives

Beginning March 1 at 9:45 a.m.

Taking a cue from Mary Oliver’s poetic line, “What are you going to do with your one wild and precious life?” David Lux will lead this Lenten class looking at the stories of both Biblical characters, as well as the stories we are living right now. What do they say to one another, and what kind of life do we want to live?

MONDAYS

The Last Week

Beginning January 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Written by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, this compelling book follows the last week of Jesus, retelling “a story that everyone thinks they know too well and most seem not to know at all.” This weekly discussion should both inspire and provoke as we explore these authors’ politically concerned analysis, and learn new dimensions to what we are all celebrating during Holy Week. Led by Dave Moore.

SPRING 2020 CLASS

The Book of Acts Coming this Spring

Join Pastor Jed as we study the very beginnings of the Christian community led by colorful characters such as Peter, John, Stephen, Priscilla, and, of course, Saint Paul. The Book of Acts follows the first apostles as they proclaim the gospel from Jerusalem to the “ends of the earth,” often facing violent reactions. This class is good for anyone, regardless of your prior biblical knowledge.



Jed Linder

Associate Pastor

Register for all adult classes on the weekly connect card, on the Church Center App, or by emailing Jed Linder at jlinder@saintpaulumc.org.

Winter 2020 Adult Formation Classes Continued



WINTER/SPRING 2020 FILM SERIES



Spiritual Giants of the 20th Century

Beginning January 14, *The Power of Forgiveness (2007)*

Saint Paul is excited to announce a new film series beginning in January and running through June! Join us as we screen six films covering some of the most notable Christians of the 20th century, including Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Albert Schweitzer, Reinhold Niebuhr, and civil rights icon Howard Thurman. After each screening, Steve Griffith will lead a brief discussion of the film.

We will open the series with the documentary film *The Power of Forgiveness*:

SYNOPSIS: The simple act of forgiveness can have profound consequences, and in this documentary filmmaker Martin Doblmeier explores the personal and spiritual transformation experienced by those who somehow summoned the power to forgive others for their transgressions. After studying the concept of forgiveness for the past two decades, researchers have finally begun to understand the true power of forgiveness. Recently, clinicians have found that by helping people learn to forgive, they can help them lead more meaningful and productive lives. In this award-winning film Doblmeier travels from the Amish countryside to Ground Zero and Northern Ireland in order to explore the power of forgiveness alongside Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Reverend James Forbes, Buddhist master Thich Nhat Hanh, and best-selling authors Marianne Williamson and Thomas Moore. ~ Jason Buchanan, Rovi

Small Groups and Gatherings



Senior Group

Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 12:00 p.m.

The program will be Tammy Ward, recently elected city councilwoman & a Saint Paul member.

Will meet at noon for lunch w/ speaker following. Lunch is \$6. Usual procedure w/attendance & reminders.

Nonfiction Book Group

Tuesday, January 14
at 7:00 p.m.

The book for discussion is *Blowout* by Rachel Maddow.

No need to pre-register; just come!

Help Us Warm Our Community!



Seeking donations of new winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarves of all shapes, colors and sizes. We are especially in need of men's gloves. Donations can be dropped off at the display in the Welcome Center. We will also accept monetary donations.

Children, Family and Youth Opportunities

Saturday, February 1, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Of all the holidays celebrated throughout the year, none is more underrated than the one celebrated on Feb. 1. Groundhog Day derives from a Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees a shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks, and if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. So in honor of this furry little rodent and his weather predicting shadow we are throwing an epic dance party. This family friendly dance is fun for all ages. With music from DJ Joe Cruz and a photo booth from Say Cheese, you can remember the moment and dance the night away! Dress up in your fanciest attire, your favorite costume or come as you are! All are welcome at this free church wide event! Snacks and beverages also provided!



Mitch Connelly

Director of Youth Ministries



Cathy Link

Director of Children and Family Ministries

Register for these events on the weekly connect card, on the Church Center app, or by emailing Cathy Link at clink@saintpaulumc.org or Mitch Connelly at mconnelly@saintpaulumc.org.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are so excited for Children and Family Ministries in 2020! Check out what's ahead for kids and families!

Jesus is a great example of how we should live and behave in our own lives. In 2020 we will continue our focus on Jesus and His characteristics, and how we can live our life to be more like Him.

We have two opportunities for kids:

**Kids for Christ Sunday School meets
Sundays from 9:45 to 10:35 am**

**Midweek Connect for Kids meets
Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm**

Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed on Dec. 25 and 26. We will be closing at noon on Dec. 27. We will also be closed on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Happy Holidays!

Ecumenical Legislative

Briefing Day

The 45th annual Nebraska Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day will be held Saturday, February 8, 2020, at Christ United Methodist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Open to people of all faiths, the conference is designed to help participants understand the issues before the Nebraska Unicameral, where bills related to those issues reside in the legislative process, and which state legislators are sponsoring them. Where possible, workshop speakers address potential legislation directly.

For more information, or to register nelegisbrief.org

Weekly Communion

This year we at Saint Paul will focus on, with 20/20 vision, Christ's love every week by adding an optional sharing of communion in the chapel after both the 8:45 and 10:45 worship services. This will be in addition to, not in lieu of, the Holy Communion shared church-wide during worship on the first week of the month. Our prayer is that through this new weekly Sacrament we may better remember, and experience, God's awesome love through Christ.



Livestream Information in case of bad weather:

We love to see you in worship and hope you will be able to be with us every Sunday. We also know that Nebraska winters can present a challenge with blizzards and ice. Last year, we had six consecutive Sunday morning snows! If it might be unsafe for you to travel to church this winter, please join us via livestream.

You can watch our entire service while it takes place - or tune in later. Just open your computer, smart phone or tablet, and type in www.saintpaulumc.org/live. Sing along, worship and pray, give and don't forget to pour yourself a cup of coffee! Stay safe and stay connected to your church family.

Any church closing will be posted on our Facebook page, our website, and on 1011Now.

Wednesday Morning Book Discussion

January 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Room 155

Join us for coffee, cookies, and lively book discussion! We'll discuss the OBOL selection *Far Away Brothers* by Lauren Markham.

Need more info?

Contact

**Judy Jensen at
(402)-420-6370.**



United Methodist Women News



UMW Executive Meeting

**Wednesday, January 8
9:15 a.m. in Room 155**

UMW Circle 1

**Monday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.
in Room 155**

We will be making hand towels into little bears for Valentines to be given out at Clinic With A Heart on January 23, 2020. All supplies will be furnished.

A pledge service will be given and pledge cards collected.

Contact: Ann Cerveny 402-440-2420

Wesley Group

**Tuesday, January 28 at 11:30 a.m.
in the Dining Hall**

After lunch and business meeting, we will begin our new book, *50 Women Every Christian Should Know*. **Questions?**

Call Debbie Marshall at 402-742-5920.

UMW Unit Meeting

**Wednesday, January 8
10:30 a.m. in Paine Parlor**

The speaker will be Judge Karen Flowers, retired Lancaster County District Court Judge, who will be presenting a program on "Problem Solving Courts". A meeting and lunch to follow. \$6.00 for lunch. Please RSVP for lunch to Gay Nelson at 402-475-5663 or llnmg@aol.com.

Turn the Page

7:00 p.m. in Room 145

Turn the Page will **not** meet in January.

Books for this Spring:

February 3 - *Dare to Lead* by Brene Brown

March 2 - *Loaded: History of 2nd Amendment* by Roxanne Dunbar

April 6 - *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

May 4 - *Pilgrim Journey in the Western World* by James Harpur

We welcome visitors and new members. **Questions? Call Mary Starr - 402-489-1122.**

STAR CAROL

JOHN RUTTER, COMPOSER
Lincoln Boys Choir

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Lincoln Boys Choir



First Friday Music and Art Concert

UPDATE

As Paul assumes leadership of the music and worship arts ministry, we are continuing our planning of 2020 First Friday concerts. We will **NOT** have a concert in January. Please stay tuned for upcoming spring concert announcements.

Welcome Paul Robinson

In early January, we welcome Paul Robinson as our Director of Music and Worship Arts.

Paul will be leading our music ministry as well as worship experiences on Sunday mornings. More details and welcome reception information will be shared in the near future!



Celebration Ringers

Celebration Ringers played an afternoon Christmas concert on December 22 at the Legacy Terrace. Residents enjoyed their favorite Christmas songs played by six bell-ringers. **Included in the program was a few solo selections by flutist, Michele Filbert, accompanied on the piano by Alicia Opoku.**



The Politics of Jesus

Sermon series begins February 9, 2020

SUNDAY MORNINGS
8:45 & 10:45 A.M.



Could Jesus
be elected
President?

Food Distribution with Lulu's

Beginning this January we are excited to announce an exciting partnership with Lulu's restaurant. On Tuesdays and Thursdays Lulu's will be handing out lunches to individuals in need in the downtown community. They will be setting up and distributing food from the AA room on the lower level from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. These meals are handed out free of charge to anyone in need of a meal. We are looking for two to four volunteers to help out this new weekly partnership. Volunteer once or twice per week, or even help out occasionally. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated. Tasks and responsibilities include hospitality and welcoming, engaging in conversation and some assistance with set up and tear down. **Please contact Mitch at mconnelly@saintpaulumc.org for questions, additional information or to sign up to volunteer.**

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Telephone: (402) 477-6951
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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



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of the World**

Sermon series Jan. 5 - Feb. 2

Sat. 6:00 p.m. | Sun. 8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

These golden threads of truth weave through the sacred texts of the world where we find our unity as one.

Join us for worship as we explore core beliefs from religions around the globe.



Integrity
Humility
Enlightenment
Loving kindness
Acceptance
Compassion

1144 M Street in Downtown Lincoln | (402) 477 - 6951
www.saintpaulumc.org



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— UNITED METHODIST CHURCH —