

FALL 2024 **ADULT
EDUCATION**



SUNDAY CLASSES

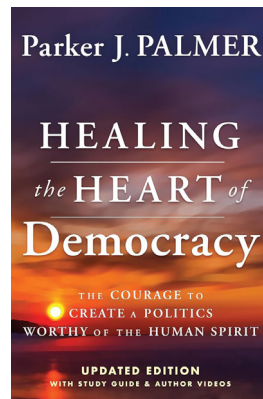
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

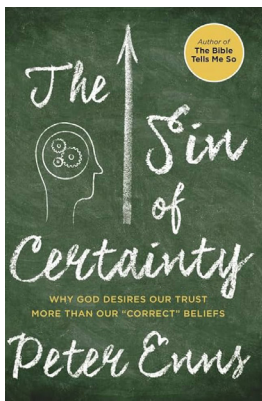
Starting September 15, 8:30 a.m.

Cannon Room, Ministries Center, and via Zoom

This longstanding Sunday morning class is led by the Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray. This fall, the class will be reading Parker Palmer's book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*. Palmer writes about what we can do to restore civil discourse, reach for understanding across lines of difference, and focus on our shared values. He explores ways we can reweave the communal fabric on which democracy depends in everyday settings such as families, neighborhoods, classrooms, congregations, workplaces, and various public spaces. For information about joining the class, receiving the Zoom link, and purchasing a book, contact Paul MacMurray at katrmac2@icloud.com.



8:45 A.M.



FILLING THE WELL

Starting September 22, 8:45 a.m.

Children's Library, Education Building

This Sunday morning class for women will study local scholar Peter Enns' book, *The Sin of Certainty: Why God Desires Our Trust More than Our Correct Beliefs*. Enns offers a model of vibrant faith that views skepticism not as a loss of belief but as an opportunity to deepen religious conviction with courage and confidence. The book models an acceptance of mystery and paradox that all believers can follow. This class is led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick. For information about joining the class and to reserve a copy of the book, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org.

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

October 13, 20, 27, November 3, and 10, 8:45 a.m.

Gloucester Room, Ministries Center

This five-week study will be guided by Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic book, *Life Together*. Published in 1939, it was written during his time directing an underground seminary in Nazi Germany, reflecting his experiences and emphasizing the importance of Christian community amidst persecution. The book is significant for its profound insights into Christian fellowship, discipleship, and the spiritual practices that sustain believers in times of societal and political turmoil. This class is led by the Rev. Dick Wohlschlaeger. To purchase a copy of the book for \$10, visit <https://bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup>, or contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org.



SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

FACES OF RESILIENCE - GALLERY TALK

September 15, 11:30 a.m.

Gallery and Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

William Perthes, Director of Adult Education at The Barnes Foundation, and alongside Mural Arts Philadelphia, has curated our first exhibit of the fall, Faces of Resilience. Perthes will first meet participants in the Gallery to walk through the exhibit. The class will then move to the Fullerton Room for a more formal presentation on the workshops in which the art is created, the experiences of men incarcerated at SCI Phoenix, and the work of restorative justice.



PURPLE DOCUMENTARY & CONVERSATION

September 22, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

As we approach the fall elections, we will begin a series of conversations by viewing and discussing the documentary *Purple: A Short Film Uncovering the Humanity Beneath Our National Conflicts*. Filmed in rural Wisconsin and Iowa – in a swing region within two bordering swing states – Purple presents a rare political conversation that uplifts, provokes, and

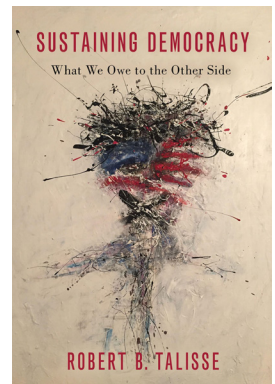
inspires while going toward the heat of passionate political differences. Following the 20-minute film, we will engage in large group and table conversations facilitated by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick about how to engage in dialogue with one another and our loved ones.

SUSTAINING DEMOCRACY CONVERSATION

September 29, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

As we look forward to learning from Robert Talisse, our fall Community Forum Speaker on Sept. 30 at 7 p.m., all are invited to a conversation this Sunday morning on selected portions of his compelling book, *Sustaining Democracy: What We Owe the Other Side*. In both large group and table conversations facilitated by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick, we will explore concepts around citizenship, good-faith disagreement, and polarization. To receive a paper or digital copy of the book's introduction and chapter 2, contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org.



SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.



JOINING HANDS PERU – MISSION TRIP REPORTS

October 6, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

Join participants from the Spring Study Trip and Summer Youth Work trip to Peru as they share about the work of Joining Hands Peru and reflect on their personal experiences. As BMPC continues in our long-term commitment to the activists, community members, youth, and faith leaders in Lima and LaOroya, we are called to learn and engage as an entire congregation around the challenges and possibilities in their work of environmental activism and creation care.

LEADERSHIP IN LOWER MERION

October 13, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

As part of our fall conversations around dialogue and relationships across differences, this Sunday, we will be in conversation with Lower Merion Township Commissioners Scott Zelov and Shawn Kraemer. They will discuss leading together for the future and well-being of the Lower Merion Community, despite political differences. Both commissioners provided leadership in the development of the LM Code Blue Shelter last winter, and we will discuss ongoing and potential ways that we can all work together for the common good.



NAVIGATING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

October 20, 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center
Lunch Provided

Navigating Difficult Conversations is a workshop to help develop skills for engaging productively with sensitive and challenging topics. Learn how to conduct yourself so that conversations, even around divisive subjects, can be opportunities to build understanding

rather than occasions that deepen conflict. Discover how your own opinions and triggers influence your ability to enter into conversation with integrity and objectivity. Cultivate strategies for honest and authentic exchanges, whether at home or in the workplace, in order to invite meaningful dialogue that doesn't lead to friction. This 90-minute workshop is sponsored by Interfaith Philadelphia and co-facilitated by Dr. Tiffenia Archie, Associate Vice President and Chief Inclusion Officer at Temple University, and Barbara Hirsh, retired sociologist and Jewish communal professional. **LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.** Please register with JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org to help us plan for food.

SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

BMPC SANCTUARY CHOIR TOUR TO FRANCE

October 27, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

Join us in learning more about the Sanctuary Choir's tour to France in June of 2025. Amanda Bauman from our tour company, ACFEA, will provide tour details, including destinations, venues, and performances, and answer questions about travel and accommodations. It is a longstanding tradition that trip participants include both singers and non-singing friends of the choir. More information, EdwardLandinSenn@bmpc.org.

IN UNISON: CELEBRATING COMMONALITIES, BRIDGING DIFFERENCES

November 24, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

For the final session in our fall series on being in conversations across boundaries, we will be joined by cellist Udi Bar David. Udi has played with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra for over 30 years but also creates opportunities for open dialogues, bringing people from different cultural backgrounds together at universities, public venues, and peace-loving communities. His unique genre of cross-cultural music has been heard all over the world. In his time with us, Udi will both perform and share his experiences with how music can bridge our differences.



ARDMORE FOOD PANTRY PRESENTATION

November 10, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

As a part of an emerging focus on meeting the needs of our neighbors here in Lower Merion Township, BMPC's mission relationship with the Ardmore Food Pantry has deepened and expanded as we better understand how to support our local community. This morning, we will hear from AFP's Executive Director, Beth Tiewater, as she shares the pantry's work, the ways they are growing through our partnership, and what Beth has identified as the emerging needs among our neighbors.

LOOKING ALONG ADVENT: C. S. LEWIS & A CHRISTIAN VISION OF TODAY'S WORLD

December 8, 15, 22, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

C.S. Lewis, known for his works on Christian apologetics and the beloved *Chronicles of Narnia* series, significantly influenced 20th-century literature and theological thought, blending imaginative storytelling with profound philosophical and religious insights. In the season of Advent, Dr. Steven Boyer of Eastern University will explore how Lewis's theology and insights can inform our understanding and experience of Advent. Each week, Dr. Boyer will lead us through a different aspect of Lewis's theology.



WEDNESDAY CLASSES

10:00 A.M.

COFFEE CUP BIBLE STUDY

Starting September 18, 10:00 a.m.
Cannon Room, Ministries Center &
via Zoom

This weekly Bible Study brings together women of all ages to read and reflect on scripture – what it has meant for communities in the past and how it speaks to us as individuals, as women, and as a church today. This fall, the group will be studying the books often described as the Catholic Epistles, the seven letters in the New Testament, written to a general (catholic) audience rather than specific congregations. This class will continue to meet in a hybrid format. Sponsored by BMPC's Presbyterian Women, this class is led by the Rev. Rachel Pedersen. For more information about joining the class, contact RachelPedersen@bmpc.org.

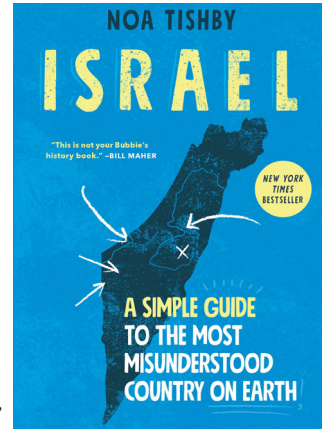


MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

2nd and 4th Wednesdays,
Starting September 11, 10:00 a.m.
Converse House Parlor, Ministries
Center

All men are welcome to join this in-person study and discussion group that meets twice a month throughout the program year. This fall, we will read and discuss Noa Tishby's *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood*

Country on Earth. Although the book was written before the current war with Hamas in Gaza, it gives background on Israel's history and challenges to help us understand a common Israeli mindset. The group will be led by the Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill. To register and to find out how to purchase the book, contact KirbyLHill@bmpc.org.



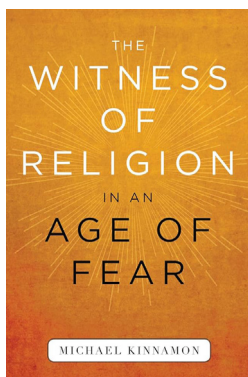
THURSDAY CLASS

10:00 A.M.

THURSDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

September 19 through October 24, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

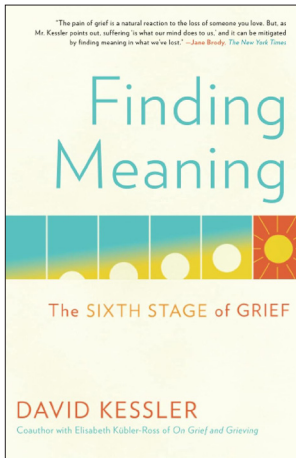
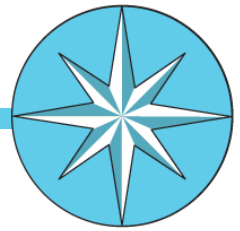
Led by the Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill, this fully online book discussion group will focus on how our religious resources can address the public and private fears that can dominate our and our society's life. This fall, we will spend five weeks on Michael Kinnamon's book, *The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear*. Join the discussion as we explore how fear dominates our public focus, and how our Christian faith as well as other faiths guide us in the public arena. To register, email KirbyLHill@bmpc.org; Purchase the book at <https://bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup> for \$10.



EVENING CLASSES

SPONSORED BY MIDDLETON COUNSELING

7:00 P.M.



FINDING MEANING: THE SIXTH STAGE OF GRIEF

Mondays, October 7, 14, 21, 28 , 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

In 1969, Elisabeth Kübler Ross first identified the stages of dying in her transformative book *On Death and Dying*. Decades later, she and David Kessler wrote the classic *On Grief and Grieving*, introducing the stages of grief with the same transformative pragmatism and compassion. Now, based on hard-earned personal experiences, as well as knowledge and wisdom earned through decades of work with the grieving, Kessler introduces a critical sixth stage – *Finding Meaning*. Spiritual director Patricia Danzon will bring a spiritual perspective to the sessions as we explore this book. To register, contact KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.

MEDITATION SAMPLER

Wednesday, October 9, 23; November 6, 13, 7:00 p.m.
Witherspoon Parlor, Ministries Center

This four-part series will be taught by Deacon and coach Terry Charlton and will be a class to demystify meditation and make it accessible for people. The class will be taught and guided through an ecumenical approach to breath work, meditation, and mindfulness. Both lecture and practicum will be included in the class work. To register, contact KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.



CONNECTING TO TEACHERS, CLASSES & GROUPS!

If you need additional information about participating in Adult Education here at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, please reach out to JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org.

To purchase a book for classes this fall, use this QR Code to visit our book pick-up page. While some facilitators ask participants to buy a book on their own, any book available to buy directly from BMPC is sold for \$10.00



EVENING CLASSES

7:00 P.M.

JOIN OR DIE: A FILM ABOUT WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN A CLUB... AND WHY THE FATE OF AMERICA DEPENDS ON IT.

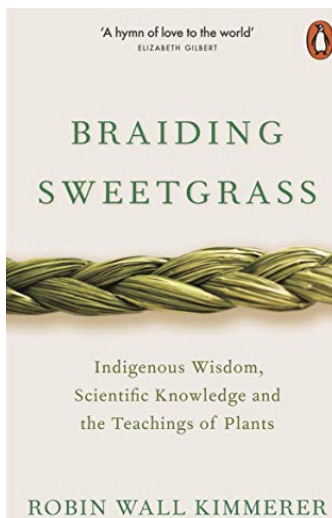
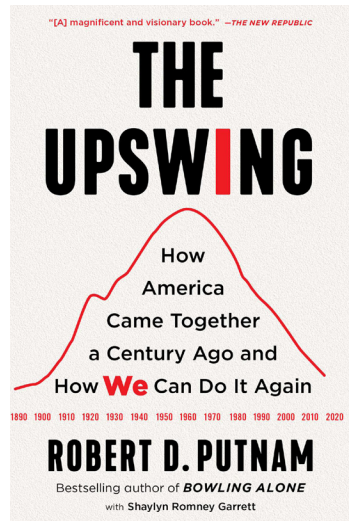
Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.
Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

In conjunction with our discussion of Putnam's book *The Upswing* on October 30th, we will also be screening the new documentary featuring Putnam. The film follows the half-century story of America's civic unraveling through the lens of his research. The 90-minute film explores three urgent civic questions: What makes democracy work? Why is American democracy in crisis? And, most importantly, what can we do about it?

PASTORS' BOOK GROUP – THE UPSWING

Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 p.m.
Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Join the Rev. Dr. Agnes Norfleet for a discussion of Robert Putnam's most recent book – *The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again*. This book represents a capstone to Putnam's illustrious career as the sociologist and political scientist who helped us all come to understand the incredible value of connections across the community and the building of social capital. Visit <https://bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup> to purchase a copy of the book for \$10.



BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

Mondays, November 4, 11, 18, 7:00 p.m.
Witherspoon Parlor, Ministries Center

Join this three-week conversation on Robin Wall Kimmerer's striking book, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, as we examine our call as people of faith to be engaged in the work of Environmental Justice. This conversation will be led by Dr. Joshua Yoder who will help the class make connections to the ways that biblical wisdom on creation care connects with Kimmerer's writings. Visit <https://bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup> to purchase a copy of the book for \$10. To register for the class, contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org.