

WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ADULT MINISTRIES  
MONTHLY MEETING  
Thursday, April 9, 2015  
7:45 p.m.

Minutes

- I. Devotion/Prayer Meeting was opened by Ed Tobia. In attendance were Rev. Keith Uffman, Michael Cooper, John Dewey, Mary Lawrence and Tony Le Cara. Team Reports
  - a. Small Group Ministry
    - i. No update
  - b. Other Than Sunday School
    - i. Pastor Keith has proposed and the committee accepted the attached plan for evening adult education.
  - c. Library/Resources.
    - i. No update
  - d. Sunday School. The upcoming Adult Education calendar was discussed and approved as attached.
  - e. Women's Retreat. No update.
  - f. Sisters in Faith. continue to meet with the current pairings.
- II. The meeting adjourned with prayer

# January 2015

[Feb 2015 >>](#)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 2014	28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31	1	2	3
<i>Cycling Thru the Lectionary Class &amp; the Parenting Class ongoing during the year (Sun a.m.)</i>							
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Week 1</b>							
<b>Adam Hamilton</b>							
<b>The Line Between Good and Evil</b>							
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Week 2</b>							
<b>Adam Hamilton</b>							
<b>The Line Between Good and Evil</b>							
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Week 3</b>							
<b>Adam Hamilton</b>							
<b>The Line Between Good and Evil</b>							
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Week 4</b>							
<b>Adam Hamilton</b>							
<b>The Line Between Good and Evil</b>							

**NOTES:** Adam Hamilton's DVD Sermon Series titled, "The Line Between Good and Evil." Six sermons on DVD.

**Topics:** The Struggle, Making Sense of the Devil, Systemic Evil, Seven Deadly Sins, Evil in the Name of God, Evil's Ultimate Defeat

# February 2015

[<< Jan 2015](#)

[Mar 2015 >>](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>WINTER</b> 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Week 5						
Adam Hamilton						
The Line Between Good and Evil						
<b>WINTER</b> 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Week 6						
Adam Hamilton						
The Line Between Good and Evil						
<b>WINTER</b> 15	16	17	<b>ASH WED</b> 18	19	20	21
Week 7						
Adam Hamilton						
The Line Between Good and Evil						
<b>LENT</b> 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Week 1						
"Living Into Lent" Donald McKim Study						

**NOTES:** Lent Study: "Living Into Lent" Donald McKim  
 Six Session Study: On Christian identity, God's Word and will, practices that deepen the Christian experience through discipleship.

# March 2015

[<< Feb 2015](#)

[Apr 2015 >>](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LENT</b> 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Week 2						
"Living Into Lent" Donald McKim Study						
<b>LENT</b> 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Week 3						
"Living Into Lent" Donald McKim Study						
<b>LENT</b> 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Week 4						
"Living Into Lent" Donald McKim Study						
<b>LENT</b> 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Week 5						
"Living Into Lent" Donald McKim Study						
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 29	30	31	NOTES:			
Week 6		Joy Connections				
"Living Into Lent" Donald McKim Study		Laying Down the Sword				
		Keith Leading				

# April 2015

<< Mar 2015

May 2015 >>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	1	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY	3 GOOD FRIDAY	4
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 5	6 Joy Connections Laying Down the Sword Keith Leading	7	8	9	10	11
<b>SPRING</b> 12 Week 1 Wired Word	13 Joy Connections Laying Down the Sword Keith Leading	14	15	16	17	18
<b>SPRING</b> 19 Week 2 Wired Word	20 Joy Connections Laying Down the Sword Keith Leading	21	22	23 Science & Religion in Quest of Truth Keith Leading	24	25
<b>SPRING</b> 26 Social Justice Series Week 1 - Family Promise	27 Joy Connections Laying Down the Sword Keith Leading	28	29	30 Science & Religion in Quest of Truth Keith Leading	May 1	May 2

**NOTES:** Social Justice Series topics and speakers to be determined by Mission Committee

Wired Word used for Apr 12 & 19 as filler ahead of Social Justice programs beginning last Sunday in April

# May 2015

<< Apr 2015

Jun 2015 >>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	Apr 31	1	2
<b>SPRING</b> 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>SOCIAL JUSTICE SERIES</b>		<b>Joy Connections</b>		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>		
<b>Week 2 - Free the Captives</b>		<b>Laying Down the Sword</b>		<b>in Quest of Truth</b>		
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		Keith Leading		Keith Leading		
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am						
<b>SPRING MOTHERS DAY</b> 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>SOCIAL JUSTICE SERIES</b>		<b>Joy Connections</b>		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>		
<b>Week 3 - Child Migrant</b>		<b>Laying Down the Sword</b>		<b>in Quest of Truth</b>		
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		Keith Leading		Keith Leading		
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am						
<b>SPRING</b> 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>SOCIAL JUSTICE SERIES</b>		<b>Joy Connections</b>		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>		
<b>Week 4 - Communities in Schools</b>		<b>Laying Down the Sword</b>		<b>in Quest of Truth</b>		
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		Keith Leading		Keith Leading		
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am						
<b>SPRING PENTECOST</b> 24	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> 25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Educational Breakfast or Asset Mapping ???</b>		<b>Joy Connections</b>		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>		
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		<b>Laying Down the Sword</b>		<b>in Quest of Truth</b>		
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		Keith Leading		Keith Leading		
<b>SUMMER</b> 31	<b>NOTES:</b>					
<b>Discovering the Psalms</b>	Big Questions for Quizzical People (Seekers Group) - Keith leading - May 3rd thru end of Aug					
<b>Kerygma Series - Tony LeCara Leadin</b>						
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>	May 31 - Start new Kerygma 7 session series titled, "Discovering the Psalms." ---- Tony LaCara leading					
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am	Topics include: Overview, Poetry, God's People, Sacred History, Trust, Lament, Praise.					

# June 2015

<< May 2015

Jul 2015 >>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>SUMMER</b> 1	1	2	3	4	5	6
Discovering the Psalms		<b>Joy Connections</b>				
<b>Kerygma Series</b> - Tony LeCara Leading		<b>Laying Down the Sword</b>				
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		Keith Leading				
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am						
<b>SUMMER</b> 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Discovering the Psalms		<b>Joy Connections</b>				
<b>Kerygma Series</b> - Tony LeCara Leading		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>				
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		in Quest of Truth				
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		Keith Leading				
<b>SUMMER</b> 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Discovering the Psalms		<b>Joy Connections</b>				
<b>Kerygma Series</b> - Tony LeCara Leading		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>				
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		in Quest of Truth				
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		Keith Leading				
<b>SUMMER</b> 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Discovering the Psalms		<b>Joy Connections</b>				
<b>Kerygma Series</b> - Tony LeCara Leading		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>				
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		in Quest of Truth				
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		Keith Leading				
<b>SUMMER</b> 28	29	30	NOTES:			
Discovering the Psalms		<b>Joy Connections</b>				
<b>Kerygma Series</b> - Tony LeCara Leading		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>				
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		in Quest of Truth				
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		Keith Leading				

# July 2015

<< Jun 2015

Aug 2015 >>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 28	Jun 29	Jun 30	1	2	3	4
9						
<b>SUMMER</b> 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Discovering the Psalms</b>		<b>Joy Connections</b>				
<b>Kerygma Series - Tony LeCara Leadin</b>		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>				
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		<b>in Quest of Truth</b>				
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		Keith Leading				
<b>SUMMER</b> 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>Science &amp; Religion: Painting the Stars</b>		<b>Joy Connections</b>				
Sun. a.m.		<b>Science &amp; Religion</b>				
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>		<b>in Quest of Truth</b>				
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		Keith Leading				
<b>Good Reads Wine &amp; Cheese Bookclub</b>						
Keith Leading 7-9 pm						
<b>SUMMER</b> 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>Science &amp; Religion: Painting the Stars</b>						
Sun. a.m.						
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>						
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am						
<b>SUMMER</b> 26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
<b>Science &amp; Religion: Painting the Stars</b>						
Sun. a.m.						
<b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b>						
Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am						

**NOTES:** Science & Religion: Painting the Stars trial course

# August 2015

<< Jul 2015

Sep 2015 >>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 26	Jul 27	Jul 28	Jul 29	Jul 30	Jul 31	1
<b>SUMMER</b> 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Science &amp; Religion: Painting the Stars</b> Sun. a.m. <b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b> Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		<b>Joy Connections</b> <b>The Sunflower: On the Possibilities &amp; Limits of Forgiveness</b> Keith Leading				
<b>SUMMER</b> 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Science &amp; Religion: Painting the Stars</b> Sun. a.m. <b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b> Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		<b>Joy Connections</b> <b>The Sunflower: On the Possibilities &amp; Limits of Forgiveness</b> Keith Leading				
<b>SUMMER</b> 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>Science &amp; Religion: Painting the Stars</b> Sun. a.m. <b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b> Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		<b>Joy Connections</b> <b>The Sunflower: On the Possibilities &amp; Limits of Forgiveness</b> Keith Leading				
<b>SUMMER</b> 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>Science &amp; Religion: Painting the Stars</b> Sun. a.m. <b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b> Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am		<b>Joy Connections</b> <b>The Sunflower: On the Possibilities &amp; Limits of Forgiveness</b> Keith Leading				
<b>SUMMER</b> 30	31	Sep 1	Sep 2	Sep 3	Sep 4	Sep 5
<b>Science &amp; Religion: Painting the Stars</b> Sun. a.m. <b>Big Questions for Quizzical People</b> Keith Leading 10:10-11:10 am						
<b>NOTES:</b>						

# September 2015

[<< Aug 2015](#)

[Oct 2015 >>](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 30	Aug 31	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Educational Breakfast</b> 6	<b>LABOR DAY</b> 7	8	9	10	11	12
		<b>Joy Connections</b>		<b>Going Home: Jesus &amp;</b>		
		<b>Lamentations: A</b>		<b>Buddha as Brothers:</b>		
		<b>Conversation in Ethics</b>		<b>A Study in Ethics</b>		
		Keith Leading		Keith Leading		
<b>RALLY DAY</b> 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>Good Reads Wine &amp; Cheese Bookclub</b>	<b>Quizzical Christians</b>	<b>Joy Connections</b>		<b>Going Home: Jesus &amp;</b>		
Keith Leading 7-9 pm	<b>The History of</b>	<b>Lamentations: A</b>		<b>Buddha as Brothers:</b>		
	<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Conversation in Ethics</b>		<b>A Study in Ethics</b>		
	Keith leading	Keith Leading		Keith Leading		
<b>FALL</b> 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Animate: Faith</b>	<b>Quizzical Christians</b>	<b>Joy Connections</b>		<b>Going Home: Jesus &amp;</b>		
Sun. a.m.	<b>The History of</b>	<b>Lamentations: A</b>		<b>Buddha as Brothers:</b>		
	<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Conversation in Ethics</b>		<b>A Study in Ethics</b>		
	Keith leading	Keith Leading		Keith Leading		
<b>FALL</b> 27	28	29	30	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3
<b>Animate: Faith</b>	<b>Quizzical Christians</b>	<b>Joy Connections</b>				
Sun. a.m.	<b>The History of</b>	<b>Lamentations: A</b>				
	<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Conversation in Ethics</b>				
	Keith leading	Keith Leading				

**NOTES:** Animate Series to be team led

# October 2015

[<< Sep 2015](#)

[Nov 2015 >>](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 27	Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30	1	2	3
				Going Home: Jesus & Buddha as Brothers: A Study in Ethics Keith Leading		
<b>FALL WORLD COMMUNION SUN.</b> 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mission Speaker	Quizzical Christians The History of Christianity Keith leading	Joy Connections In Defense of Civility Keith Leading		Going Home: Jesus & Buddha as Brothers: A Study in Ethics Keith Leading		
<b>FALL</b> 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Animate: Faith Sun. a.m.	Quizzical Christians The History of Christianity Keith leading	Joy Connections In Defense of Civility Keith Leading		Going Home: Jesus & Buddha as Brothers: A Study in Ethics Keith Leading		
<b>FALL</b> 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Animate: Faith Sun. a.m.	Quizzical Christians The History of Christianity Keith leading	Joy Connections In Defense of Civility Keith Leading		Going Home: Jesus & Buddha as Brothers: A Study in Ethics Keith Leading		
<b>FALL REFORMATION SUN.</b> 25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Kirking (Remembering our Scottish heritage)	Quizzical Christians The History of Christianity Keith leading	Joy Connections In Defense of Civility Keith Leading		Going Home: Jesus & Buddha as Brothers: A Study in Ethics Keith Leading		

**NOTES:** Keith to obtain Mission Speaker for World Communion Sunday and making arrangements for Kirking on Reformation Sunday

# November 2015

<< Oct 2015

Dec 2015 >>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>FALL</b> 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Animate: Faith</b> Sun. a.m.	<b>Quizzical Christians</b> <b>The History of Christianity</b> Keith leading	<b>Joy Connections</b> <b>In Defense of Civility</b> Keith Leading		<b>Going Home: Jesus &amp; Buddha as Brothers:</b> <b>A Study in Ethics</b> Keith Leading		<b>Civil Discourse ??</b> 4 hr afternoon
<b>FALL</b> 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Animate: Faith</b> Sun. a.m.	<b>Quizzical Christians</b> <b>The History of Christianity</b> Keith leading	<b>Joy Connections</b> <b>In Defense of Civility</b> Keith Leading		<b>Going Home: Jesus &amp; Buddha as Brothers:</b> <b>A Study in Ethics</b> Keith Leading		<b>Civil Discourse ??</b> 4 hr afternoon
<b>FALL</b> 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Animate: Faith</b> Sun. a.m.	<b>Quizzical Christians</b> <b>The History of Christianity</b> Keith leading	<b>Joy Connections</b> <b>In Defense of Civility</b> Keith Leading				
<b>Good Reads Wine &amp; Cheese Bookclub</b> Keith Leading 7-9 pm						
<b>FALL</b> 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>Animate: Faith</b> Sun. a.m.	<b>Quizzical Christians</b> <b>The History of Christianity</b> Keith leading			<b>THANKSGIVING</b>		
<b>ADVENT</b> 29	30	NOTES: Tony to talk to Cassandra Dahnke and Tomas Spath (Institute for Civility in Government)				
	<b>Quizzical Christians</b>	about conducting a Civil Discourse class on either Nov. 7th or 14th				
	<b>The History of Christianity</b>	to be a 4 hour class on Saturday and possibly an additional hour on Sunday??				
	Keith leading					

# December 2015

[<< Nov 2015](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 1	Nov 2	1	2	3	4	5
<b>ADVENT</b> 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Quizzical Christians					
	The History of Christianity					
	Keith leading					
<b>ADVENT</b> 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Quizzical Christians					
	The History of Christianity					
	Keith leading					
<b>ADVENT</b> 20	21	22	23	24	<b>CHRISTMAS</b> 25	26
<b>EDUCATIONAL BREAKFAST</b> 27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	Jan 2

**NOTES:**  
 2016 Lent: Ash Wed 2/10 and Easter 3/27

# Adult Class Schedule

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Schedule for Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

April - December 2015

## Christian Education

### Quizzical Christians on Monday nights

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The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation

Teacher: Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson Ph.D., Emory University

Discussion Leader: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

This **Great Courses** program a survey of the rise of Christianity from the time of Jesus until the dawn of the Reformation. Each week the class will listen *up to two* 30-minute video lectures offered by Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson. Keith Uffman will lead *up to a* 30-minute discussion after each video and provide resources for further study.

Dates: Monday, September 7, 2015 - December 14, 2015

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location:

Cost: \$25 for materials

Students limited to 15

### Joy Connection Class on Tuesday mornings

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Laying Down the Sword: Why We Cannot Ignore the Bible's Violent Verses

Teacher: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

This course will focus on the violent texts of the Bible and the Qur'an. A comparison and contrast will be made between the usage of the texts by Christians, Jews, and Muslims. An effort will be made to draw on the news of day.

Dates: March 31 - June 2, 2015

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 am

Location: Meeting Room

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## Science and Religion in Quest of Truth

Teacher: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

This course is a survey of all major issues at the intersection of science and religion. Clearly and without assuming prior knowledge, Dr. Uffman will address causality, cosmology, evolution, consciousness, natural theology, divine purpose, revelation, and scripture. The material will be gleaned from the works of John Polkinghorne, a recipient of the Templeton Prize for Science and Religion; Alistair McGrath, and Richard Dawkins, one of the so called New Atheists.

Dates: June 9 - July 14, 2015

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 am

Location: Meeting Room

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## The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness

Teacher: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

The intent of the course is to focus sharply on the ethics of forgiveness and reconciliation. **The Sunflower** is a book on the Holocaust by *Simon Wiesenthal*. He reminisces his experience with a terminally wounded Nazi. The book recounts Wiesenthal's experience in the Lemberg concentration camp and discusses the moral ethics of the matter. The title comes from Wiesenthal's observation of a German military cemetery, seeing a sunflower on each grave, and fearing his own placement in an un-marked, mass grave. The book's second half is a symposium of answers from various people, including Holocaust survivors and former Nazis. The book was originally published in France.

Dates: August 4 - 25, 2015

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 am

Location: Meeting Room

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## Lamentations: A Conversation in Ethics

Teacher: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

How human beings might seek moral and theological wisdom today from this account Old Testament text will be the goal. We will work with a book written by well-known Harvard theologian *Harvey Cox*, who draws on a wide array of sources in his commentary on Lamentations— including poetry, novels, films, paintings, and photography—to offer a contemporary theological reading that is provocative and sure to stir numerous theological reflections and responses.

Dates: September 8 -29, 2015

Time: 10;30 - 11:30 am

Location: Meeting Room

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## In Defense of Civility: How Religion Can Unite America on Seven Moral Issues that Divide Us

Teacher: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

The goal of this course is focus on civil discourse. From "the big four" (abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, and stem-cell research) to war, poverty, and the environment, this timely book considers religion's impact on moral debates in America's past and present. *James Calvin Davis* argues for religion's potential to enrich both the content and the civility of public conversation. This book will interest all concerned citizens yearning for more careful thinking about the role of religion in public debate.

Dates: October 6 - November 17, 2015

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 am

Location: Meeting Room

## Short Courses on Thursday nights

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### Science and Religion in Quest of Truth

Teacher: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

This course is a survey of all major issues at the intersection of science and religion. Clearly and without assuming prior knowledge, Dr. Uffman will address causality, cosmology, evolution, consciousness, natural theology, divine purpose, revelation, and scripture. The material will be gleaned from the works of John Polkinghorne, a recipient of the Templeton Prize for Science and Religion; Alistair McGrath, and Richard Dawkins, one of the so called New Atheists.

Dates: April 23 - May 28, 2015

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: To be announced

Cost: \$25 for materials

Class limit is 15

Recommended reading:

Polkinghorne, John, *Exploring Reality: The Intertwining of Science and Religion* (Yale University Press: New Haven, 2005)

Polkinghorne, John, *Science and Religion in Quest of Truth* (Yale University Press: New Haven, 2011)

Alistair McGrath, *Surprised By Meaning: Science, Faith, and How We Make Sense of Things* (WJK Press: Louisville, 2011)

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## Going Home: Jesus and Buddha as Brothers: A Study in Ethics

Teacher: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

This course is a primer in both Christian and Buddhist ethics. We will consider similarities and differences in the ethics of these two historic world religions. A central question will be to ponder how insights from another world religion can enhance and expand one's commitment to the way of Jesus.

Date: September 10 - November 12, 2015

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: To be announced

Cost \$25 for materials

Class limit is 15

Recommended reading:

Thich Nhat Hanh, *Living Buddha, Living Christ* (Penguin: New York, 2005)

Thich Nhat Hahn, *Going Home: Jesus and Buddha as Brothers* (Penguin Putnam: New York, 1999)

Hauerwas, Stanley and Wells, Samuel, ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics* (Blackwell Publishers: Oxford, England, 2006)

# Christian Formation and Living

## Goodreads Wine and Cheese Book Club on Sundays

Every two months the Uffmans invite you to their home for an opportunity for fellowship, along with wine and cheese and other snacks, to reflect on highly rated books noted by *The Christian Century*, *Christianity Today*, or *Books and Culture*. The books will be selected for readability and for a focus on spirituality. Most will be short in length. The selection will vary in accordance with the Webster vision statement. The evening is intended as a way to explore conversationally important themes that relate to God and the quality of our living. The time is not meant to be academic. Rather the goal will be to share in a thoughtful but light-hearted way.

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Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular Age

by Dr. Henri Houwen

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6151.Life\\_of\\_the\\_Beloved](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6151.Life_of_the_Beloved)

Initially written for a Jewish friend, *Life of the Beloved* has become Henri Nouwen's greatest legacy to Christians around the world. This sincere testimony of the power and invitation of Christ is indeed a great guide to a truly uplifting spiritual life in today's world.

Date: July 12, 2015

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Location: TBA

Cost: \$10 for food and drinks

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## Teach Us to Want: Longing, Ambition & the Life of Faith

by Jen Pollock Michel

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20263179-teach-us-to-want?from\\_search=true](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20263179-teach-us-to-want?from_search=true)

2015 Christianity Today Book of the Year! As Christians, we're squeamish about desire. Isn't wanting sinful and selfish? Aren't we supposed to find and follow God's will rather than insisting upon our own? The story of each person is a story of want desires unmet, hopes dashed, passions pursued and ambitions fulfilled. Our wants cannot be ignored. But when desire is informed by Scripture and re-formed by our spiritual practices, it can root us more deeply in the fundamental belief that God is good and generous and can invite us into active kingdom participation. Jen Pollock Michel guides us on a journey of understanding who we are when we want, and reintroduces us to a God who gives us the desires of our hearts. That same good God calls us into a new reality in which we seek first his kingdom and righteousness, and we discover our disordered desires burned away while our truest longings are happily fulfilled and purified. The disciples asked Jesus to "Teach us to pray." This book asks, "Teach us to want."

Date: September 13, 2015

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Location: TBA

Cost: \$10 for food and drinks

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## My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer

by Christian Wiman, Yale Divinity School, former head of The Poetry Foundation

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15793626-my-bright-abyss>

Seven years ago, Christian Wiman, a well-known poet and the editor of *Poetry* magazine, wrote a now-famous essay about having faith in the face of death. *My Bright Abyss*, composed in the difficult years since and completed in the wake of a bone marrow transplant, is a moving meditation on what a viable contemporary faith—responsive not only to modern thought and science but also to religious tradition—might look like.

Joyful, sorrowful, and beautifully written, *My Bright Abyss* is destined to become a spiritual classic, useful not only to believers but to anyone whose experience of life and art seems at times to overbrim its boundaries. How do we answer this “burn of being”? Wiman asks. What might it mean for our lives—and for our deaths—if we acknowledge the “insistent, persistent ghost” that some of us call God?

Date: November 15, 2015

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Location: TBA

Cost \$10 for food and drinks

## Sunday morning conversations

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Sacred Space: Group Spiritual Direction and Conversation

Go daily to: <http://www.sacredspace.ie>

Spiritual Director: Dr. Keith Alan Uffman

Time: 10:10 - 11:10 am

Dates: May 3 - June 14, 2015,

Required: Participants will develop a daily, though not slavish, practice of spiritual formation by using the guided reflection offered by the Irish Jesuits at the Sacred Space site. On Sunday mornings Dr. Uffman will aid in group spiritual direction by working communally with the Sunday morning reflection.

The book can be purchased at Amazon at the link book. Since not all enjoy doing spiritual work online, the text prefers a more familiar format. (Dr. Uffman prefers the text to online.)

<http://www.amazon.com/Sacred-Space-Prayer-Book-2015/dp/1594715661>

Sacred Space is inspired by the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, a sixteenth-century Basque, whose insights into God's working with the human heart have been of great assistance to countless people over the centuries and are found more helpful than ever today.

Sacred Space is a work of the Irish Province of the Society of Jesus - the Jesuits. The site originated in the offices of the Jesuit Communication Centre in Ireland in 1999. Within a short time, many other languages were introduced.

### Using Sacred Space

It might seem strange to pray at your computer, in front of a screen or using your smartphone, especially if there are other people around you, or distracting noises. But God is everywhere, all around us, constantly reaching out to us, even in the most unlikely situations. When we know this, and with a bit of practice, we can pray anywhere!

We offer the pages of the site to guide you through a session of prayer, in six stages, including preparing your body and mind, and culminating in reflection on a scripture passage chosen specially for the day.

The stages are:

- The Presence of God
- Freedom
- Consciousness
- The Word
- Conversation
- Conclusion

Although they are written in the first person - "I" - the prayers are for doing, rather than for reading out. Each stage is a kind of exercise or meditation aimed at helping you get in touch with God, and God's presence in your life.