

Papers

To Whom Much is Given: "Nice" White Ladies and the Work of Liberation

Amy Bowers

The Christian scriptures repeatedly call the followers of Jesus to do nothing out of selfish ambition and choose the lowest place at the table. Many white Christian women like me have learned these lessons too well, consistently deferring to others and seeking the lowest seat at the table. However, we live in a world where our places are largely assigned, determined by our identities and the circumstances into which we were born. By fleeing from places of influence that we might occupy, we abdicate responsibility to challenge the unjust systems from which we benefit. Joining in the working of liberation will mean repenting of the ways in which we have allowed ourselves to be silenced and learning to translate our privilege into the agency to work alongside our sisters of color to ensure that all of our neighbors have a place at the table.

Expanding Intersectionality: Thinking Species for Creaturely Co-Liberation

Nekeisha Alexis

Since Kimberlé Crenshaw published her work, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics," the framework known as intersectionality has re-shaped the way theorists and scholars of various disciplines and backgrounds, including theologians, have analyzed systems of oppression and conceived of ways to resist them. However, in recent years, another wave of thinkers and practitioners have challenged the anthropocentrism of intersectionality and advocated for an expansion of the analysis to include an often overlooked dynamic of racial, gender and other forms of oppression: that of animality and species. Building on the work of critical race and critical animal scholars like Aph and Syl Ko and Claire Jean Kim, this talk will demonstrate why liberation for "every body" demands re-conceiving and relating to other animals beyond Enlightenment and colonial schemas. It will also demonstrate how Christ's reconciling work in the world already supports this realignment toward new futures with one another and our creaturely kin.

Teaching Peace: Collaborating on a Book for Students and Activists

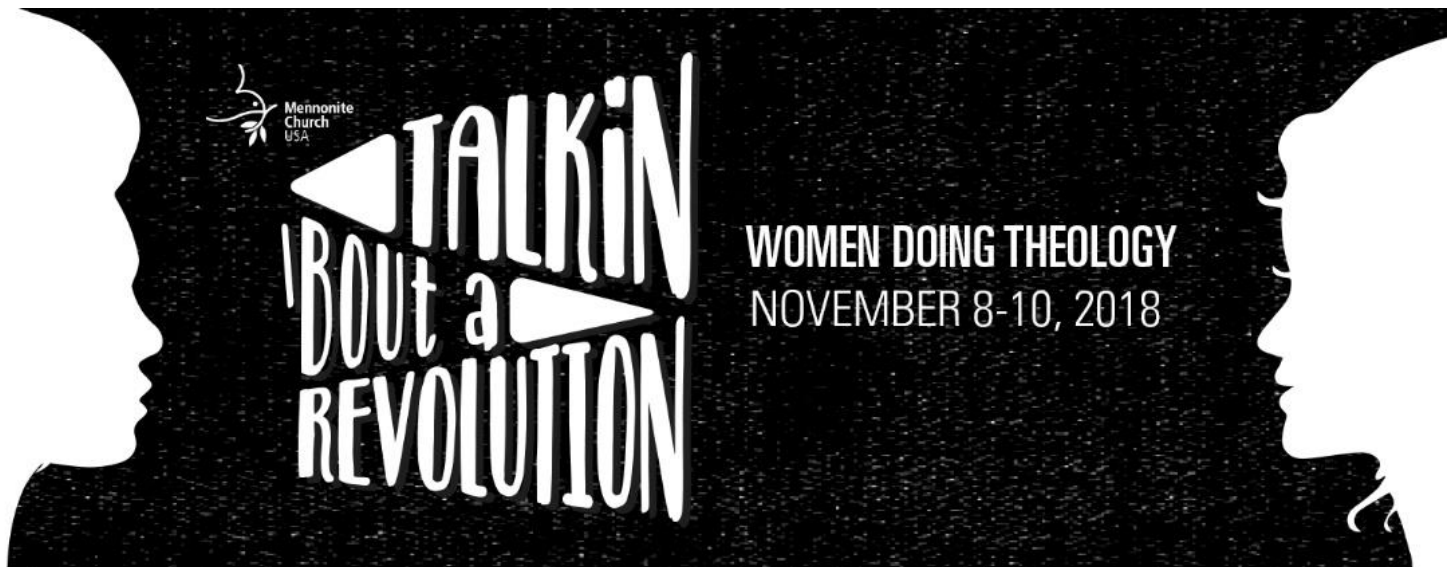
Regina Shands Stoltzfus

This presentation will describe the collaborative process of creating an introductory text on nonviolence and activism.

Multiple Mothering and the Story of Bithiah

Jon Kara Sheilds

This presentation re-reads the biblical story of Bithiah, the Egyptian daughter of Pharaoh who mothers Moses to adulthood, alongside the other Abrahamic traditions. This reading explores what it means to be a mother, to have multiple mothers, and to receive the gift of mothering as a vocation. In particular, this reading draws away from identifying mothering with a reproductive capacity, and orients mothering in a relationship of responsibility to a child. It



will question the culturally normative assumption within the white church that one has only one “real” mother or that mothering is best provided by a single person or a non-overlapping series of such persons.

Jesus Christ is Intersex, Gender-queer, Trans: A Cisgender Plea for a Trans-inclusive Theology

Ariana Wagoner

In this paper, I attempt to construct an accessible, empathetic, and understandable trans-inclusive theology from my cisgendered perspective. I argue that by adopting images of trans-Christ, trans-God, and a transgender or trans-inclusive theology that recognizes transgender persons as made in the image of God, cisgender theologians [in particular] and Christians [in general] can come to a posture of acceptance, openness, and inclusion to the transgender community as beloved neighbors and image-bearers of a trans-God. This paper includes transgender theology, queer theology, black liberation theology, womanist theology, and liberation theology (Gutierrez) to construct my argument from diverse, marginalized perspectives.

Justice for Tamar: How Can Delayed Justice Be Justice? The Church's Role in the #MeToo Era

Bekah York

The Mennonite Church is in the midst of a crisis—we have remained silent in cases of sexual misconduct and do not know how to talk about sexual violence in the church. It is time to put an end to the silence! With the rise of the #MeToo movement and the subsequent #ChurchToo response, it is pertinent for the Mennonite Church to begin making active steps towards not only preventing such situations from happening but also knowing best how to respond when instances occur. As society is pressured to deal with accounts of sexual misconduct, the Mennonite Church can provide an alternative to silence by reading the biblical story of Tamar in a way that sheds light on how to respond in instances of sexual injustice. I propose that Tamar stands in as a beautiful example of ways the church can speak out, rather than turn a blind eye.

Right to Heal/Write to Heal

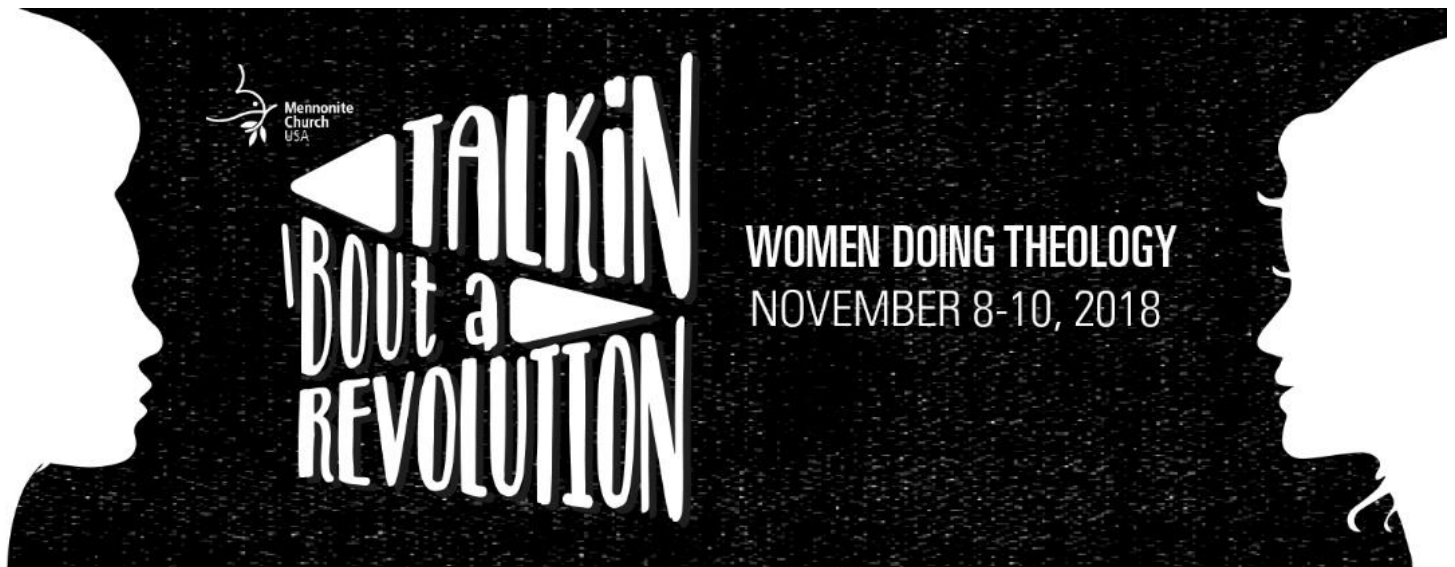
Lisa Crayton

Inner healing is possible through Jesus Christ. Writing offers a pathway to healing while also providing a means to help others (children or adults) recover from brokenness. This paper offers a challenge to use writing as a forum for healing for writers and readers.

Queer Theology and Revolutionizing Our Images of God

Steph Chandler Burns

This paper will explore the ways in which queer theology can help us to revolutionize our images of God. While historically, theology has binarized God into primarily male or female images, by applying premises of queer theology, we can break with traditional imagery to describe God, and revolutionize who can see themselves in God's image. In



particular, by applying a bisexual lens, and exploring Marcella Althaus-Reid's idea of the "bisexual God" we will explore how queer theology breaks down the boxes in which we confine God, and allow for the revolutionizing of theological talk about God. This paper will delve into the benefits of bisexual political theory more generally, examine how these are applied through Althaus-Reid's work, and suggest further implications in the polarized political climate in which we now find ourselves. It will center the experiences of queer, bisexual, and nonbinary individuals within the Mennonite Church.

Mary Magdalene: Agent of Revolution

Kristy Shellenberger

In her book *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene*, Episcopal priest Cynthia Bourgeault explores the critical role of Mary Magdalene as agent of transformation and revolutionary counterpart to Jesus in the Christian story of life, death, and regeneration. Using the four canonical gospels, as well as the extracanonical gospel of Mary Magdalene, this paper will tend to this understanding of Mary Magdalene as agent of transformation, revealed in her power to anoint, to mark, and to stimulate new life, regeneration and revolution in the face of destruction, death and decay. The paper will begin with reflections from the presenter's personal experience of transformation through the loss of several pregnancies. It will then segue into a discussion of Mary Magdalene's personal experience of transformation through her own losses, which empowered her gift of steadfast presence and witness in Jesus's personal experience of death, dying and resurrection. The paper will illustrate the mysterious and energizing power and revolution that are released when we put our own lived experience in conversation with the ancient biblical texts and when we raise to consciousness the revolutionary power of the "hidden figures" of our own tradition.

"We Want Our Stories Told!": LGBTQ+ Theologians and Pastors Speak Out

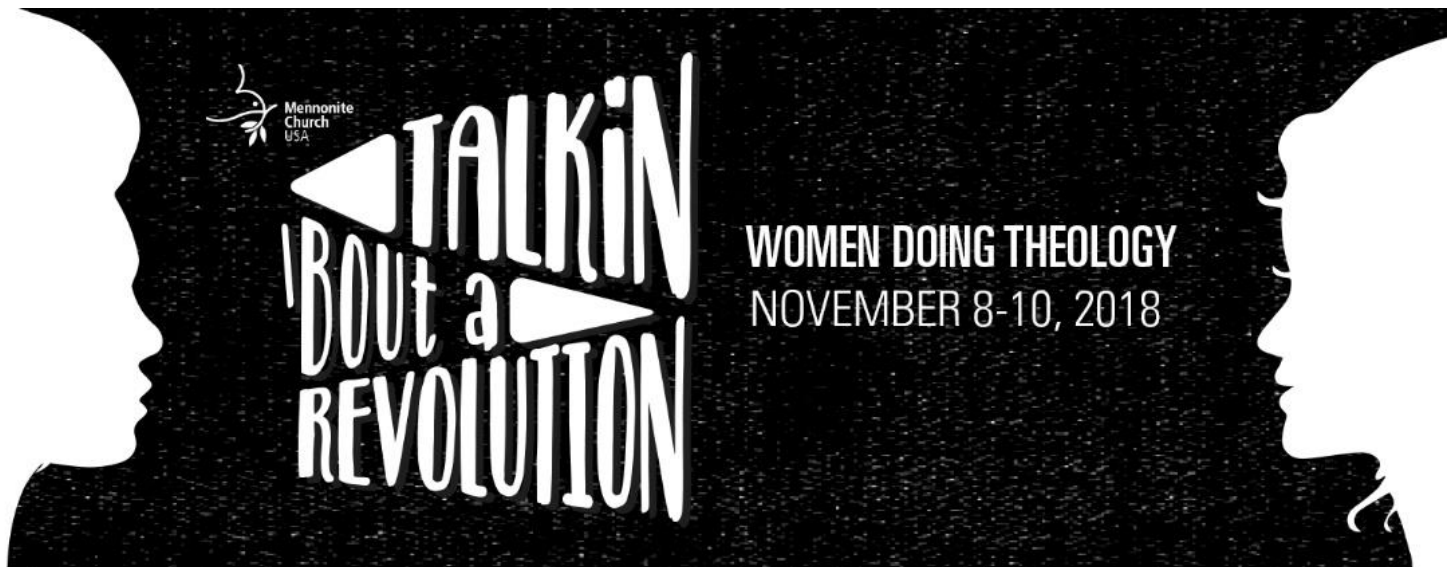
Rachel Waltner Goossen

Historian Rachel Waltner Goossen examines the lives and professional work of people who identify as LGBTQ+ and are Anabaptist/Mennonite faith leaders (pastors, theologians, chaplains, church administrators) across the U.S. and Canada. Based on an oral history project begun two years ago, this study draws from interviews with 27 theologically-trained individuals who identify as LGBTQ+. Approximately two-thirds of these individuals currently work in Mennonite contexts, and the other third have departed Mennonite/Anabaptist settings for denominations that are more hospitable to queer faith leaders. Goossen highlights the ways in which many of these individuals have been silenced historically or have "disappeared" from Mennonite settings, as well as how many are asserting their voices and leadership, and are navigating places of welcome within and beyond Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada."

Not One Should Be Lost: Hope for Victims and Perpetrators in the Era of #MeToo and #ChurchToo

Megan Westra

Matthew 18 is one of the guideposts for many Christians when conflicts arise, but can this passage help guide our conversations in this time of great unveiling as thousands of women around the globe rally around a common, devastating denominator: #MeToo? Pastor and seminarian, Megan Westra, thinks so. In "Not One Should Be Lost," she



brings together in-depth study of Greek manuscripts and commentary from the Patristics, and places these ancient voices in conversation with current feminist and womanist scholarship to craft a response which demands both justice for the victims and opens a pathway for restoration for the perpetrators of gender-based and sexual violence in the church.

Queering Covenant: Embodying a Theology of Resilience and Liberation Through Right Relationship

Annabeth Roeschley

This paper is an exercise in doing liberation theology with and for queerly-oriented communities, namely those seeking to trouble the waters of binaried oppressions. I draw on Patrisse Khan-Cullors's Black Lives Matter memoir as a contemporary example of this, focusing on how the vital web of relationship in her context might be interpreted as a theological and spiritual site with transformative and liberative potential. Relating this to my own context, I make connections between a Judeo-Christian understanding of covenant and alternative embodiments of right relationship in queer community outside of religious realms. Listeners are invited to witness how queer resilience and generative relationship are a liberating force for queerly-oriented communities and beyond. I am interested in what wisdom these alternative embodiments of covenant offer all people in movements seeking to disrupt and to queer oppressive powers and systems.

Welcome to Scriptural Revolution: Starting with Genesis 1-3

Dorothy Yoder Nyce

One of the most influential texts regarding human relations opens the biblical story. To faithfully interpret scripture, fully claim that all people are equally created in God's image, avoid sex stereotypes and counter human abuse, calls us to radical change from traditional views. This paper will convey the why and how of needed revolution. It will address specifics of honest interpreting and build on feminist insight of the past four decades. Content will commend wisdom for re-imagining ourselves, proclaiming truth from mentors like Tribble, Gaffney, Johnson and Mast.

Risking Our Theology: The Un-covering of the Anabaptist Vision

Emily Ralph Servant

In this paper, I will argue that the twentieth-century quest for the Anabaptist vision was not so much a dis-covery or a re-covery but simply a cover-ing — an intellectual or cultural establishment seeking ways to protect and elevate Mennonite/Anabaptist identity over and against that of the "Other." As such, both our theology and sense of identity need to be revolutionized. In conversation with Mennonite theologian Lydia Neufeld Harder, I will propose a theological methodology constructed by balancing obedience, suspicion, and imagination. This theological exploration will necessarily be done in relationship with others and communities outside of the Mennonite center. By entering into these conversations with those on the margins of the Church, we risk surrendering some aspects of our theology that we hold most valuable as we find ourselves transformed by the Good News. Only then will we uncover the Anabaptist vision as a gift we can give to — and receive from — the world.



Love Letter to Survivors

Rachel Allen

An exploration of tenderness and an invitation to occupy one's body when boundaries have been violated. I am a survivor of sexual assault and domestic violence and I work using Trauma Sensitive Yoga with women who are incarcerated, deal with substance abuse, mental health, and/or who lack housing and supports. I also partner with a rape crisis center and a domestic violence shelter to provide free Trauma Sensitive classes to survivors. This content will be a love letter and invitation to connect to each one of our inherent worth, value and dignity as human beings — as part of creation and as a reflector of Creator.

Reconciling with the Cross; Reclaiming Our Souls and Symbols for the Movement

Addie Liechty

This is an integrative paper that positions itself at the intersections of psychology, theology and social justice. It takes an honest look at the history of the cross and the use of the cross by empire. The paper looks at the psychology of the cross and that context matters, in terms of who is displaying or using the cross and for what purpose or meaning. It explores how the psychological defense of projection has been used by Christian-patriarchal empire and how the use of the cross has supported projection and continues to do so today. The paper ends with reconstructing the cross as a symbol of reconciliation with "the other" within one's self as well as the external world. It speaks to reconciliation as a process that can only be done when white, Christian hetero-patriarchy allows a psychological "death." This gives way and makes room for a resurrection of all those who have been persecuted in the name of white, patriarchal Christianity.

Transforming the Trajectory of Trauma Through the Restoration of Personal Identity and Resilience of African-American Girls

Melody Pannell

Many women and girls of color are feeling even more marginalized than ever. They feel the threat of racism and sexism that has been normalized and perceived as acceptable within our society once again. This is also an area of re-traumatization and for African-Americans, the triggering of Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome. So where do I go with my goal to transform the trajectory of trauma through the Restoration of Personal Identity and Resilience of African-American Girls? What tangible skills can we plan to incorporate as we develop theological programs for young women of color? My findings in *Little Book of Strategic Peacebuilding* are helpful as I reflect on our course materials and seek to develop my subject matter.

Your Brother's Blood Cries Out

Grace Spencer

In recent years, the efforts to reform America's justice system have created another crisis within our country: prison reentry. Inmates face innumerable challenges when they are released from prison, including employment, housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, forming and restoring relationships, stigmatization, etc., all of which are



worse than we can imagine. In this paper, I examine the meaning of the Hebrew word *awon* (often translated as iniquity, punishment, or guilt) in the Pentateuch, specifically in Genesis 4, concluding that standard English translations have inadequately defined the meaning of *awon*. A more thorough understanding of *awon* offers a vision of God's justice that is restorative, not retributive, and empowers the church to respond to the current re-entry crisis. The question is: will we? Will the church embrace the vision presented in Genesis 4, taking responsibility for the healing role it can play in the nation's prison crisis, and finally accept that we are our brother's keeper?

Workshops

A More Touchable Jesus: Exploring the Humanity of Jesus as Revealed by the Women in His World

Chris Hoover Seidel

This workshop is a space in which participants can explore stories of women whose encounters with Jesus helped reveal the revolutionary nature of his life in community. Together with these women, we can touch Jesus' humanity and further the work of exposing and subverting unjust systems that silence, shame and marginalize. Participants will work collaboratively to respond to the text in revolutionary ways (i.e. naming women who are unnamed, identifying the limits of Jesus' social location, exploring the way power is leveraged and making connections to non-biblical stories) ultimately making Jesus more "touchable." Participants will also be invited to depict the stories visually through the embodied art of tableau.

Selah Circle

Shannon Dycus

An introduction, experience and reflection of group spiritual direction using contemporary tools of revolution (art, music, poetry). Together we'll make a space to pause in the continuous work of God. We'll listen to the voice of God in us and the holy echo that lives in art. We'll take away a framework to use along the journey as we keep listening toward liberation.

Traditions in Translation: A Writing Workshop

Becca J.R. Lachman

What would it take to start writing yourself into the living story of a faith inspired by an intersectional feminist Jesus, or to imagine the Bible if a room full of women had decided what made the final cut? Using prompts, we'll play with the ideas of translating and transformation. Here's your chance to rewrite a hymn with words you've always wanted to sing in church, re-vision a martyr story, come up with Mennonite emojis or write your own version of a psalm. What to bring: writing utensils, paper and any text that you'd especially like to explore (recipes, family stories, and mantras count!).

How Flexible is Our Faith?: Negotiating Theological Difference in a Divided Church

Bonnie Kristian



In a time of divisive and downright nasty public discourse, Christians, of all people, ought to be able to disagree without hate. Some of Jesus' harshest words were for religious people who got nitpicky over doctrinal issues while neglecting the really big stuff — "justice, mercy, and faithfulness." Still, constructively negotiating theological difference is difficult. What does it look like after 2,000 years of church splits? When should we learn to coexist — and when should we discuss, debate or even go our separate ways? What arguments don't warrant division in the body of Christ, and what issues demand we take a stand? How should our engagement differ when dealing with topics, like roles of women, that are core to our identities? This workshop will help participants explore these questions and more in a roundtable discussion guided by Bonnie Kristian, author of *A Flexible Faith: Rethinking What It Means to Follow Jesus Today*.

What Language Will You Borrow?

Malinda Berry

Earlier in the women's movement "inclusive language" was a vital part of anti-oppression and anti-sexism work. Come learn about the background of this movement to liberate our language (including how it's been received in our communities) and we'll play a few language games to celebrate God's many names.

Supporting Each Other/Lifting Each Other Up (Literally)

CarmenKingsley

This workshop will encourage participants to reflect on their physicality, the strength that their bodies possess as well as the physical strength present and available in groups. Recognizing the power of our physical presence can revolutionize how we, as women, feel about our role in society. The facilitator will draw upon her acrobatic and dance background in order to create a space where participants can support and lift each other up. This workshop is available to people of all physical abilities.

Revolutionary Play

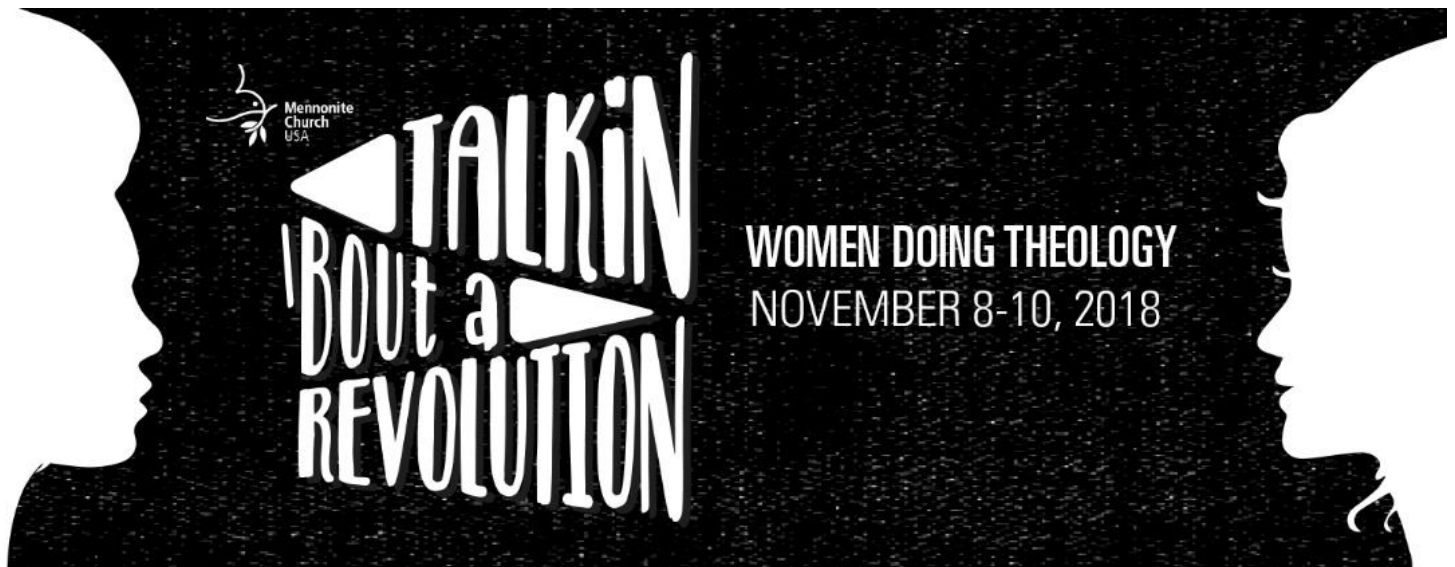
CarmenKingsley

Constructing spaces where we can abandon societal expectations and pressures allows us to change perspective. Play spaces encourage us to shed some of our adherence to social constructs in order to experiment with how we perceive ourselves and how we interact with others. In this workshop the facilitator will draw on tools from clowning and cooperative games to create a safe space for play.

Needed for Revelation: An Interpretive Revolution

Reta Finger

Many Christians avoid the book of Revelation because they can't understand it. Others are Christian Zionists who get it wrong. This workshop will explain what apocalyptic writing is and why it arose. We will do an overview of the book, pay attention to the women (and other symbols) in Revelation, and reflect on its current relevance.



All Generations Will Call Her Blessed

Leslie Hawthorne Klingler and Regina Trespalcios

This workshop encourages Christians to reconsider the empowering theological place of Mary, mother of Jesus. By introducing a Roman Catholic perspective on what the Bible says about Mary from Eden to the Apocalypse and then sharing the story of the Virgin of Guadalupe and her vital role in Mexican society, participants will gain appreciation for God's favor on the least of these and God's desire to share glory with the people of God. The presentation is accompanied by interactive activities as well as by visual images of Mary in art.

Women and Generosity

Lana Miller, Evelin Gonzalez and Rhoda Blough

Generally women navigate life, family and money challenges while also striving for generosity, financial integrity and thoughtfulness in how decisions are made around resources. In this workshop, we will engage stories of generous women in the Bible. We will also learn from one another as we explore how women save, invest and give money, often differently than men. We will investigate how our faith, spiritual beliefs and value systems, impact our generosity.

You Do You

Brenda L. Yoder

Women are created as unique individuals in the image of their Creator. However, women receive messages telling us there's something wrong with ourselves in order to be accepted in various contexts, even among other women. In this hands-on workshop, counselor, author and speaker Brenda L. Yoder, LMHC, will empower women to not only embrace their uniqueness, but will challenge us as women to accept and honor others who are different from us, not only in race or sexual orientation, but also in theology, politics, socio-economic status, culture or faith practices.

Revolutionary Worship: Women, Experience and the Power of Prayer

Carol Penner and Stephanie Chandler Burns

Our rituals of public worship have the power to change us and shake the world, but they don't always live up to their potential. Sometimes we pray the same things in the same ways, in words that reflect a very narrow slice of life. Sometimes we worry what others might think of our prayers if we say what we really mean. What would worship look like if it reflected the parts of our lives that are the most important to us, particularly our gender and sexuality? As people who pray for and with congregations, how do we work with the challenges of diversity and inclusion? How is God calling to us through our prayers and how do we discern this in community? In this hands-on workshop we will be working together on writing prayers that are vital, life-changing and faithful.

Migracion. Liberacion y Sentido de vida

Rebeca González



Fuimos cread@s en libertad, sin embargo la propuesta de los nuevos sistemas nacionalistas que limitan la movilidad humana hacia diferentes contextos, necesitamos encontrar en el modelo de Jesús esa libertad a la que tod@s tenemos derecho y que da sentido de vida.

Talkin' About Freedom: Imagining Liberatory and Radical Futures

Brittany T. Paschall and Ariana Wagoner

Liberation is the talk everywhere from conferences to activism and even in seminary classrooms. Talkin' About Freedom: Imagining Liberatory and Radical Futures will be a hands-on workshop where participants will serve as co-creators in imagining liberatory and radical futures together. Our time together will be grounded in the question: "What does liberation look like?" We will explore barriers and challenges to liberation on the individual and collective levels. Most importantly, we will engage methods of organizing, theology and spiritual practices in a multimodal learning environment.

*In an effort to create shared power dynamics and voice, participants will be invited to offer resources and spiritual practices during the workshop. Please email bpaschall@ymail.com if you would like to contribute in this way.

Reconciliation. Resilience. Reparations.

Kelly Bates-Oglesby

Participants will simulate the tax and interest of oppression. Then we will discuss the effects and consequences of collective harm. We will end with discussing collective and personal commitment to reparations as a biblical and personal response to oppression and privilege.

From Tamar to Tabitha: Turning to Women of the Bible as We Craft the Revolution

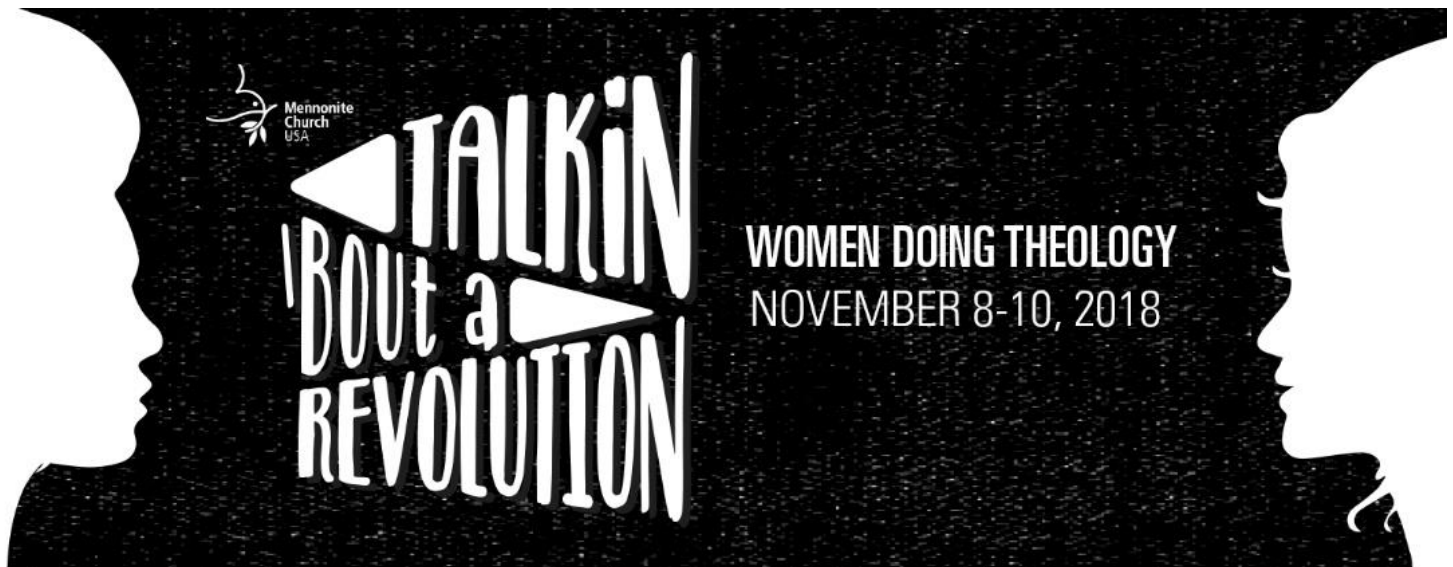
Rachel Taylor

How can we practice the spiritual discipline of listening to the lives of named and unnamed women of the Bible? How might that change the ways we do this work, whether preaching, teaching, advocating or creating? In this experiential workshop, participants will have the opportunity to engage with old stories in new ways. We will sit with stories and characters we had forgotten. We will draw inspiration from visual artists and from conversations with each other. We will connect the lives of these women with our call in this world to cultivate safe spaces where all can flourish. We will leave with energy to find and create meaning in our own work.

The Carnival de Resistance: Re-wild your Christianity

Charletta Erb and Sarah Thompson

Topsy-turvy, Carnival de Resistance clowns around with some serious ideas. For the last five years, we've produced a carnival midway, theater, music and dance performance. Through the arts, the Carnival explores grief and hope for ecological justice, economic justice, gender/queer justice and racial justice. We re-read Scriptural stories captured by empire, re-wilding them as resistance literature. Intrigued? Get a taste of your own power and juice through the Carnival



modality in this interactive workshop. The Carnival de Resistance is a traveling carnival, village and school for social change bridging the worlds of art, activism and faith (<http://carnivalderesistance.com>).

Uncovering Meanings of the Head Covering

Sarah Bixler and Melody Pannell

From Lancaster to South Texas, from Puerto Rico to Harlem, many Mennonite women in the twentieth century covered their heads. This practice meant different things in each community. As a quiet but revolutionary act, women entered church services with heads uncovered until the practice almost disappeared. But that does not mean that we forget — or that we should forget — the head covering and all it symbolizes. In this workshop, we will create space to share head covering stories carried by diverse Mennonite women. Grounding our conversation in women's experiences, we will discover who the head covering has impacted, what it symbolizes and how it continues to live on. In uncovering these meanings, we will envision how we can move forward with greater awareness toward our liberation.

***Ya Llego la Revolución* — The Revolution Has Arrived**

Margie Mejia-Caraballo

Through spoken word poetry/rants, stories and discussion, this workshop will educate participants of the historical journey of Hispanic Mennonites within the Anglo Mennonite Church. Presentation will allow participants to understand and join in the new revolution being created by their Hispanic Mennonite brothers and sisters. The presenter has over 50 years of experience in the Mennonite Church.

Moving in Our Midst: An Intergenerational Anti-racism Curriculum for White Mennonite Churches

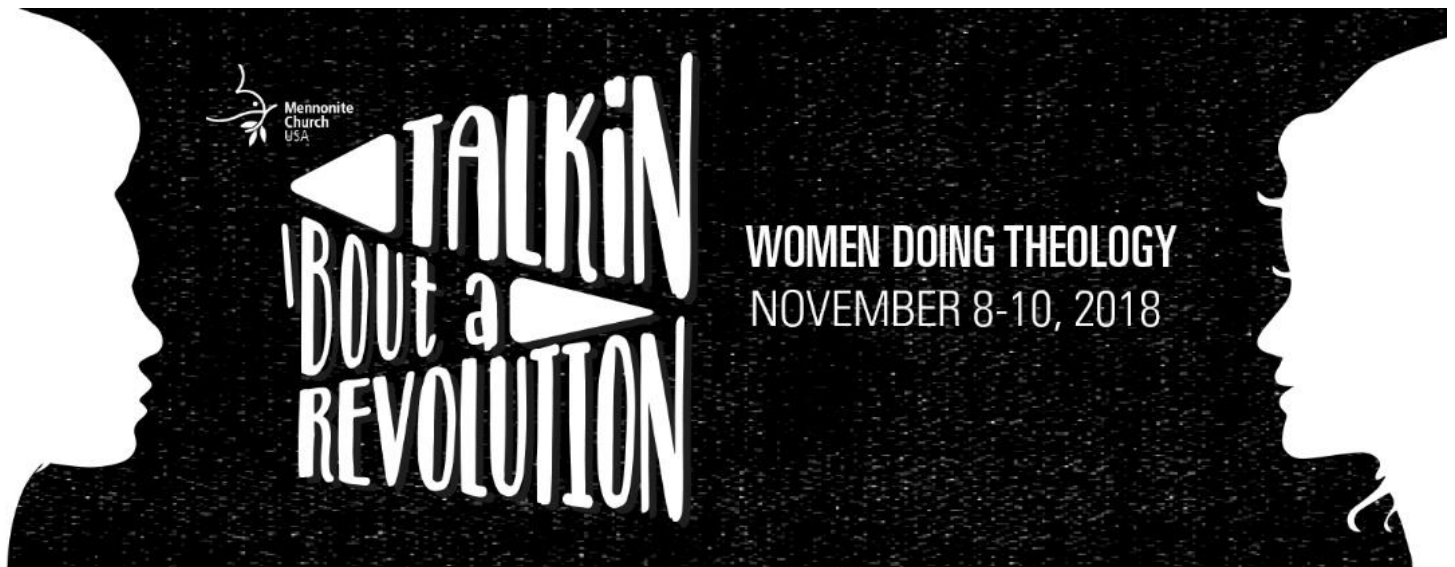
Jennifer Arnold and Amanda Gross

Presenters will share a curriculum created for predominately white, progressive, Mennonite churches to learn about and address different manifestations of racism and white supremacy. Drawing on Mennonite history, research about white identity formation, and the organizing principles from The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, this curriculum is designed to be intergenerational, creative, and intentionally anti-racist. Participants in the workshop will learn about the need for such a curriculum in our churches, try out pieces of some lessons and brainstorm ideas for practical implementation.

Talkin' Bout a Textual Revolution: Inhabiting Canonical Boundaries with Susanna and Friends

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

The stories we tell shape our communities, and the canon of Scripture shapes the stories we tell in our churches. Some women's stories are present and vital in the Bible, but others are missing. In this workshop, we will consider Susanna's story. The book of Susanna is excluded in contemporary Protestant canons of scripture but included in Catholic, Orthodox and Amish canons. Susanna's story is sadly timeless: she is sexually threatened by religious leaders, and then, as a victim, is blamed for their wrongdoing. Ultimately, Susanna is a survivor. In this workshop, we will read Susanna's



story in dialogue with stories of other biblical women and with the stories of our own lives. Ultimately, we will consider what a "textual revolution" in the Mennonite church might look like. What are the gifts and the limits of the biblical canon for our churches today? Are we, as women readers, called to inhabit canonical boundaries?

Hope for Post-Mennonite Lesbian Pastors

Marilyn Zehr and Svinda Heinrichs

Svinda and Marilyn both leave the Mennonite Church after coming out to answer God's call to live ministry fully and creatively. Together, they respond to the Spirit's call to participate in God's work of honoring the sacred in all people and in the natural world. What ministry looks like for us: we are not yet fully welcome in the Mennonite Church as ordained ministers, and, now that we are Mennonite refugees in the United Church of Canada, like political refugees, we maintain as part of our identity our Mennonite formation and origins. This workshop is for anyone who wants to hear a story of how God remains faithful to the gifts and callings of persons who have not found themselves fully welcome in the Mennonite Church.

Hard but Good: Widening the Circle with Generation Z

Anita Hooley Yoder, Sarah Tolson, Ciera Stewart, Athene Goodman and Jill Rafferty

This workshop will be a panel discussion of current college students (members of "Generation Z") from a variety of backgrounds and political perspectives, facilitated by Anita Hooley Yoder. Students attend Notre Dame College (near Cleveland, Ohio), where Anita is a campus minister. Students will reflect on the "hard but good" process of exploring different theological, cultural and political perspectives during their college experience. Anita will share about her personal learning from working to engage a diverse student body. This workshop will not be a "how-to" of effective practices, but a conversation about the challenges of creating revolutionary space that truly includes everyone.

Mennonite and Feminist: The Revolutionary Work of Theologian Lydia Neufeld Harder

Lydia Neufeld Harder, Kim Penner, Carol Penner, Michele Rizoli and Susanne Guenther Loewen

Each panelist, including Lydia, will spend 5 minutes engaging Lydia's work in her recent book, *The Challenge is in the Naming: A Theological Journey*, on the topic of "revolutionary" theology. This book is a collection of Lydia's published articles over the course of her career with new and contextual introductions by Lydia. Each person will conclude by posing either a question to Lydia or to the audience for conversation. For example, Kim and Susanne will reiterate some of the reflections they made in the foreword to Lydia's book, citing the revolutionary nature of Lydia's feminist Mennonite method for doing theology/ethics. These identities of feminist and Mennonite and the different theological methods associated with them were and still are considered contradictory by some people/communities. Lydia considered them compatible and in fact mutually informing. Lydia will respond to the question, "Did you consider your work revolutionary at the time, or were you surprised when people considered it revolutionary?" A possible question for audience conversation: how does the American context compare to the Canadian context with regard to the articulation and practice of feminist Mennonite theology/ethics?



Beyond Inclusive Language for Humanity and Expansive Language for God: Exploring Questions of Worship and Gender in *Voices Together*

Sarah Johnson

Discussions about worship and gender often focus on singing and speaking words that employ language for humanity that is inclusive of women, and images that expand our vision of a gendered Divinity. This workshop aims to expand the questions we ask about worship and gender, and to expand our conception of worship beyond the words we sing and speak. Participants will be invited to test and reflect on worship resources — including visual art, scripture, prayers, ritual practices, songs and more — that are being considered for inclusion in *Voices Together*, a new Mennonite hymnal and worship book that will be published in 2020 (<http://voicestogetherymnal.org>). Participants may also develop skills and frameworks for engaging questions associated with gender and worship in their local contexts with the hope of a revolution in worship practices that empowers more voices to join together in worship of the Liberating One.

Embody Liberation: An Experience of Sound, Song and Movement

Rachel Allen

This experience supports freeing the creative self-expression of individuals while exploring the collective. We always have with us our breath, our voice and our bodies. We will be led through practices of tenderness, empowerment, grounding and affirmation through facilitated breath work, sound, music and movement with both non-choreographed movement and circle dance. No musical or movement experience necessary.

Emancipatory Hope in Action: Strategies for Awareness, Assessment and Social Justice Advocacy

Melody M. Pannell and Aura Espinosa

“Emancipatory Hope is expectation that the forms of hegemonic relations – race, class and gender dominance – will be toppled and to have emancipatory hope is to acknowledge one’s personal agency in God’s vision for human equality.” (Parker, 2003) Learn how to utilize Womanist Practical Theology to uncover internalized oppression, seek liberating frameworks and develop strategies for awareness, assessment and social justice advocacy.

A Course in Flourishing

Melody M. Pannell and Kiesha Tillman

Engaging in exercises to empower young women to FLOURISH through finding their calling and exploring vocation as an act of personal agency and righteous resistance.

Writing 'Bout a Revolution: Resistance Through Narrative

Joanne Gallardo

This is a workshop for writers, those who wish they were writers and those who've ever thought about writing. One of the most revolutionary things we can do is to speak our truth. In this workshop, via a series of prompts, we will be



writing aspects of our narrative in monologue-style, sermon-style or in whatever style you wish. We will practice telling one another our stories anonymously. It's my hope that we can then take this revolutionary truth-writing into our churches and communities. "Everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise." (Sylvia Plath)

From the Window to the Mirror

Sandy Short

Seeing yourself in God's image. Move from focusing on a flawed view of yourself to seeing the person God created you to be. Presentation time followed by artistic time to create transformational image figures. It's about the process — not the final product! Short time of sharing if the group is comfortable and time allows.

Raise Your Voice: Why We Stay Silent & How to Speak Up

Kathy Khang

Women, and particularly women of color, pay a price the moment they find and use their voice. What does it look like to be whole and healing while also raising our voices? What are some lessons we have learned and failures we can warn others about? What does embodying our theology look like over the long haul? Join author and activist in a one-hour interactive workshop that also will include guided meditation and breath work.

Singing Revolution

Janeen Bertsche Johnson and Crystal Sellers Battle

What are the songs of the church which have supported change movements? We will look at and sing songs of resistance from several time periods and places.

Revolution Requires Advocates and Antagonists

Kelly Bates Oglesby

Participants will engage with information to strengthen their awareness and readiness to serve as both advocates and antagonizers as needed to demystify and deconstruct systems and traditions that marginalize and oppress. Revolution is manifestation of the spiritual disciplines of submission, service and guidance.

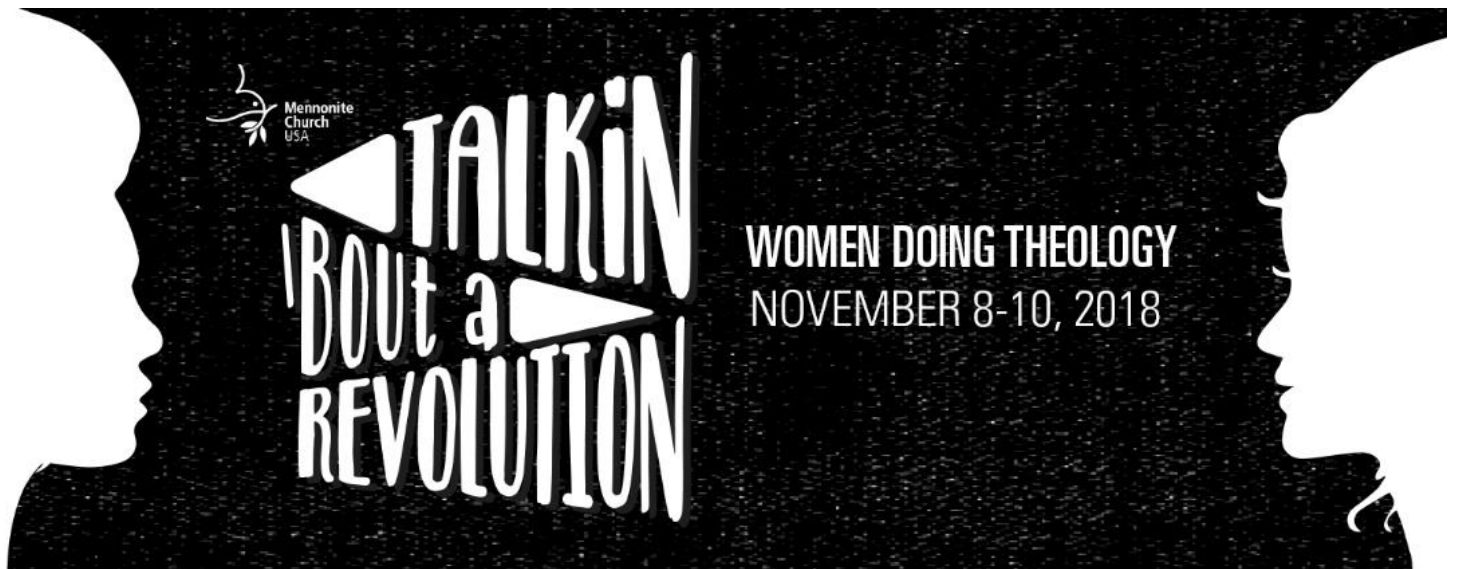
Listening: A Revolution

Jean Kilheffer Hess

The skills of listening well and asking non-judgmental, open-ended questions transform the revolutionary journey. This workshop is highly participatory and focused on building skills to conduct oral history interviews.

Narratives that Liberate

Amy Yoder McGloughlin



Cultures and people groups experience the biblical texts in different ways. Texts that some experience as liberating are troublesome to others. Amy Yoder McGloughlin will explore liberation theologies from a number of different contexts — womanist, black, Palestinian, queer, etc. — and the complex ways that the biblical texts can be both liberating and troublesome. This workshop is designed specifically for white women to do their work of understanding the complexities of the readings, and the ways that our vantage point has colonized the gospel, but all are welcome. Bring a Bible!