



Covenant News

Educational and Musical Opportunities

March - April, 2014

An open and affirming community in the heart of University Circle.

COVENANT TO WELCOME WALTER BRUEGGEMANN

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

10 AM WORSHIP & 11:30 AM ADULT FORUM

Walter Brueggemann, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, will both preach in the service of worship and give an adult forum on Sunday, April 27. This will be Professor Brueggemann's third visit to the Covenant congregation, having given the Covenant Lecture Fund lecture in the spring of 2010 and then returning to preach and lead an adult forum on October 30, 2012. Professor Brueggemann is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a past president of the Society of Biblical Literature. An internationally recognized interpreter of the Old Testament, he is the author of numerous books, including *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now* and *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*, both released earlier this year.

Professor Brueggemann's adult forum topic on April 27th is *A Vocation of Sub-Version* in which he will consider the prophetic tradition of the Old Testament and its alternative articulation of the world and how that textual tradition summons the church now to a vocation of telling a sub-version of the world.



WEDNESDAY LIVING THE QUESTIONS:

PRACTITIONERS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

MARCH 12, 19, & 26 AND APRIL 9

Wednesday *Living the Questions* is a DVD-based small group study experience exploring a progressive re-imagining of Christian tradition, doctrine and practice.

In *Practitioners of the Christian Life* we encounter women and men who are among the greatest theologians as well as others who are not likely to appear in books focusing on theology, but whose lives exemplify aspects of Christian life and practice. Concluding a series already in progress, we will examine the lives of Damien of Molokai, Theresa of Calcutta, Martin Luther King, and Gustavo Gutierrez. In the final session on April 9th, we will reflect on defining the Christian life. Though *Practitioners of the Christian Life* has been an on-going series, new participants are welcome.

Following dinner served at 5:30 pm (\$5 payable at the door), the format for each group session includes a video presentation featuring William R. Cook, State University of New York at Geneseo, and discussion facilitated by Laury W. Larson.

Please register by March 2 in the church office or to LLarson@CovenantWeb.org.

2014 Covenant Lecture Fund Lecture

Sunday, June 1
2:30 PM

Katie G. Cannon, PhD
Union Presbyterian
Seminary



Black Women's Liberation as Embodied Mediated Wisdom

Dr. Cannon, the first African-American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (USA), focuses her work in the areas of Christian ethics, Womanist theology, and women in religion and society.

Free and open to the public

Cosponsored by The Cleveland Ecumenical
Institute for Religious Studies

Visit ceirs.org for the spring course schedule and to register. Brochures are available in the church office and kiosks.

The Church of the Covenant is an
Ecumenical Institute sponsor.

Sunday Adult Forums During Lent

journey*ney – noun – ['jer-nee]

- 1) a trip or expedition from one place to another
- 2) process of development: a gradual passing from one state to another regarded as more advanced



Sunday, March 9: Journeying Through Story-Shaped Worlds in the Gospels and Beyond

Timothy Beal, PhD

As Christians, our journeys are shaped by our stories, even as our new journeys lead to new stories. The journeys and wanderings of the people of God in the Hebrew Scriptures shape the story of Jesus in the Gospels. And those Gospel stories in turn shape our own pilgrimages and journeys.

Timothy Beal is the Florence Harkness Professor of Religion, Department of Religious Studies, Case Western Reserve University.

Sunday, March 16: Exile and Return in the Jewish Journey

Peter J. Haas, PhD

Rabbinic Judaism, which took shape in Roman times, is built on the theme of exile and return. As a largely diasporic community whose homeland, Judea, had been ravished by the Romans, early Rabbinic Jews saw themselves as living in a kind of exile. Their longing was to a return to a state of completeness. Though the exile has biblical roots, for the framers of Rabbinic Judaism, it was not only an historical event, but psychological, caused by sin and so a need to return in repentance, and cosmic, in which the whole world is in a state of brokenness and needs a final messianic completeness.

Peter J. Haas is the Abba Hillel Silver Professor of Jewish Studies and Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Case Western Reserve University.



Sunday, March 23: Going Out and Coming In: The Exodus Journey **Rabbi Roger Klein, PhD.**

The Book of Exodus is arguably the Bible's most consequential text. It features a powerful trajectory from slavery to freedom to revelation at Mt. Sinai to the building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, with a fascinating detour through the incident of the Golden Calf. What does the biblical author have in mind with this story? What are the central – and universal and abiding – values and aspirations featured in this material? Having been expelled from the Garden of Eden, does the author present an alternative version of Home and the possibility of our return to tranquility and safety?

Rabbi Roger Klein serves the congregation of The Temple Tifereth Israel, focusing on adult learning programs, walking with families through life-cycle events, and cultivating relationships with other religious and educational institutions .

March 9 through April 6

The Sunday Adult Forums in Lent will focus our attention on the biblical, spiritual and social meanings of the metaphor *journey* and those meanings' significance for people of faith today.

Sunday Adult Forums meet in Beckwith Hall, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.



March 30: *Pilgrims and Tourists: What's the Difference?*

Doris Donnelly, PhD

A pilgrim is a traveler – literally one who has come from afar – who is on a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance. Typically, it is a journey to a place of special, holy significance to that person's beliefs and faith. But the concept of pilgrim and pilgrimage can sometimes be a metaphorical journey into someone's own beliefs and practices. Either way, there are four essential differences between pilgrims and tourists, and these differences apply not only to journeys outside one's geographical location but also to one's journey in life.

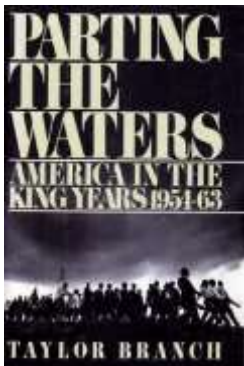
Doris Donnelly is Professor of Theology, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, and Director, The Cardinal Suenens Center, John Carroll University.

April 6: *In Their Path: The Underground Railroad and the Beloved Community*

Joan Southgate

When she was 73 years old, Joan Southgate stepped off from a small town on the Ohio River to begin a 519 mile walk to highlight the courage and resourcefulness of the American slave and conductor families who risked much for freedom on the Underground Railroad. Naming her project *In Their Path*, it was designed as a solitary walk along highways from Ripley, Ohio, to St. Catharine's Canada. Mostly a journey of quiet reflection, Ms. Southgate sometimes led a joyful parade of new friends and supporters and shared the lessons of this historic collaboration of free whites, free blacks, enslaved and freedom seekers all breaking federal law.

Joan Southgate, a retired social worker and Cleveland area activist, is the founder of Restore Cleveland Hope, an organization to save the Cozad-Bates House, the only pre-civil war structure still standing in University Circle, from demolition, and to celebrate the conductors and abolitionist families living there.



DISCUSSION OF TAYLOR BRANCH'S *Parting of the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63*

RESCHEDULED FOR JUNE

The discussion of Taylor Branch's *Parting of the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63*, originally scheduled for February 3, has been rescheduled for a date in June to be announced. You are invited to read this first volume in Branch's trilogy and join others for dinner and discussion. A minimum of ten people must register for the book discussion to be offered. The rescheduled date will be announced in the worship bulletin and an upcoming newsletter.

TUESDAY NOON ORGAN RECITALS

March 4 – May 13

12 NOON CARILLON

12:15–12:45PM ORGAN

Bring your lunch!

Bring a friend!

*Don't miss some of the most
exciting talent in our region!*

Taizé Vespers

Sunday, March 16, 5:00PM

Calm your mind with the tranquil
refrains of chant in this
meditative Lenten service.

Join the Easter Choir!

Extra singers are welcome to join the
choir for Maundy Thursday and/or
Easter Sunday. Interested?

Email Jonathan Moyer at
JMoyer@CovenantWeb.org or
sign up in the office.

HOUSING NEEDED FOR ENGLISH CHORISTERS! JULY 26–28

On the weekend of July 26–28,
we welcome the
Southend Boys and Girls Choir
from London for a special service
and concert as part of their summer
American tour. We are looking for
volunteers to house the choristers
for three nights and provide
a couple meals.

If you are interested please contact
Jonathan Moyer at
JMoyer@CovenantWeb.org.

This is a wonderful opportunity
to meet and share experiences with
youth from around the globe!

MUSIC NOTES



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 13, 10:00AM

Children's procession of palms
Out to Lunch

HOLY WEEK VESPERS: SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 5:00PM

Featuring the Baldwin Wallace Motet Choir
performing J.S. Bach's Cantata
Wie schön leucht uns der Morgenstern

MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 17, 7:30PM

Holy Communion & Service of Tenebrae

GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE: APRIL 18, 12NOON

Meditate on the Seven Last Words of Christ
accompanied by organ music.

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 20

Breakfast 8:30 AM
Celebration of Worship 10:00AM
Easter egg hunt 11:00AM
Out to Lunch



Organ Recital
Sunday, April 27, 4:00PM
(note time change)

Featuring Belgian organist
Jean Ferrard from the Brussels
Conservatory of Music.

Cosponsored by Oberlin College



MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

MIDWEEK MUSIC & MEDITATION

WEDNESDAYS, 4:30PM

A brief time of music & reflection.

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS, 12–1:00PM
COVENANT LIBRARY

*Study upcoming Sunday scriptures.
Rev. Laury Larson facilitating.*

HEALING CIRCLE 1ST SUNDAYS

12:30PM, SONIA GOLDEN ROOM
*Experience energy work, relieve stress.
See Rev. Singleton or Ed Laylin.*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 1ST WEDNESDAYS, 10:00AM

COVENANT LIBRARY

*An Abiding Hope:
The Presence of God
in Exodus and Deuteronomy
Bible study runs through May.*

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

EFM GRAD GROUP I
3RD SUNDAYS, 1:00PM

*A DVD-based study.
See Rev. Larson for more information*

EFM GRAD GROUP II & III

*A book discussion. Meet periodically.
See Rev. Larson for more information.*