

February 1, 2022

The Richard Hagen Community Lecture Is On

What a relief! The first **Richard Hagen Community Lecture** since April 2019 will be delivered on March 1 by Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton. Plans for lectures in 2020 and 2021 were scrapped due to the pandemic. Registration is open for an online-only presentation of this spotlight event sponsored by the First Church Adult Faith Formation team. Congratulations to the team for persevering.

Are there any superstars in theological education these days? We nominate Kate Bowler of Duke Divinity School. Since being diagnosed with stage IV cancer, she has written four books, launched a podcast, and maintained a busy in-person and online speaking schedule. Maybe that's why you will find two separate studies of her book, *Being Human*, below.

David W. Reid, editor





Rev. Dr. Hilton works to bring people together.

Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton will present the 2022 Richard Hagen Community Lecture as a Zoom webinar at 7 p.m. March 1.

Hilton will present strategies to help people from the left, right and middle imagine ways to listen to each other long enough to discover that our differences actually help us. His lecture is titled “Beyond Polarization: Making Our Differences an Asset.”

He is executive director of [House United](#), a non-profit organization he founded in 2016. This role takes him to divided communities around the nation. His book, *A House United: How the Church Can Save the World*, moves from the fact and causes of American political polarization to the possibility that faith communities can help solve it.

A graduate of George Fox College (B.A., 1985), Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div., 1989), and Yale University (Ph.D., 1997), he taught Bible at St. Mary’s College of California and then New Testament at Yale Divinity School before being called into parish ministry in 2001. As an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Hilton has served as minister of Christian formation in the Congregational Church of New Canaan, Connecticut, was senior minister of Plymouth Church, UCC, in Seattle, and then minister for faith and learning at Wayzata Community Church in Wayzata, Minnesota. He lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Liz, their teen sons, Sam and Isaac, and their labradoodle Watson.

The Hagen Lecture honors Richard Hagen, Ph.D., who was a member of

First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins. Registration is required for the [webinar](#).



The February 8 World Wisdoms Project program co-sponsored by First Church and Heart of the Rockies Christian Church has been changed to online only. It previously was scheduled as a hybrid event at Heart of the Rockies.

Rev. Amanda Henderson and Professor Miguel De La Torre, both of Iliff School of Theology, will engage in a panel conversation addressing the question, “Has Religion and Religious Belief Influenced the Mindset of White Superiority?” 6:30-8:30 p.m. February 8. Register at worldwisdomsproject.org.



First Church member Stephanie Matthews will lead a study of **Kate Bowler’s book, *No Cure for Being Human: And Other Things I Need to Hear***, at noon and again at 7 p.m. for four Mondays during Lent. Class sessions are scheduled for March 21 and 28 and April 4 and 11.

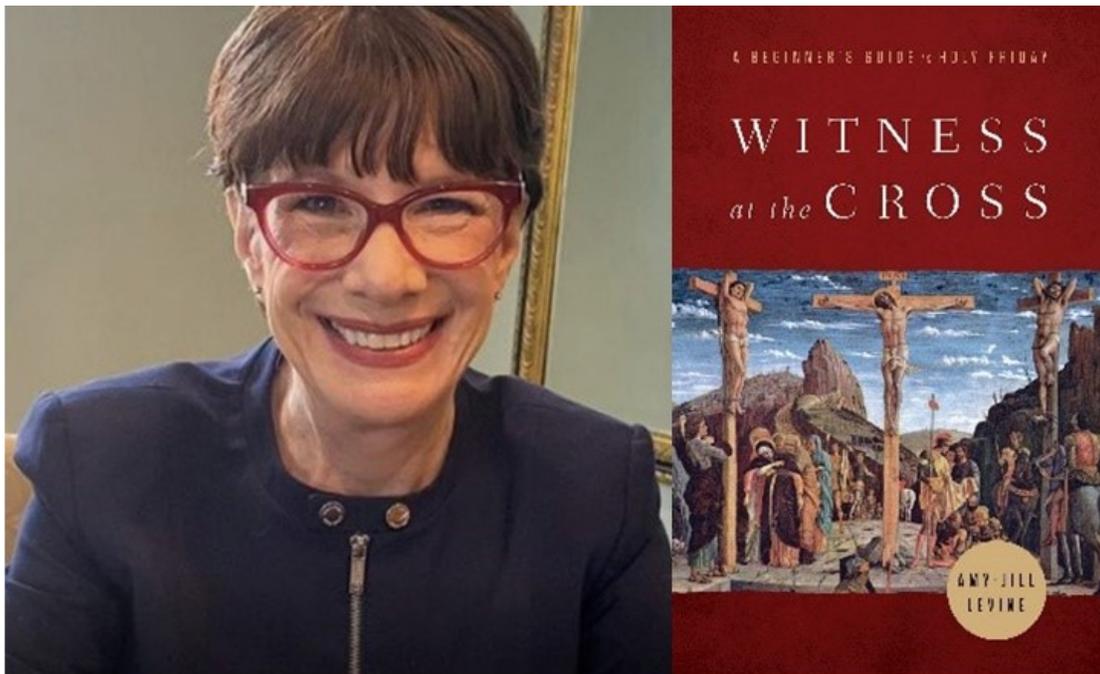
[Bowler](#) believed that life was a series of unlimited choices, until she discovered,

at age 35, that her body was wracked with cancer. In *No Cure for Being Human*, she searches for a way forward as she mines the wisdom (and absurdity) of today's "best life now" advice industry, which insists on exhausting positivity and on trying to convince us that we can out-eat, out-learn, and out-perform our humanness. We are, she finds, as fragile as the day we were born.

With dry wit and unflinching honesty, Kate Bowler grapples with her diagnosis, her ambition, and her faith as she tries to come to terms with her limitations in a culture that says anything is possible. She finds that we need one another if we're going to tell the truth: Life is beautiful and terrible, full of hope and despair and everything in between—and there's no cure for being human.

Books are \$23 and available to order at the Adult Faith Formation table on Sundays. Participants are always welcome to purchase e-books or used books.

In a separate event, Dr. Lory Clukey will lead the Spirituality Book Club discussion of Kate Bowler's *No Cure for Being Human* at 3 p.m. March 20. The session is scheduled to be held at First Church. To stay informed of the plans, contact Martha Conant at marthaconant@gmail.com. Clukey, who holds two doctorates, is professor *emerita* at the University of Northern Colorado School of Nursing Administration and continues to teach in the university's online program.



Amy-Jill Levine and her latest publication.

Witness At the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday focuses on those who were at Jesus' Crucifixion on Good Friday: his mother Mary, his disciple John, Mary Magdalene and two other women, the two thieves who were executed with Jesus, the Roman centurion and other soldiers, one of Jesus' secret disciples, Joseph of Arimathea, and the Pharisee Nicodemus.

The Open Hearts class, which meets at 10:55 a.m. Sundays in Village Commons at First Church will host this Lenten study from March 6 to April 10.

It was written by Amy-Jill Levine, who is the Rabbi Stanley Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, and professor emerita of New Testament studies at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Levine is a world-renowned scholar, a self-described Jewish feminist, and "an un-orthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue." For information, contact Joan Carter at CarterOregon@gmail.com.

The Women's Gathering scheduled for February 27 at First Church with author Leslie Verner has been canceled over concerns about the spread of Covid. The planning team anticipates that Ms. Verner will be the keynote speaker next October at the annual Women's Retreat at the Tamasag Conference Center in Laporte.

Regional



Wanna get away (without flying)? From February 20-26, Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, offers six nights at the ranch and a five-day retreat, “***The Road Taken: Navigating Paths of Transition in Life’s Journeys***” with Quaker educator and spiritual director Jeannie Bowman. For more information, click [here](#).



TELLING OUR WHOLE STORY:
Uncovering the Truth

The Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church has 1) an online discussion about the concept of whiteness and 2) a call for entries to uncover the best accounts of where churches and the conference have resisted

the forces of white supremacy.

Rev. Rebecca David Hensley will discuss **“What is Whiteness and Why/How Do We Need to Talk about it in the Church”** as part of the Mountain Sky Conference series of [Vital Conversations](#) at 11:30 a.m. February 17. She is a Ph.D. student in the joint doctoral program in the study of religion at the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology. Her research interests involve intersectional feminist and liberative theologies, faith-based community organizing, and faith-based responses to the intersections of detention, deportation, and mass incarceration. She is also an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church.

[The Racial Justice Movement and Ministries](#) team seeks historical accounts of racial justice and resistance to white supremacy in the church or the conference. The deadline is May 1.



Trinity Church Wall Street hosts “Doing Justice: An Online Conversation with Gary Haugen” at 11:30 a.m. MST February 4. Haugen is the founder of International Justice Mission. [Register here.](#)

There's a free information session about earning a spiritual literacy certificate at 10 a.m. MST February 5 from Spirituality & Practice. [Register](#) in advance for this meeting.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. A recording of the live open house will be made available for registered attendees. [Here](#) is full information about this 9-month program.



A nine-week [Interfaith Lecture Series](#) is scheduled for this summer at the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York. Guest lecturers include David Saperstein, director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; Victoria Looz Co-founder, Seminary of the Wild; Sister Joan Chittister, OSB international lecturer and award-winning author for justice, peace and equality; and Eboo Patel, founder and president, Interfaith Youth Core.

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