



Jan. 30, 2021

Connect with us in new ways.

Remote learning disadvantages some people, but for those able to participate the possibilities to connect continue to grow. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Adult Faith Formation programs have been enriched by participants from California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin. That does not include people who have dropped in on Sunday classes. I, too, have enjoyed attending classes such as the one listed below at Riverside Church in New York, a Baptist and Congregationalist church. Do you know someone who would benefit from joining one of our studies?

The Northern Colorado Faith Library is launching a new "Multiple Choice" option. Send us a request on a topic and we will select five to 10 items on that topic and deliver them to your home within two or three days. Need ideas? How about biographies of fearless women, biographies of fearless men, recent fiction, Black History Month, religion and democracy, science and faith, Buddhism, history of Methodism? You may always select specific books and DVDs from the catalog at fcf.scoolaid.net. For either service, contact me at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707.

David W. Reid, editor

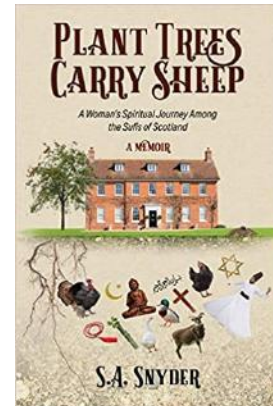


Would you like to know how the Coronavirus vaccine fights off Covid-19? What emergency use means? Join First Church member Kate Norton, Ph.D., for a Zoom presentation at noon February 7 on "How the Coronavirus Vaccine Fights Off Covid-19."

Norton has been a regulatory professional in the pharmaceutical industry for more than 20 years and holds a graduate degree in molecular biology. To obtain the Zoom link, contact David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707, voice or text.



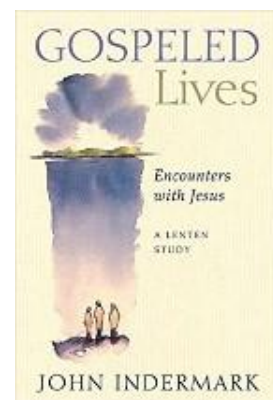
Author S. A. Snyder will discuss the two-year experience at a retreat house in Scotland that changed her life in a Zoom presentation at 6:30 p.m. February 8. Her memoir is titled *Plant Trees, Carry Sheep: A Woman's Spiritual Journey Among the Sufis of Scotland*. Snyder's book is available at [Reston's Used Books](#).



Find out more about Snyder at [lunarivervoices.com](#). Contact David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707 for the Zoom link.

Enrollment is already strong for a virtual Lenten study of ***Gospeled Lives: Encounters with Jesus*** that Bob Simpson will facilitate.

Author John Indermark, a United Church of Christ minister, says that to speak of “gospeled” lives speaks of lives that have been acted upon by an encounter with Jesus. In every case, the story of gospeled lives remains open-ended. That is, response to encounter with Jesus continues to unfold in ongoing choices and unfinished stories of our lives.

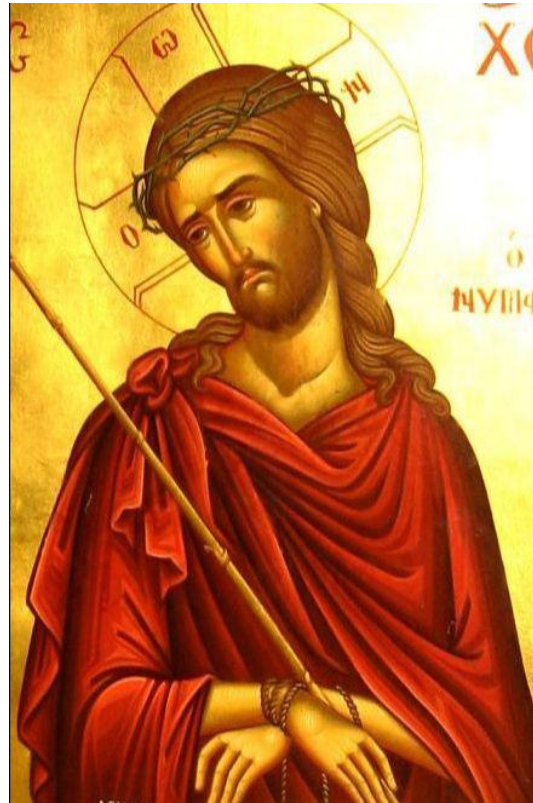


The study runs 7-8:15 p.m. for seven Mondays beginning February 15. Books: \$9.99 at Cokesbury; \$15 at Amazon; \$9.99 Kindle. To register, contact Simpson at [pastorrf@gmail.com](#). For assistance obtaining the book: davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707.

Kristin Kobes Du Mez, professor of history and gender studies at Calvin College, lays out the case for white evangelicalism going off the tracks in ***Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation***. Join a study of this quite readable book facilitated by David Reid starting February 25 (a week later than previously announced).

Du Mez dissects the militant, muscular Christianity that was promoted by many cultural warriors, including Tim and Beverly LaHaye, Phyllis Schlafly, University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney's Promise Keepers, a host of televangelists, fiery pastors such as Mark Driscoll and many more on a journey she said led inevitably to the adulation of Donald Trump.

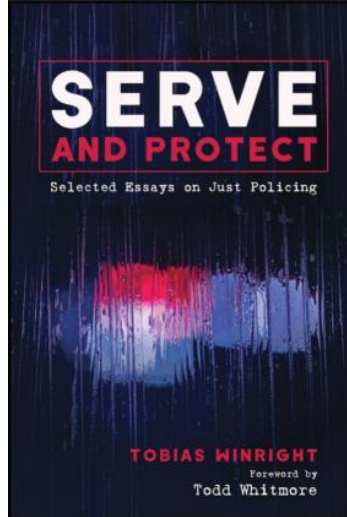
Books: \$25 at Amazon; \$15 for Kindle. Read a brief review in [Publishers Weekly](#). Contact David Reid for the Zoom link.



Tobias Winright of St. Louis University will speak on “Just and Unjust Policing: Reflections from a Christian Ethicist/Former Law Enforcement Officer” at 7 p.m. March 3 in a Zoom presentation sponsored by Adult Faith Formation. He is the author of a recently published collection of essays titled *Serve and Protect: Selected Essays on Just Policing*.

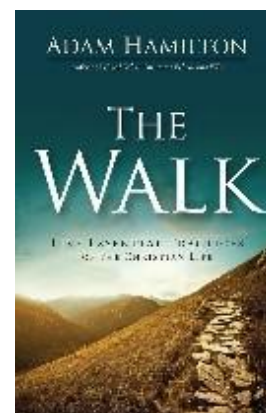
Numerous recent cases of police killings of black

men and women, including George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, have attracted scrutiny, criticism, and protest, as well as calls for “defunding” or “abolishing” the police. While violence, capital punishment and incarceration have received serious attention since Christianity’s inception, police use of force has not, Winright notes. One of the moral problems with policing, especially in the United States, is an “us versus them” mentality, he said. “To address this issue, though, I hope we avoid mirroring it ourselves. After all, the police are sitting in our pews.”



Download a five-page Q&A with Winright about his book of essays [here](#). Contact David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707 for the March 3 Zoom link.

Open Hearts class at First Church starts on February 21 with a five-week Sunday morning Zoom study of *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* by Adam Hamilton. Contact Martha Conant for information at marthaconant@gmail.com.



Write your own spiritual autobiography in a half-day workshop with World Wisdoms Project board member Laurie Gudim on February 21. This is a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization that First Church considers part of its ministries. Details [here](#).



Dr. Melanie Rosa, lead pastor at First Church, will be one of the panelists for a World Wisdoms Project program March 4. "You Do What? Spiritual Practice in

Times of Crisis; Part 2" registration and information are [here](#).



Have you ever read an encyclical? Here's your opportunity to listen to or read Pope Francis's encyclical on fraternity and social friendship.

Interfaith Spirituality Book of the Month group will host a discussion at 3 p.m. February 21. Listen [here](#) or look for the button for [Fratelli Tutti](#) to download a 76-page PDF. Contact Martha Conant for the Zoom link at marthaconant@gmail.com.

Regional

Iliff School of Theology is making its annual [Renewal Series](#) available to anyone through live, monthly 90-minute online sessions. The next one is at 1 p.m. February 8.

The **Commission on the Status and Role of Women** representatives at First Church suggest these resources to observe Black History Month:

- [Eight places to celebrate black history in Colorado](#). Even with social distancing, the list might help you plan a few hours out of the house during a pandemic.
- [Slave Songbook: Origin of the negro Spiritual](#).

National/International

What does it mean to “de-colonize” the church? Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church explores the topic in a five-part series beginning February 18. Register [here](#).



Religion News Service announces the second season of "Anti-racism as a Spiritual Practice" with the **Simran Jeet Singh**, a writer, teacher, scholar and activist.

Details of the season that run through April are [here](#). Find Singh's website [here](#).



Northern Colorado people are invited (really) to join the series "**Breaking White Supremacy: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Black Social Gospel**" at **Riverside Church** in New York via Zoom starting February 21. The facilitators are Gary Dorrien, who is the Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, and Colleen Birchett, assistant professor at City Universities of New York. Register by filling out [this form](#).

The **Northern Colorado Faith Library** has these five books written by Dorrien:

- [*The New Abolition: W.E.B. Dubois and the Black Social Gospel*](#) (2017 Grawemeyer Award winner)
 - [*Social Ethics in the Making: Interpreting an American Tradition*](#)
 - [*The Making of American Liberal Theology: Imagining Progressive Religion, 1805-1900*](#)
 - [*The Making of American Liberal Theology: Idealism, Realism and Modernity, 1900-1950*](#)
 - [*The Making of American Liberal Theology: Crisis, Irony & Post-Modernity, 1950-2005*](#)
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Friends of Roots, which sponsored a Middle East peace event at First Church several years ago, has an online seminar every Sunday in February. The organization also keeps an archive of past events. Information is [here](#).

NoCo Beet is a publication sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team and Northern Colorado Library Board at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. Publishers are Rev. Melanie Rosa and Rev. Cynthia Paquette, both of First Church. David Reid serves as editor. Haley Candelario is the designer and copy editor.

You can find our archive on the [Adult Ministries page](#) at the First United Methodist Church website. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us, and if you like what you see please forward this to acquaintances. Everyone is welcome to subscribe by using [this form](#).

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