



NoCo  
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Feb. 28, 2021

## The most urgent question.

“As recent events have shown, the most urgent question in American social ethics today pertains to police actions. With his background in law enforcement and extensive academic training, Tobias Winright has emerged as the most insightful and compelling voice in Christian ethics on questions of just policing and our racially divided and unjust society.”

*-- Cathleen Kaveny, Boston College scholar focusing on the relationship of law, religion and morality at Boston College*

Fort Collins is in for a rare opportunity to hear Tobias Winright on March 3. You're invited. The details are in our first item.

*David W. Reid, editor*



Northern Colorado



There's still time to sign up for **“Just and Unjust Policing: Reflections from a Christian Ethicist/Former Law Enforcement Officer”** at 7 p.m. March 3. Christian ethicist **Tobias Winright** of St. Louis University notes that while violence, capital punishment and incarceration

have received serious attention since Christianity's inception, police use of force has not. In this presentation, the institution and practices of policing will be examined in light of Christian ethics. This program will set the stage for further discussions of what to ask and expect from local policing in Fort Collins and Larimer County.



Contact David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707 for the Zoom link.

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In part two of the World Wisdom Project's program, "You Do What? Spiritual Practice in Times of Crisis," five leaders of diverse spiritual affiliations will share the practices that sustain them in times of turmoil and inspire their engagement in meaningful work on behalf of the world. The online program is at 6:30 p.m. March 4.

**Dr. Melanie Rosa**, lead pastor at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins, joins several other interesting people on the program. **Viviane Ephralsom-Abtis** Dharmacharya with the Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism; **Makhara-cora das (Mac McGoldrick)** is affiliated with the Radna-Krishna Temple in Denver and is a professor of philosophy and religious studies at Colorado State University; **Christine Dianni** is with the Religious Society of Friends, a Quaker; and **Dr. Doreen E Martinez** is an associate professor at Colorado State University and is of Mescalero, Apache, and Pennsylvania Dutch lineage.

Register for the Zoom event [here](#).

There will be a free online discussion group at 7 p.m. March 11 with WWP board members **Rabbi Hillel Katzir** and **Mary MacDonald** to follow up on this event. Register [here](#).

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*Makhara-cora das (Mac McGoldrick) and Viviane Ephralsom-Abt*

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# Regional

**Environmental Justice** is the theme for a 90-minute presentation at Iliff School of Theology beginning at 1 p.m. March 8. The presentation features two scholars: the school's first Iliff Tinker Visiting Professor, **Dr. Mark Freeland (Sault St. Marie Anishinabek)**, assistant professor of American Indian studies at South Dakota State University; and **Dr. Amy Erickson**, associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Iliff.

Register for only \$5 on [this page](#).

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*Dr. Mark Freeland (Sault St. Marie Anishinabek), assistant professor of American Indian studies at South Dakota State University; and Dr. Amy Erickson, associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Iliff School of Theology.*

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**First Church's Commission on Status and Role of Women** chapter recommends [this recorded video conference](#) on Negro Stories with artist **Chloe Duplessis**, who is legally blind. It was sponsored by the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church and incorporates Duplessis' powerful film. The host/facilitator is Bich Thy (Betty) Nguyen, multicultural and advocacy ministries developer for the conference.



Find out more about Duplessis [here](#).

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September seems a long way off but **Conspire 2021 with Father Richard Rohr** and many other stars of the ecumenical contemplative community could sell out fast when tickets become available. Stay informed about when registration for the live event in Albuquerque and the webcast are available by [signing up](#) for updates.

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**Tripp Fuller** is the proprietor of Homebrewed Christianity and a driven man. You need some kind of fuel to produce a podcast, write and edit books, produce a video resource for worship and religious education and host a traveling festival for theology nerds. Fuller is teeing up a new six-part series of podcasts with **Joerg Rieger** to launch March 16. At Vanderbilt University, Rieger is Distinguished Professor of Theology, Cal Turner Chancellor's Chair of Wesleyan Studies and founding director of the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice. [Here's the signup page](#) for their series, *Capital Change: The End of Religion and Business as Usual*, a virtual pop-up learning community.

Get a flavor of their work by checking out these books in the NoCo Faith Library written or edited by Fuller:

- [\*The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Jesus: Lord, Liar, Lunatic . . . or Awesome?\*](#)
- [\*The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to the Holy Spirit: Hand-Raisers, Han, and the Holy Ghost\*](#)
- [\*The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Church History: Flaming Heretics and Heavy Drinkers\*](#)

And these from Rieger:

- [\*Jesus vs. Caesar: For People Tired of Serving the Wrong God\*](#)
- [\*Unified We Are a Force: Growing Deep Solidarity Between Faith and Labor\*](#)



*Tripp Fuller and Joerg Rieger*

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Did you miss the spectacular PBS special on ***The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song***? Or want to watch it again? [Here's a link](#) to view at your convenience.



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**Contemplative Outreach** is a spiritual network of individuals and small faith communities committed to living the contemplative dimension of the Gospels. The founder was Father Thomas Keating. A highlight from the organization's calendar is this concentrated program on [contemplative prayer in times of chaos and divisions](#) March 19-21. The sponsor of this program is the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue in Detroit, Michigan.

Find out more about Contemplative Outreach and look for the complete calendar at [this site](#).

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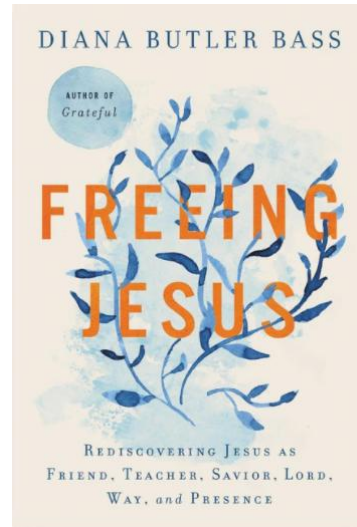
**Kenneth L. Carder** is a retired United Methodist bishop and purveyor of wisdom at his blog, [Shifting Margins](#). In his reflection on turning 80, he

references his wife Linda, who died last fall after suffering with dementia. Carder says that *Shifting Margins* is about changes in one's thinking about God, about life, about the church and its mission, and about what really matters.

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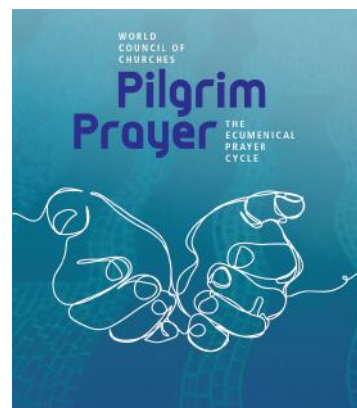
A much-anticipated new book from **Diana Butler Bass** is scheduled to arrive at the end of March.

Details [here](#) about *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence*.



Did you know you can pray around the world in a year? It's easy [to join](#) the **World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**.

[Pilgrim Prayer](#) is a resource book available from the WCC to help keep you on track for this journey.



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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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