

Christian Education Brochure Fall 2023

Flourishing in an Unpredictable World

Fall Kick-Off – September 10

Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter, Greater Atlanta Presbytery will lead a combined adult Sunday school class on the topic, *Flourishing in an Unpredictable World*. Most of us are hanging on by our fingernails in a world rife with racial inequities, economic injustice, emotional and spiritual fatigue, and radical division. But what would it be like to not just “get by” in this world but to flourish? Looking through the lens of scripture and spirituality, as well as her own personal story of grief and loss, the Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson will help us see the ways we can flourish as individuals and as communities of faith, living into our higher calling as members of society and citizens of God’s kingdom on earth. Adults and youth are invited to attend this presentation from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday, September 10. Children are invited to attend Children’s Fellowship in Room 2 of the Children’s Building during this time.

Two adult classes will be offered this fall:

Journey Class

The Journey class explores a wide variety of topics and issues throughout the year in a class series format. Meeting location: Session Room and on Zoom. The following series will be offered this fall:

Series 1: September 17, 24, October 1, 8: ***From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians***: This 4-week video course will focus on the PBS Frontline documentary by the same name that tells the epic story of the rise of Christianity. The course explores the life and death of Jesus, and the men and women whose belief, conviction, and martyrdom created the religion we now know as Christianity. Facilitator: Ellen Carrington

Series 2: October 15, 22, 29: ***TheoEd: Small Talks, Big Ideas***: Similar to the popular TED Talk series, TheoEd is a faith-based speaker series that brings together leading thinkers in the church and the academy to give the talk of their lives in 20 minutes or less. Facilitator: Ellen Carrington

Series 3: November 5, 12, 19: ***Biscuits with the Boss: The Gospel According to Ted Lasso***: ***Ted Lasso*** is a critically-acclaimed television show about an eternally optimistic, pop-culture referencing, deeply curious, and unquestionably kind American football coach hired to manage a fictional English Premier Football (soccer) team. Using video clips and discussion, this three-session series will explore the myriad ways that God's love and presence shine through the many characters and situations in the beloved show, *Ted Lasso*. Facilitators, Anne McClatchey and Ellen Carrington

Series 4: November 26, December 3, 10, 17: ***The Case for Christmas: Evidence for the Identity of Jesus***: In this four-session video Bible study, journalist Lee Strobel reveals what he discovered as he sought to separate the holiday of Christmas from the holy day, the facts from the fantasy, and the truth from the tradition. The study will invite you to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the evidence for yourself, and consider why Christmas really matters. Facilitator: Ellen Carrington

Adult Bible Study Class

The Gospel of John: Rev. Gray Norsworthy will take the lead in team teaching the gospel of John, with AJ Shortley. The study will work through John's gospel focusing on a passage of scripture each week. There will be plenty of discussion and knowledge of the Bible is not a requirement. Gray and AJ will bring their insights to understanding each passage and how it might apply to our lives. Optional readings for those interested will be suggested and shared. No preparation is required each week, but will certainly add to going deeper into the scripture. Everyone is welcome. The class will meet at 9:15am in the Youth Lodge and will be available on Zoom as well.

Children's Ministry

Each Sunday morning, children between the ages of 4 years old and 5th grade have two opportunities for education and fellowship:

Children's Morning Fellowship, 9:15-10:15am: Led by Sunday school teacher Marina Greiner, children will gather for games, crafts, and music. Location: Children's Building, Room 2

Children's Sunday School, 10:45-11:30am: Immediately following the Time With Young Disciples in the morning worship service, children between the ages of 4 years old and

5th grade will be led to the Children's Building by Sunday school teacher Marina Greiner for their weekly lesson from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude. This curriculum offers children the opportunity to learn meaningful and important Bible stories that will encourage them to grow into God's love and live as expressions of God's grace. Location: Children's Building, Room 2 Parents should pick up their children from the Children's Building following the worship service.

Nursery Care: The Northwest Nursery is located in Room 1 the Children's Building. The nursery opens each Sunday morning at 9:00 am and closes at 11:45 am or at the conclusion of any after-church event. Children who are newborn through age 3 are welcome to attend the nursery where our nursery workers, Somia Malik and Bonnie Lemley will provide tender loving care. Parents, please bring diapers and a change of clothes and any medications needed (Epipen). Please do not bring foods containing nuts.

Parent Fellowship

Parent Fellowship is a time on Sunday evenings for parents of children of all ages to gather for food, fellowship and time to learn more about parenting and Christian faith. This fall, parents are invited to attend a continuation of the parenting course begun in the spring entitled, ***Parenting the Love and Logic Way***. Classes will meet on four consecutive Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 pm: September 10, 17, 24 and October 1. Location: Family Life Center Building. Facilitator: Ellen Carrington. Cost: \$50 per person. Includes dinner. R.S.V.P. to ellencarrington@yahoo.com. Parents need not have attended the spring classes to attend this course.

Youth Ministry

Northwest's active and vibrant youth ministry offers 6th through 12th grade youth weekly opportunities for fun, fellowship, service, and Christian formation. Youth meet each Sunday, typically from 5:00-7:00 pm in Northwest's Youth Lodge and are led by Youth Director, AJ Shortley. The group also uses the church bus to travel to offsite locations for local service events and just-for-fun activities such as laser tag and bowling. The group participates in seasonal retreats, summer mission trips, and local events offered for youth by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Contact AJ Shortley for the Fall 2023 youth calendar or check the Youth Page on Northwest's website for weekly updates.
www.northwestpresbyterianchurch.org

Men's Bible Study

The Men's group is starting the Fall with *"Sabbath as Resistance"* by Walter Brueggemann, a short but powerful book: "Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. Brueggemann calls out our 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform, and possess. We want more, own more, use more, eat more, and drink more. Brueggemann shows readers how keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life... Sabbath as Resistance offers a transformative vision of the wholeness God intends, giving world-weary Christians a glimpse of a more fulfilling and simpler life through Sabbath observance." Come join the conversation! Facilitator: AJ Shortley. The group meets each Wednesday morning at 9:30am in the Youth Lodge.

Women's Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study will resume on September 13, 2023, at 9:30am. Again, we will use the hybrid format with participants gathering in the conference room at church or attending via Zoom. The first study for the year will be the book of Hebrews. We will use the LifeChange study guide (available on Amazon) to facilitate our discussions. Contact Anneke Woodward or Lynne Schlosberg for additional information. New participants welcome!