

This Spring of 2021, MESoM will offer the following 4 semester long classes. All essential information is included here.

Please reach out to me with any questions etc.

rbaard@maineucc.org

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## 1) Biblical Storytelling for Lent and Easter Virtual Worship

Instructor: Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell, M.Div.

### Description:

Open yourself to the wonder of letting the Easter story steep in your soul this season. Biblical Storytelling is a Spring semester 2021 practice-based course which will provide course participants with an introduction to the art of Biblical Storytelling for use in a virtual worship through an experiential learning approach. Stories from Lent, Holy Week and Easter morning will be the basis of our storytelling palette. This course is great for beginners as well as experienced preachers seeking some fresh inspiration.

Biblical Storytelling is a spiritual discipline through which you are invited to deepen your devotional faith and grow in your missional outreach. Everyone is a storyteller. Each person is a one-of-a-kind creation with distinctly original gifts, therefore, each story that a person tells will be uniquely expressed. There is no one perfect storytelling role model to follow. This course will survey a number of different techniques for learning and telling Bible stories. Course participants will develop and share their own Biblical Storytelling art through pre-recording and live virtual presentations.

Dates of Classes: Saturdays 9:00 am -3:00 pmon ZOOM - Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24

Instructor NEW Brief Bio: (use current picture)

Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell, M.Div.: AbbyLynn has been delighting in the joy and ministry of storytelling since graduating from Bangor Theological Seminary in 1999. She has served churches in New Hampshire and Maine in the roles of associate pastor, director of program development and pastor and firmly believes storytelling to be a vibrant way of shaping community, worship and pastoral care that effectively shares the Gospel. AbbyLynn is working on her Doctorate of Ministry in Semiotics, Church and Culture at Portland Seminary of George Fox University. Her project focus is creating experiential, participatory, image rich and relationally connected Biblical storytelling curriculum for Maine School of Ministry students. She also currently serves as part-time co-pastor at the Acton Congregational Church UCC in Maine. Since beginning work on her doctorate she has been diligent in learning the secrets to developing the craft of oral storytelling for the virtual world. The results of which can be seen on her YouTube channel, Sacred Storytelling Lab. She is thrilled to pass along these secrets to

others wanting to learn more about the art of oral storytelling. AbbyLynn also loves sailing, is a USCG Captain and runs a coastal sailing retreat business with her husband that operates out of Saco Bay.

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## 2) Introduction to the New Testament - Part II - Apostles, Epistles and Apocalypse

Instructor: Dr. Larry Kalajainen, Ph.D.

### Description:

This course will cover the remainder of the New Testament after the Gospels and Acts. St. Paul and his epistles will feature prominently, since thirteen of the writings are attributed to him (though only seven are undisputedly from his hand). The names of other apostles and Pauline associates are linked to the rest, and the canonical closer is that mysterious, maddening, terrible, and beautiful work "The Apocalypse of John," more commonly known as "The Book of Revelation." The emphasis will be primarily on what Paul's epistles and the others reveal about the evolution of the Jesus movement from the death of Jesus throughout the rest of the first century and into the second. We will look at the challenges the nascent church faced, both internal and external, the variety of early Christian practices and beliefs, and the gradual (and sometimes bitter) separation from its parent body, Second Temple Judaism. (Some of the later class sessions are not fully fleshed out, but changes or additions to the syllabus will be announced well in advance by postings on Google Classroom.)

Dates of Classes: Saturdays 9:00 am -1:00 pmon ZOOM - February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, May 22

Instructor: Dr. Larry Kalajainen, Brief Bio and Picture are the Same

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## 3) The Bible from Clay Tablets to Computer Tablets

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day, D.Min.

### Description:

The course provides an overview to the academic study of the Bible. The course is designed to familiarize the student with the origins and development of the Old and New Testaments, the world of the ancient Near East, the types of literature in the Bible, and the development of the canon of Scriptures. Attention will be given to the role of Textual and Higher Criticism, the history of the transmission of the Bible, the translation of the Bible in English, and its reception and use today. The course will seek to consistently demonstrate the connection between the academic study of the Bible and its devotional and pastoral use.

Dates of Classes: Tuesday evenings, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Jan. 19, Feb. 2, Feb. 16, March 2, March 16, April 6, April 20, May 4

New Instructor Bio and Picture: (picture sent separately)

Paul A. Day is a retired minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church, with dual standing in the United Church of Christ. He received a B.A. (History) & M.A. (Religious Studies) from Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, MA; M.Div. from North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL; and D.Min. (Ministry in New England) from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton, MA. A life-long learner he has pursued further graduate studies and continuing education.

Ordained in 1979, Rev. Day has served as pastor to congregations in Michigan, Washington, Massachusetts, and Maine. From 1997 through 2006, he was the Executive Director of the Bible Society of Maine, leading the organization's mission to "put the Word of God into the hands, heads and hearts of people in Maine and beyond." During that time he was a member of the National Church Advisory Committee of the American Bible Society, and president of the National Association of State and Regional Bible Societies. He has served on the board of the New England Seafarers Mission, and as a volunteer chaplain/ship's visitor. Day has also taught at several Bible colleges and as adjunct faculty at the University of New England.

Rev. Day has written A History of the Scandinavian Seamen's Mission; Unity and Freedom: One Hundred Years of the East Coast Conference; One the Move: 125 Years of the E.C.C.; The Bible Society Movement in New England; and several congregational histories and other articles. He is a contributor to the Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (DeGruyter, 2010).

An avid reader and bibliophile, Paul has an extensive personal library, including some 75 Bibles, Testaments or portions, in over 50 English translations. He also has a collection of 75 nativities from around the world, which has often shared with congregations and communities.

Paul's other interests include cooking, gardening, woodworking, travel and photography. He and his wife live in Portland. They have three adult daughters and four grandchildren.

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#### 4) When We Gather: An Exploration of Christian Worship, History and Practice

Instructor: Rev. Kelli Whitman, M.Div.

##### Description:

Sunday morning worship is essential to the life of the Christian congregation. In this class we will take a closer look at what happens when the community gathers for worship. We will explore why we gather (looking at Biblical models of worship, history of worship, and the liturgical year) and how we gather (considering multi-sensory worship, our role as worship leader, and special worship services). We will focus on practical worship leadership skills and participants will have a chance to design a lead a worship service for the class.

Dates of Classes: Selected Weekend on Saturday/Sunday afternoons from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - February 20-21, March 20-21, April 17-18, May 15-16

New Instructor Bio and Picture: (picture sent separately)

Rev. Kelli Whitman is a life-long member and ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. She grew up in Pennsylvania, attended Eden seminary in St. Louis, and has been serving churches in Maine since 2010. She is a certified trainer with the Worship Design Studio, and has training in interim ministry. Kelli loves creating interesting worship visuals and weaving music into worship in meaningful ways. Kelli believes in making sensory-rich worship accessible to all churches, no matter their size or budget.