



# CornerStones

*We will all graduate from this life;  
Be sure to complete your coursework!*

**CornerStones** seeks to challenge and grow the faith of this community through spiritually enriching opportunities. **Jesus** is the cornerstone, the essential foundation, and we are the living stones building a spiritual house.

The four blocks represent the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, the foundation of theological discernment in our Wesleyan tradition: grounded in **Scripture**; informed by Christian **Tradition**; enlivened by **Experience**; and tested by **Reason**.

What will *your* **Cornerstones Plan** be this year? What will you do to enrich and grow your spiritual life? Will you commit to take at least one course this year? We have many opportunities for you to participate by varying the days/times classes are offered.

If you do not currently attend SUMC, we encourage you to come to a class and get to know us – all are welcome!

## **Disciple: Jesus in the Gospels**

**Sept 14 – May 17**

**Mondays 7:00 pm**

Because the gospels often contain the same or similar stories, we often blend and merge these stories together. But each gospel writer tells a different story with a different emphasis. *Jesus in the Gospels*, part of the *Disciple* series, looks at the way each gospel writer presents events and teachings, and at the different picture of Jesus that emerges in each of the gospels. Taught by Pastor John Nash.

## **The World of the Bible**

**Sept 20**

**Sunday 11:15 am**

No book is more highly revered, yet widely misread than the Bible. It has inspired both the most noble advances and some of the ugliest episodes in human history. It is a source of spiritual insight and moral guidance, but it is also a source of confusion and incredulity. The Bible was written to be understood, but not by 21st Century readers. The original context is too often shrouded in mystery. This class is an introduction to the world of the Bible through images of landscapes and archaeological sites from around the Mediterranean region that illuminate the backgrounds and context of the Bible. Taught by Rev. Peter Miano.

## **Thursday Faith & Fellowship**

**Oct – May**

**Thursdays 12:30 – 2 pm**

An informal study group that utilizes the Upper Room, Nooma videos and other Bible study materials. Contact Debbie Crane at [debbiecrane@comcast.net](mailto:debbiecrane@comcast.net).

**The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions**      **Sept 30 – Oct 21**      **Wednesdays 7:30 pm**

Written in 1998 by Marcus Borg and NT Wright, described by some as “the Siskel and Ebert of the theological world,” this book addresses key questions about Jesus from Borg’s liberal and Wright’s traditionalist perspectives. Was Jesus the Son of God? Was he really born of a virgin? What is the meaning of his death? What actually happened on Easter? Taught by Pastor Joel Guillemette.

**The Apocalypse Now**      **Nov 1 – Nov 22**      **Sundays 11:15 am**

The Book of Revelation (the Apocalypse) is easily the most controversial, and perhaps most dangerous, book in the New Testament. From its vivid, startling imagery and inscrutable symbolism, to its often bizarre story line, it is unique among the books of the Bible. This study attempts to make the Book of Revelation accessible by illuminating its original context. Who wrote it, and for whom? What was the original purpose? We will also examine its various contemporary applications. How is it used or misused today? Is it in any way relevant to us or is it only a curious relic of a distant past? No previous experience with the Bible is necessary. The course will employ images to illustrate the original context of the Book of Revelation. Taught by Rev. Peter Miano.

**Forgive Us Our Trespasses**      **Nov 4 – Nov 18**      **Wednesdays 7:30 pm**

Every Sunday, Christians pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Why is forgiveness so important for those who follow Jesus? What is forgiveness? How is it accomplished? Bring to this class a list of those whom you yearn to forgive. Through Bible study, prayer, and worship we will seek God’s help with this important but difficult work. Taught by Pastor Joel Guillemette.

**Advent for All Ages**      **Dec 2 – Dec 16**      **Wednesdays 6:00 pm**

**Isaiah’s Immanuel:** During this season, Christians often read Isaiah’s Old Testament writings as if they reflect predictions made by the prophet about Jesus several centuries before he was born. A Christmas card proclaims, “A Virgin Shall Conceive and Bear a Son.” An Advent carol pleads, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” A banner hung in the chancel announces, “His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful Counselor.” After we share a simple meal of warm soup and bread on three Wednesday evenings, Pastor Joel will help us understand the historical context of Isaiah, while also demonstrating why Gospel writers like Matthew saw in Jesus’ birth and ministry a fulfillment of the prophet’s ancient message. A **Special Children’s Program** on the meaning of Advent and Christmas symbols will also be offered. Parents may join their children for this intergenerational activity. Taught by Pastor Joel Guillemette and Wendy Guillemette.

**Mental Health, Mental Illness & Faith Communities**      **Jan 10 – Feb 28**  
**Sundays 11:15 am**

According to the Surgeon General, one in every five Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year, and half of all Americans have such disorders at some time in their lives. The illnesses of the brain affect all of us regardless of age, gender, economic status or ethnicity. Nearly every person sitting in the pews has been touched in some way by mental illness. Please join us as we explore how faith communities can learn more about mental illness, reduce the stigma and shame often associated with brain disorders, and understand the important role of faith and spirituality in the recovery process. Taught by Dr. Steve Lubic and Pastors Joel Guillemette and John Nash.



**Death and Dying**

**May 5 – May 26**

**Wednesdays 7:30 pm**

Though most Americans say that they would like to die at home, after a brief illness, and surrounded by loved ones, the majority die in a medical facility, following an extended illness, and isolated from the most important people in their lives. Why is there such a large gap between the ideal death we envision and the one we tend to experience? Staff from Parmenter Community Health Care and the Parlin Hospice Residence will lead these classes with Pastor Joel, offering practical suggestions for facing death and dying, whether our own or those of the people we love. Taught by Pastor Joel Guillemette.

Sign up for a class by contacting Pastor John ([pastorjohn@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:pastorjohn@sudbury-umc.org)) or Karen Krone ([kvk812@aol.com](mailto:kvk812@aol.com)).