



NEW CLASSES INSIDE

We are committed to offer all classes **free of charge**. Donations are requested but *always* optional.



"The Quest truly was a journey toward intimacy with God. I have always struggled with the concept of intimacy with God; it just didn't sound 'holy.' However, during the 6 weeks, the Holy Spirit taught me what a beautiful thing intimacy is. I learned to begin with an honest, seeking heart. I found the desire to get to know all about Him. I found that I want to keep focused daily on the object of my affection: God."



Terri Latta

A Pilgrimage into the Garden and Beyond

I was surprised when I initially saw the Garden of Gethsemane outside the walled city of Jerusalem. I don't know what I was expecting but I'm sure it wasn't this. I thought the trees would be larger and that there would be grass to sit upon. Instead, there was an iron fence around a small plot of land that held some of the oldest trees known to mankind. I stood among others lined up along the fence. I felt I was all alone even though I was in the midst of a crowd. I knew a few but most all were strangers from around the

world. There was a stillness within me—a silence. And then deep within my heart: "Here. He was here."

Was he? Had Jesus actually been near the very place I was standing? My heart seemed to think so. My mind could convince me that it was unlikely. But on a pilgrimage—the heart is in charge.

I had planned on being in Israel again this Spring but as you know all travel plans have changed for now. Instead, I've returned to the biblical sites in the Holy Land through many of my

classes; my friends and I have been on a virtual pilgrimage of sorts. **A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place. While on a pilgrimage, it is important to listen closely to your heart along the way.**

Wakening Ministry has been a pilgrimage of sorts. I began by stepping into the unknown, and listened to my heart, trusting God along the way. Follow the footsteps to hear from a few of my fellow pilgrims about the journey so far.

Come and walk with us.

LEMONADE



"When life gives you lemons...make lemonade.' For many reasons, 2020 seemed to be the most sour lemon of a year ever. COVID truly threw us a curve ball. But within all the chaos, illness and isolation the quiet revealed something was missing in my life. After the study for our Holy Land trip I realized I needed to get back to the written word. For so long I'd kept myself busy with no time to stop and open up my Bible. Rising out of a difficult time

Wakening Ministry has offered up lemonade through rich studies of world religions, racism, womanhood, as well as our Bible. I've met new friends all over the USA. With my husband, Lea, teaching classes our morning coffee and evening glass of wine ends up in deep discussions from class and from his research. Telephone conversations end up with biblical women conversations and memories of Israel. I must say the lemonade flows daily and it quenches my thirst in ways I never expected. Thank you Linda for stepping out of the box to start your beautiful ministry."

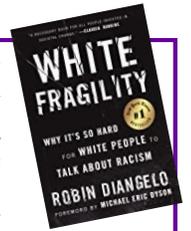
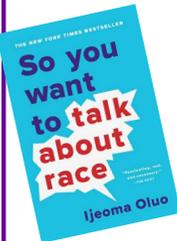
Robin Burt





“Waking Anti-Racism classes have been a place of both healing and hope for me. As a 53 year-old African American woman, I have many white friends while most of them only have one Black friend—me. Often the cost of these friendships is my full assimilation and silence regarding racism because my friends are too uncomfortable with these topics. Or, they expect me to unequivocally certify they ‘don’t have a racist bone in their body.’ In this class, however, everyone can show up as their whole selves since all participants have elected to respectfully discuss hard truths, self-reflect deeply, and pilgrimage towards becoming anti-racists. Eventually, participants discover we can be good people who are committed to anti-racism and still unconsciously behave in racist ways from time to time. Sometimes, this learning and confession is painful for the whites in this class, and it is almost always painful for me and the other Black participants. Yet, we all show up to class each month because we’re on a journey; we’re on a mission. As the saying goes, ‘knowledge is power.’ It is only by knowing ourselves that we are empowered to change inwardly first and then outwardly influence the changes we hope to see in our families, communities, nation, and world.”

Dionne Howard



“Why *is* it so hard for white people to talk about race? With this thought provoking question foremost in my mind, I registered for the book study, White Fragility, and began to read. I must confess that there were moments early on when I wanted to quit but it’s a topic that definitely needs honest and open discussion in our country right now, and Linda’s manner of leading this study made me want to persevere. I am so glad I did! I learned so much from the book, from Linda’s teaching, and from the group discussions.



Perhaps the biggest takeaway for me was that just by being born white, I was given immense advantages over People of Color even though I did nothing to deserve those privileges. It gave me a whole new perspective. Linda’s willingness to be honest, real and vulnerable herself makes each of her classes an opportunity for extremely valuable learning and life-changing experiences.”

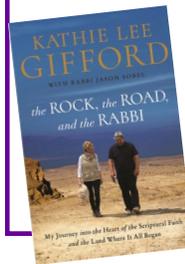
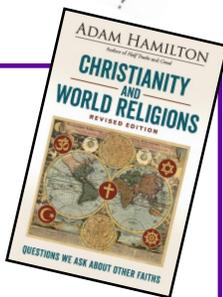
Beverly Caldwell

“Through Christianity and World Religions, my desire to learn more about the Jewish faith was deepened. During The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi, we explored the life and teachings of Jesus from a historical perspective that brings the Bible alive today. We get to walk where Jesus walked and we come to truly understand our Bible as the living word of God and Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s promise to his chosen people and to all who believe. To get the most out of our Bible and faith, it is important to realize that the Bible was written for Middle Easterners and about Middle Easterners—a culture very diverse from our own. During this class, we are immersed in the Hebrew perspective as we explore their language, come to understand their customs, and explore their homeland. ‘Religion is nothing without relationship.’ Our purpose in this world is to partner with God to bring His ‘shalom’ to the chaos of this world. This is accomplished through our relationship with the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord.”



Mary T Crowder-Paden

Christianity and World Religions, was an informative survey of the four major world religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism. During our study we compared the beliefs of each of the others with the beliefs of Christianity. Linda had arranged a lay leader, Lea Burt to co-lead the study. Lea’s preparation was evident for each meeting and Linda provided insight as clergy for our study. Using videos prepared by the author and the leadership of Linda and Lea, we explored the four religions and why we should believe the claims of Christianity over those religions. The study was very respectful of the other religions and their contributions to the world. The study helped me to dive more deeply into the beliefs held by many of members of my world community and to consider how studying the beliefs of those differing from mine can help me to work to build bridges of peace and love with my neighbors as well as to know how to answer questions about my faith from someone of another faith.”

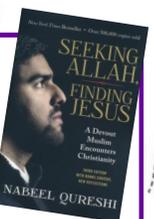


Cindy Farmer

“Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus has been the best class that I’ve taken from Linda...and I’ve taken several. I expected to learn more about Islam but never dreamed that I’d also be learning more about

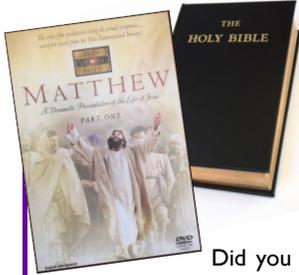


Christianity. I have discovered the diversity of Islam, just as we have diversity in Christianity. This class has made me yearn for more knowledge about my own faith and has given me substantial support of my own Christian beliefs. It has not only answered the WHAT of Christianity, but also the WHY.”



Karla Tuttle

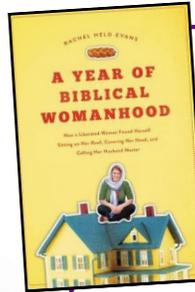
Learn more about Rev. Linda Zastovnik at www.wakeningministry.org.



“Did you know the Gospel of Matthew was written by a disciple of Christ – who was originally a tax collector? (And tax collectors were just as popular 2,000 years ago as they are today!) Did you know that Matthew wrote his Gospel 30-40 years after Jesus’ resurrection? (But, he had a great memory.) Did you know that Matthew was a Jewish man, writing for a Jewish audience? (Which can make it tough for a non-Jewish community to understand.) Do you understand Matthew’s Gospel? Linda walked us through the Gospel of Matthew in a clear, down-to-earth way, understandable to all. With the aid of her biblical timelines, links to the Old Testament, and an audio/video reenactment of the Bible story, she presented Jesus as God and as a true human being. He is more than the Messiah—he is one of us! He’s human, he’s funny, and he hurts just like any of us would. But, he doesn’t let that deter him from his primary mission: redeeming the world. Pastor Linda helped us to make sense of the Bible and the world!”



Dennis & Iris Swanick

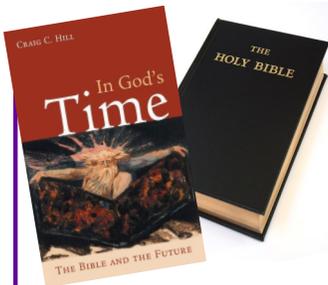


“As someone whose exposure to God was deeply rooted in Evangelical Fundamentalism since childhood, I appreciate the insights of Rachel Held Evans. Coming from a similar background, she addresses the standards for Biblical godliness that have been traditionally defined and decided for women. She writes with gifted wisdom, wit and openness; and truly it is difficult to stop reading at chapter’s end. This study is designed to read one chapter a month and then gather for discussion. As with all of Linda’s study groups, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* is like an online coffee meet-up whilst sitting in one’s own comfy chair. I love the open conversation and fellowship with women from all over the country. It is a mistake to deny oneself the value of recognizing that everyone has a unique lens with which they see. Being open to perspectives and conversation about questions not only makes God bigger, but brings God closer—or vice versa.”



Tari Kahrs

NEW CLASSES



“As one who took the class on *Revelation* with the intention of equipping myself better when discussing it with someone who considers Revelation only from an inerrant Calvinistic perspective, I was shocked at my own lack understanding of the text and it’s place in scripture. After completing the class I had a much deeper awareness of what the text brings to a follower of the principles of Jesus Christ, and upon reflection, all the children of Abraham. Because of a wide diversity in faith perspectives and biblical literacy, we as a group were able to dive much deeper than I think any of us expected, and allowed the Spirit to enter in, thereby encouraging us to recognize and be more responsive to our Creator’s movement and invitation found in the text.”



Walter Vaughan



“I found myself for the first time in years with the time to pursue one of the things I used to enjoy: learning about and sharing my faith. I returned from a Holy Land pilgrimage last year more enthused than ever to get started but COVID got in the way. A digital class with Wakening Ministry made me realize that there was more than one way to participate in a faith community. Thanks to Linda’s invitation, I have had the privilege to teach a few courses (*Christianity & World Religions; Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*). I say privilege because not only do I get a chance to study and learn, but through the benefit of interaction with clergy to add clarity to the learning experience. I look forward to attending church when we are able, but now realize I have an added faith community. Thank you for the vision when it is badly needed.”

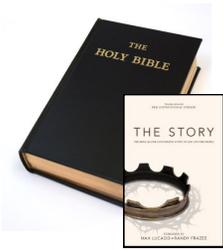
Lea Burt

Click to Register
for Classes

All times are Eastern Standard Time.

wakening ministry

Rev. Linda Zastovnik
Teaching Pastor and Consultant



Wakening in the Word

Bring your cup of coffee/tea and your Bible. We will follow *The Story*, one week at a time, as it unfolds throughout Scripture. Join in anytime, but we officially begin on April 11. Come to one or come to all.. You will receive a reading plan to follow.

Sundays
Beginning April 11
9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Bring your Bible.
Reading Plan will be
Provided.

In the Holy Land

with Ray Vander Laan



During *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi*, we read about teacher and guide, Ray Vander Laan. This class includes visiting 5 sites in the Holy Land—virtually—with Pastor Ray. You will be provided with a study resource at no cost.

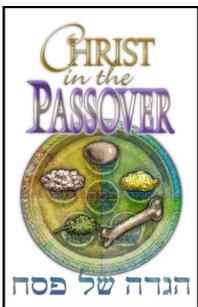
Mondays, 5 weeks
April 26-May 24

7:00 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

No book required.
Materials will be provided.

Christ in the Passover

The Passover is the Old Testament feast that celebrates and remembers God's liberation of Israel from Egypt. It also foreshadows Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Learn the history and significance of this sacred event. You will be provided with materials to print and guidance in preparing your own Seder meal for the event (optional).



Sunday
March 28
6:00—8:00 p.m.
Materials will be provided.

Wakening Anti-Racism

We meet monthly to discuss the a pre-assigned reading or video on important topics and relevant issues that enlighten, challenge, teach, and inspire us to live as antiracists. *White Fragility* and *So You Want to Talk About Race* are books that have helped us start these conversations. This is a safe place to learn about our history which will inform our present struggles.

April: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

May: Voting Rights

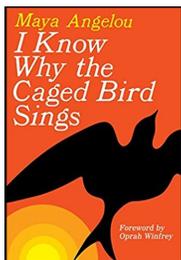
June: Juneteenth

July & August: “Choose Your Adventure”

Sundays
Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 2,
June 13...

5:15—6:45 p.m.

Come to one or all.



Holy Land 2022 Pilgrimage Discussion

Join Pastor Linda on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2022. There is a plan in place; we are waiting and hopeful. Come and learn more about the details as we discuss walking in the footsteps of Jesus!



Sunday
April 25
4:30-6:00 p.m.

All classes are taught by Rev. Linda Zastovnik, online using Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Click to Register for Classes

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wakening ministry

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Teaching Pastor and Consultant

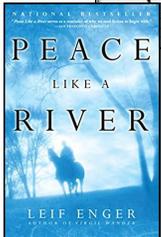
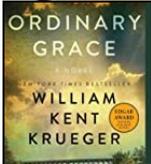
Summer Reading June-August

So many books, so little time! For all (meaning all genders, all ages), this summer you will love each of these three books. We will meet on the last Tuesday of each month to discuss. Sign up for one, two, or all three. Include your spouse and/or friend.

Tuesdays
Once a Month
Jun 29—Ordinary Grace
Jul. 27—Wearing God
Aug. 31—Peace Like a River

6:45—8:45 p.m..

Come to one or come to all.



June: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. **Discussion led by Carey Bullock.** Tragedy strikes Frank’s family—which includes his Methodist minister father, his mother, older sister and kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal. Forty years later, he discovers the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

July: *Wearing God* by Lauren F. Winner. **Discussion led by Rev. Kake Nations.** Lauren Winner, an Episcopal priest who teaches at Duke Divinity School, notes there are hundreds of metaphors for God, but the church only uses a few familiar images: creator, judge, savior, father. Let’s explore some others: God as clothing (“clothed with Christ”), as the vine/vintner who animates life; the lactation consultant; and the comedian. Oh, I love God as the comedian!

August: *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. **Discussion led by Janice Mack.** Eleven-year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy in the Midwest has reason to believe in miracles. Along with his sister and father, Reuben finds himself on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been charged with murder. Family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, and the most tragic of fates.

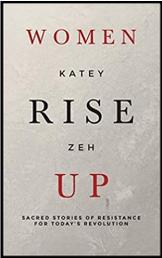
Wakening Women June-August

Wakening Women returns this summer with more stories of biblical women—some we’ve met before, some will be new—and connecting them to contemporary global gender issues. In doing so, Rev. Katey Zeh speaks truth to women’s oppression and erasure while reminding us of the sacredness of women’s experience, wisdom, solidarity, and sisterhood. *The book is suggested but not required.*

Mondays
Jun. 7—Aug. 30
(no meeting on Jul. 5)

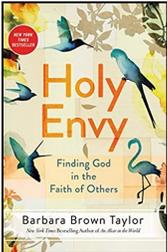
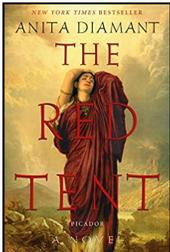
7:00 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

Book is suggested, not required.



Coming this Fall

The Red Tent—In the Bible, Dinah’s life is only hinted at in a brief and violent story. We will meet the mothers—Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah—the four wives of Jacob. They love Dinah and give her gifts that sustain her through childhood, a calling to midwifery, and a new home in a foreign land.



Holy Envy by Barbara Brown Taylor is a series of vignettes structured around Taylor’s college course tracing world religions through history—primarily Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.

There is no cost for classes; **donations are requested and always optional (Checks, Venmo, PayPal).**

Click to Register
for Classes

MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:05 The Rock, Road, Rabbi	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 7:05-8:30 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus	9	10	11	12	13
14 5:15 -6:45 Wakening Anti- Racism	15	16 7:05-8:30 Biblical Womanhood	17	18	19	20
21	22 7:05-8:30 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus	23	24	25	26	27
28 6:00-8:00 Christ in the Passover	29	30	31			

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 	3
4 	5 7:05-8:30 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word 5:15 -6:45 Wakening Anti- Racism	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word	19 7:05-8:30 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus	20 7:05-8:30 Biblical Womanhood	21	22	23	24
25 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word  4:30-6:00 Holy Land Info	26 7:00-8:45 Holy Land with Ray Vander Laan	27	28	29	30	1

**Click to Register
for Classes**

wakening ministry

Rev. Linda Zastovnik
Teaching Pastor and Consultant

MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word 5:15-6:45 Wakening Anti-Racism	3 7:00-8:45 Holy Land with Ray Vander Laan	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word	10 7:00-8:45 Holy Land with Ray Vander Laan	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word	17 7:00-8:45 Holy Land with Ray Vander Laan	18 7:05-8:30 Biblical Womanhood	19	20	21	22
23 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word	24 7:00-8:45 Holy Land with Ray Vander Laan	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word	31 					

JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word	7 7:00 Wakening Women	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word 5:15-6:45 Wakening Anti-Racism	14 7:00 Wakening Women	15 7:05-8:30 Biblical Womanhood	16	17	18	19  JUNETEENTH
20 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word	21 7:00 Wakening Women	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00-10:30 Wakening in Word	28 7:00 Wakening Women	29 6:45-8:45 Summer Reading Ordinary Grace	30			

wakening ministry

Rev. Linda Zastovnik
Teaching Pastor and Consultant

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Phone: (704) 770-1858

Email: lindaz@wakeningministry.org



Founded by Rev. Linda Zastovnik, Wakening Ministry LLC exists to make disciples for Jesus Christ through trusting relationships and relevant studies, both in person and online. Created in response to the unique challenges of COVID-19, Pastor Linda has taken this time as an opportunity to connect with Christians and curious minds who are hungry for qualified and engaging studies. She has created online classes that have inspired the vision for this ministry, to reach out to people and make virtual human connections. These virtual connections with faith will enhance our spiritual experience, even when all people can return to their in-person congregations without risk.

www.wakeningministry.org

Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear.
Isaiah 50:4

About Wakening Ministry



What We Offer

- Exciting Bible Studies, Book Studies
- Creative Classes and Groups that Foster Spiritual Growth
- Experienced Church Ministry Consultant for All Age Levels
- Qualified Training for Church Leaders
- Specialized Christian Education Classes
- Personalized Holy Land Pilgrimages
- Preaching, Weddings & Funerals

Board of Advisors:

Clergy:

Rev. Ashley Thomas (elder, WNCC)
Rev. Edward Boye (elder, retired, North Georgia)
Rev. John Ryan (D.EdMin, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, Davidson College Presbyterian Church)

Laity:

Beverly Caldwell, Myrna Caudle, Donna Lineberger
Dennis Swanick (CPA, retired)

Financial Details & Non-Profit Status (still waiting)

We are committed to offer all classes free of charge. Your donations to Wakening Ministry enables everyone to receive exceptional Christian education while growing this faith community. Donations are requested but always optional.

Rev. Linda Zastovnik is appointed to Wakening Ministry LLC by the bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Her secondary appointment/Charge Conference is at First United Methodist Church of Taylorsville. Neither of these appointments receives any funds from The United Methodist Church. Your donations to Wakening Ministry enable us to pay Pastor Linda a small salary each month along with all the necessary business expenses.

We filed for non-profit status last October. We are still waiting to receive our 501(c)(3) status. Once received, all donations to Wakening Ministry will be tax deductible (retroactive to May 2020).

All ministry dependent on donations requires trust. We are committed to trusting God to inspire those who can, to remember Wakening Ministry in their monthly giving. We are so grateful.

Our financial records are open if you would like to know more about the financial status of Wakening Ministry.

