

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:4-5



## A Light Shines...Be the Light

At the beginning of most every class, I light a candle. I light a candle for the same reason acolytes carry the light into the worship space, because with it I am acknowledging Jesus Christ is central to what we are doing. I say something like, “We are reminded by this light that Jesus is the light of the world. May Christ shine light in and through us this day.”

This is our faith. At the beginning of time God created light and into the darkness of the universe this light glowed. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ proclaims, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” Jesus then says to the crowds who have gathered around him, “You are the light of the world.” How is it that Jesus is the light of the world and they/we are the light of the world?

This is the good news! Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we are united—bonded—together by the power of the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is the *ruach*—the very breath of God. This should simply blow your mind—it does mine.

As we gather together across the miles through an online connection using our computers and phones, this Spirit is moving in us and through us. We are the light. I see the light shine on your faces. I hear it as we discuss our gleanings from the topic of the moment. I am moved by it as we share about our lives. I even *feel* it, don't you? Our world, our country, our churches and communities, our friends and families need this light. You are shining with it. Be the light.

Linda



This Fall, Pastor Linda officiated a wedding on an island, a funeral at a racetrack, and offered pastoral counseling and spiritual direction by phone and in person. Find details for these services at [wakeningministry.org](http://wakeningministry.org).

### NEW CLASSES INSIDE

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



DONATE NOW



You can help us share Wakening Ministry with others by liking our page and commenting on our posts. Share them with your friends.

A few of our classes/groups have private pages where we continue the conversation online in between meetings.



**Haley Hamblin** is our Communications Director. She is in her final year at Wesley Theological Seminary in D.C. and is helping Wakening Ministry establish more consistent communications with our community of friends. (Email: [haley@wakeningministry.org](mailto:haley@wakeningministry.org))



Rev. John Ryan, Dionne Howard, Frances Hamilton, and Rev. Linda Zastovnik.

## Surprise!

During the Summer of 2020, Rev. John Ryan and I led a class on the book, *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. This led to our forming **Wakening Anti-Racism**, a monthly meeting where we continued to explore the history of racism and current acts and systems of injustice.

Enter Dionne and Frances. From the moment I met them online, I knew they were special. They risked by sharing their experiences with a group of white people who wanted to learn, change and seek further understanding. John and I invited them to co-lead the group with us.

In October, John orchestrated the most wonderful surprise! He invited Frances and I for dinner where we met for the first time in person. While we were deep in conversation, Dionne appeared! He and Dionne (from Atlanta) had planned to surprise us. Tears flowed.

We have become more than friends. We are family.

**Online connections matter.**



**Wakening Anti-Racism** is hosting a journey in June: The Legacy, Civil Rights, and Human Rights. Those who are part of this class are invited to travel from Charlotte, NC to Birmingham, AL and Atlanta, GA to experience **The Legacy Museum** and **The National Center for Civil Rights Museum** together.

let your  
light  
Shine



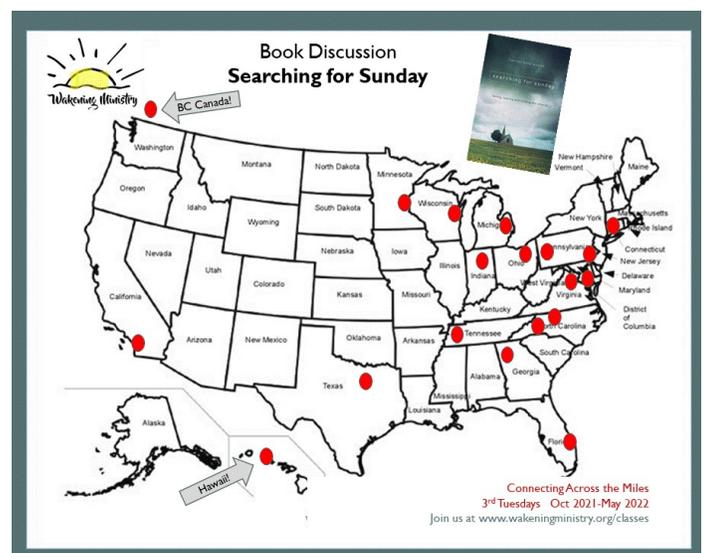
In October, **Wakening Anti-Racism** participants Connie M., Paige G. (from Texas!) and Frances attended a conference in Charlotte, NC (Confronting Whiteness at Myers Park Baptist Church). We were all excited to meet in person!

## Searching for Sunday Across the Miles

Rachel Held Evans was an American Christian columnist, blogger and author. Her books *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* and *Searching for Sunday* were *New York Times* bestsellers. Her words offer comfort, hope and laughter for many who are struggling with Christianity as it has been wrongly taught by many churches and denominations.

There are 40 of us—across the miles—who are meeting monthly to discuss her book, *Searching for Sunday*, and share our journeys.

**Online connections matter.**





May I share about the inner workings of Wakening Ministry?

Every few months or so, I call my friend, Dennis Swanick (WM's Chief Accounting Officer, CPA & Advisory Board Member), with a fabulous idea of creating some sort of financial giving system for us with benefits attached to each tier. You know, "If you give \$100 you receive...." I am a creative sort that has been in ministry a long time. Dennis comes with his own beautiful gifts. Every time I mention it, he gently reminds me Wakening Ministry isn't PBS and that central to Wakening Ministry lies the trust that God will provide. We don't need to try to motivate people to give financially with



offers of special gifts. I keep forgetting this, which is why I continue to approach Dennis with my brilliant idea.

**Wakening Ministry is surrounded by people who give.** From the beginning, I never wanted the cost of a class to be a barrier from the community our classes provide, so all classes are free. It is exciting – and a bit uneasy – to trust this ministry (and my small salary) to be supported solely by donations. I asked a few people why they give monthly to Wakening Ministry. I am encouraged by their responses.

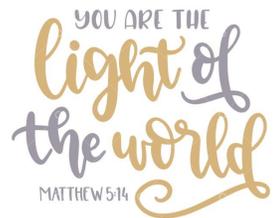
*"I support WM because I believe it is an important & much needed ministry. It feeds me spiritually & has been a true Godsend during this COVID pandemic. Linda's passion for scripture & her wealth of knowledge are always evident."*

*"Wakening Ministry is Church for me. I've gained a greater understanding of scripture by my participation in Wakening Ministry classes which has strengthened my relationship with God. I support this ministry in hopes that it (and Linda) can shine the light of Christ to many more people."*

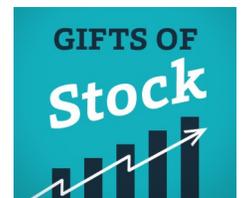
*"I give because this ministry MUST go on. I never had such a thirst for biblical and other religious knowledge before I traveled with Linda to the Holy Land. And, Bible study with Linda is so refreshing and energizing. I learn so much that when one session is over, I can't wait for the next one."*

*"COVID brought a halt to everything in 2020. Wakening Ministry offered safe, video/Zoom biblical-based learning. Biblical learning, prayer, group prayer shouldn't stop in crisis. WM offered not only this but meeting new friends, study, prayer and community. It continues to do so. We found peace here and believe peace should be shared. We support and continue to support this ministry created by Linda Z."*

Faith-full giving should always come from discernment ("not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7). Even though we don't have a 3-tier structure for giving, you *do* receive gifts when you give. They just aren't coming from me (Luke 6:38; Proverbs 11:24-25).



## Ways to Give



Wakening Ministry was created, formed, and is sustained by prayer. Recently I was reminded how important this is for the ongoing health of this ministry. It is our vision that this ministry grow. It is our hope that

the classes offered are personal, engaging and invite spiritual transformation. This is happening! But, between us, sometimes I just want to quit. I begin to doubt, question and even want to stop. But then I rest and pray. I am reminded that the devil is real and dark forces want to invade. I then suit up with the armor of God and get back to work.

Will you join our Praying Circle? Here are some specific needs.

- For promotions to reach the people
- For people's hearts to open to God

- For those who give
- For the financial health of WM
- For the Advisory Board
- For discernment and vision
- For future teachers
- For Linda's emotional, physical and spiritual health
- For those who have no one else praying for them

**In turn, we want to pray for you. When you have a prayer request, contact us.** Allow us to circle you and your needs in prayer.

Click to Register  
for Classes

LOOK FOR OUR EMAIL TO SIGN UP EASILY  
BY CLICKING HERE.

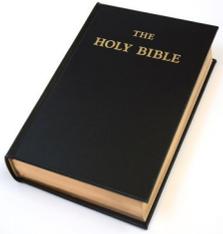
All times are Eastern Standard Time

wakening ministry

Rev. Linda Zastovnik  
Teaching Pastor and Consultant

## Wakening in the Word

Through this personal and interactive study, you will become more biblically literate, theologically confident, and spiritually aware as we dig into the Bible, one chapter at a time. You don't have to know anything about the Bible to learn from the Bible. Come and see. Bring your coffee/tea, Bible and a candle.



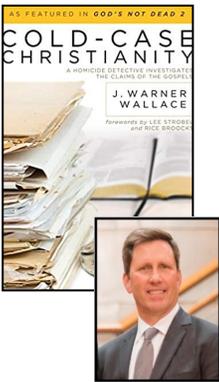
Sundays  
Jan. 16—May 22  
9:00 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Bring your Bible.  
No Preparation.  
Come when you can.

## Cold-Case Christianity

with Lea Burt

In the book *Cold-Case Christianity*, J. Warner Wallace uses his skills as a homicide detective to look at the evidence and eyewitnesses behind Christian beliefs. He includes gripping stories from his career and the visual and interrogation techniques he developed while a police officer. Along the way, he uses analogy and anecdotes to examine the powerful evidence that validates the claims of Christianity. Is it true? Can we be certain? **Lea Burt** is a passionate teacher who is convinced! Come and learn why.



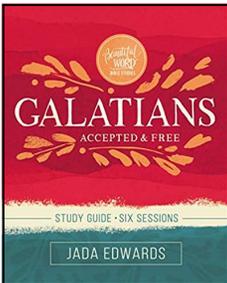
No Bible?  
Request a Free  
One!

Mondays  
8 weeks  
Jan. 3—Feb. 21  
7:15 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Book is required.

## Galatians: Accepted & Free

Once you place faith in Jesus you are transformed. You are made new and forever part of the family of God. You are fully accepted, and you are free. Don't feel it? If not, you are not alone. Join Pastor Linda as we study this passionate letter that is now called the book of *Galatians*, led by Jada Edwards (video).



Wednesdays  
6 weeks

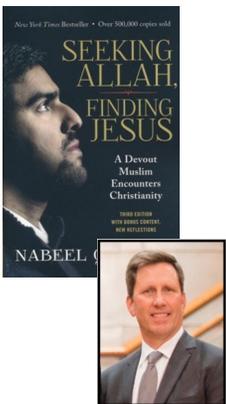
Jan. 19—Feb. 23  
7:15-8:30 p.m.

Bring your Bible.  
Study Guide is required.

## Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus

with Lea Burt

Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity. Providing an intimate window into a loving Muslim home, Qureshi shares how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering, almost against his will, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and claimed to be God. Qureshi struggled with an inner turmoil that will challenge Christians, Muslims, and all those who are interested in the world's greatest religions. **Lea Burt** teaches the content while Linda guides our discussions.



Mondays  
8 weeks

Mar. 7—Apr. 25  
7:15-8:45 p.m.

Book is required.

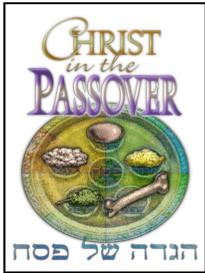
"I expected to learn more about Islam but never dreamed that I'd also be learning more about Christianity. I have discovered the diversity of Islam, just as we have diversity in Christianity. This class has made me yearn for more knowledge about my own faith and has given me substantial support of my own Christian beliefs." KT

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

Click to Register  
for Classes

All times are Eastern Standard Time.

wakening ministry  
Rev. Linda Zastovnik  
Teaching Pastor and Consultant



## Christ in the Passover

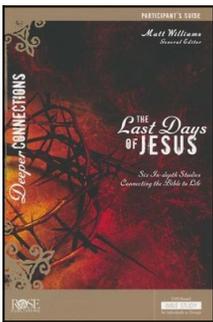
This year, Passover begins on Good Friday—nothing could be more meaningful! Wonder why? This 2 hour event will help you understand the connections between the Old Testament and the New Testament, between the Jewish and Christian faiths. You will receive details to prepare your own simplified Seder meal for the event (optional).

Friday  
April 15

7:00—9:00 p.m.

Educational & Experiential.  
Details will be provided  
prior to class.

## The Last Days of Jesus



*The Last Days of Jesus* provides an overview of six major events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection. We will begin each session in Israel— showing key places, such as the Garden of Gethsemane, a rolling stone tomb, Mount of Olives, and more. Featuring beautiful retellings, solid overviews, and incredible cultural insights from top Bible scholars, this class will deepen your understanding of key Easter events.

Thursdays

Mar. 3—Apr. 7  
7:15—8:30 p.m.

Bring your Bible.  
Book is required.

## Classes in Progress

### Wakening Anti-Racism



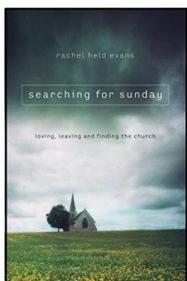
This group meets monthly to learn, explore and engage with one another as we grow in our understanding of racism. We are committed to live as antiracists. *White Fragility* and *So You Want to Talk About Race* are books that have helped us start these conversations. This is a safe place to learn about our history which will inform our present struggles. Co-led by Rev. John Ryan, Dionne Howard and Frances Hamilton.

Sundays  
September—May

5:15—6:45 p.m.



### Searching for Sunday



Like millions of her millennial peers (and quite a few others spanning generations), Rachel Held Evans didn't want to go to church anymore. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church. Evans' quest is a memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church.

3rd Tuesdays  
Sept—May

7:00 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

There is no cost for classes; [donations are requested and always optional \(Checks, Venmo, PayPal, EFT, Stocks\).](#)

**Click to Register  
for Classes**

# JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 7:15-9:00 pm Cold Case Christianity 1	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 7:15-9:00 pm Cold Case Christianity 2	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word 5:15-6:45 Wakening Anti- Racism	17  7:15-9:00 pm Cold Case Christianity 3	18 7:00-8:30 Searching for Sunday	19 7:15-8:30 pm Galatians 1	20	21	22
23 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	24 7:15-9:00 pm Cold Case Christianity 4	25	26 7:15-8:30 pm Galatians 2	27	28	29
30 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	31 7:15-9:00 pm Cold Case Christianity 5					

# FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:15-8:30 pm Galatians 3	3	4	5
6 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	7 7:15-9:00 pm Cold Case Christianity 6	8	9 7:15-8:30 pm Galatians 4	10	11	12
13 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word 5:15-6:45 Wakening Anti- Racism	14  7:15-9:00 pm Cold Case Christianity 7	15 7:00-8:30 Searching for Sunday	16 7:15-8:30 pm Galatians 5	17	18	19
20 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	21 7:15-9:00 pm Cold Case Christianity 8	22	23 7:15-8:30 pm Galatians 6	24	25	26
27 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	28					

Click to Register  
for Classes

# MARCH 2022

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

		1	2  Ash Wednesday	3 7:15-8:30 pm Last Days Jesus 1	4	5
6 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	7 7:15-8:45 Seeking Allah,	8	9	10 7:15-8:30 pm Last Days Jesus 2	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word 5:15-6:45 Wakening Anti-Racism	14 7:15-8:45 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus 2	15 7:00-8:30 Searching for Sunday	16	17  7:15-8:30 pm Last Days Jesus 3	18	19
20 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	21 7:15-8:45 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus 3	22	23	24 7:15-8:30 pm Last Days Jesus 4	25	26
27 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	28 7:15-8:45 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus 4	29	30	31 7:15-8:30 pm Last Days Jesus 5		

# APRIL 2022

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

					1	2
3 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	4 7:15-8:45 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus 5	5	6	7 7:15-8:30 pm Last Days Jesus 6	8	9
10 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word 5:15-6:45 Wakening Anti-Racism	11 7:15-8:45 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus 6	12	13	14	15 7:00-9:00 Christ in the Passover Good Friday	16
17  Easter	18 7:15-8:45 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus 7	19 7:00-8:30 Searching for Sunday	20	21	22	23
24 9:00-10:45 Wakening in the Word	25 7:15-8:45 Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus 8	26	27	28	29	30

# wakening ministry

Rev. Linda Zastovnik  
Teaching Pastor and Consultant

Wakening Ministry LLC  
8081 Summit Ridge Drive  
Catawba, NC 28609

Phone: (704) 770-1858

Email: [lindaz@wakeningministry.org](mailto: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](http://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:**

Myrna Caudle (Chairperson)  
Dennis Swanick, CPA  
Rev. Ashley Thomas (UMC)  
Rev. John Ryan, D.EdMin  
(Presbyterian)  
Donna Lineberger  
Beverly Caldwell

### **All Are Welcome:**



Wakening Ministry is called to the ministry of the sacred worth of all people. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the ministries of Wakening Ministry as we seek to understand and journey towards reconciliation through Christ.

## Financial Details & Non-Profit Status!

Wakening Ministry has been granted 501(c)(3) non-profit status! All donations to Wakening Ministry are tax deductible.

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.

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.

