

2017 / 2018

Spiritual Growth Series

Racism

Covenant Membership

The New Jim Crow

Mass Incarceration

Age of Colorblindness

Mental Illness

Blessed Are The Crazy

Breaking the Silence

Mental Illness Family Church

Finances

Heroin Epidemic

Prayer

Pastor's Forum

Women Authors

Michelle Alexander

Sarah Griffith Lund

Molly Phinney Baskette

Confession

Bible

Standing Naked Before God

The Art of Public Confession

Lenten Study

Retreat



About the 2017 / 2018 Spiritual Growth Series

St. John United Church of Christ:
"A Place of Learning"

Welcome!

The purpose of the Spiritual Growth Series is to encourage each member, guest, and friend of St. John Church to listen for the word of God through faithful study of the Bible, prayer, service, and experience.

By gathering together in small groups throughout the year we meet new friends and strengthen relationships with one another and with God. We also build a sturdy foundation that enables each person to ask the hard questions, struggle with the difficulties and joys of life, engage in dialogue and respond faithfully to things that really matter.

If you have a topic, book of the Bible, service project, or book you would like to suggest for a future study please contact me.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome and invited to these spiritual growth opportunities at St. John United Church of Christ.

**For more information about the series or financial assistance to participate in one or more of the opportunities contact:
Pastor and Teacher, Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor@StJohnChurch.net**



*Rev. Keith M. Haithcock,
Pastor and Teacher*

STATEMENTS OF ST. JOHN CHURCH

Vision Statement

We are a source of hope and opportunity
for people who need us.

The community understands us
the way we understand ourselves.

Our ministry is open, accessible, and inviting in ways that
encourage all members of the community
to use their gifts in ministry.

Adopted by Church Council June 2012

Mission Statement

Our caring congregation feeds the spiritual and physical
needs of the community.

Adopted by Church Council June 2012

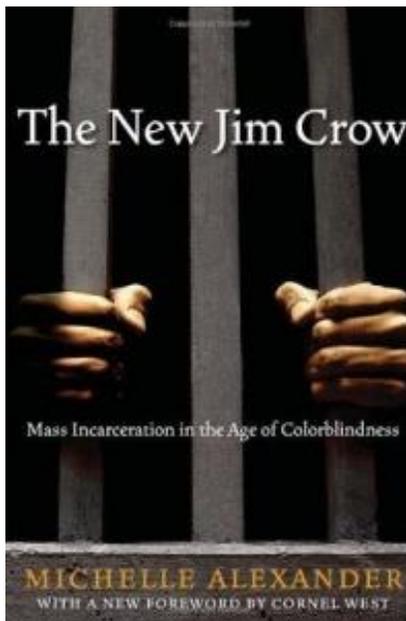
Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of St. John United Church of Christ,
declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation.

We know that as the Church we are many members,
but one body in Christ. With Christ we affirm that we are called
to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that we are called
to act as agents of reconciliation and wholeness
within the world and within the church itself.

We pledge to welcome people of all races, ages, abilities,
ethnicities, socio-economic levels, sexual orientations and
gender identities into the full life and ministry of the church.
We affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships.
We seek actively to include and support those who because of
fear and prejudice find themselves in exile from a spiritual
community. We commit ourselves to caring and concern for all.

Adopted by the congregation November 2003



Fall 2017

Pastor's Book Club

The New Jim Crow – Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

By Michelle Alexander

Facilitator: Keith M. Haithcock

Four 90-minute discussion sessions will be scheduled in October by those registered.

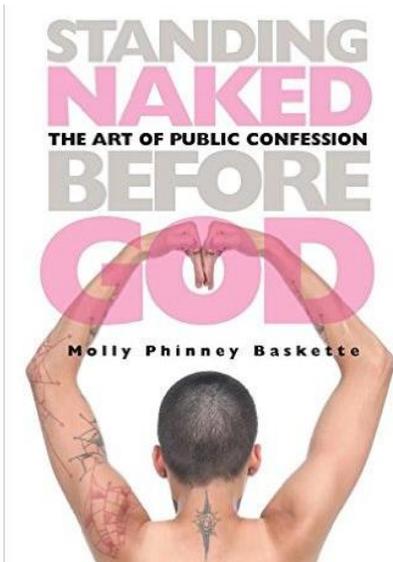
Register by Sept. 24 by way of Information Card; calling 859.261.2066, ext. 202;

emailing: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net; or at the Welcome Table. Registration is free and there must be a **minimum of 7 people**.

Book Orders: Each person who registers for the book club will order their own book through a local book store, Amazon.com, or check the book out from their local public library.

Once in a great while a book comes along that changes the way we see the world and helps to fuel a nationwide social movement. *The New Jim Crow* is such a book. With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that “we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.” By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control – relegating millions to a permanent second-class status – even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. Alexander’s book will open up much debate and discussion about racism and the role of the Church in a nation and world that is still dominated by its grasp on our society and Church. This book is a “call to action” for anyone who calls themselves Christian.

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520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073 859.261.2066 StJohnChurch.net



2018 Lenten Study

Standing Naked Before God
The Art of Public Confession

By Molly Phinney Baskette

A Four-Week study including a
Day-retreat on Sat. March 17th

Wednesdays:

Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14

Time: 7:00p to 8:45p

Room 102

Facilitator: Keith M. Haithcock

Day-retreat, 10a to 2p

\$25 registration is due February 4 (checks only). Registration includes book, materials and retreat lunch. Register at the Welcome Table or mail your name | address | phone | email with check payable to St. John United Church of Christ (Memo: 2018 Lenten Series) to the address below.

The class is open to everyone; however, Liturgists and other worship leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

We suffer when we screw up, but we suffer doubly when we conceal our screwing up from each other and from ourselves. As the good folks in AA say, "we are only as sick as our secrets."

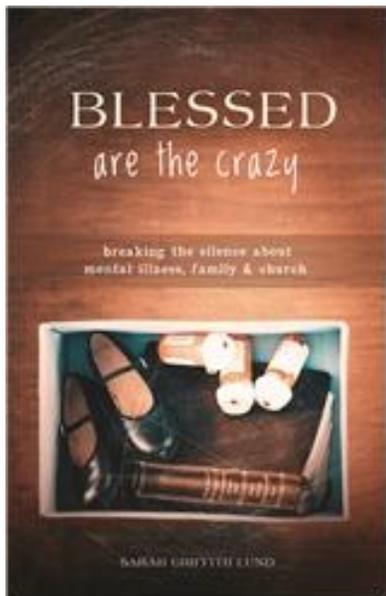
We all like to think of ourselves as 'good people,' but that's only half the story--and to tell only half the story is to live only half our lives.

Standing Naked Before God is a book about telling the whole story.

The book is part how-to, part devotional reading, and part anthology of stories of personal loss, vulnerability, failure and redemption--stories to make you laugh and cry in equal measure.

This is a book for spiritual seekers of any stripe who love true stories, and who might be aching for a spiritual practice that will move them toward a wholehearted, vulnerable and fully integrated life.

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Spring 2018 Pastor's Book Club

***Blessed Are the Crazy –
Breaking the silence about Mental
Illness, Family & Church***

By Sarah Griffith Lund

**Three 90-minute discussion
sessions will be scheduled
between April 29 and May 19 by
those who register.**

Register by April 22 using an
Information Card; calling
859.261.2066, ext. 202; emailing:

Pastor@StJohnChurch.net; or at the Welcome Table.

Registration is free.

**Book Orders: Each person will order their own book through a
local book store, Amazon.com, or the local public library.**

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anAW2ZqsejE&app=desktop>

Sarah Griffith Lund takes the lid off mental illness in this raw, honest look at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother struggles with his own mental illness, and serving as spiritual advisor for her cousin, a mentally ill man executed for murder. Through the challenges and despair, she shows how churches can be safe havens for people who have brain diseases and for their loved.

Sarah blends ministry and Social Work - loving God and loving her neighbors. As an ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister she has pastored congregations in Brooklyn, Minneapolis, and New Smyrna Beach. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary focusing on revitalizing the local church. She served as a Regional Minister providing support and guidance to congregations in the United Church of Christ. In 2014 she became the Vice President for Seminary Advancement at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

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Breaking the Silence **Mental Illness, Family & Church**

Guest Preacher

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund

author of *"Blessed are the Crazy"*

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday

St. John United Church of Christ

520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073

10:20a Pre-service music

10:30a Worship

Also join Sarah at the Pastor's Forum on Mental Illness
Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 9:00a in room 102

Sarah Griffith Lund takes the lid off mental illness in this raw, honest look at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother struggles with his own mental illness, and serving as spiritual advisor for her cousin, a mentally ill man executed for murder. Through the challenges and despair, she shows how churches can be safe havens for people who have brain diseases and for their loved.

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Weekly Bible Encounter

A Bible Study for Youth and Adults Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. Room 102

The purpose of the Weekly Bible Encounter is to encounter the Bible through prayer, reading, study, scholarship and inquisitive community.

**No registration, no sign up, no commitment, no fee, no frills!
Attend when you are able.**

Let's face it, for most of us we would not read the Bible at all if we didn't have a plan. Well, here is your plan!



Led by a team of preachers, teachers, saints and sinners.

Invite a friend to come with you!

**Previous Bible knowledge or experience is not required.
Bibles are available.**

**Everyone: members, guests, friends, family, and neighbors
are always welcome.**

Covenant Membership Classes

(If these dates do not work for you please see the Pastor about an alternative date.)

Winter 2017:

Saturday, November 11
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Spring 2018:

Saturday, May 5
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Room 102 enter using the accessible door off the parking lot.

Lunch ordered in from a local restaurant.

Teacher: Pastor Keith Haithcock and others

Topics include:

Introduction to St. John United Church of Christ, Statement of Faith, Spirituality, Baptism, Holy Communion, the Bible, What we believe, What does it mean to be a disciple, the six marks of discipleship, and more.



Becoming a member of the church is more than adding your name to a list. It is a matter of faith and promise (covenant) with a local faith community and the universal church. Attending class does not mean you must join. The class may help you see if you are ready for this step in your faith journey.

Registration deadline: Sunday before class date

Register by using your Sunday Information Card, calling 859.261.2066, ext. 202, emailing: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or at the Welcome Table



Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday at 7:47 a.m.



In the Sanctuary

Morning Prayer is a 25-minute period of guided prayer, intercessory prayer, meditation and silence using *The Living Book of Daily Prayer* (The Pilgrim Press) as a guide.

Accessible door off the parking lot is open at 7:30a
Please enter the Sanctuary quietly.
Begin your day with prayer.

If you would like to know more about this ministry contact Pastor Keith at Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or 859.261.2066, ext. 202.

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