



Next Month at Fort Street: June 2018

From the Pastors Desk

Dear Fort Streeters,

As part of our getting Fort Street ready, we are proposing a series of book discussions to take place on questions of race in American society.

American society is becoming more and more aware of questions of race. From how politics play out in our society, to how people watch sporting events, to our social media world – we are confronted. These conversations have been an area of focus for the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well. Over the past two years our denomination Co-Moderators have been inviting churches to read the book *Waking Up White* with a mind and awareness toward conversations with racism.

Moreover, Eric and I were drawn to Fort Street to serve as interim co-pastors for many reasons: a desire to be a part of an urban church – with all of the complexities taking place in downtown Detroit, a church with a legacy of hands-on service to the community, and the diversity of the Fort Street congregation itself. We think this is a helpful conversation for Fort Street to have in the coming months.

We discussed *Waking up White* at a recent Session meeting. We were encouraged that several people would be interested in this book, and we were

also challenged by Session to find other books that might speak to the lived experiences of other individuals in the church. So, we have created a book series that broadens our perspectives on race through several offerings.

Three different books, *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, *I am Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown, and *The Church Enslaved* by Michael Brown and Tony Campolo. *Waking Up White* is written from a fiftysomething woman's perspective of her awareness of her white privilege. *I am Still Here* is written by a young black woman, a graduate of Marygrove College here in Detroit, sharing her experience as a young black woman in evangelical Christian churches and non-profits. *The Church Enslaved* is co-written by a black man who grew up in a white church and white man who grew up in black church.

It is my deep hope and prayer that you will join us for one or all three of these book discussions. Each book will be discussed between 4-6 weeks each. Feel free to come at any time! We will be able to learn from one another and hopefully we can become aware of our similarities and differences and what makes this congregation unique and beautiful. These book studies will be open to the Presbytery and others, so feel free to invite your friends!

Pastors Anne and Eric

Notable Events

Celebrate Lola Fryer's

20 Years of Service

In Coffee Hour, Sunday, June 3rd

Join us for coffee hour to celebrate Lola's 20th year of service as Secretary at Fort Street. Lola will be present after worship to celebrate and be recognized for her many years of service.

Congregational Meeting

June 10th, 2018

The Session of Fort Street will hold a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, June 10th, 2018, immediately following 11:00 AM worship, to receive the report of the Nominating Committee regarding the unfilled Deacons slot for the Class of 2020. No other business may be discussed at this meeting.

Book Study - *Waking Up White*

Mondays, 7:00pm, beginning June 11

On Monday evenings beginning on June 11th, The Spiritual Life Committee is hosting a Book Study on *Waking Up White* and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. Pastor Anne will lead these discussions.

Books will be available at the church starting Monday, June 4 for \$19.00. Please contact Pastor Anne with questions.

The Community Fellowship Committee will host a lunch meal during Coffee Hour on June 24. Your Goodwill Offerings will help to support the Campership Fund, while you enjoy great food and great company.

Other Announcements: Join the Fort Street Bike Riders on Saturday, June 16. They will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m.