

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Focusing on the vision to grow in diversity, in heart, and in community

## SUNDAY



### July 21 Bethany Ringdal preaching: Women Lens

Bethany Ringdal is passionate about leaning into what's possible for the future of God's mission and church. She began her ministry of innovative Christian community as a director at Camp Amnicon, a wilderness ministry on Lake Superior. She is a co-founder, with Pastor Jia, of Spirit Lab, an initiative to discern God's leading for spiritual formation in theological education. She has a B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary.



### July 28 Rev. Jesús Purisaca preaching: Immigrant Lens

Growing up in his native Peru, Jesús and his 13 siblings helped his father preach, lead worship, teach literacy, and serve communities of faith. He immigrated to the USA in 2003 without knowing any English, and started attending and volunteering at Park Avenue Church. He earned a Masters of Divinity from Luther Seminary in 2013 and was appointed by the Minnesota Annual Conference to pastor a Spanish-speaking church plant in South Minneapolis, *Iglesia Piedra Viva*, which is comprised of immigrants and first-generation U.S. citizens. *Piedra Viva* focuses its ministry in justice rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A lawyer in Peru, Rev. Purisaca is passionate for justice and has advocated for immigrants' rights in Minnesota and displaced person's rights among others in Peru.



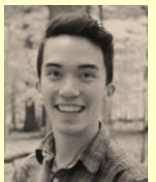
### August 4 Rev. Jia Starr Brown preaching: African American Lens

Rev. Jia Starr Brown's experience in community education, engagement, and outreach encompass more than 20 years, designing more than 160 educational and enrichment programs in the Twin Cities. Receiving a Congressional Award in 2015 for her community service and advocacy for marginalized communities, Jia has dedicated her life to serving others. Her formal equipping has included numerous training credentials, BS in Liberal Studies (National University), and a Master of Divinity (Luther Seminary). Presently serving as Associate Pastor of Park Avenue United Methodist Church.



### August 11 Kelly Sherman Conroy preaching: Indigenous Lens

As a proud member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Kelly dedicates her time to social justice, racial reconciliation, Indigenous leadership, and family ministry. Kelly is a Doctoral student at Luther Seminary, where she continues her much-anticipated studies on Lakota Spirituality, history and culture, and how these forms inform Christianity. Walking with people of all cultures, she actively provides ministry around the exploration of intersections of identity, personal narratives, and faith. Kelly has two decades teaching and leading in family ministry, which enables her to reach others with humor, warmth, transparency, and strength. She was also a missionary with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission for 3 years. Kelly's ability to speak the truth in love from a Native perspective coupled with her humility and humor makes for a powerful reception of truth in the hearts of Natives and non-Natives alike.



### August 18 Rev. Tyler Sit preaching: Asian-American/LGBTQ+ Lens

Rev. Tyler Sit has had the immense pleasure of being the church planter of New City ever since this nascent community was a small gathering in his living room. He is a lover of Minnesota, a United Methodist pastor, and the son of a Chinese immigrant. He got his book smarts from Boston University (BS, Communication Studies) and Candler School of Theology (Master of Divinity), but his street smarts came from living in various communities across four continents. He's trained as a prison chaplain, community organizer, and social entrepreneur.

## WED

**July 24  
Bible Study**  
6:30-7:30  
Who were the  
marginalized in  
Biblical times?

**July 31  
Bible Study**  
6:30-7:30  
Who are the  
marginalized in the  
church?

**Aug. 7  
Bible Study**  
6:30-7:30  
What does the Bible  
say about how to  
treat those who are  
marginalized?

**Aug. 14  
Bible Study**  
6:30-7:30  
Taking action  
in the church

## THU

**July 25  
Book Club**  
6:30-8pm

**Aug. 1  
Book Club**  
6:30-8pm

**Aug. 8  
Book Club**  
6:30-8pm

**Aug. 15  
Book Club**  
6:30-8pm

## SAT

**July 27  
Upstream Arts  
Training:**  
9-11am

**August 3  
Microaggressions  
Training:** 9-11am  
George Robinson

**August 10  
Zootopia  
Family Movie/Chat**  
9-11:30am  
*\*see reviews!*

**August 17  
Teaching  
Race  
Training:** 9-11am  
Ben McHie

### We'd love to know if you're interested in attending!

Please email Pastor Jia [jiastarrbrown@parkavechurch.org](mailto:jiastarrbrown@parkavechurch.org), or sign up at the Welcome Center. Be sure to note if you will be participating in the Book Club.

**Childcare** may be provided if interest is shown ... please email [michellehiggins@parkavechurch.org](mailto:michellehiggins@parkavechurch.org) with age(s) of children.

## Same scripture ... 5 different CULTURAL lenses

Each preacher will speak from Acts 8:26-40

### *Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*

Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south<sup>[a]</sup> to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> He replied, *“How can I, unless someone guides me?”* And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

*“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”*

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip<sup>[c]</sup> baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## MORE about our “Journey to Freedom”



“Teaching Race” Trainer **Benjamin Mchie** is an educational consultant, historian and founder of African American Registry® and creator of the Teacher’s Forum subscription service. His curriculum reform model is working with four Minnesota university schools of education teaching programs. In 2017, Mr. Mchie was Governor Dayton’s MLK Day Lifetime Achievement Award winner.



**MicroAggression** is a term used for brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative prejudicial slights and insults toward any group. Trainer **George F. Robinson** is a global speaker specializing in training and coaching. His love and passion for teaching others has guided his distinguished career.



**UPSTREAM ARTS**, a South Minneapolis organization, uses the power of the creative arts to activate and amplify the voice and choice of individuals with disabilities. They change mindsets about ability and disability and promote more connected, engaged communities by increasing intentional opportunities for shared creative experiences.



### Thursday Book Club

Read and discuss two books surrounding the issues of race and racism – one authored by an individual from the dominant culture, and one authored by an individual from a marginalized community.

*“Waking Up White”* by Debby Irving

*“Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?”* by Beverly Daniel Tatum

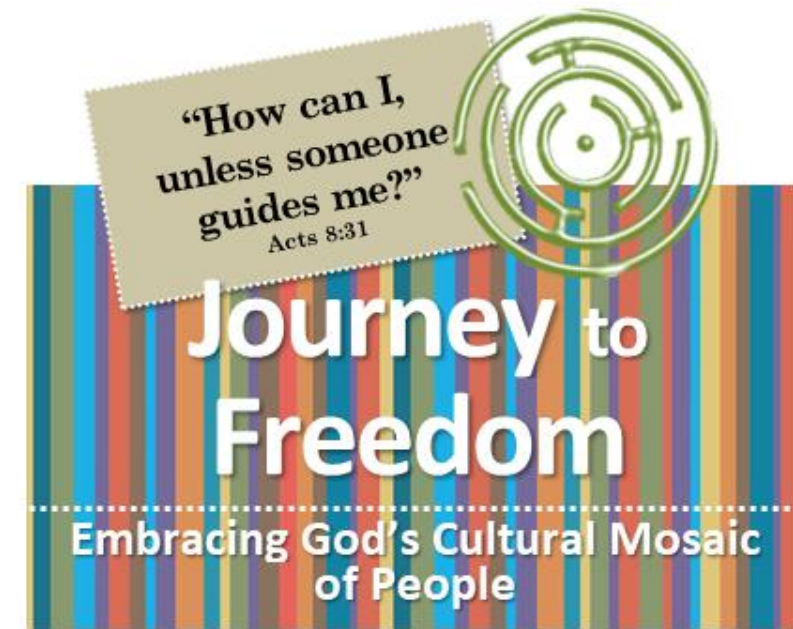


### Family Movie Night “Zootopia”

*“The brilliantly well-rounded Zootopia offers a thoughtful, inclusive message that’s as rich and timely as its sumptuously state-of-the-art Disney animation – all while remaining fast and funny enough to keep younger viewers entertained.”* -- Rotten Tomatoes review

*“A delightfully well-orchestrated parable about trust and tolerance vs. panic and prejudice. An encouragingly upbeat celebration of love and diversity in times of hate and uncertainty. If that all sounds overly on-message, then fear not—the jokes are funny, the characters engaging, and the animation packed with delicious visual detail.”* – British “Observer”

**Interested?** Contact Rev. Jia Starr Brown for more information and to sign up for book club. [jiastarrbrown@parkavechurch.org](mailto:jiastarrbrown@parkavechurch.org)



## FIVE WEEK SUMMER STUDY

Beginning July 21, 2019



**Five Guest Preachers** speaking from the **same text** (*Acts 8:26-40*) ... but a **different** cultural lens

**ACTIVITIES FOR CONGREGATION, CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY** to create space for intentional listening and exploration - amplifying the need and value of diversity in our worship communities.



**Park Avenue United Methodist Church**  
3400 Park Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55407

