

Social Justice Committee Meeting at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church

Thursday, April 8, 2021 7pm

Pastors for NC Children Director Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller

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Agenda:

- Introduction to Pastors for NC Children
- What do you say to people who think churches should stay out of politics?
 - Politics
 - Power
 - Power Over vs. Power With
 - Partisan
- Scripture Study
 - Luke 4:14-21 NRSV “Jesus’ First Sermon”
 - Genesis 1:26-31 “The Creation Story”
 - Matthew 25:34-40 “For I was hungry”
 - Mark 11:15-18 “Jesus Cleanses The Temple”
 - Matthew 6:7-15 “The Lord’s Prayer”
- Service vs. Systems Work:
 - Charity and Justice together
- “Thy Kingdom Come” and forming the “Beloved Community”
- Theory of Social Transformation
 - This is the method we can use to make change happen.
 - (just mention it this time--we won’t go into it today)

Scripture Study Questions to Consider:

- Where do you see power?
- How is Jesus flipping power over to benefit the poor?
- How might the religious leaders and political leaders in Jesus' day be upset by these passages?
- What kind of world is Jesus forming?

Luke 4: 14-21 NRSV “Jesus’ First Sermon”

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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Genesis 1: 26-31 NRSV “The Creation Story”

²⁶ Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind* in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,* and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’

²⁷ So God created humankind* in his image,

in the image of God he created them;*

male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ ²⁹ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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Matthew 25:34-40 NRSV “For I was hungry...”

³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

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Mark 11:15-18 “Jesus Cleanses the Temple”

15 Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; **16** and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. **17** He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’?

But you have made it a den of robbers.”

18 And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

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Matthew 6:7-15 "The Lord's Prayer"

7 'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 'Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial,

but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;

¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

NEXT STEPS:

- Powerpoint for the evening:
 - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1f8DYxoy_ctWjSACS6drzX19dLUAX7r-iYjT1_3VpkCA/edit?usp=sharing
- Visit Our Website:
 - <http://PastorsforNCchildren.org>
- Follow Pastors for NC Children on Social media:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/pastors4nckids>
 - <https://twitter.com/pastors4nckids>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/pastors4nckids/>
- Sign up for our Monthly Newsletter and Action Alerts!
 - <https://pastorsforncchildren.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1c2c5ce60df0c4dd6c5f8a239&id=1e089844aa>

RESOURCES:

- **PCUSA Statement:** Loving Our Neighbors: Equity and Quality in Public Education (2010)
 - https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/lovingourneighborsk-12.pdf
- **Adult Books:**
 - [A Wolf At The Schoolhouse Door: The Dismantling of Public Education and the Future of School](#) by Jack Schneider and Jennifer Berkshire
 - [All Our Children: The Church's Call To Address Education Inequity](#) by Lallie B. Lloyd
 - [Slaying Goliath: The Passionate Resistance to Privatization and the Fight to Save America's Public Schools](#) by Diane Ravitch
 - [The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings And How They Have Been Corrupted](#) by Obrey M. Hendricks, Jr.
 - [The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right](#) by Lisa Sharon Harper
 - [The Mission Of Advocacy: A Toolkit for Congregations](#) by Stephen K. Reeves and Rev. Katie Ferguson Murray
- **Children's Books:**
 - [All Are Welcome](#) by Alexandra Penford
 - [Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight For Desegregation](#) by Duncan Tonatuih
 - [Freedom School, Yes!](#) by Amy Little sugar
 - [The Story of Ruby Bridges](#) by Robert Coles
- **Web Resources:**
 - ["Equity: A Divine Imperative"](#) by Rev. Paul Robeson Ford (Page 6-8 in Christian Ethics Today Issue 117 Summer 2020)

- [“Equity: A Divine Imperative” video presentation](#) by Rev. Paul Robeson Ford, Faith In the City, Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem
- [How Brown v. Board of Education Changed — And Didn’t Change— American Education](#) in The Atlantic
- [1619 Project](#) by NY Times Magazine
- [Nice White Parents Podcast](#) from NY Times and Serial
- Nikole Hannah-Jones, NYTimes Magazine Writer
 - [Vox article](#)
 - [“Choosing a School For My Daughter”](#)
 - [NPR “This American Life” Podcast “The Problem We All Live With”](#)
 - [Why is this Happening? Investigating School Segregation with Nikole Hannah-Jones](#)
- [10 Things Teachers Should Never Do When Teaching Native Kids](#) from Indian Country Today
- [The School To Prison Pipeline](#) by Tolerance.org
- [Willing, Able, and Forgotten](#): Discussing Students with Disabilities by the Hechinger Report
- The King Center’s King Philosophy (overview of King’s work)
<https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/the-king-philosophy/>
- Poor People’s Campaign (an update to MLK’s 1968 platform for today!)
<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/our-demands/>
- 10 Ways To Build The Beloved Community
<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/ten-ways-build-beloved-community/>
- The Beloved Community: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Prescription For A Healthy Society <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-beloved-community-dr- b 4583249>
- A Conspiracy of Hope: The beloved community of Martin Luther King
<https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/hope-conspiracy/2004/05/21/the-beloved-community-of-martin-luther-king>