



Name: _____
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 Childcare needs: _____
 Comments or Notes: _____

Please check your course(s) selection:

- Introduction to the New Testament ..\$10
- Disciple I\$35
- The Parables of Jesus (at Grace)\$15
- The Parables of Jesus (on-line).....\$15
- Men's Study: Jesus' Journey in Mark...\$0
- Bible and Theology with Nanette\$15
- Saving Jesus\$20
- Prayer 101\$10
- Illuminated Manuscripts\$5
- Introduction to United Methodism ..\$15
- Art of the Nativity\$5
- Immigration: Reality\$5
- God the Economist\$22
- Discover Your Strengths\$15
- Pre-plan Your Funeral\$5
- RESONATE:
 1-day marriage retreat\$60/couple

If your class has a required fee, please make checks payable to Grace UMC.

Art of the Nativity **4 weeks – starts November 3** **Gary Fields and Rev. O. Wayne Turner**
 With the Advent Season approaching, this class, Art of the Nativity, will show how art influenced the spread of Christianity by discussing and viewing inspired artists' works with the focus on the Nativity. (Class size: 6-10)
 Monday 7:00-8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 310 \$5

Justice and Stewardship

Immigration: Reality, the church's response, and political reform **2 weeks – Sept 30 and Oct 7** **Rev. Sylvia Romero, Tina Hoover and Lois Waters**
 The facilitators of this course are attending a United Methodist Seminar on Immigration in September and seek to communicate to the class the information they garner at the training. The hope will be to educate the voting public to make decisions regarding immigration issues in the November elections. Come join in exploring how your faith connects with the reality of our lives as we seek the kingdom of God. (Class size: 10-40)
 Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 310 \$5

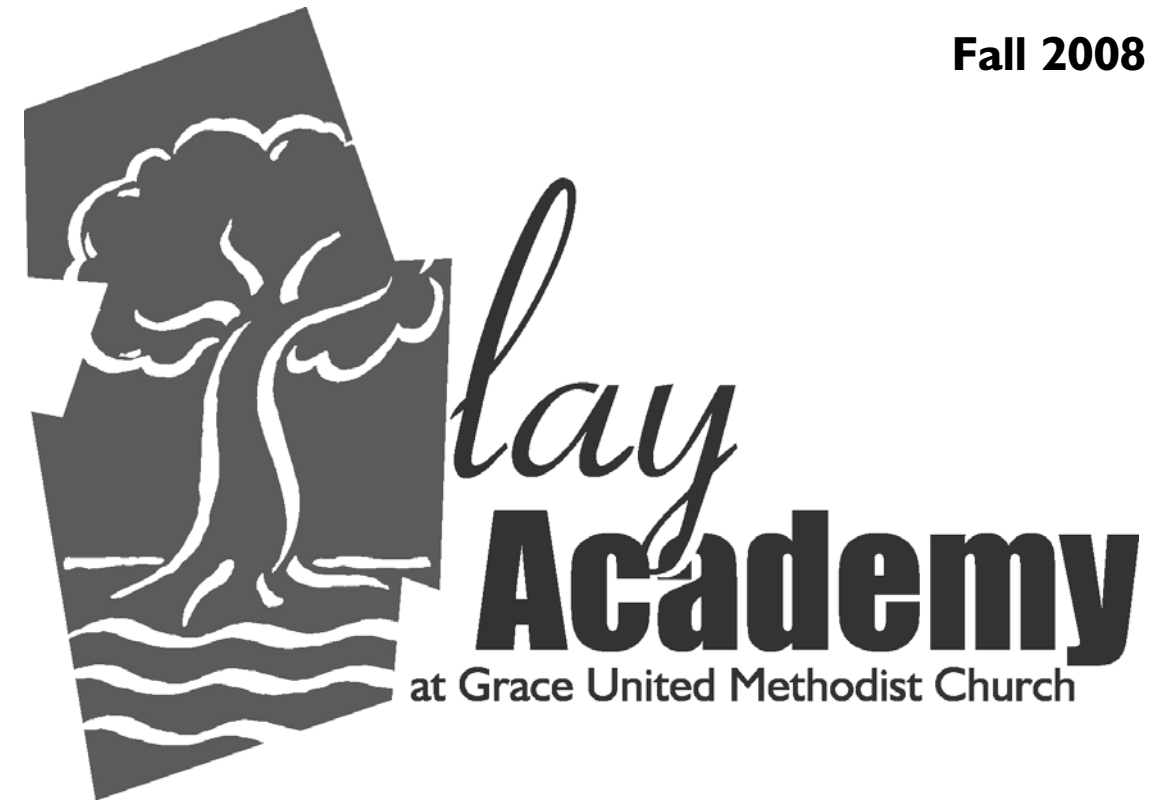
God the Economist **4 weeks - starts October 29** **Rev. Frank Dorsey**
 The course will engage Dr. Douglas Meeks' book, *God the Economist: The Doctrine of God and Political Economy*. We will explore the Christian understanding of God's Economy from a theological understanding, and the holistic understanding of the relationship between economy, ecology, and ecumenical (the relationship of humankind). We will refer to several sections of the book and explore their relevance for the world today. (Class size: 2-15)
 Wednesday 7:00-8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 310 \$22

Discipleship Living

Discover Your Strengths **5 weeks - starts September 15** **Tracy Hemsath & Deb Stephens**
 Are you exploring a new direction in life? This course can help you focus on your strengths and gifts to become what God created you to be. We will complete several self-discovery exercises to connect our strengths, gifts, and successes, as well as understand God's call for our lives. (Class size: 5-15)
 Monday 7:00-8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 220 \$15

Pre-Plan Your Funeral (So others don't have to!) **4 weeks – starts September 25** **Rev. Tom Bailey**
 Death comes to everyone – expected or unexpected. Ninety-five percent of consumers know very little about the funeral industry, its practices and pitfalls. When you plan ahead, you save considerable money and someone else's stress of doing the funeral while grief-stricken and overwhelmed. This 4-session course, taught with humor and valuable information, will teach you and your loved ones the best way to plan ahead for the inevitable. (Class size: 5-24)
 Thursdays 6:30-7:45 p.m. Ridgeview, 222 \$5

RESONATE: A One-day Marriage Retreat **November 1** **Grant and Emma Wood (Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist)**
 This retreat offers something for all married couples but is specially suited for active couples with busy-lives as it will address several themes including: enhancing your fondness and affection, artful conflict and communication, cultivating the spiritual life in marriage, sharing dreams and common vision, and vibrant sexuality. (Retreat size: 10 couples to 20 couples)
 Saturday 8:45am - 3:30pm (lunch included) Ridgeview, 309 \$60/couple (scholarships available)



*“they are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
 which yield their fruit in its season...”*
 – Psalm 1:3a

The Lay Academy at Grace United Methodist Church offers a diversity of classes to help you grow in your relationship with God wherever you are along your journey. The classes are designed to help you deepen your discipleship. We are excited to journey with you as we all explore faith and life together.



Grace United Methodist Church
 11485 Ridgeview Road • Olathe, KS 66061
 913-859-0111 • www.gracech.org

What is the Lay Academy?

The Lay Academy is a collection of classes designed to help you explore how faith and life come together as we grow in our discipleship, living like Jesus. The academy offers courses in the areas of Bible, Theology, Mission and Justice, Stewardship, Evangelism, and Discipleship Living. The expectation is that we might join in deepening our walk with God and experience transformation, so that we might become better disciples ourselves and initiate new disciples.

The course fees are for the texts, supplies, and/or honorariums for the course. The classes are offered at both church sites: 11485 Ridgeview, as well as at Center of Grace, 520 S. Harrison.

If you have any questions about the classes offered, have ideas for future sessions, or want to visit about this ministry further, contact Pastor Dustin Petz at (913) 859-0111, ext. 280, or e-mail dpetz@gracech.org.



How do I register?

You can register for the Lay Academy at Grace UMC by one of three ways:

1. Complete the registration form, attaching payment (if applicable), and returning it to the Ridgeview church office by mail, or drop it in the offering plate during worship.
2. Call (913) 859-0111 and register with either Sheila Bishop at ext. 206, or Robin Bartlett at ext. 201. Include all of the information found on the registration form.
3. E-mail Sheila Bishop at sbishop@gracech.org, including all your registration information.

Scholarships are available if there is need in covering the course fee. Contact Pastor Dustin to learn more.

Course Descriptions

Fall 2008

Bible

Introduction to the New Testament 10 weeks – starts September 21 Gary & Marilyn George

This is an introductory study of the New Testament. In this class you will engage the major themes of the New Testament through daily readings, videos by academic scholars, reflection questions, and group discussion. Consider growing in your understanding of the New Testament within this supportive community! (Class size: 8-15)
Sunday 10:45a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ridgeview, 123A \$10

Disciple I 34 weeks – starts September 23 Dave Lewis & Jim Walters

Disciple I is a 34 week journey through the Bible. Throughout the course of the study, 70% of the Bible is covered. The weekly readings will culminate with a weekly discussion class. Each class is augmented with a video presentation by a Bible scholar with expertise in that week's material. Previous experience in Bible Study is not necessary. We will learn from each other, from Bible Scholars, and from God's Word as we share our experiences and thoughts each week in group discussion and study. (Required class size: 10-15)
Tuesday 6:30-8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 123A \$35

The Parables of Jesus (at Grace) 6 weeks – starts September 17 Rev. Dustin Petz

What is a Parable? How did Jesus use parables to communicate his message and teaching? What might a modern day parable look and sound like? In this course we will engage a number of the parables of Jesus. We will also have the opportunity to experience (via video) multiple parables told in modern day fashion. There will be time for discussion and reflection about how to apply this learning to our lives as disciples! (Class size: 8-20)
Wednesday 7:00-8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 123A \$15

The Parables of Jesus (online!) 6 weeks – starts September 17 Rev. Dustin Petz

This course will parallel the in-class course, except the material and engagement will be online. A blog has been created to facilitate the material, videos, and group discussion. This will be a new adventure, hopefully allowing more to join in the Lay Academy courses. You will have the freedom to choose when to join the discussion; however, active participation will be expected. Internet access and e-mail are necessary for this course. Checkout the blog and see a trailer of one of the videos! (Needs at least 5 people)
You decide the time! online via <http://dustinpetzparables.wordpress.com> \$15

Men's Study: Jesus' Journey in Mark 6 weeks – starting September 24 Rev. Dustin Petz

This early morning Bible study class will read about and explore the life and ministry of Jesus as found in the first ten chapters of the Gospel According to Mark. We will explore our faith, grow in our fellowship, and learn about how Jesus' life can shape our discipleship. Join us as we think through the theology and stories found in this text. (Class size: 8-25)
Wednesday 6:30-7:30 a.m. Ridgeview, 222 \$0

Theology

Bible & Theology with Nanette until Dec – starts September 11 Rev. Nanette Roberts

This Thursday morning Bible study class will seek to bring Bible and theology together for our discipleship living. Come explore the possibilities of life as a disciple of Jesus Christ in our world today. The class will also wrestle with how it is we can Love God, Live like Jesus, and Serve the World. (Class size: 15-45)
Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ridgeview, 222 \$15

Saving Jesus 13 weeks - starts September 16 Rev. Nanette Roberts and Rev. Gary Schrag

This course is a revolutionary DVD-based small group exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. The course will feature leading religious voices of our day who will invite you to ask important and relevant questions about your faith and life as a disciple. Pertinent information for the weekly topics will be handed out along with discussion questions. (Class size: 10-15)
Tuesday 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 222 \$20

Prayer 101 5 weeks – starts September 16 Lynn Alfors

This prayer study will help you grow deeper in your faith, bringing you into a closer relationship with God this fall. The course will explore prayer, what it is, ways we can pray, difficulties in prayer, and coming before God just as we are. The curriculum comes from the *Companions in Christ* series and is quite helpful in helping us learn more about prayer. No experience is required. (Class size: 6-12)
Tuesdays 7:15-8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 312 \$10

Illuminated Manuscripts: When, Why, and How? 5 weeks – starts September 22 Rev. O. Wayne Turner and Gary Fields

This study is based on the book, *Illuminated Manuscripts*, which explores the manuscripts from the 3rd through the 6th centuries AD. Those manuscripts were a part of the paraphernalia of Christianity reflecting the cultural situation of the time. We will also examine the first illuminated Bible in 500 years; hand scripted and illuminated in a Scriptorium in Wales and the Benedictine Abbey of Saint John the Baptist in Minnesota. (Class size: 2-15)
Monday 7:00-8:30 p.m. Ridgeview, 310 \$5

Introduction to United Methodism 4 weeks – starts October 29 Rev. Dustin Petz

This class will provide an introduction to the history, theology, and organization of The United Methodist Church. The course will also offer a basic orientation to the Bible and what it means to be a member of Grace. This is a good class for anyone wanting to learn more about Methodism, especially new or perspective members or persons with non-United Methodist backgrounds. (Class size: 8-25)
Wednesday 7:00-8:45 p.m. Ridgeview, 123A \$15



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(more courses continued on the back)