

Literature, Laws and Living out the Gospel

Sundays, 11:15 a.m., in the Assembly Room, with coffee and bagels, unless otherwise noted

Shakespeare on the beach, a constitutional crisis (or not), first-hand reports from Nassau members in the mission field and more. Summer offers a chance for us to try out some unconventional beach reads, dive deeper into today's headlines, and learn more about our church's mission partners.

Come join us in the Assembly Room at 11:15 a.m. (after worship) for an hour of educational and inspirational learning. Bagels, coffee and tea provided.

Jun
2

Nassau Goes to Westminster



Join us on Sunday, June 2, at 11:00 a.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1140 Greenwood Ave, Trenton, to worship God and celebrate the Nassau–Westminster Mission Partnership. This is an annual event, and we encourage participation by making this an emphasis of our educational ministries on this day. An opportunity for fellowship follows worship. If you need a ride, or can take someone in your car, contact the church office.

Jun
9

Joy to the World: A Reappraisal of Isaac Watts' 1719 Psalter

Martin Tel

Oscar Wilde once said “there seems to be some curious connection between piety and poor rhymes.” In fact, for many Presbyterians in the 18th century, beautiful lyrics were considered suspect. In such an environment, Watts' Psalter set off alarm bells with lines such as *Joy to the world the Lord is come* and *Jesus shall reign where'er the sun*. Denominations split over the question of singing these paraphrases in church. In this 300th anniversary year of Watts' revolutionary Psalter, we will consider some of these well-loved texts and the impact that they have had on Presbyterian worship through the centuries.

Martin Tel grew up hearing his father singing psalms in the milking parlor of their family farm. Now he serves as Director of Music at Princeton Seminary and ruling elder at Nassau Presbyterian Church. He is the senior editor of *Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship* (2012).



Jun
16

Galileo on Science and Scripture

Eileen Reeves

In 1615 Galileo Galilei's *Letter to the Grand Duchess Cristina* argued for the compatibility of science and scripture, or at least for the relative autonomy of each body of knowledge. Come learn more about Galileo's treatise and discuss the various ways in which the relationship of science and scripture is treated in the present day.



Eileen Reeves is Professor of Comparative Literature and an associate member of the Program in the History of Science at Princeton University. Her main field of research is early modern science, with a particular focus on the relationship of that discipline to early modern literature and art. Her principal obsession is with Galileo Galilei, early modern Europe's most famous private citizen.

Jun
23

The "modernity" of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*

Alastair Bellany

Daniel Defoe's 1719 novel *Robinson Crusoe* feels modern. In many ways, the story of the shipwrecked Crusoe captures the restless, acquisitive spirit—and increasingly global reach—of what historians once termed 'the first modern society'. But at the heart of *Robinson Crusoe* is another narrative, a parable of religious conversion and redemption that echoes earlier Puritan modes of 'practical divinity'.



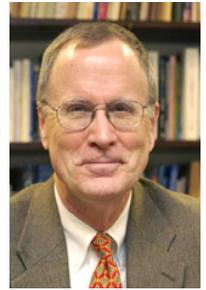
Alastair Bellany is Professor of History at Rutgers University, and works on the political and cultural history of Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Britain. He is the author most recently of *The Murder of King James I*, co-written with Thomas Cogswell, and published by Yale University Press.

Jun
30

An Introduction to St. Augustine's *Confessions*

Paul Rorem

The *Confessions of St. Augustine*, one of the most influential books of the Christian tradition, recalls important events of the author's life, including: life with his devoutly Christian mother in rural 4th century Algeria; his struggles with human desires, his eventual renunciation of secular ambitions and marriage; and the recovery of his Christian faith.



Paul E. Rorem is Princeton Theological Seminary's Benjamin B. Warfield Professor of Medieval Church History. An ordained Lutheran minister, his courses cover the confessions and influence of St. Augustine, the Christian mystical tradition, medieval Christianity, and the spiritual and theological legacy of the Pseudo-Dionysian writings.

Jul
7

Shakespeare and the Bible

Rhodri Lewis

Writing before the publication of the King James Version of the Bible, William Shakespeare relied for the most part on the Geneva Bible. Rather than turning to scripture as a source of truth or meaning as earlier dramatists did, we find him treating scripture like any other source. Come learn how Shakespeare explores the tensions about the authority of scripture that dominated so much of public life in the century after Martin Luther posted his 95 theses.



Rhodri Lewis is Senior Research Scholar in English and Comparative Literature at Princeton University, having recently moved from a Professorship of English Literature at the University of Oxford. He remains an Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's College, Oxford. His most recent publication is *Hamlet and the Vision of Darkness* (Princeton UP, 2017), and he is currently at work on two main projects: a short book on Christopher Marlowe, and something much longer on the development of satirical writing between 1500 and 1750.

Jul
14

Storm Center Report: Ethical Reflections on the U.S. Supreme Court's 2018-2019 Term

Larry Stratton

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once observed that the U.S. Supreme Court is a “storm center” of political controversy. This session will focus on several of the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions including: census questions about citizenship; the constitutional status of religious symbols on public memorials; gerrymandering of legislative districts; out-of-state wine purchases; double jeopardy in state and federal prosecutions; and other critical cases.

Lawrence M. Stratton, Director of Waynesburg University's Stover Center for Constitutional Studies and Moral Leadership, and Associate Professor of Ethics and Constitutional Law has both religion and law degrees. As a field education intern at Nassau during his Princeton seminary M.Div. studies, Larry began an ongoing exploration of American constitutional law in relation to insights from the Christian faith.



Jul
21

Political and Constitutional Crises in Historical Perspective

Jim McPherson

In the midst of a political crisis, people tend to think nothing could be worse. Join us for a look back at previous occasions in American history when democracy, or even national survival, was threatened, perhaps an even greater threat than today.

James M. McPherson is George Henry Davis '86 Professor of American History emeritus at Princeton University, where he has taught since 1962. McPherson's works mostly focus on the American Civil War and Reconstruction, including *Battle Cry of Freedom*, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1989, and *For Cause and Comrades*, which won the Lincoln Prize in 1998. Jim has been a member of Nassau since it was called First Presbyterian Church.



Jul
28

Are We in a Constitutional Crisis?

Keith E. Whittington

American political rhetoric is increasingly filled with cries of constitutional crisis. What does constitutional crisis even mean, and how would we know if we were in one? When does political dysfunction, disagreement and scandal signal more fundamental problems with the constitutional order, and what are the dangers of declaring a crisis prematurely?

Keith E. Whittington is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics at Princeton University. He writes about American constitutional law, politics and history and American political thought. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Texas School of Law, is a member of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences, and is currently a fellow with the National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement. His most recent books include *Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech* and *Repugnant Laws: Judicial Review of Acts of Congress from the Founding to the Present*.



There is no Adult Education class on Sunday, August 11, or Sunday, September 1, Labor Day Weekend.

Aug
4

Before Thy Throne of Grace: A Celebration of Spirituals and Poetry

Noel Werner and Friends

11:30 a.m., Assembly Room

Come enjoy the liberating power and uplift of African-American spirituals, interspersed with readings from a classic of American poetry, *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse*, by James Weldon Johnson. Best known as the author of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," Johnson was also an author, educator, lawyer, poet, diplomat, newspaper columnist, songwriter and civil rights activist. In 1927, he wrote and published *God's Trombones* as a tribute to the old-time preachers he had heard in his childhood. Noel has paired the poems with spirituals which we will sing together in response to hearing these engaging and inspiring verses.

Noel Werner has been the Director of Music at Nassau Presbyterian Church since 2006. Prior to this position, he was the Minister of Music at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, New Jersey, for eleven years.



Aug
18

VIP: Villages in Partnership

Karen Brown and Friends

Villages in Partnership (VIP), one of Nassau's major mission partners, has created an enduring collaborative partnership with the people of Sakata, Malawi - one of the poorest regions in one of the poorest countries of the world. VIP focuses on six key development needs: water, food security, education, health care, infrastructure, and economic development. Come learn about this work from members of this summer's VIP trips.

Karen Brown is a consulting clinical pharmacologist by day, and, after an amazing trip to Malawi in 2018, a dedicated supporter of Villages in Partnership in her off time. Karen and her husband, James Takasugi, are long-time members of Nassau, and raised their two now-adult sons (Alan and Andrew Takasugi) in the church. She and James live in Lawrenceville.



Aug
25

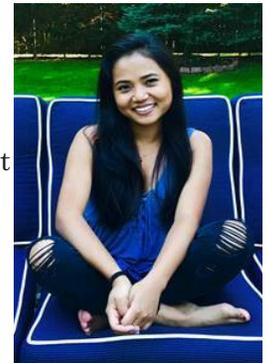
Reflections on a Year as a Young Adult Volunteer

Azing Chin

Hear from Azing Chin, a child of Nassau Church, about her year of service as a Young Adult Volunteer with the PC(USA). Len Scales will interview Azing about her experience, and we will consider together how Young Adults lead the Church in doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God.

Azing Chin was born in Hakha, Burma, and moved to the United States with her family as refugees in 2007. She graduated from Lafayette College with a bachelor in Anthropology & Sociology in May of 2018 and spent the 2018-2019 academic year in Asheville, North Carolina as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) with Hands and Feet of Asheville. She lived with five other YAVs at Brooks Howell Home, a continuing care retirement community, where they volunteered on the weekends. During the week, Azing worked full time at the YWCA of Asheville as the Community Engagement Assistant. This fall Azing will begin nursing school at Rutgers University.

Len Scales currently staffs the Mission & Outreach Committee of Nassau Presbyterian Church. She and her husband, Andrew, are adjunct pastors at Nassau in their role as Presbyterian Chaplains at Princeton University and Executive Co-Directors of the Westminster Foundation. Originally from Knoxville, Tennessee, a proud graduate of Maryville College, Len previously served congregations in Philadelphia and North Carolina after receiving her Master of Divinity degree in 2011 from Princeton Theological Seminary.



ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Larry Alphas, co-moderator
Lisa Burke, co-moderator

STAFF

Corrie Berg

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Lauren Yeh

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nassauchurch.org

Thinking Ahead to Fall...
FOOD AND FAITH
5 WEEKS IN EXODUS