

**Adult Education**  
**February 2020**

---

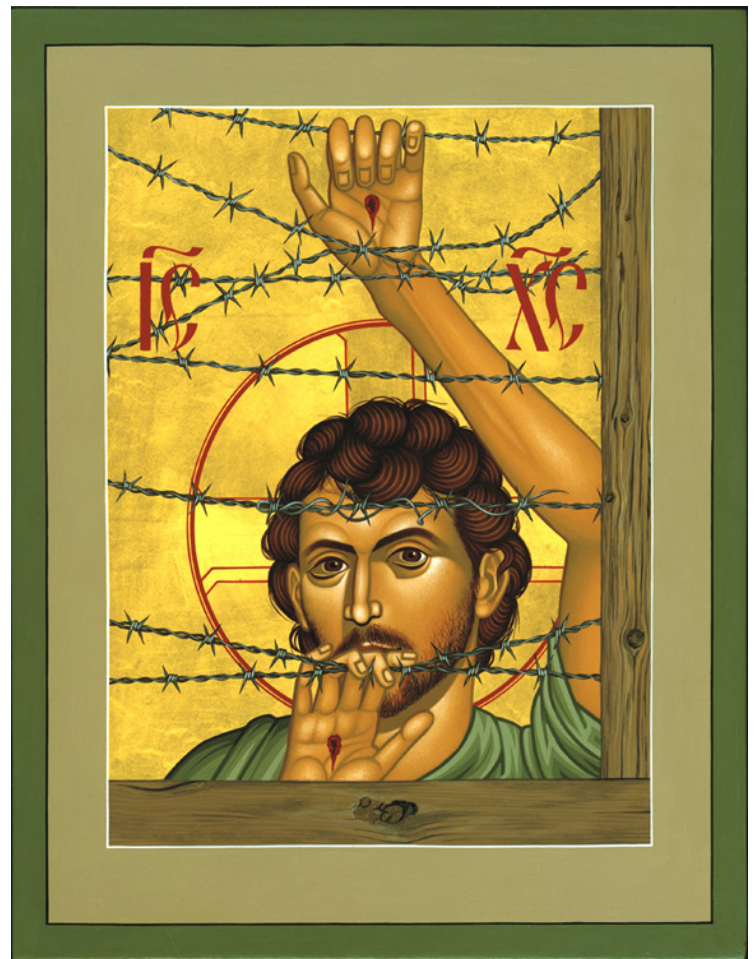
# Incarceration, Race, and Restoration

“If you, even you, had only recognized the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”

Luke 19:42 (NRSV)

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., in the Assembly Room  
unless otherwise noted

As Christians, we are called to be a part of God’s transformative work of peace, justice, and reconciliation in the world, yet we live in a country with the highest incarceration rate in the world: despite making up close to 5% of the global population, the U.S. has nearly 25% of the world’s prison population. Join us to learn more about crime and punishment in our time, as we consider how we might be part of God’s transformative work.



“Christ of Maryknoll,” © Br. Robert Lentz, OFM, courtesy of Trinity Stores, [www.trinitystores.com](http://www.trinitystores.com), 800-699-4482.

### Explore Membership at Nassau Presbyterian Church

---

## Inquirers' Class

Sundays, February 2, 9, 16, 9:30 a.m.  
Niles Chapel

The Inquirers' Class, led by our Membership Committee, gives you time to explore the meaning of the Christian faith and church membership, and to learn more about the history and foundations of the Presbyterian Church, PC(USA). Discover opportunities for spiritual growth, service, outreach, and fellowship; learn about the worship, theology, and programs of Nassau Church. What might it mean for your life if you joined in the ministry and mission of this congregation?

*Lauren J. McFeaters* is Associate Pastor of Nassau Church. Reach her at [lauren@nassauchurch.org](mailto:lauren@nassauchurch.org).

### In-depth Bible Study with George Hunsinger

---

## Colossians

Sundays, 9:15 a.m.  
Maclean House (Garden Entrance)

George Hunsinger continues with a verse-by-verse examination of the Letter to the Colossians. In this epistle, the Colossian congregation wrestles with folk beliefs and new age superstitions that are not as strange as they might at first seem. As usual Paul offers compelling good news in his understanding of the cross, the resurrection, worship, and Christian hope.

*George Hunsinger* is Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the founder of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. This is his 23rd year leading this in-depth Bible study! New participants are always welcome.

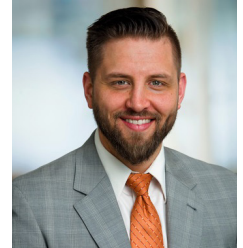


Feb  
2

## Expanding the Map and Reconsidering the History of Christianity and Slavery

Nathan Jérémie-Brink

Christianity and slavery are interrelated world movements, a paradox of our understanding of the history of human bondage and racism. In this class, we will look at how Christian theologies and practices both reinforced and challenged the institution of slavery.



*Nathan Jérémie-Brink* is the L. Russell Feakes Assistant Professor of the History of Global Christianity at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He received the Ph.D. in History at Loyola University Chicago, the M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary, and the B.A. in Philosophy from Calvin College. He is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery of New Brunswick of the Presbyterian Church (USA). His current book project recovers the foundational contributions of African American activists, pastors, churches, and organizations to the abolitionist movement in the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

Feb 9

## Prisoners of Politics: Breaking the Cycle of Mass Incarceration

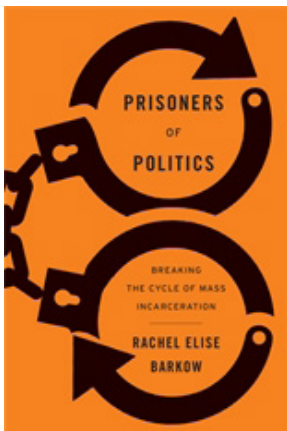
Rachel Barkow

Are we destined to maintain a massive state of criminal punishment in America? While it may seem like this is an active time for criminal justice reform, most of the reforms have been relatively minor. And we have been achieving the reforms we have with low crime rates. If crime goes up, all bets are off. What can we do? In this talk, Prof. Barkow will explain why we need far more fundamental changes than the “low-hanging fruit.”



Why do so many of our criminal justice policies fail to make us safer? What are the political dynamics that produce such ill-advised policies? Our speaker will suggest three targets of institutional change.

*Rachel Barkow* is the Vice Dean and Segal Family Professor of Regulatory Law and Policy at NYU School of Law, where she is also the Faculty Director of the Center on the Administration of Criminal Law. She is the author of *Prisoners of Politics: Breaking the Cycle of Mass Incarceration* (Harvard University Press/Belknap). From 2013 to January 2019, she was a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. She currently serves on the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office Conviction Integrity Policy Advisory Panel.



*Copies will be available for purchase during Fellowship.*

Feb 16

## 150 Years is Enough

Retha Onitiri

New Jersey’s current youth incarceration system is a failed experiment—morally, financially, socially, and from a rehabilitation and public safety perspective.

Statistically, black and white children commit offenses at similar rates but two-thirds of New Jersey’s youth prisoners are black and one-third are white. New Jersey spends over \$200,000 to incarcerate each child for one year.



Come hear about the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice’s *150 Years is Enough* campaign which seeks to close two youth prisons—the New Jersey Training School for Boys (Jamesburg) and the Female Secure Care and Intake Facility (Hayes)—and invest in community-based systems of care as alternatives to incarceration.

*Retha Onitiri* is the Director of Community Engagement at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. She leads the *150 Years is Enough* campaign which seeks to transform New Jersey’s youth incarceration system into a community-based system of care by closing youth prisons and reinvesting in a community-based system of care.

Retha is also responsible for building a coalition for change on issues pertaining to criminal justice, economic mobility, and civic engagement. She leads efforts to establish local advocacy coalitions in major cities across New Jersey, host community events, and identify issues and community-based solutions.



Feb  
23

## Strategies for Engagement

Cuqui Rivera, Jondhi Harrell, and Mia Hart, with Jonathan Shenk

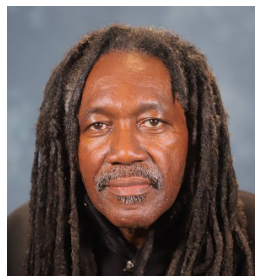
Join us to hear from these community leaders whose programs offer hope and support for those caught up in the criminal justice system or seeking a path out of poverty. Consider how you might offer your time and talents to this transformative work.

*Cuqui Rivera* will speak about the history of criminal justice reform in New Jersey, and what lies ahead. She serves as the Executive Secretary of the Latino Action Network of NJ (LAN) and the LAN Criminal Justice Reform Committee (Chair), Vice President of the Anti-Poverty Network, Executive Secretary for the National Coalition of Latino Officers (NCLO), and the JUNTOS/TOGETHER Campaign Coordinator for Puerto Rico Disaster Relief efforts out of Central Jersey.



Cuqui owns and moderates several Yahoo news email lists & Facebook media groups related to advocacy and community empowerment with current memberships surpassing 4,000: those of the Integrated Justice Alliance & the Middlesex County Human Relations Commission (MCHRC) and NCLO media.

*Jondhi Harrell* will speak about “Fresh Start @ Your Library,” a new, innovative statewide re-entry program that engages social workers in public libraries in six NJ counties to serve the re-entry population. He is also the founder and executive director of The Center for Returning Citizens (TCRC) in Philadelphia. TCRC is dedicated to creating



sustainable systems for healing the wounds of mass incarceration and providing the holistic assistance needed for returning citizens to thrive. Jondhi served a total of 25 years in federal custody. He was released from his second federal sentence in 2009.

Jondhi earned his bachelor’s degree in Human Service Management from the University of Phoenix, and is working on a master’s in Social Work at Temple University. He is a JustLeadershipUSA Fellow 2016 Cohort, a Rastafarian Quaker, a representative of Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends of Afrikan Descent, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. He hosts a tri-weekly Community Podcast that seeks to build community and inform the public on the many issues surrounding mass incarceration and criminal justice reform.

*Mia Hart* will speak about her work as the Adult Education & Work Preparedness

Program Coordinator at TASK (Trenton Area Soup Kitchen). Prior to joining TASK, Mia worked at Rowan University, Burlington County, in an Adult Basic Education/GED Program followed by the Non-Credit,



Professional Development and Customized Training Program. TASK’s Adult Education & Work Preparedness Program (AEWP) strives to enhance the lives of its adult students and help them achieve their educational goals

*Jonathan Shenk*, a former pastor and regular worshiper at Nassau, is a member of the NPC Mass Incarceration Task Force and the Greater Trenton Campaign to End the New Jim Crow.

