

## Adult Education February 2018

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# Mass Incarceration



Sundays, 9:15 a.m., in the Assembly Room  
unless otherwise noted

During Mass Incarceration Awareness Month, we will focus on exposing the human cruelty of mass incarceration, advocating for change in our criminal justice system, and honoring Christ in those incarcerated.

Feb  
4

### Sketching the Problem of Mass Incarceration in the U.S.

Mark Lewis Taylor

Explore a portrait of what “mass incarceration” has become in the U.S. today, its various dimensions of social suffering for its primary sufferers and its impact upon all of us in what has been termed “Prison Nation” or “Lockdown America.” Special emphasis will be placed on efforts to abolish “mass incarceration,” with even the *New York Times*’ editorial staff calling to “End Mass Incarceration Now.”



*Mark Lewis Taylor* is Princeton Seminary’s Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Theology and Culture. A member of the Presbyterian Church, he frequently teaches and lectures in churches and supports church communities in their efforts to organize on justice and peace issues. He teaches the theologies of Paul Tillich and Gustavo Gutierrez, white racism as theological challenge, feminist and womanist theologies, and empire and capital in theological perspective. He is author of *The Executed God: The Way of the Cross in Lockdown America.* and *Religion, Politics, and the Christian Right: Post-9/11 Politics and American Empire*, among others.

Feb  
11

### New Theologies for Challenging Lockdown America

Mark Lewis Taylor

Examine how mass incarceration and related issues in the “criminal justice” system can become a theological problem, and not only a political, economic, and social one. Special treatment will be given to the challenge of transforming key understandings of Christian atonement theory and biblical and theological views of the cross of Jesus in ways that can enable Christians to contribute to prison criminal justice activism in “Lockdown America” today.

Feb  
18

## The Beautiful Struggle: Building Knowledge & Courage to Transform the World

Ruha Benjamin

Consider the pairing of social scientific insights on racism and inequity with spiritual insights on human oneness and justice—which, taken together, offer tools that we urgently need to transform the world.

*Ruha Benjamin* writes and speaks widely on the connections between science, technology, race and justice. She is an Associate Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, a recent fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, and author of numerous publications. In 2017, she received the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton.



Feb  
25

## The Devastating Effects of Mass Incarceration: Find Your Place

Mass Incarceration Task Force

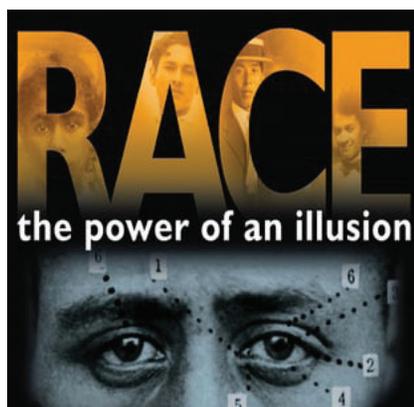
Over-incarceration can be addressed on several fronts: Pre-incarceration, Incarceration, and Post-incarceration. Hear about the Task Forces's history, mission, and current and future initiatives, including tutoring, pen pals, mentoring, advocacy and support. Learn ways to become involved that fit your schedule, add your voice, and tap your talents and expertise.

*Jonathan Shenk* and *Mary Beth Charters* co-moderate Nassau's Mass Incarceration Task Force.

LEARN SOMETHING? SHARE IT  
#aenassau

### Noon Series on Race

# Race: the Power of an Illusion



Sundays, February 4, 11, 18  
12:00–2:30 p.m.  
Conference Room (Feb. 4 and 18)  
Room 304 (Feb. 11)

Is your heart calling you to explore the concept of biological race? Understand how institutions shape and create race? Ground your exploration in Scripture?

With leaders Pat Deeny and Jim Weber, join a group to watch *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, then reflect together on what this means for addressing racism in our time. Best to come to all three sessions, but one-off attendance allowed. Contact the church office ([office@nassauchurch.org](mailto:office@nassauchurch.org), 609-924-0103) to sign up.

# Hope for Preventing and Treating Addiction

Sundays, 9:15 a.m., in the Music Room

We don't need statistics to tell us how prevalent addiction is. We have our own stories and families and friends. Come look for some hope in treatment, recovery, and ideas about how to help.

Feb 11

## Addiction, Spirituality, and Family Recovery

Nancy Gardner

Addiction creates isolation, secrecy, shame, hopelessness, and a feeling of a downward spiral of options. Spiritual connectedness creates antidotes to these feelings and transforms fear and shame. Using a brief overview of AA/NAs 12 Steps as a roadmap for spiritual growth and Pia Mellody's model for healing trauma-driven developmental immaturity, look at transforming fear into hope and activating spiritual principles to thrive in recovery.

*Nancy Gardner* is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, working with addicts, alcoholics, and their families for the past 36 years. She has worked as an Employee Assistance counselor for Jersey City Medical Center; a psychiatric social worker for Princeton House, running their family addiction education program and family aftercare program; a family therapist for Catholic Charities Alternative School students; an adjunct instructor for Mercer County Community College; and a therapist in private practice in Hopewell. She specializes in trauma and addictions treatment, using cognitive behavioral interventions, Gestalt, energy psychology, and Pia Mellody's Model of Developmental Immaturity to treat trauma, addiction, and family systems.



Feb 18

## The Look of Recovery

John Mincarelli

A personal view into recovery.

*John Mincarelli* is a recovering addict who has over eight years of consecutive clean time. He works for the nonprofit organization Recovery Advocates of America, which helps people suffering from the disease of addiction. John is a certified peer recovery specialist, recovery coach, and a certified recovery coach trainer. He has given years to helping others and sharing the hope of recovery. John is a loving father and a grandfather to two beautiful grandchildren.



Feb 25

## Opioids — Please Help

Malissa Arnold

Malissa will discuss substance abuse in Mercer County and New Jersey and trends in drug and alcohol misuse, with special focus on the rise of the opioid epidemic. The class will learn more about identifying drug misuse, strategies to prevent misuse, and where one can start to get help when they or a loved one has a substance abuse problem.

*Malissa Arnold* works in the drug abuse prevention field because she wants to help her community be a healthier place. She worked previously in the White House Office of National Drug Control policy and currently administers a federal grant for drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery in Mercer County.



# 1 Corinthians

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



George Hunsinger leads a verse-by-verse examination of the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. In this epistle the Corinthian congregation wrestles with doctrinal and ethical issues in conversation with their “founding pastor,” Paul, and Paul offers compelling good news in

his understanding of the cross, the resurrection, worship, and life together in Christian community.

*George Hunsinger* is Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. This is his 21st year leading this Bible study!

## SPECIAL NOON SESSION

Feb  
18

### Mozart's Coronation Mass

Noel Werner

12:15 p.m., Music Room

Explore W.A. Mozart's stirring and delightful *Mass in C*, nicknamed the “Coronation Mass.” We'll explain compositional techniques used to illuminate the traditional text of the mass, and the particular context of Mozart's life in Salzburg and his work for the church will add dimension to our experience of this glorious choral masterpiece. Be sure to attend the choral evening service at Nassau on Saturday, February 24, to hear choir, soloists, and instrumentalists present the Coronation Mass.

*Noel Werner* has been Director of Music since 2006. He has lectured at Westminster Choir College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Presbyteries of Elizabeth and New Brunswick. His wife, the Rev. Wendi Werner, is the solo pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Dayton, New Jersey. They have two daughters, Sophie and Emily.

# Inquirers' Class

Sundays, February 11, 18, 25  
9:30 a.m.  
Niles Chapel

The Inquirers' Class gives you an opportunity to explore the meaning of the Christian faith and church membership and to learn more about the history and foundations of the PC(USA). Led by our Membership Committee, discover opportunities for spiritual growth, service, outreach, and fellowship, learn about the worship, theology, and programs of Nassau Church, and meet new friends, church leaders, and staff. Whether joining by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of your church letter, you are asked to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Discover what that might mean for your life as you give yourself to 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).

## ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Larry Alphs, co-moderator  
Lisa Burke, co-moderator

## STAFF

Joyce MacKichan Walker

## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Lauren Yeh

*Nassau Presbyterian Church*  
61 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ  
[nassauchurch.org](http://nassauchurch.org)

## Thinking Ahead...

**MISSION LIFE AT NASSAU  
ROMP THROUGH THE NT**