

Hopewell United Methodist Church

20 Blackwell Avenue, Hopewell, NJ 08525 (609) 466-0471

www.hopewellmethodist.org



October 5, 2021

Rev. Dr. Willy Mafuta

Radical Hospitality

In the history of Christianity, the first century followers of Jesus did something amazing and radical. Apart from feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, extending compassion to the dying, they went beyond by touching the untouchable, picking up unwanted and abandoned children from the streets of Rome and caring for them. A famous Christian theologian in the second century, Tertullian, wrote, "What marks us (Christians) in the eyes of our enemies is the practice of loving kindness. 'Only look,' they say, 'how they love one another.'"

Just 100 years after Jesus, Christians were already breaking out of the old structures of tribe, clan, and race to extend the love of Jesus Christ to all. To the citizens of Rome who despised and persecuted them, Tertullian wrote, "We are your brothers and sisters too" (*Pagels, pp. 9-10*). No one had ever said anything like that before: "We are one. We are, all of us, children of one God."

In the next four weeks, I will be preaching on Radical Hospitality. I am of the belief that one of the signs of a vital Church is her hospitality. Hospitality doesn't only entail how we welcome people but and mainly how we are of service to others. In my sermon series, I will be interviewing people in our church and in our borough. Lyn, from the Chubby's project, for example turned a dying business to a vital restaurant in town with focus on the community. Jon, the owner of the Brick Farm restaurant transformed an old Chevrolet dealership into a vital restaurant in town with emphasis to the community as well.

Our own Paul B. is so involved in music ministry in the borough and Irene leads a team that caters towards those who need clothing.

My aim is to ask them why they do what they do and how that has been impacting our borough. Through the series, I will call on us as a church to intentionally and radically service others not only in the borough, but globally as well, and partnering with sister churches.

Christianity is about an alternative social vision. It is an alternative to the violence and suffering and poverty that characterize daily life; it's a vision of kindness, compassion, gentleness, and peace. And our job as a church of Jesus Christ, is to keep that vision alive, clear and present in the world. Pls join us in person or in zoom in the next four weeks.

In His Name,
Pastor Will

Please Join Dr Will this coming Sunday October 10th, 2021, as he preaches, "Holy Waste: Amazing Generosity" (Psalm 32; John 12:1-11), Part 1 of the series Radical Hospitality.

You certainly have heard the saying, "Whatever you do, don't declare your love publicly and carve your initials plus those of your beloved into a tree." We live in a society where it is uncomfortable to display emotion in public. Yet, it is not, however, surprising, to see at times grandpa or grandma crying during the singing of the national anthem, or even better to see men who claimed they would never cry, then cry when their favorite football team wins the super bowl.

In our text, Mary, pouring a lot of expensive perfume on Jesus' feet, in public, right out there where God and everybody else could see, is indeed a public gesture of excessive emotion. It was uncomfortable to say the least. Some critics scold Mary by commenting that it was a romantic gesture that simply had no place.

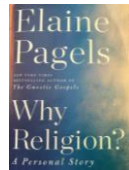
In this sermon, I make the case that whatever the reasons Mary poured this expensive perfume, that was the equivalent of a year's income, at Jesus' feet, it was an amazing act, a very public act of deep love and devotion. I contend that it comes at a time when there is nothing more important than the impulse to act amazingly and beautifully out of a heart full of love. This is exactly what Mary did. In our society, in churches, people are sick not only because they have not received love but also because they are not allowed to give love, to waste themselves.



Indoor Worship Service: Sundays 10:00 am

(Services will continue to be livestreamed for those of you who will not be able to attend in person.)

Week 2 of "Why Religion" Adult Sunday School Class starting 11:15- 12:00 pm using the book "Why Religion?" by, Elaine Pagels.



NOTE: if you plan to attend, please make sure to have a copy of the book handy for this series.

Beginning this Sunday, October 10th, we will start a new series titled "Radical Hospitality."

During the four-week series, Pastor Will intends to interview some members of our church and our community at large who represent a group of people who have been impacting our borough.

- October 10: Paul B.,
- October 17: Lyn and the Chubby's project,
- October 24: Irene and the Secondhand clothing ministry,
- October 31: Jon, the owner of the Brick Farm Restaurant. Please join us!



Birthdays of the Month

- 1 – Mike Perkins
- 4 – Pat Grant
- 15 – Lorraine Donahue
- 16 – Janet Sutton
- 23 – Mike Petrcjik
- 29 – Ava Bejgrowics
- 30 – Jason Arons



2 – Keith & Janet Sutton



All reports for Charge Conference are now due.
 Staff Meeting Wednesday, October 6th, 11:00 am (Sunroom)
 MAT Meeting will be held on Monday, October 11th
 at 7:00 pm (Sunroom)
 October 15th Deadline for November/December Newsletter
 Items



Join Sue Esche and the Book Talk Group on Tuesday, October 19th, at 7:00 pm in the Sunroom. The group will be discussing the book "Finding Chika" by Mitch Albom.



Barbara & Al, Marianne & Bob, Kara, Melissa, Brian, Linda, People of Haiti and Afghanistan, Jean, Thelma, Kathy, Sarah and baby, Gina and Tom, Mel and Rachael, Shirley and Paul Sr., Charles, Rich M., Tammy, Kevin, Hannah, Judith, Tom, Pastor Will, Pastor Laura, Karen, Alexa, Robbie. Prayers for healing within The United Methodist Church, Joy, Kara, Francina, Mike, Lily, Bishop Schol, Keith and Janet, Sandy and Bucky, Archie.



Online Prayer Meeting – 7:00pm Wednesday Evenings

Let's gather from our homes to bring our concerns to each other and to the Lord. **Prayer Time Zoom Meeting ID:** 867 0701 6102 or **dial by phone:** 1 929 205 6099 and enter the above meeting ID number.



Our mission: To be a home for ALL people to be transformed by the love of God and grow in mind, body and spirit.

20 Blackwell Ave., Hopewell, NJ 08525
(609) 466-0471

www.hopewellmethodist.org



HopewellMethodist



HopewellMethodistNJ

JESUS FOR FARMERS & FISHERS BOOK STUDY

This book study, led by Tori Paquette, the Hopewell Council of Churches intern. The study will begin one week from today! Here is a sign-up link for congregants who are interested:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfczMeKaGAQw6oJDbQ9ENqFw7ClvQ-XJer2jQ6QYTg3YIBHjQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

Jesus for Farmers & Fishers Book Study

Join the Hopewell Council of Churches for a six-week book study on Gary Paul Nabhan's new book, "Jesus for Farmers & Fishers," to learn about food justice as we dive into Jesus' parables through an agricultural lens. We will meet at Chubby's on Mondays at 7PM, Oct 11 - Nov 22. Contact tori.paquette@ptsem.edu with questions.

*Required

Email *

Your email

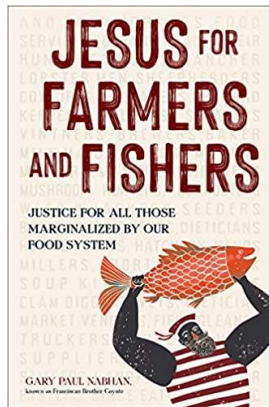
Name *

Your answer

[Jesus for Farmers & Fishers Book Study](#)

Join the Hopewell Council of Churches for a six-week book study on Gary Paul Nabhan's new book, "Jesus for Farmers & Fishers," to learn about food justice as we dive into Jesus' parables through an agricultural lens. We will meet at Chubby's on Mondays at 7PM, Oct 11 - Nov 22.

Contact tori.paquette@ptsem.edu with questions.



Climate disasters, tariff wars, extractive technologies, and deepening debts are plummeting American food producers into what is quickly becoming the most severe farm crisis of the last half-century. Yet we are largely unaware of the plight of those whose hands and hearts toil to sustain us.

Agrarian and ethnobotanist Gary Paul Nabhan--the "father of the local food movement"--offers a fresh, imaginative look at the parables of Jesus to bring us into a heart of compassion for those in the food economy hit by this unprecedented crisis.

Also attached is a selection from the first section of the book for anyone who'd like to do a little reading before the first meeting but hasn't gotten ahold of the book yet. The selections include a good introduction to the book, as well as a Nabhan's retelling of one of Jesus' agricultural parables that truly makes it come alive. See file below:



Jesus for Farmers
and Fishers Intro and