

# SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL WISDOM

## SPRING TERM

### MARCH

#### Where Do We Go from Here?

- 7 **Rev. Jennifer Scott & Colin Craft:** UPUMC Children's and Youth Ministries
- 14 **Dub Newman & Christy Baker:** UPUMC Facilities and Hospitality Ministry
- 21 **Rev. Joe Stobaugh & Rev. Emma Williams:** The Path Ahead for UPUMC
- 28 **No meeting** due to Holy Week. **Maundy Thursday** service at 7 PM.

### APRIL

#### Spiritual Journeys with United Methodist Authors



- 4 **Mary Brooke Casad:** Author of *Scepter of the Universe: A Biography of E. Stanley Jones*



- 11 **Missy Buchanan:** Author of *Wisdom from the Seashore: Life Lessons on Aging*



- 18 **Mary Jo McCurley:** Author of *A Happy Healthy You*



- 25 **Suzanne Stabile:** Author of *The Journey Toward Wholeness: Enneagram Wisdom for Stress, Balance, and Transformation*

### MAY

#### PAUL'S LETTERS TO HIS FRIENDS (Timothy, Titus, Philemon)

- 2 **Rt. Revered James M. Stanton** will be with us for all four sessions in May. Bishop Stanton is a retired Episcopal bishop who taught UPUMC's adult Bible study in October, '23 on Ephesians. He has done extensive research on the letters of Paul.



UPUMC  
FOREVER BEGINNING

# WORDS TO THE WISE



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## Whaddyya Think?

When was the last time anyone asked you that and really meant it? It's an election year, and the airwaves and internet will be buzzing with daily polls and surveys telling us what "people" think about this or that. There might be a subtle hint that perhaps you should think that way, too. I don't know who these "people" are, but it's not me. Sure, I get letters, texts, and emails asking me to participate in surveys.

They are generally accompanied with a return envelope or link to make a modest donation to whatever organization sponsored the questionnaire. I took enough hours in marketing and statistics in college to look a little sideways at such opportunities. Please forgive my skepticism, but does anyone really care about what I think?

It's certainly not the grandkids. I've found the best way to keep a secret from them is to start a sentence with something like "Let me tell you something:..." or, even better, "When I was a kid,...." For instance, if I start a story with, "When I was a kid," and end it a few sentences later with "we're going to give you a pony for Christmas", they will have shut me out long before I got to the pony part. You would see shock and surprise on their faces come Christmas morning when the pony appeared on their doorstep. That's just the way it is. I did have a barber once who seemed interested, but maybe he was just being nice.

If you have ever felt that way, I have good news for you. There is a group that truly wants to hear your thoughts and opinions. It is your Forever Beginning Ministry team. To refresh your memory, the Forever Beginning Ministry is defined as: *"a thriving and dynamic ministry geared toward the 55-year-old+ demographic. This program is vital to the spiritual development of our church and is active in our mission and outreach programs. The vision for this ministry is designed to capture and create opportunities for their collective wisdom, knowledge, and education to advance God's work."*

If you are reading this, you will soon have an opportunity to tell us what you think. Better yet, we will listen. Pam Breier has prepared a survey that you will be receiving, and we look forward to your feedback. We need your input on the "capture and create opportunities" portion of the mission statement. How can we better serve you to meet your spiritual needs? How do we better "advance God's work"? Tell us how you feel about the School of Essential Wisdom, Sunday Bible Studies or anything else that comes to mind. Please tell us all about the times, days of the week, or topics that work for you. There will be plenty of space to share any thoughts or suggestions you might have. We even omit the donation link. Just don't tell us you're getting us a pony. We'll lose a lot of sleep over that.

Until next time, Blessings,  
Mark S. Parker

FIND US ONLINE: To view detailed information about our Forever Beginning Ministry, and to read the current *Words to the Wise* and past issues (*Senior Spotlight*) of the newsletter please visit our website at [www.upumc.org/foreverbeginning](http://www.upumc.org/foreverbeginning).

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# Colin M. Craft

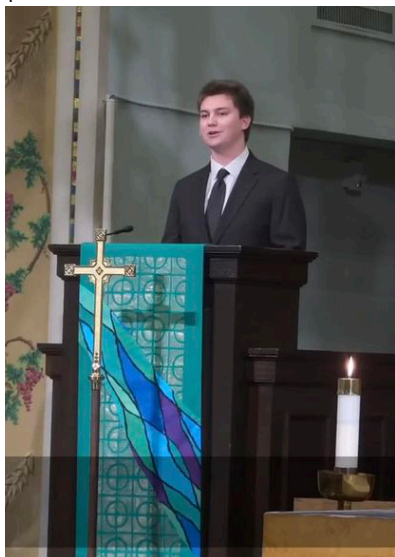
## Minister of Youth/Families

Colin Craft certainly knows how to pack a lot of milestones into half a year. In early September, he took up his post as Minister of Youth and Families at UPUMC. On November 12, he preached a sermon in worship in our sanctuary. Then, on November 16, Emerson Andrew Craft was born, and Colin became a dad! With Emerson in tow, Colin started his "last first day" of seminary at Perkins on January 19. Three days later, the North Texas Conference's Board on Ordained Ministry referred him for commissioning as a provisional elder. And on the evening of February 18 Colin preached the sermon at the inaugural Upper Room Service in UPUMC's newly dedicated Youth Center.

Colin's family is from Irving, Texas, where he was born and educated in neighborhood public schools. Inspired by his grandfather Cecil Craft, he studied architecture in MacArthur High School's Career and Technical Education program. He met Macy Story when she came to MacArthur in the fall of his senior year. They dated through the end of high school, finding they had a lot in common, especially their devotion to God and their desire to serve. Both chose colleges in Abilene.

Macy studied at Hardin-Simmons, majoring in Biblical Studies and minoring in Biblical Languages. She is now serving as Director of Children's Ministries at First United Methodist Church of Arlington. Colin had felt a call to ministry already at the age of fifteen. He attended McMurry University where he majored in Religion and minored in Philosophy and Biblical Greek. After graduation from McMurry, Colin was Director of Young Adult Ministries at FUMC Irving. He then served as Director of Family Ministries at Vista Ridge UMC in Lewisville before joining the UPUMC staff.

Colin is a person who values teaching and learning. He gave me a book recommendation before I even started asking him questions about his history. (Beverly Roberts Gaventa: *Our Mother, St. Paul*). Later, he named several professors and authors from whom he has learned much during his Master of Divinity studies. Notable examples were a couple of Perkins professors, Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, Research Professor of Practical Theology, and her husband, Dr. Jack Levison, Chair of Old Testament Interpretation and Biblical Hebrew.



When asked what he sees as his role as Minister of Youth and Families here at UPUMC, Colin answered that his mission is two-fold: to love the youth and teach them about the love of God, and to inspire them to be good people in the world. With such a clear vision for his ministry and a thoughtful, inspired faith, it is clear that Colin Craft is already becoming a wonderful shepherd for his flock, and a blessing to us all.



### United Women in Faith Presentation:

## Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and The Native American Boarding School System

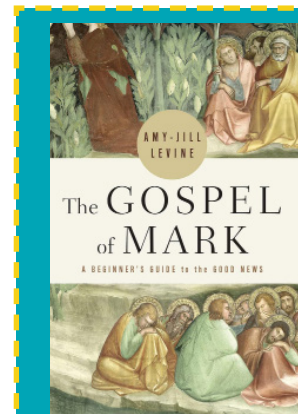


On February 12, the Deborah Circle sponsored a presentation by Mickey George, Social Action Mission Coordinator. The purpose of Mickey's program was to educate UWF members about the "human rights crisis" indigenous women face today. Recent statistics reflect the current plight of Native American and Alaskan Native women in the United States:

- 4 out of 5 are affected by violence;
- murder is the 3rd leading cause of death (10X higher than all other ethnicities);
- in 2022, there were 5,487 incidents of missing women/girls (an increase of nearly 300 over 2021).

In 2017, two Senators from Montana introduced a resolution recognizing May 5 as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls (also called "Red Dress Day").

The Native American Boarding School System was created in 1819. Between 1860 and 1978, there were 375 schools in 30 U.S. states or territories. The purpose of these schools was to eliminate traditional indigenous ways of life and replace them with mainstream American culture. As a result of activism and legislation in the 1970's, most Native American boarding schools were shut down over the following two decades. By 2020, seven schools were still government funded; three of those are managed by Native Americans.



YOU are invited to attend the next

**Sunday Evening Bible Study**

**THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

**by Amy-Jill Levine**

APRIL 7 - 28 4:00-5:00 pm Rooms 103-104

Co-leaders: Richard Hearne & Maryam Mathis

The book is available online from Cokesbury.com, Christianbook.com, and amazon.com. You can also call or visit Barnes & Noble on Northwest Highway and have them order it for you. It costs \$18.95 +tax, and will arrive about a week after you order it.

Wisdom from Kate Bowler: "When we are attempting to let go of something painful...the poet Maggie Smith..." suggests this image: "Think of yourself as a nesting doll: how many versions of yourself have you carried this far, to this point? How many more iterations will there be as you age? Know there is room for all of you." And Kate B. adds this advice: "When you need to let go of some pain, perhaps it is a good time to bless all the versions of you. You are not eclipsed. You are not lost. You are here." (p.138 of *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!* - *Daily Meditations for the UPS, DOWNS & IN-BETWEENS*)