



## SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL WISDOM

### SPECIAL SUMMER TERM

This summer, the School will offer THREE unique and fascinating Thursday sessions to be held **in person at the church and via ZOOM**

**JUNE 16**

**Anthony Olempikas** (Speaker via Zoom)

Mr. Olempikas will tell the story of his journey from the small Masai village where he was raised to becoming a Christian, and his quest to build a sustainable school for the children of his community. Anthony regularly leads wildlife tours for visitors to East Africa. But his real passion is providing educational opportunities for the young people in his part of Kenya.



**JULY 14**

**Talmadge Boston** (in person at UPUMC)

Partner and commercial litigator in the Dallas office of the Shackelford law firm, Talmadge Boston is the author of four books---two on baseball history, one on legal history, and one on presidential history. Mr. Boston is currently working on a new presidential history book that will be out in time for the 2024 election. His topic this July will be Lincoln and Churchill --the two greatest communicators of the last 200 years



**AUGUST 18**

**Colleen Townsley Brinkmann** (Speaker via Zoom)

Daughter of Methodist missionaries, Ms. Brinkmann is the retired Chief Philanthropy Officer of the North Texas Food Bank. In her book *Moonshot Leadership: Catalyzing an Enduring Nonprofit Brand (Against All Odds)*, Colleen speaks passionately about her journey from an obscure village in India to her impact as a nationally-recognized



There are **NO REGISTRATION FEES** for these summer sessions. However...

If you attend in person, and would like to partake in a **catered hot lunch** (\$12) with other attendees, you will need to **make a reservation for the meal**, then make your payment when you arrive.

Even if you plan to join us remotely, **please sign up** in order to get your Zoom meeting link.

To sign up for sessions and reserve your meal, contact Janet Hodge at: [sew@upumc.org](mailto:sew@upumc.org)

Maryam Mathis, Editor | Jennifer Stinchcomb, Layout & Printing | contact Stephen at 225-776-5753 or [sfleming@upumc.org](mailto:sfleming@upumc.org)

FIND US ONLINE: To view detailed information about our Senior Life Ministry, please visit our website at [www.upumc.org/seniors](http://www.upumc.org/seniors)

# UPUMC SENIORS SENIOR *Spotlight*

Vol. XXII, Issue 4 | May, 2022

## BY THE WAY

If you are a native Texan, this heat is no surprise to you. You are used to it. We here at the church are also aware that this summer many of you will be heading for the hills, seeking higher ground. This is a clear signal for those of us who plan for summer church activities to put on our mental 'sunscreen.' As a result, we will have fewer planned programs, while we maintain our strong commitment to superior

quality and staying faithful to our theme of "loving the Lord our God with all our .... minds!" On the back page of this SPOTLIGHT, you will find the School of Essential Wisdom's summer schedule.

That leaves me with the opportunity to visit with you about how to enhance your spiritual life this summer with new, private endeavors. While staying inside with the air-conditioning. we all will have some free time to rethink, reconfirm or renew what we think we know for sure. So, I am going to set up some questions for you to think about. You might even do some research as to what others think. You might call a friend and chat about them over the phone, or you might make them a family 'show and tell' experience.

These are not tough questions; they might at first appear too simple or too easy to bother with. Yet if you take the time to think them through, they might just lead you into a new and beautiful discovery of wisdom. These will not be for public discussion. No one need ever see your answers. They are your thoughts and your thoughts only.

1. In the Gospel of John, love seems to be the major theme: the Love of God for his people, the love of Jesus for his disciples. How do you define this LOVE?
2. John's gospel speaks of 'the disciple whom Jesus loved.' Count how many times that phrase is used. Who is this disciple and why is it mentioned repeatedly?
3. What does "God love you" mean? And why is it hard for some people to believe that God loves them?
4. What practical ways can you devise to help you explain to others that God loves them?

Trust me: when you finally set the questions to heart, you will understand the love of God like you never have before. Don't take them lightly, for the answers are paramount: they are the bedrock of our entire faith. And, by the way, it doesn't really matter where you find yourself...Dallas, Denver, North Carolina, New Mexico or around the world. Your answers are important to God, to his people and to you, his beloved disciple.

Forever beginning,

*Dede*

# UPUMC WELCOMES connectingPoint OF PARK CITIES



On May 31st, UPUMC will welcome Connecting Point of Park Cities to our campus. CPPC is a dynamic day program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) founded in 2014 by a group of Park Cities parents. After their children aged out of the public schools' special education program, there were no options for them to develop their skills further. Nor were there very many opportunities for them to connect, integrate, or contribute. So, these parents took matters into their own hands: they spent three years researching and consulting with experts for solutions, and ultimately designed their own comprehensive program. Today, the program serves a broad range of people from early 20s to mid 50s, including those with developmental disabilities, brain injuries, spina bifida, and cerebral palsy.

Every weekday, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 19-25 CPPC teammates follow a routine created to develop their individual abilities and promote independence. They practice various competencies, including independent living, academic foundations, daily interactions with other members of the community, and vocational skills. They also enjoy creative arts activities and mini-courses, such as water safety training, as seen in the group picture above. In October 2020, CPPC initiated a micro-business called "PAWS-itive" that makes, packages, and sells quality dog biscuits. The business has been on hiatus, but will reboot in the fall.



Why is UPUMC a good fit for CPPC? Cynthia Olson, Executive Director, says "there are two very important reasons: (1) great location, and (2) a welcoming body of congregants who help fulfill our goal of integrating our Teammates into the community." On May 22, Ms. Olson will speak at both our Sunday services to give our congregation an overview of what a typical day looks like for the teammates who attend the program. Check out the Connecting Point of Park Cities' website (<https://www.mycppc.org>) for great photos and lots more information.

## Volunteers needed to cover shifts at the front desk!

This may not be Ernestine's gift, but what about you? The Hospitality Ministry needs more good women and men to welcome guests, receive deliveries, wave at WDS kids, and, oh yes, answer phones and take messages. Join the team, and soon you'll get to preside over the NEW welcome desk! (The new lighting will make you look 10 years younger -- guaranteed.)

**Contact Mary Tabor at (214) 341-0497 or [marymtabor@gmail.com](mailto:marymtabor@gmail.com).**



*What do the people on this list have in common?*

- 1) Each of them has written at least one book -- most of which are nonfiction titles.
- 2) These authors are now, or have been, affiliated with UPUMC in some way. You may recognize some as former pastors, some as current congregants, and others as teachers or ministers who have served here in the past.
- 3) Their books are available for YOU to check out in the Fiske Miles UPUMC Library!

*So, what are you waiting for? Check one out and see what they have to say!*

Baughman, Michael      Flipping Church: How Successful Church Planters  
Are Turning Conventional Wisdom Upside Down

Bearden, Donna      I, Too, Me Neither

Bruff, Rebecca      Trouble the Water (FIC)  
Loving the World with God: Fourth Day Living

Casad, Dede      The Seventh Flag (FIC) ; The Nephew (FIC)  
The Fourth Quarter: The Hail Mary for Seniors;  
What a Story: How a Writer Views the Bible;  
Intriguing Texans for the Twentieth Century;  
The Governor's Stake: The Parallel Lives of Two Texas Governors;  
Farwell's Folly: The Rise and Fall of the XIT Ranch

Davies, Michael      Meditations on Early Christian Symbols  
Young Readers Book of Christian Symbolism

Foster, Robert L.      Wrestling with God and the World: The Struggle for  
Justice in the Biblical Tradition

Grant, C. David      God the Center of Value; Thinking Through Our Faith

Judy, Marvin T.      You and Your Pastor

Matthews, Norma and Bill      Hope Over Fear--Bridges Toward a Better World:  
History of the Dallas United Nations Association

McCurley, Mary Jo      A Healthy You: A Woman's Guide to Happiness,  
Health and Harmony

Munroe, Robert      An Engineer's Space Race: Stories and More;  
A Bible Reference about Angels and Demons

Robbins, Thomas Q.      Evangelism; What It Means to Be a United  
Methodist

Sido, Tova      Jesus Still Loves You Always Will

Thomas, Gloria V.      The Gospel According to Clayborn

Tull, Justin W.      Christmas Journey: Finding Joy along the Way;  
Why, God, Why? Sermons on the Problem of Pain

Webb, Lance      Onesimus; (FIC) Onesimus, Rebel and Saint (FIC)  
Sin and the Human Predicament; When Virtues Become Sins;  
Conquering the Seven Deadly Sins; Discovering Love;  
On the Edge of the Absurd; When God Comes Alive;  
Disciplines for Life; Point of Glad Return; Making Love Grow

