

SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL WISDOM

FALL TERM

September

LOVE -- ALL:
YOUR SERVE!

- 5 **Communities Foundation of Texas:** Calvert Collins-Bratton
- 12 **UPUMC Missions Board:** Wanda Hooten, Janet Bustin, Gina Gregory, Emmy Zumwalt, Kim Brannon, Phil Bush
- 19 **UPUMC United Women in Faith:** Reggie Campbell, Diana Wilson
- 26 **Project Transformation (National):** Casey Mellody, Interim CEO

October

IT'S ALL GREEK
TO ME!

- 3 **Introduction to Biblical Greek:** Rev. Colin Craft
- 10 **Biblical Greek, Part 2:** Rev. Colin Craft
- 17* **What It Means to Be Clergy, and How You Get There:**
SURPRISE Guest Speaker
- 24 **Biblical Greek, Part 3:** Rev. Colin Craft

17* On October 17th, we will be celebrating Clergy Appreciation Day by hosting a catered luncheon following the lecture to honor our UPUMC clergy.

November

JEWELS
OF DALLAS:
ENCORE!

- 7 **Texas Hall of State - Fair Park:** David Lee, Director of Education
- 14 **The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza:** Stephen Fagin, Curator
- 21 **Nasher Sculpture Center**

December

MUSIC OF THE
SEASON

- 5 **Christmas Music through the Ages:** Mark Pope
- 12 **Christmas Music You Probably Don't Know:** Amanda Hollis
- 19 **Christmas Sing-a-long in the Sanctuary:** Clinton Bray
(EXTRA TREATS: Ugly Christmas Sweaters & Christmas Cookies!)

FALL 2024 Sunday Evening Bible Study SUNDAYS AT 4 PM

September 8 - 29
"Paul the Pharisee"
Bishop James Stanton

October 6 - 27
"The Practice of Vulnerability"
Rev. Joe Stobaugh

November 3 - 24
"The New Testament"
Rev. John Mollet

December 1 - 22
"The True Meaning of Advent"
Rev. Joe Stobaugh



WORDS TO THE WISE



Vol. XXIV Issue 3 | SUMMER 2024



Prescription for Getting Through These Political Times

If you are like me, you sometimes turn on the news and find yourself yelling at the TV. My blood pressure goes up, I become anxious, and I shake my head in disbelief. To my surprise, I've learned that the antidote to this terrible feeling does not come from the "right person" or a particular party being elected. Instead, it's an "inside job."

I have realized that practicing tolerance and kindness can lead to learning something, maybe even something life changing. When you practice tolerance and kindness, those you don't agree with can become your best teachers.

This practice transports you from your own echo chamber to a place where you can really hear and begin to understand the concerns, beliefs, and fears of others. Proverbs 31:26 reflects this prescription when it says, "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."

Our words and actions have the power to bring wisdom, the power to uplift our souls and to heal not only ourselves but those around us. The very habit of tolerance and kindness has a positive impact on ourselves and others, because it fosters an environment of peace and mutual respect. When we practice tolerance and kindness, God can work within us. It is a sign of spiritual maturity and a testament to the transformation that occurs when we live in accordance with God's will.

So, the next time you feel your blood pressure rising, remember that God's prescription for us is to practice tolerance and kindness, and know that our solution is not in the hands of any man or woman. Remember the words of Isaiah 2:22: "Turn away from mortals, who only have breath in their nostrils, for of what account are they?"

Remember also the words of another prophet: "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" --Micah 6:8

Forever beginning,

Mary Jo McCurley



Any writers in the house?

Do **YOU** have a devotional/book or movie review/poem/essay hiding in a desk drawer? Well then, send your masterpiece for publication in *Words to the Wise* to mmathis@upumc.org, and let us share **your** wisdom in a future issue!