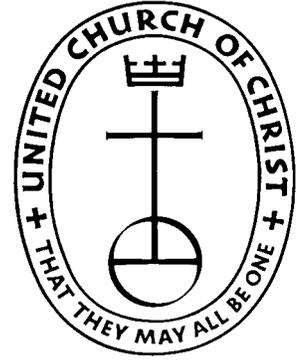


Penn West Academy for Ministry

Theology Course

Instructor: Rev. Joseph Hedden, Pastor, Emmanuel
Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ, Export,
PA
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Course Objectives:

1. To understand and express the connection between the Bible, its interpretation, and theology.
2. To identify theological methods, such as constructive, liberation, Biblical, feminist and so on.
3. To engage in practical theological reflection, with a deeper relationship with God being the primary goal.

Texts: Dorothy & Gabriel Fackre, Christian Basics: A Primer for Pilgrims, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991).

Optional: Gabriel Fackre, The Christian Story: A Narrative Interpretation of Basic Christian Doctrine, Volume 1, Third Edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996). The Christian Story deals with the same information as the first volume but in a more in depth and academic way. It is not the required text but is a good companion to it.

Calendar Year 2019-2020:

- **September & October 2019: Jesus Christ: Person & Work**
Reading:

- Christian Basics, Chapter 4: "Jesus Christ," pages 38-63.

Assignment. *Due in March 2020:*

- Practice Lectio Divina (instructor will give handout) in order to pray using some of the Bible passages *in this chapter* regarding Jesus Christ. Write a reflection on the experience.
- Pick a gospel to read straight through. Keep notes in your journal and write a paper for me entitled, "The Prayer Life of Jesus in the Gospel of -----"

March 2020:**The Holy Spirit**

Reading:

- Christian Basics, Chapter 5: “The Church,” pages 64-89.
- ONE of the following works on the Holy Spirit: William H. Willimon, “*We’re All Here*,” in The Intrusive Word, pages 116-122; Emil Brunner, “How do we receive the Holy Spirit?” in I Believe in the Living God: Sermons on the Apostles’ Creed, pages 111-123; Dorothee Soelle “*Freedom as Thirst for Liberation*,” in On Earth as In Heaven: A Liberation Spirituality of Sharing, pages 90-98 or Walter Brueggemann, “*Dreaming with Freedom midst Chaos*,” in Inscribing the Text: Sermons and Prayers of Walter Brueggemann, pages 113-117.

Assignment. *Due in May:*

- Short reflection paper on how the Holy Spirit has been active in your life and faith.

May 2020:**The Christian Ministry & Ethics**

Reading:

- Christian Basics, Chapter 5, “The Church,” pages 64-89.

Assignment. *D**Due in September 2020.*

- Write a short reflection paper on the case study given in class.

