

# Announcements & Reminders

**September 1, 2019**

## **Pastor Mark's Fall Out-of-Office Hour at Evergreen Cafe**

Beginning September 11th, Pastor Mark will hold an out of office hour at Evergreen Cafe on Coldspring Ave. every Wednesday from 8:30-9:30 AM for those who would like to get a cup of coffee and chat. If you would like to let him know you'll be stopping by, just call or text 410-914-7772.

## **Congregational Meeting After Worship — 9/8**

We will hold a congregational meeting after worship on September 8th to elect an officer to fill a vacancy on the board of Deacons. Installation and ordination of officers will occur during worship on September 15th.

## **Christian Education Save the Dates – 9/8 & 9/15**

September 8th will be Back-to-School Sunday where we will have a blessing of the bags. Students can bring their school back packs. Adults can bring a workbag, purse or other carry-all that represents daily work or activity. During worship we will bless the bags and those who carry them as we begin a new year together. Immediately after worship we will create a public prayer station in front of the church along the sidewalk on Roland Avenue. In sidewalk chalk we will write words of encouragement and blessing for students and parents who will walk along that path on their way to and from school.

September 15th will be the first day of Sunday School for the new school year. Students will get to see their classrooms, meet their teachers and classmates and get oriented for the year ahead.

## **Soul Kitchen on Second Sundays at Govans Presbyterian**

Soul Kitchen at Govans Presbyterian Church prepares and serves a meal to the community every Sunday. Guests are generally low income neighborhood residents as well as some homeless individuals. Every 2nd Sunday of the month, about 10 volunteers from RPPC are needed to help prepare, serve, and cleanup for the meal. Volunteers are encouraged to eat with the dinner guests. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 5 PM and cleanup is done by 8:15 PM. Volunteers are welcome for all or part of the time. Youth, as long as they are accompanied by an adult, can volunteer. A sign up is available on the homepage of our website under the events section! Questions? Contact Amy Lutzky (cell: 202-460-1521).

**When?** Every 2nd Sunday of the month; 5:00 PM — 8:15 PM  
(September 8, October 13, November 10)

**Where?** Govans Presbyterian Church, 5828 York Road, Baltimore.  
Parking available at the back of the church.

[www.RolandParkChurch.org](http://www.RolandParkChurch.org)

Do you have an announcement?

Contact the office at [office@rolandparkchurch.org](mailto:office@rolandparkchurch.org) or 410-889-2001.



# **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS**

## **Faith and Fiction Book Club New Selection — 10/9 @ 7:30 PM**

Our faith and fiction book club will meet at the church on October 9th at 7:30 PM to discuss *Silver Sparrow* by Tayari Jones. All are welcome to join! If you have questions, please contact Pastor Mark at [pastor@rolandparkchurch.org](mailto:pastor@rolandparkchurch.org).

## **Free Lecture at St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute**

### **Reclaiming Broken Bodies: Thinking Theologically about the Opioid Crisis, 9/19 @ 7 PM, Laubacher Hall**

The opioid crisis is on multiple levels about the brokenness of human bodies, only some of which fall under the purview of medicine; for all the real good it does, medicine alone cannot offer healing. "Healing," says the poet, essayist, and social critic Wendell Berry, "is impossible in loneliness. It is the opposite of loneliness. Conviviality is healing." Berry's claim is altogether consistent with one of the fundamental tenets of Christianity, which is that God's redemptive work, mediated by the gathered community of God's people is to make of alienated, lonely individuals a community of mutual love and support. God's work is to reclaim persons from isolation and re-member them into a community where "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it" ( 1 Cor 12:26). None of this happens magically, but rather through the hard work of friendship; one way of imagining the Christian community is as a gathered society of friends, all of whom are broken in one way or another, each of whom is devoted to caring in concrete ways for the others. This work of reclamation allows us to serve one another in our weaknesses and truthfully lament the brokenness of our bodies as we await their promised redemption.

Joel Shuman, PhD, PT, is Professor of Theology at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania who works at the intersection of theology and medicine. Dr. Shuman also teaches in the CONNECT: Faith, Health, and Medicine certificate program of St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute. After practicing physical therapy for several years, he pursued theology, studying New Testament with Richard Hays and Christian Ethics with Stanley Hauerwas at Duke University. Joel spent the 2018-19 academic year as the Scholar in Residence with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School, where he researched the opioid epidemic, and is currently co-authoring a book on congregational responses to the opioid crisis. His previous books include *The Body of Compassion: Ethics, Medicine and the Church*, *Heal Thyself: Spirituality, Medicine and the Distortion of Christianity* (with Keith Meador, M.D.), *Reclaiming the Body: Christians and the Faithful Use of Modern Medicine* (with Brian Volck, M.D.), and *To Live is to Worship: Bioethics and the Body of Christ* (2007). He co-edited (with L. Roger Owens) and contributed to the volume of essays, *Wendell Berry and Religion: Heaven's Earthly Home*.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is requested-410-864-4203.



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