

NOVEMBER CONT.

November 9 | DEI COLLABORATION: Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is commonly referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Did you know that within The United Methodist Church, there are approximately 111 Native American congregations? In the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC, North Carolina has the largest number of established Native American ministries. The state of North Carolina has approximately 130,000 Native American residents. Approximately 2,200 of those are United Methodist. Join us as CONAM (Committee on Native American Ministries) introduces Native American culture, tradition, and spirituality through dance and drum circles.

November 16 | WELL-BEING: How to Recognize and Heal from Spiritual Abuse

Have you ever heard someone say they were spiritually abused and did not know what to think about it? Do you know how to recognize the signs of spiritual abuse? Like all forms of abuse, the effects of spiritual abuse and manipulative religious rhetoric can be life-altering and long-lasting. Trust issues can arise, keeping people from corporate worship and building relationships with other people of faith. Spiritual abuse often leads to fear, anxiety, isolation and in extreme cases, can cause some to walk away from their faith all together. Join us as we hear from researchers whose study focuses on spiritual abuse and religious rhetoric. Our time together is not to provide answers or rationalizations, rather, to encourage conversation and education on this sensitive topic and to grapple with the questions that come with it.

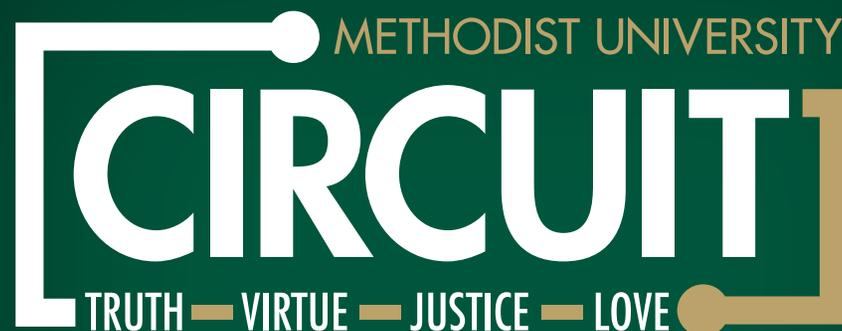
November 30 | SCRIPTURAL REASONING: Gratitude

Scriptural Reasoning (SR) is a tool for interfaith dialogue whereby people of different faiths (or none) come together to read and reflect on their scriptures. SR is not about seeking agreement, but exploring the texts and their interpretations across faith boundaries. The result is often a deeper understanding of others' and one's own scriptures, as well as the development of strong bonds across differences. No religious background or faith practice is required! *This month's theme is Gratitude.*

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Welcome to CIRCUIT for the 2022 Fall Semester.

CIRCUIT is a weekly gathering of the Methodist University community for *inspiration, education, and community* built on a framework of truth, virtue, justice, and love.

Inspiration reflects a campus commitment to spiritual growth, education invites critical thinking, and community represents a safe space where all are welcomed.

Each month includes traditional worship; well-being (body, mind, and spirit); a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) collaboration; and a community conversation.

The MU community welcomes you to CIRCUIT.

AUGUST

August 17 | WELCOME TO CIRCUIT: Saddle Up!

Whether you are new to CIRCUIT or have blazed this path before, saddle up and join us to celebrate the tradition of CIRCUIT riders of yesterday and today! As you navigate campus life, CIRCUIT is a place where you can experience inspiration, education, and community. This week, we will be outside (weather permitting) with a message of hope, T-shirts that celebrate our diversity, and plenty of music to liven your soul.

August 24 | WORSHIP: Scaffolding, Kenosis, and Learning to Live Together: The Story of Jacob's Ladder

When we live from our true self in God, religion is not about requirements, it is about relationships—the quality and capacity of our relatedness to God and others. Join us as we explore what it means to live together. The Genesis story and the story sung in "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" will guide us as we consider what is possible when we connect with God and one another.

August 31 | SCRIPTURAL REASONING: Cosmos/Creation

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SEPTEMBER

September 7 | WORSHIP: Identity v. Identification

Richard Rohr writes, "[One day] I realized that many people love and admire me for who I am not, and many people also resent or reject me for who I am not. Conversely, many love me for who I really am, faults and all, and this is the only love that ever redeems me." Join us as we explore the crossover and difference between identification and identity through some lesser-known nuances of the Parable of the Prodigal Son and Jesus' question to the disciples: "Who do people say that I am?"

September 14 | DEI COLLABORATION: Hispanic Heritage Month

In collaboration with DEI and Multicultural Affairs, we acknowledge Hispanic Heritage Month, recognizing the histories, cultures, and contributions of U.S. citizens whose ancestral origins include Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

September 21 | WELL-BEING: Perspective Taking

Take off on a mind-bending interactive journey full of twists, turns, and surprises where nothing is ever as it seems. Perspective-taking is the act of perceiving a situation or understanding a concept from an alternative point of view, such as that of another individual.

September 28 | SCRIPTURAL REASONING: Food

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OCTOBER

October 5 | WORSHIP: World Communion Day Observance – Bread of and for the World

Holy Communion, also named the Eucharist or the Lord's Supper, is sacrament in the Christian church. Sacraments are outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace. In the Wesleyan tradition, the sacraments are a means of grace whereby we can grow in the knowledge and understanding of God. During the first week of October, we join communities of Christian across the globe for this celebration of unity among churches and denominations. No matter our differences, Christians are unified by this meal - the bread and the cup, the body of and blood of Christ. This year, our celebration includes breads from around the world to remember the Bread given for the world.

October 12 | DEI COLLABORATION: Disability: Part of the Equity Equation

Students graduating in 2023 will enter the most diverse workforce in U.S. history, but we still have so far to go! Workforce diversity is the collective mixture of employees' differences and similarities (including individual characteristics, values, beliefs, experiences, backgrounds, preferences, and behaviors). The theme for National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month 2022, "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation," recognizes the vital role people with disabilities play in making the nation's workforce diverse and inclusive.

October 19 | WELL-BEING: Come Home for an Outdoor Picnic

No matter where you call "home," scientific reason has proven that there is something uniquely soothing about the familiarity and comfort one's home provides. Join us for an outdoor picnic as we celebrate that "MU is Home!" Enjoy catered picnic favorites and homemade desserts provided by MU faculty and staff.

October 26 | WELL-BEING: Healing our Division

How long until justice comes? How long until the broken are made whole? What can heal our divisions? Today we welcome the Rev. Gloria Winston-Harris, Spiritual Development and Dialogue Director and Wesley Campus Minister at NC Central University, for a word of truth for healing and hope.

NOVEMBER

November 2 | WORSHIP: All Saints Day Observance: Living Root Bridges

In the northeast Indian state of Meghalaya, winds sweep up from the Bay of Bengal, breaking open upon this mountainous terrain and creating what's widely considered to be the wettest region in the world. On average, this area receives between 32 and 45 feet of rainfall a year. The geography of this place is characterized by isolation and disconnectedness. Even today, most of these villages do not have road access. A trip to the closest town might require climbing down into valleys and crossing flooding rivers to reach another village. It's hardly surprising, then, that it was the need for connectedness that provided the first guiding impulse for these ancient experiments in bioengineering. Tree bridges are structures that are literally rooted in the terrain and that thrive under the relentless pressures of the wettest land in the world. Join us as we listen for lessons these tree bridges and their builders can teach us on All Saints Day.