

Wisdom Seekers

The Power of Storytelling

Rev. Dr. Amelia Boomershine

Pastor of Community Outreach, McKinley UMC

Greet Your Neighbor

- Welcome, Wisdom Seekers!
- A song from Cameroon
- Our storytelling process

A Story About Your Name

You could tell....

- Why were you named what you were named
- What your name means
- If you ever had a nickname
- About someone who has the same name
- What you like or don't like about your name
- If you have ever changed your name

Housekeeping

- Attendance
- Class time
- Break time
- Restrooms

What's this course about?

- Seeking and acquiring wisdom
- Connecting with a cosmic story
- Identifying the stories impacting our lives
- Knowing and telling the stories of *my* life
- Hearing and appreciating the stories of *your* life

What are we doing?

We will...

- Consider how a cosmic story from the biblical tradition connects with our experience and tell about it
- Practice ways of learning and telling stories
- Consider four sources of stories in our lives

Four Sources of Stories

- Family
- School
- Religion
- Culture

Expectations

- Speak from the heart
- Listen from the heart
- Practice confidentiality
- Learn and teach
- Do some “self work”

Purpose

The purpose of this course is for each of us to claim the power of knowing and choosing life-defining stories that genuinely reflect the wisdom, love, creativity and goodness of our core selves.

Wisdom

- wis·dom

the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment

- *synonyms:*

intelligence, understanding, insight, good sense, shrewdness, common sense

Wisdom

- Who or what do you associate with wisdom?
- Who is a person you have known that you consider to be wise?

Wisdom

- “Wisdom literature” of the ancient world
- Universal
- Biblical tradition
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Proverbs
 - Wisdom of Solomon

The Nature of Wisdom

There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.

The Wisdom of Solomon 7:22b-23

Good News for Wisdom Seekers

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,

And she is easily discerned by those who love her,

And is found by those who seek her.

She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.

One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,

For she will be found sitting at the gate.

The Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-14

What Is a Story?

- A story is the telling of the significant actions of characters over time.
- There is no story until there is a telling.
- A teller is someone with something to say who believes that someone else, somewhere, wants to hear it.

Who Are You?

- *You are your stories.*
- You are the product of all the stories you have heard and lived...
- They have shaped how you see yourself, the world, [the cosmos], and your place in it.
- Your first great storytellers were home, school, popular culture, and perhaps church.

The Healing Power of Story

- Knowing and embracing healthy stories are crucial to living rightly and well.
- If your present life story is broken or diseased, it can be made well.
- Or, if necessary, it can be replaced by a story that has a plot worth living.

In Pursuit of Meaning

- Our greatest desire is that our lives mean something
- We tell stories because we hope to find or create significant connections between things, to make sense of our experience
- Stories link past, present, and future in a way that tells us where we have been, where we are, and where we could be going.

Wisdom Seekers

The Power of Storytelling

Rev. Dr. Amelia Boomershine

Pastor of Community Outreach, McKinley UMC