

# ZEPHYR EXPERIENCE

## JUNE 24-29, 2018

*Bridges to Hope:  
Exploring  
Diversity  
in Religion  
and Politics*

Join a community of progressive Christians  
Learn from scholars and church leaders  
Look more deeply together into pressing issues  
Celebrate in worship and song  
Enjoy Lake Tahoe at your footsteps

Zephyr Experience 2018 offers five days of morning classes for adults and children. Afternoons are free to explore a choice of activities, and evenings offer a time to worship together, watch the sunsets, and play games.

# Session One Classes

8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

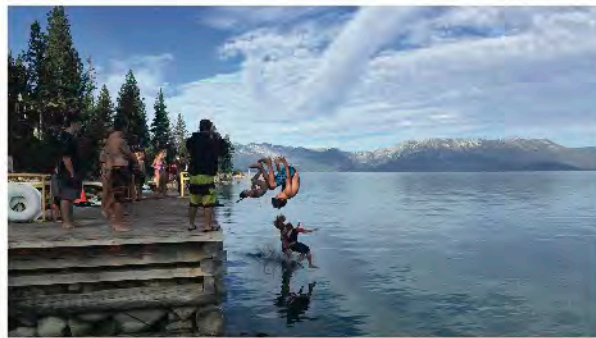
## Holy Writ for the Rest of Us: Rediscovering and Reclaiming the New Testament

### Ben Daniel

If you have come to believe the Bible is an ancient, irrelevant, and useless book whose ongoing popularity serves mainly to confirm the prejudice, misogyny, and violent inclinations of fundamentalism, then this class is for you. We will explore ways of reading the Bible that take us away from a binary conservative/progressive divide. Together we will look at surprising and unexpected passages from the New Testament that challenge traditional scriptural interpretation, that add depth and texture to stories we often disregard as overly-familiar, and that may surprise us with messages that feel fresh and relevant today.



Rev. Ben Daniel is the Senior Pastor of Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, CA. He has also written four books, including *Neighbor: Close Encounters With 'Illegal' Immigration*.



## Faith That Moves Mountains

*Making our corporate witness effective in an age of social dissonance and religious indifference*

### Floyd Thompkins

How do we minister in this time of political and cultural turmoil? What are the best practices for influencing social policy and political and religious dialogue?

We will look at the current political dynamics and review recently successful faith-led movements in Northern Ireland, South Africa, and the United States. We will then look at models of engagement within the context of our own communities.



Floyd Thompkins has served as Dean and Chaplain at Stanford and Princeton Universities and is the Director of the Center for Innovation in Ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Zephyr Experience  
2018

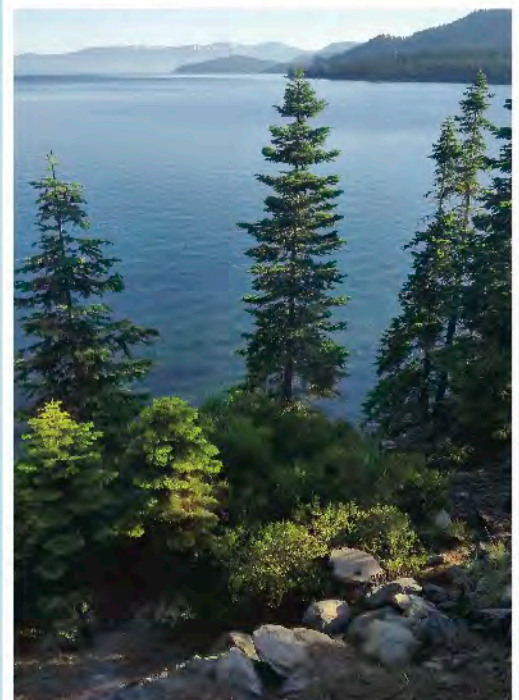
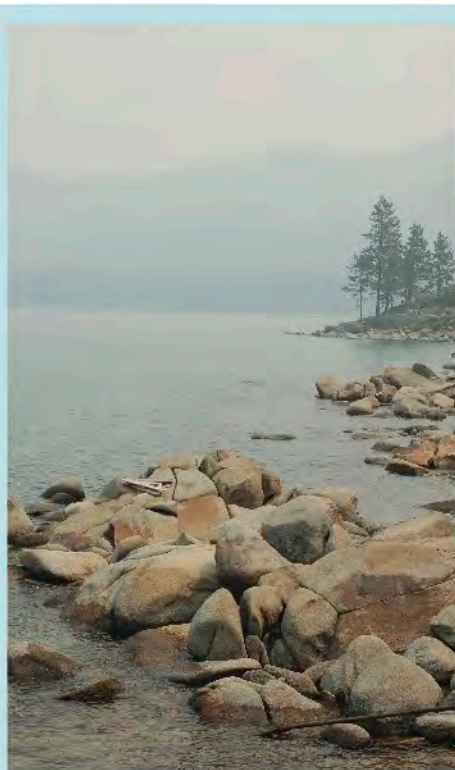


## Living in the Eye of the Storm

### Jim Rigby

In this toxic political environment, how can we balance inner peace and outer activism? We will look for direction from some of the great lifelong activists from history: We will learn from Dr. King how to stay focused on what we want and not become fixated on what we hate. We will learn from Thich Nhat Hahn how to look at our spiritual practice as breathing in, and see our activism as natural as breathing out. We will learn from Dorothy Day how to throw our pebble in the pond and trust the ripples to spread. We will learn from Mr. Rogers to remember the strength that comes from looking for the helpers. And finally, we will learn from Emma Goldman the importance of having joy even as we struggle for a better world.

Jim Rigby is a Presbyterian pastor at St. Andrews Church in Austin, Texas, who tries to balance activism and spirituality.



## Embodying the Current and Emerging Church

### Annanda Barclay

We will explore the ways we define and identify church communities and how Christians evolve with the practice of Spirituality. We'll discuss how one of the biggest moments of technological evolution affects Christians. We will look closely at how our spiritual grounding and the cultivation of spiritual communities have a direct impact on the economic, social, political, and environmental life on this planet; and how we can be co-creators, as we grow in consciousness.

**Rev. Annanda Barclay** is the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto. She is a member of the Advisory Committee to both the Spahr Reconciliation and J. Alfred Smith/King Initiatives at the Center of Innovation and Ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and former Co-Moderator for the National Board of More Light Presbyterians.



# Session Two Classes

10:30 am-12:00 pm



**Morning Light:** Begin the day with meditation, movement, and prayer by the lake.

**Afternoon Free Time:** The afternoons are free to explore, swim at the lake, hang out at the beach, kayak, paddleboard, bike, or hike. Organized crafts & activities will be available, and One Hour Overviews of the Sessions will be presented by our leaders.

**Evening Program:** Worship services Monday and Wednesday, Sunset Sing on Tuesday, and Variety Show on Thursday. All ages are invited to participate in our variety show with songs, skits, or special talents. There is quiet time for gazing at the Milky Way every night.

**Communion:** Friday before lunch, there will be a communion service to complete our experience.



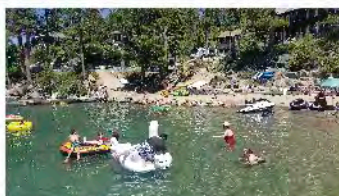
## Across the Divide

*Conversing and Finding Connection with Those with Whom You Vehemently Disagree*

### Greg Love

Why do we disagree so vastly on religion and politics, and yet are so sure we are absolutely right, and the other is wrong? How do we converse with those with whom we so vehemently disagree? This course begins with neurology and evolutionary biology, which explain why we radically disagree. It then looks at two recent works by political scientists—Aurelian Craiutu (Penn) and Mark Lilla (Columbia University)—who explore the virtues that lead to the ability to talk and create positive movement with those of vastly different views. The course ends with the practical skills needed to engage in conflict that leads to resolution and a joining of forces.

**Rev. Dr. Gregory Love** is professor of theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and a Presbyterian pastor.

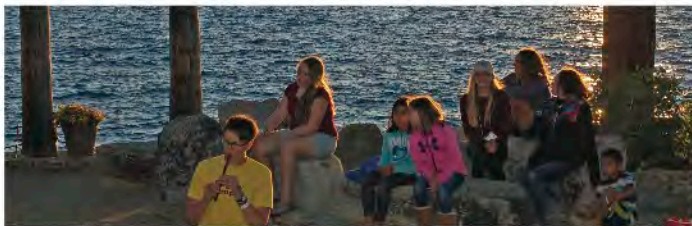


## When Religious Freedom Becomes Freedom to Discriminate—What Would Jesus Do?

### Beverly Brewster

What do the Bible and the US Constitution have to say about wedding cake bakers turning away gay customers based on conservative Christian opposition to gay marriage? At what point does a claim to First Amendment “religious freedom” become unconstitutional discrimination? And what would Jesus say about Christianity becoming the USA’s state-sponsored religion? We’ll explore the teachings of Jesus and Paul and our own religious practices to build a Christian ethic of religious freedom that honors all people.

**Rev. Beverly Brewster** is the Pastor of Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo, CA. She is a former constitutional and human rights lawyer, an elected member of the PC(USA) Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, and is active in interfaith peacemaking work. She has a passion for placing the teachings of Jesus back at the center of American Christianity.



## CHILDREN (AGES 5-9)

### Fun and Adventure in Day Camp

Zephyr Summer Day Camp offers fantastic camp experiences. Children will have fun and adventures within the Zephyr Point grounds. Activities include: swimming, canoeing, archery, nature hikes, arts and crafts, fun skits, singing, and group games.

Safety is a priority. Supervision and direction will be provided by caring, college-age role models. Red Cross certified lifeguards will be on duty when children enter the water. Additional CPR and First Aid certified staff will be onsite.

The children's day camp will run from 9am to 4pm. With parent consent, children may leave the day camp at any time during the day to rejoin their family.

Costs for the camp are included in the Zephyr Experience children's fee.



## YOUTH CLASS (AGES 10-18)

**“Walking Our Talk—Becoming the Followers of Jesus We Say We Are”**

**Mary Jo Blazek**

Youth plans for Zephyr Experience week include interactive youth activities and special games. We will be involved in arts and crafts and take advantage of the beautiful Lake Tahoe setting. Youth will also have the option to practice and participate in the annual talent show.

**Mary Jo Blazek** has been the children's coordinator at Stone Church of Willow Glen for the past 8 years. She has been a children's programming coordinator for Ronald Mc Donald House. She is a mother of three daughters and loves working with children and youth of all ages.

