

Book Discussions:

Spiritalk

Meets 5:30-7:30 p.m.

3rd Sunday of the month in the Fireside Room

September 26: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson

October 17: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery

November 21: *Blessings*, by Anna Quindlen

Dissident Daughters

Thurs. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This weekly book study group meets in the Fireside Room and will be reading the books above in the indicated months.

New members are always welcome!



Watch your bulletins and newsletters for additional classes and special events.

The Adult Education Council is excited to present our fall offerings to you. The United Methodist quadrilateral of experience, tradition, reason and scripture has guided us as we created classes for our fellow church members. Our hope is that these offerings will stimulate minds, stir hearts and call us to action. We are interested in knowing your thoughts and ideas about how the council might best serve your needs, so that together we can travel the path of lifelong learning in our ever changing world.

Linda and Bob Dudley,
Adult Education Council Co-Chairpersons

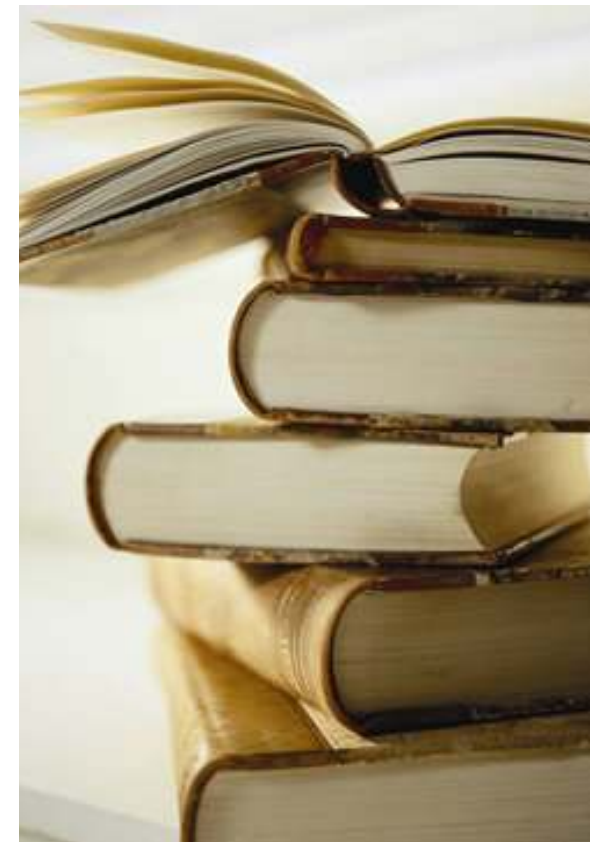
Bob and Linda Dudley - Co-Chairs
Margaret Bulgarella
Nichea Ver Veer Guy
DiAnne Heidanus
George House
Bernie Hynes
Sue Keener
Joy Murphy
Ernie Patterson
Joan Patterson



1100 Lake Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
p. 616.456.7168 f. 616.456.1819 e: office@grtumc.org
www.grtumc.org



Adult Education



Sundays at 9:30

Meets from 9-11 a.m. Sept. 12 - Dec. 12: *Financial Peace University*, video led by Dave Ramsey in the Library. This 13-week course covers debt elimination, retirement investments, college funding, and most importantly the peace of communication when it comes to dealing with your finances.

How can Financial Peace University help you? The average family pays off \$5,300 and saves \$2,700 during the 13-week course, financial stress is reduced, couples begin to communicate about money, priorities, goals and more, singles are empowered and encouraged to find accountability partners.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is taught by Dave Ramsey himself using DVD's. Your kit includes his book, a work book, CD's of the class, the envelope system and much more. Total cost for the kit is \$86.95 for the first 12 participants, \$100 after that. For more information or questions, please call Tara Lafferty at 773-8001 or email at rtclafferty@charter.net.

Sept. 12 - Sept. 19: *A Spot of Tea*, led by Pastor David and Glenys Nellist in the Discovery Room. We are delighted that Pastor David and Glenys are willing to start out our year of adult education in the Discovery Room as we get acquainted with each other. Join us for a "Spot of Tea" and an opportunity to meet our new pastor and wife. Pastor David will lead us as we get acquainted and learn about us as we share our faith journeys.

Sept. 26: *The Methods of a Methodist*, led by Benton Heisler in the Discovery Room. An overview of the structure and appointive process of the United Methodist Church. Rev. Benton R. Heisler will lead us through a brisk paced review of "how and why we do things as United Methodists." He is currently the Director of Connectional Ministries for the West Michigan Conference of the UMC. He has served as the Lansing District Superintendent, a pastor in several UM congregations and as a delegate to the General Conference of the UMC on three occasions.

Oct. 3 - Oct. 10: *Afghanistan on the Brink*, led by Roger Durham in the Discovery Room. This two-week session will address changes and issues in Afghanistan including the role of President Hamid Karzai, the impact of changes in US military leadership, and the many demands by the fractionalized Afghani people.

Oct. 17 - Oct. 24: *A Comparison of the Major World Religions*, led by Alice Chapman in the Discovery Room. During this two week class Dr. Chapman will compare the creeds, symbols and texts of the major world religions.

Oct. 31: *We'd like to Hear from You*, led by the TUMC Adult Education Committee in the Discovery Room. Please join members of the Adult Education Committee to share ideas and thoughts about offerings that would be of interest to you. The committee plans to use this information as we plan future sessions. Results of a survey offered in early October will also be discussed.

Nov. 7 - Nov. 21: *Athens and Jerusalem*, led by Dr. Jonathan R. White in the Discovery Room. Western civilization is the product of many centuries of social, cultural, political, and religious influences. Two of the greatest influences were the religious traditions of the Hebrews and the philosophical influences of ancient Greece. The Hebrews and the Greeks also provided the basis for the social construction of western Christianity. Examine the influence of both Athens and Jerusalem on the formation of Christianity.

Nov. 28: *Booking It*, led by Margaret Bulgarella, from *Pooh's Corner*, in the Fireside Room. Do you need some Christmas gift ideas for children in your life? Come hear about some of the best books for kids. You'll enjoy this informative book talk about what's new, what's best, and what kids are reading. Margaret will answer your book questions and book lists will be available.

Nov. 28 - Dec. 19: *Christmas Today and the Very First Christmas*, led by Dr. Bob Smith in the Discovery Room. Explore how Christmas is celebrated today. Further explore where these traditions came from, and why the date Dec. 25 was chosen to be the birth date of Jesus. We will consider the thoughts of John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, Crossean and New Testament Scholars. Who was the father of Jesus? We will ask the question whether those were literally historical or were they written to convey something about whom Jesus was and what he meant. Was Jesus married, and if so, to whom? Come and join us for this exciting adventure into the history of Christmas!