WALK JUSTLY

(re)inhabit

Conference Guide Oct. 20 & 21, 2023

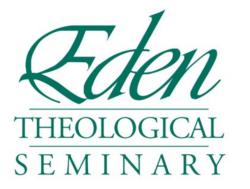
manchester umc



Thank You Walk Justly Sponsors













Welcome to Walk Justly 2023!

I'm so glad you are here, and I pray that your participation in this event brings you a deeper understanding of justice work as a ministry of the church. The church is moving past the season in which "social justice" was a trigger word. If the church is to flourish, social justice work must be a given.

Here at Manchester, we inhabit a space that has been home to a group of Methodists for over 200 years. Here on this hilltop at the corner of Manchester Road and Woods Mill, people have gathered to worship, learn, and serve for generations.

This weekend we also inhabit a space that was once the home of thriving communities of Osage and Illinois people, people who were forced out of this area as European settlers overtook it. We inhabit a space whose congregation voted in 1844 to join the Methodist Episcopal South denomination so that they could still enslave black people. We inhabit a space that is paved with massive parking lots, a building that utilizes fossil fuels for energy, and whose carbon footprint is far from neutral.

This weekend, we are thinking together about how to "(re)inhabit" the spaces in which we live, the world we are a part of, and even our own bodies. I am hopeful that this year's Walk Justly event will lead us into a new understanding of the ways we inhabit the world, and help us discover how we might do so more justly, more equitably, and with a deeper care for one another, and for the world.

Thank you for being here!

Grace and Peace,

Reverend Andy Bryan Lead Pastor Manchester UMC



WALK JUSTLY 2023 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Early Bird Event Chef Rob Connoley 6p – 8p

Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY

Check-in & Breakfast Opening Worship Lunch Session1 Session 2 Session 3 Dinner Worship

 8a – 10a
 Man

 10a – 11a
 Sand

 11a – Noon
 Fello

 Noon – 1:15p
 Class

 1:45p – 3p
 Class

 3:30p – 4:45p
 Class

 5p – 6p
 Fello

 6p – 7p
 Fello

Manchester UMC Lobby Sanctuary Fellowship Hall Classrooms Classrooms Classrooms Fellowship Hall Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY

Breakfast	7a - 8:30a	Fellowship Hall
Morning Prayer Service	8:30a - 9:20a	Sanctuary
Session 4	9:30a - 10:45a	Classrooms
Lunch	11a – Noon	Fellowship Hall
Session 5	Noon - 1:15p	Classrooms
Session 6	1:30p – 2:45p	Classrooms
Worship	3р – 4р	Sanctuary

WALK JUSTLY 2023 SESSION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Session 1 | NOON TO 1:15 P.M.

<u>Location</u>	Speaker	Topic
Chapel	Rev. Dr. Timothy Eberhart	Paganus Christianity: Recovering our Spiritual Ties to the Land
Room 222	Tim Gibbons	Farming Crisis in Missouri
Room 223	Chef Rob Connoley	Reparative Restauranting: Can Food Change the Past?
Room 309	Diana Rice, RD, LD	Rejecting Diet Culture's Lies

Session 2 | 1:45 TO 3:00 P.M.

Location	Speaker	Topic	
Chapel	Rev. Dr. Ėboni Marshall Turman	Black Womanist Theology as a Launching Point	
Room 223	Cara Arrigo	Using Government to Build Community Power	
Room 310	J.T. Young	"For You There Are No Strangers"	

Session 3 | 3:30 TO 4:45 P.M.

Location	Speaker	Topic
Room 223	Bishop David Wilson	Sharing Mother Earth
Room 226	Rev. Dr. Damayanthi M.A. Niles	Embodying Theology
Room 309	Food Justice Panel	Farming, Distribution and Access to Food

SATURDAY

Session 4 | 9:30 TO 10:45 A.M.

<u>Location</u>	Speaker	Topic
Chapel	Rev. Dr. İimothy Eberhart	Paganus Christianity: Recovering our Spiritual Ties to the Land
Room 223	Bishop David Wilson	Sharing Mother Earth
Room 309	Diana Rice, RD, LD	Rejecting Diet Culture's Lies

Session 5 | NOON TO 1:15 P.M.

<u>Location</u>	Speaker	Торіс
Chapel	Rev. Dr. Ėboni Marshall Turman	Black Womanist Theology as a Launching Point
Room 222	Tim Gibbons	Farming Crisis in Missouri
Room 223	Chef Rob Connoley	Reparative Restauranting: Can Food Change the Past?
Room 309	Embodied Self Panel	

Session 6 | 1:30 TO 2:45 P.M.

<u>Location</u>	Speaker	Торіс
Room 223	Cara Arrigo	Using Government to Build Community Power
Room 226	Rev. Dr. Damayanthi M.A. Niles	Embodying Theology
Room 310	JT Young	"For You There Are No Strangers"



REV. DR. EBONI MARSHALL TURMAN Black Womanist Theology as a Launching Point

The launching point of this workshop will be Black and Black womanist theology. In her work, Rev. Dr. Marshall Turman "holds traditions and liberative frameworks in fine methodological tension" (Emilie Townes). With a decidedly womanist point of view, hers stands out as one of very few scholarly millennial voices offering moral perspective on issues facing the Black community. At a time in our history when the Black church and Black lives are once again under constant siege, Dr. Turman has committed her intellectual and ministerial platform to a nuanced exploration of the most marginalized among us.

The Reverend Eboni Marshall Turman, Ph.D. is the associate professor of theology and African American religion at Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, CT. A first-career concert dancer and ordained National Baptist preacher, her research interests span the varieties of twentieth and twenty-first century US theological liberalisms, most especially Black and womanist theological, social ethical, and theo-aesthetic traditions. She co-chairs the Black Theology unit of the American Academy of Religion, serves on the executive committee of the Society for the Study of Black Religion, and is a founding member of the Black Church Collective, Brooklyn, NY. She is also the founder of "Brilliant Black Woman," a virtual community of thinking women of African descent who are creatively transforming and sustaining the church and the world.



REV. DR. TIMOTHY EBERHART

Paganus Christianity: Recovering our Spiritual ties to the Land

Paganus means country, of the land, rustic, rural. In demonizing the earth-based beliefs and practices of Native peoples as "pagan," beginning in Europe and spreading worldwide, imperial forms of Christianity have cut us off from deep spiritual sensibilities tied to the animating energies of the land. Rooted in an affirmation that Jesus, like so many of the prophets who came before him, was spiritually grounded in intimate relationship with sacred spaces, elements, and creatures, this workshop will invite earth-minded Christians to recover theological beliefs and spiritual practices attuned to the sacred places we inhabit.

Timothy Reinhold Eberhart is the Robert and Marilyn Degler McClean Associate Professor of Ecological Theology and Practice at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, where he directs the Master of Arts in Public Ministry program and the <u>Center for Ecological Regeneration</u>. Eberhart, who grew up in South Dakota, earned a bachelor of arts in religion from St. Olaf College, master of divinity degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and doctor of philosophy from the Graduate School at Vanderbilt University. He has led numerous environmental initiatives at the seminary, including Garrett-Evangelical's founding role in the Seminary Stewardship Alliance and the completion of a three-year Green Seminary Initiative certification as a Green Seminary. His publications include Rooted and Grounded in Love: Holy Communion for the Whole Creation (Wipf and Stock, 2017), The Economy of Salvation: Essays in Honor of M. Douglas Meeks (Wipf and Stock, 2015), and chapters on mission, ecclesiology, and ecotheology. Eberhart is an ordained elder in the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church, a trained permaculturalist, UMC Earthkeeper, and an Advisory Team member of the UMC Creation Justice Movement. He, his spouse Rebecca, and their three children live in Evanston, IL, where he has been active with Citizens Greener Evanston, Environmental Justice Evanston, and the city's Equity & Empowerment Commission.



CHEF ROB CONNELEY

Reparative Restauranting: Can food change the past?

From our opening day we asked ourselves two things – What more can a restaurant do beyond serving great food? And What should fine dining look like today? We didn't know the answers to those questions in April of 2019, and quite frankly, we didn't really understand the questions. But by keeping those questions forefront in everything we have done, increasingly we're beginning to understand both. At least we feel we're heading in that direction as we explore what it means to be a reparative restaurant.

We believe that opening the doors and putting out good food is the starting point for any restaurant. Community giving is the next level, to show support for the people who keep those doors open. But then what? Can we leave the land that provides our food in better shape? Can we honor the people who formed the food that we now serve and profit from? Can we share what we learn with others to create lasting change? Chef Rob is often heard saying, "I don't want every restaurant to be a political statement, but I do want every chef to be aware of the impact, good and bad, of their profits." And it's exactly this line of thought that reverberates to the question of what fine dining looks like today.

Our egalitarian compensation structure addresses the traditional cook-server pay disparity. Our physical design says that a guest in a wheelchair should have the exact same experience as a guest who walks through the door. And our spirit-free cocktail program says that every guest is coming to celebrate and should be able to do so. We're far from where we want to be, but we're constantly exploring these concepts and how they translate into a fine dining experience.

Chef Rob Connoley is Chef and Owner of Bulrush Restaurant in Midtown St Louis. The restaurant focuses on Ozark cuisine using a Reparative Restauranting model that seeks to highlight the role of indigenous people and enslaved individuals in the formation of the region. The restaurant uses this model to give voice to marginalized people, financially support harmed communities, and nurture change in the restaurant industry through mentorship programs. This work has garnered recognition from the James Beard Foundation, the Julia Child Foundation, and numerous national and international media outlets.



REV. DR. DAMAYANTHI M.A. NILES Embodying Theology

All theology is an embodied act. This class will focus specifically on how embodied realities impact the theological task undertaken. By exploring intuition, vision, placement, and space, as a way we know. We will focus on how we undertake the theological task with an awareness of our own bodies. Additionally, we will explore how we contextualize our own bodies and the bodies of others and examine our own ways of thinking.

Damayanthi Niles' writing and research have been focused on constructive and contextual theology. She has taught courses on foundational theology, missiology, and post-colonial thought. She has also served as the research associate of the Christianity in Asia Project at the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies at Cambridge University, United Kingdom.

A frequent lecturer, Dr. Niles has expertise in Asian theology and missiology. Her areas of interest and teaching include constructive theology, inter-faith, comparative theology, theology and power, contextual theology with a particular interest in Asia, language of theology in a landscape of conflict and violence, and using aesthetics in the teaching of theology.

She has been a member of the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations (GACER) of the Presbyterian Church USA since 2006 and was Chair of the subcommittee on Interfaith Relationships for GACER 2007-2012.



BISHOP DAVID WILSON Sharing Mother Earth

This workshop will include various ways that Indigenous persons and tribal groups are using Indigenous methods to care for communities and to share with one another. The workshop will include highlighting some of these models for communities and local churches.

Rev. Dr. David M. Wilson has served as resident bishop of the Great Plains Conference of The United Methodist Church since Jan. 1, 2023. Bishop Wilson, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, holds the distinction of being the first Native American elected to serve as a bishop in the history of The United Methodist Church.

Prior to election, Bishop Wilson served as assistant to the bishop of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC), which is comprised of 81 Native American churches in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

Bishop Wilson was ordained as an elder in 1995 and served charges in Tahlequah and Norman, Oklahoma. During his term as conference superintendent, he also served as the pastor of Norman First American UMC in Norman, Oklahoma, and during his tenure the church grew and completed their building construction in 2007.

Bishop Wilson often lectures on Native American spirituality in classrooms and for groups across the denomination. In his personal time, he enjoys running and studying history, in particular Native American history. His grandfather, Calvin Wilson, was one of the Choctaw Code-Talkers from World War I.



CARA ARRIGO

Using Government to Build Community Power for Environmental Justice

Cara started with the Stream Team Program in March of 2022 after working in the St. Louis region as a Natural Resource Assistant for over a year. In her position she delivered public programs on a variety of nature topics and outdoor skills, helped with large events, and assisted with wildlife monitoring. Before starting her career with Stream Team, she worked in the interpretive division of the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources, where she taught a variety of audiences about streams, caves, and wildlife.

While working on her Bachelors, she gained experience as an undergraduate research assistant, analyzing samples of aquatic invertebrates to maintain a long-term dataset of a stream's water quality. In her current position, her primary responsibilities are assisting Stream Teams in the Southeast region, facilitating Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring, managing the Stash Your Trash program, and working on the Stream Team curriculum.

Cara grew up outside of St. Louis in a little town along the Meramec River. It was there that she developed a love for the outdoors and a passion for conservation. She achieved her Bachelors of Science from Murray State University in Wildlife Biology & Conservation Education.

Cara is also a water enthusiast in her free time; besides rowing, she likes to fish and wakeboard. She also has a dog, Fjord, who is her best friend and comes on all her adventures with her.



J.T. YOUNG

"For You There Are No Strangers:" Albert Schweitzer and the Problem of Ethics in Post-Pandemic America

Claiming nearly 7 million lives, the COVID-19 pandemic thrust humanity into a period of intense reflection on the fragility of life. However, in a time when people were encouraged to care for their fellow human beings by taking the precautions necessary to protect one another, many asked the same question as one of Jesus' opponents in the Gospel of Luke: "and who is my neighbor?"

In addition to the virus, though, the United States has long been plagued by another adversary: non-necessity toward the other. By claiming no responsibility for the well-being and care of others, no one – including our friends, family, and loved ones – is considered our neighbor.

In this workshop, we'll talk about the ethical work of 20th century theologian, philosophy, and physician, Albert Schweitzer, and how he can help us on this front. In his work as a missionary doctor in the Congo, Schweitzer developed an incredibly comprehensive system of ethics, extending not only to humanity, but to animal and non-sentient life as well. In this, Schweitzer emphasizes one's necessity and responsibility toward *all* life. This ethical system has the potential of providing us a framework to think through humanity's obligation to one another in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. By utilizing his language and concepts and applying them to our current situation, an argument can be made for the same reciprocity and mutual care of one another in post-pandemic America.

J.T. Young is a pastor, activist, and theologian living in St. Louis, MO. He is the Ministerial Director of Discipleship and Missions at Concord Trinity UMC and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Lindenwood University. He's earned a B.A. in Religion from Lindenwood University, Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Public Theology at Eden Theological Seminary. His current research focuses on the intersection of critical theory, moral development, and activism in the local church, and he is the author of the forthcoming book "Extremists for Love": A Theological Introduction the Struggle for Racial Justice, under contract with Wipf and Stock Publishers.



DIANA RICE, RD, LD

Rejecting Diet Culture's Lies and Building an Environment of Food and Body Trust in Your Home

How can we glorify God in a body that we hate? And did God create us to hate our bodies and distrust our appetites, or are these cultural lies that are actually in opposition to God's will? In this session, we will explore where the messages that lead us to feel food and body shame really come from and how we can reject these lies and truly honor God with our physical selves. Most importantly, this session will explore just how early our children learn these harmful messages, both from the culture around them as well as well-meaning caregivers in their own homes.

Participants will learn how to identify and reject practices that may draw themselves and their children away from God through food and body shame, replacing them with an approach that helps children connect with their bodies and enjoy a healthy relationship with food. We will also explore how this approach not only glorifies God, but ultimately helps us attain our best physical health independent of the number on the scale to support God's work.

Diana Rice, RD, LD (she/her) is the founder of Tiny Seed Family Nutrition, a counseling and consulting company with the mission of helping families enjoy a healthy relationship with food. In her private practice, she treats both children and adults with conditions including selective eating and ARFID, food fixations, weight concerns, dieting trauma and eating disorders. She studied dietetics at the University of Northern Colorado, completed her dietetic internship with Cedar Crest College and also holds a degree in journalism from New York University. Diana practices from a weight-inclusive lens and is a Certified Intuitive Eating Counselor. She is active on Instagram at @anti.diet.kids, a platform to help parents navigate raising children to reject diet culture and embrace their naturally-born ability to be intuitive eaters. She also hosts a podcast, The Messy Intersection, which speaks to parents seeking to restore their own relationships with food while raising children with the resilience to resist dieting and embrace their natural body sizes. Diana is based in Edmond, Oklahoma where she lives with her husband and two girls.



TIM GIBBONS Farming Crisis in Missouri

Tim Gibbons has been with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC) since 2005. MRCC represents independent family farmers, rural families and their communities and citizens concerned with our food supply, our natural resources and democracy. Tim works to organize a large membership base of farm families, rural citizens and other Missourians to challenge the industrialization and corporate control of agriculture and our democratic process. Through MRCC, thousands of rural Missourians have been empowered by increased opportunities to participate in public policy formation and advocate for Missouri independent family farms and rural communities.

MRCC's mission is to preserve family farms, promote stewardship of the land and environmental integrity and strive for economic and social justice by building unity and mutual understanding among diverse groups, both rural and urban.

The Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC) is a progressive statewide farm and rural membership organization founded in 1985 with over 5,600 member families. The mission is to preserve family farms, promote stewardship of the land and environmental integrity and strive for economic and social justice by building unity and mutual understanding among diverse groups, both rural and urban.

WALK JUSTLY 2023 FOOD PANEL

Farming, Distribution & Access to Food

Most individuals have heard the terms, like "farm to table" and "food desert," but what does that really entail on a local level? This workshop features speakers working on food justice issues that impact growing fresh food and getting git to the people.



CHRISTOPHER G. WIMMER

Christopher graduated from the University of Missouri Columbia with a B.S. in Agronomy in 1983. In preparation for graduation, his advisor actually used the "get big or get out" line about industrial agriculture being the future of ag and the small farm being a thing of the past on him. In 1995, Christopher founded The Farm at Kraut Run in St. Charles County, MO. He sold vegetables, eggs, goat milk, cheese and pork through the CSA, at two farmers markets and local restaurants. In 2019, he retired from farming and joined Missouri Coalition for the Environment as the Farm Specialist in their new program, Known and Grown STL. Since then, this organization has grown to a membership of 70 farms that are promoted and supported in many ways.



EARNEST WILLS

Earnest has been growing food for eight years now. He started gardening when his father became ill and couldn't maintain his garden. In addition to planting his cherry tomatoes and greens, Earnest started container gardening in 2017. As he started expanding into different plants like cucumbers and peppers and various greens, he began working part-time as an employee of Heru Urban Farming in 2021. Earnest started out doing basic farming maintenance like weeding, watering, and mulching. But as he continued to work, he learned more skills, like operating a tractor and BCS machine, trellising vining plants, composting, tilling, and operating selfwatering systems.

Earnest eventually became Farm Manager of Heru Urban Farming in his second season with them in 2022, where he managed the beds where the food was grown, ensuring they were properly tilled, fed, planted, mulched, and trellised if needed. While continuing his work at Heru Urban Farming, Earnest started his own gardening company, called Claudie's Urban Gardens LLC, which installs container gardens for customers. In their first season, they have planted 10 gardens in the St. Louis area, while earning over \$6,000 in revenue.

WALK JUSTLY 2023 EMBODIED SELF PANEL



BRITTANY RADFORD

Brittany, a Cleveland native with an unshakable commitment to change, draws strength from her inner-city roots. With a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Human Development and Family Sciences, her research delves into youth development within the United Methodist Church through a Critical Race Theory lens, earning her esteemed awards.

With over 15 years of nonprofit experience, Brittany's career is a testament to her passion for serving under-resourced

communities. Notably, she spearheaded a million-dollar Trauma Network initiative, recognized as an emerging beacon of hope by Focus St. Louis.

As the McCausland Site Director at The Gathering United Methodist Church, Brittany oversees volunteer teams, adapts ministries to suit the site's context, connects individuals to the church, and leads site-specific initiatives to foster a welcoming environment. Her role as Communications Chair for the Black Methodist Church for Renewal (BMCR) St. Louis Caucus reflects her commitment to her Black communities.

In recent years, Brittany has embarked on a transformative journey exploring faith, trauma, her body, and racial identity. Through practices like Art Therapy and embracing Womanist Theology, she aims to guide fellow Christians in honoring their God-given identity. Her insightful discussions on faith and emotions have graced podcasts, and she co-authored a Facilitator Guide for 'Get Up: Unearthing Your Passion and Taking Brave Actions in 50 Days' with Pastor Charity Goodwin in 2022.



CHARITY GOODWIN

With 20 years in ministry, quick wit, and practical wisdom, Rev. Charity Goodwin consults leaders on small groups and formation. In addition, the integration she speaks on leadership as well as spiritual wholeness and emotional wellness. She's the Pastor of Spiritual Formation & Groups at The Gathering United Methodist Church in St. Louis, MO, which is her hometown. Charity strengthens her ministry with certifications in Emotional Intelligence from Six Seconds as well as the research of Dr. Brené Brown. Her first book GET UP: Unearthing your Passion and Taking Brave Action in 50 Days was released as a devotional journal in March 2020.



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Room

(Located to the left of the sanctuary)

The prayer room emanates a sense of serenity and inclusivity. Soft, diffused lighting creates a warm inviting atmosphere. The room is adorned with peaceful colors and artwork that reflect God's diverse and beautiful creation.

Rest Is Resistance Space

(Located to the right of the sanctuary)

Inspired by Tricia Hersey's seminal book, Rest is Resistance, this room is designed to be a haven of relaxation and self-care. It exudes an atmosphere of comfort and empowerment calling us to reconnect with the Divine and ourselves.

Manchester UMC Main Level

129 Weads Mill Rd, Manchester, MO 63011 Still need help finding your way? Please call 636-394-7506



Manchester UMC Lower Level





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