
Post-Film Discussion Series

"Forgiveness in Action"

Sunday, September 16, 7-9 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church

120 Church Street, Blacksburg, VA 24063

Rev. Lyndon Harris is one of the individuals featured in the film, *The Power of Forgiveness*. He will lead a discussion about his efforts to create Gardens of Forgiveness in NYC and around the world.

"Families, Communities, Psychology, and Forgiveness"

Monday, September 17, 7-9 p.m.

Blacksburg Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1301 Gladewood Road, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0116

Mark Benson and Jane Keppel-Benson will lead a discussion about the psychology of forgiveness. This circle will especially focus on the context of families. Childcare available by pre-arrangement by calling 540-239-8946.

"The Survivor's Journey"

Monday, September 17, 7-9 p.m.

St. Paul AME Church

102 Penn Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Lisa Tabor, assistant pastor at St. Paul and Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Tech, will lead a discussion about the African American perspective: "One of the beautiful things about this film is the way so many story lines are woven together and presented in a manner that connects with every dimension of the grief experience. I hope to capture the messages in the self-talk as a means to build on our understanding as survivors and as supporters of those seeking help along the way."

"Helping the Helpers: Learning, Sharing & Asking for Support"

Tuesday, September 18, 7-9 p.m.

Y Center

1000 North Main St., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Brian Warren, former director of Cook Counseling Center will lead a discussion about reflecting on what we have learned as "helpers," sharing thoughts and feelings and giving ourselves permission to ask for help are all part of grieving, forgiving, and moving on. This open discussion provides an opportunity to explore these tasks and support others in the process.

"Is Forgiveness Possible Today?"

Tuesday, September 18, 7-9 p.m.

YMCA Lancaster House

403 Washington St., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Brian Britt is Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Virginia Tech. His research involves legacies of the Bible and the theory of religion. Rooted in religious traditions, forgiveness has become a common term in secular discussions of politics and economics. But is forgiveness possible outside religious traditions? If forgiveness requires an exchange between parties, then how does it differ from political and economic settlements? But if forgiveness does not require an exchange, then who can forgive, and who decides when forgiveness has taken place?

"Transforming Forgiveness into Hope"

Wednesday, September 19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Glade Church

1600 Glade Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Glade Church's current fine art gallery is titled *Signs & Symbols of Peace & Justice*. Rev. Kelly Sisson will lead a discussion about recognizing forgiveness within and transforming it into hope for the future.

"Historical Perspectives on the Holocaust"

Wednesday, September 19, 7-9 p.m.

Y Center

1000 North Main St., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Karen Auerbach, VT Visiting Professor and expert on the Polish-Jewish relations during the Holocaust, will lead a discussion about the historical perspectives of the Holocaust and its relevance in our current world.

"Healing and Forgiveness"

Thursday, September 20, 7-9 p.m.

Y Center

1000 North Main St., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Dr. Kusum Singh will lead a discussion about healing and forgiveness and the Hindu and interfaith perspective on these topics.

Not seeing a circle here that you're interested in? Need one to happen closer to home? We would be happy to work with you to create a discussion circle in your community and focused on the topic of your interest. There is a sign-up in the lobby for your ideas. Or, contact Shannon Turner, HERE Program Coordinator, at 540-951-4771 or coordinator@here-nrv.org.

Who is HERE?

During the months since the tragic shootings on the Virginia Tech campus, a group of citizens coalesced around the common desire to facilitate ongoing community dialogue and artistic response. The group consists of a broad cross-section of the community, including representatives of the Lyric Theatre; the Community Foundation of the NRV; leaders of the faith community; VT students and faculty; and representatives of other community institutions such as schools, government, and community-based service providers.

Eventually, we settled on the name HERE, which stands for Honoring Experiences, Reflections, and Expressions.

Our mission is to create safe, sensitive, and diverse opportunities for our community's processing and healing. The events and gatherings to begin this community experience, such as the one you're at today, are consistent with our belief that coming together to share and listen to our community stories will help build the road toward a better future, for us as individuals and as a community.

Funds for these events come from the April 17 Fund at the Community Foundation (www.cfnrv.org), from Episcopal Relief and Development, and from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Contributions may be made to the fund at the Community Foundation.

If you'd like to find out more about HERE, learn how to get involved, ask questions or provide feedback, please visit us at www.here-nrv.org, or contact Shannon Turner, Program Coordinator for HERE at the Lyric Theatre at 540-951-4771 or coordinator@here-nrv.org.

HERE:

Honoring Experiences, Reflections, and Expressions
presents

The Power of Forgiveness

a film by Martin Doblmeier

**followed by a Q&A with
Martin Doblmeier
Azim Khamisa
& Lyndon Harris**

(There will be a children's art-making table outside during the Q&A and a reception for everyone to follow. We hope you can stay for the entire duration of our programming.)
