

Fall 2024 Agape: Sacred Ground

Perspective: a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view; the way you see something. (Oxford Language Dictionary)

Everyone looks at the world in a unique way based on personal experiences. Many find it difficult to understand why others have a different view. Having open, candid, respectful conversations allow people to both share their point of view and listen to others. Feeling free to share ideas takes courage and an environment that is judgment free. Listening, actively listening, requires us to consider different ways of seeing something, different perspectives.

Sacred Ground is a film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Sacred Ground provides a framework to study and better understand the history of our country from a variety of perspectives: the Indigenous People who inhabited the land as Europeans came to the “New World”; those brought here as slaves; those who came to help build out the West; and those who came up from Mexico as land-grant owners. Using these multiple perspectives allows a more complete understanding of our history through discussions within the group.

In this 11-part series, a group of 6-8 will work together to walk through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. We will work together to discuss the layers that contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day, while remaining grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love.

For more information about Sacred Ground, use the link below:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/about/>

Sacred Ground will be facilitated by Sara Ptomey. The meetings will be held in the library at St. Thomas every other week and will last about 90 minutes. We will have an informational meeting after the 10:30 service on September 8 in the Parish Hall. During that meeting we will determine the best day and time to meet. I hope to see you then!

If you are interested in signing up for Sacred Ground or if you have any questions, contact Sara Ptomey at saraptomey12@gmail.com.