

Registration:

Name: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Clergy Day: (\$30) _____

Student discount – (\$15) _____

Meal concerns: _____

Community Bible Lecture (\$10) _____

Meal concerns: _____

Registration fee includes lunch. Please register by October 24, 2019

Checks payable to Central Woodward Christian Church may be sent with the registration form to:

Central Woodward Christian Church
3955 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48084

Or pay online using the [Givelify App](#). Choose the appropriate dollar amount (\$15, \$20 or \$40), then choose 'Perry Gresham Lecture.'

For more information contact the office:
office@centralwoodward.org
248-644-0512
centralwoodward.org

Our Speaker/Leader

Marti Steussy is an ordained minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and MacAllister-Petticrew Professor of Biblical Interpretation *Emerita* at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. She holds the Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Vanderbilt University and is author of a number of books, including *Samuel and His God* (U of South Carolina Press, 2010), *David: Biblical Portraits of Power* (USC 1999), *Psalms* (Chalice Commentary for Today series, 2004), *The Chalice Introduction to the Old Testament* (2003), *Gardens in Babylon: Narrative and Faith in the Greek Legends of Daniel* (Scholars Press 1993), and two science fiction novels, *Forest of the Night* and *Dreams of Dawn* (Del Rey 1987 and 1988).

She is especially interested in exploring how live telling/hearing (which was standard practice in ancient times) changes our experience of biblical material. In addition to offering Bible courses, she teaches in the areas of spirituality and science/religion. Dr. Steussy has been president of the American Theological Society and the Association of Disciples for Theological Discussion. She also serves on the board of the Network of Biblical Storytellers and the program committee of the network's seminar group. Her hobbies include walking, wood-splitting, animal training, and Sudoku.

2019

Perry Gresham Bible Lectures

November 1-3, 2019

With
Dr. Marti Steussy



**Offered by
Central Woodward
Christian Church with funding
support from the Lilly Endowment
Clergy Renewal Program**

**Central Woodward
Christian Church
3955 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48085**

The Perry Gresham Lectures

The Perry Gresham Bible Lectureship was launched in the fall of 2010, with the desire to bring to the local congregation and community biblical scholars and theologians of note. These lectures are given in recognition that we are to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind. This lectureship reflects the ethos of the Disciples of Christ movement, which values the mind and insists that the whole people of God should be educated in the faith.

These lectures are named after Dr. Perry Gresham, the second pastor of Central Woodward Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and later the President of Bethany College (founded by Alexander Campbell to provide educated leaders for church and society).

Gresham Lecturers include Dr. Ronald Allen of Christian Theological Seminary, Dr. Bruce Epperly, South Congregational Church (Centreville, MA), Dr. Amos Yong, Fuller Theological Seminary, Scott Seay, Christian Theological Seminary, Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, Presbyterian Church USA (Chattanooga, TN). Dr. David Gushee of Mercer University/McAfee School of Theology. Dr. Ruth Duck of Garrett-Evangelical Seminary. Dr. Deanna Thompson of Hamline University. Dr. Thomas Jay Oord of Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, ID).

Clergy Spiritual Formation Day

Friday, November 1, 2019
10:00-2:00

The Rivers of Eden: Finding the waters of life in a complicated world

Christians have seen the Eden story in Genesis 2-3 mostly as an account of how everything went wrong, creating a problem that only Jesus could solve. Some also view it as presenting God's intended roles for men/women or humans/earth. Other times, we speak wistfully of "Eden" as the lost paradise we can never re-enter.

In this workshop, Marti Steussy will use scholarly background, vivid storytelling, and midrash to revisit the Eden story, inviting us to see it as a meditation on the mixed blessing of civilization—a human enterprise that has brought many benefits to us but also created massive problems, something that we have trouble living both with and without! She'll ask us to hear sad but affectionate irony in a biblical voice (perhaps a woman's voice!) that invites us to see the human situation with compassion and acceptance rather than harsh judgment.

After a close look at the story in Genesis, we'll move on to some of its lesser-known biblical echoes, with special attention to Eden's rivers and the Bible's several different visions for how we can drink from them now and in the future.

Community Workshop

Saturday, November 2, 2019
10:00-1:30

Wrestling at the Crossing: Danger, audacity, and blessing in Genesis 32

It's tempting to think that relationship with God was straightforward in the times of which Genesis speaks. After all, that was when God came by for dinner or took you out to look at the stars! All you needed to do was be obedient, and blessing would follow.

Even in Genesis, things are a lot more complicated than that. In some stories, God speaks directly. and people don't have any trouble hearing. But some encounters are more mysterious, and perhaps then, as today, it wasn't always obvious whose voice was speaking. Perhaps then, as now, relationships with God and with people could overlap in strange ways. Furthermore, the fathers and mothers of our faith didn't always behave well, and they could be downright audacious even toward God. Things got especially complicated in times of transition, of which these people had plenty!

In this workshop we will probe the story of Jacob's wrestling match at the Jabbok in light of ancient religious traditions, but even more as an occasion for reflecting on the mystery and turbulence of our own relationships with God, and God's willingness to work with people who are far from our usual idea of saintliness.