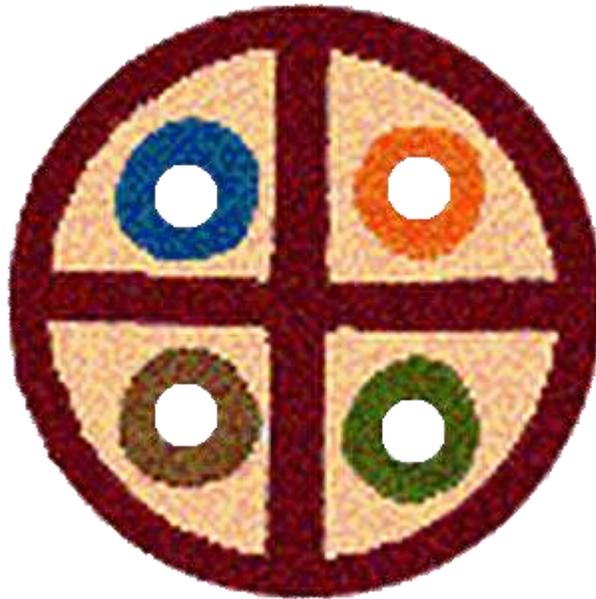


World Religions Series continues in February
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
2929 Woodland Hills Drive
Kingwood, TX 77339
(281) 358-3154

Native American Spirituality with Two Feather.
February 1, 2017 7:15 – 8:30 pm



Two Feather is extensively trained in three different Native American traditions. He is also a veteran dancer, part of an ancient, sacred, Native American practice.

Two Feather lives a life of service using Native American traditions to improve the lives of people in spiritual, emotional and physical ways. This includes fostering restoration and healing of self, guiding families to make good choices for children, the unborn, and adults. He uses music to build self-esteem in adults and youth. Two Feather also leads a formal three-year course in Native American Healing Arts.

Two Feather requests that those who attend do not drink alcohol (other than communion wine) 24 hours prior to the presentation. Please do not use recording devices during the talk. There will be opportunities to ask questions at the end of the lecture.

Tibetan Buddhism with Justin Kelley

February 8, 2017 7:15 – 8:30 pm



During this evening, we will briefly discuss the historical foundations of Buddhism as it developed in India and Tibet, highlighting religious/spiritual phenomena, as well as historical occurrences, that are particularly noteworthy. In addition, we will examine the native Buddhist approach to learning that focuses on three stages: listening, contemplating, and meditating. Interwoven throughout these discussions will be an introduction to Buddhist ethics, meditation, and wisdom. Finally, during this evening together we will also engage in a brief meditation exercise.

Justin Kelley lived in monasteries and Dharma centers throughout southern Asia and North America for over ten years, training in philosophy and meditation with masters in both the Theravada and Tibetan Buddhist lineages. He is currently a PhD student in Rice University's Department of Religion specializing in Buddhist Thought.

Sufism with David & Mary Ellen Scott

February 15, 2017 7:15 – 8:30 pm



David and Mary Ellen Scott have been studying Heart Rhythm Meditation with Puran and Susanna Bair through the Institute for Applied Meditation since 2007. The Bairs were students and senior teachers with Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan for decades until his death in 2004. Pir Vilayat was the son of Pir o Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan, who brought Sufism to the West in 1914. Hazrat founded the Sufi Order in the West, which later became the International Sufi Order. He primarily represented the Chishti Order of Sufism, which is an order that often uses music. There are several different branches of the Inayati (groups that have their roots in Hazrat Inayat Khan's teaching) in the United States.

Both of the Scotts have graduated with a Master of Heart Studies degree from the University of the Heart, a two-year comprehensive program of meditation and spirituality.

David and Mary Ellen were both raised in the Presbyterian Church. David was confirmed as an Episcopalian in 1979. Mary Ellen has been ordained as an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and was very active in the Presbyterian Church until 2002. Both have been influenced by the work of Neil Douglas Klotz, a Sufi in the line of Hazrat Inayat Khan. Klotz has translated and discussed the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes and other sections of the New Testament from Aramaic, the language that Jesus spoke.

Both David and Mary Ellen have been doing contemplative prayer since their 20's. David began meditation practices of various kinds in his 20's as well. After years of spiritual study and prayer, the Scotts consider this path of Christianity and Sufism to be their path.

“Living in an Age of Extremes – ISIS, Islamophobia, and the Grey Zone”

Craig Considine, Ph.D.

February 22, 2017 7:15 – 8:30 pm

It is no secret that ISIS does not like the United States, and it is also true that many Americans do not look favorably upon ISIS. Those who have studied ISIS tell us that “the grey zone” – ISIS’s phrase – is high on the group’s to-eradicate list. Anti-Islam people, too, want to eliminate the grey zone, a space of coexistence where Muslims and non-Muslims can live in harmony. This talk will explore the binary struggle unfolding in American society and the “Muslim world” and attempt to move beyond the “us” versus “them” dichotomy which often unfolds in discussions about Islam and American identity. Particular attention will be paid to Wahhabism (a contemporary form of Islam), the Islamophobia Industry, and religious pluralism.

Craig Considine is a Catholic American of Irish and Italian descent. As a sociologist, he focuses on Islam, Muslims in American Society, interfaith relations, the sociology of religion, race and ethnic relations, and social problems. Craig’s forthcoming book, *Islam, Race and Pluralism in the Pakistani Diaspora* (Routledge, forthcoming in July 2017), explores the language of “us” and “them” and how binaries continue to inform the political and social narratives around citizenship. He currently serves as a faculty member of the Department of Sociology at Rice University in Houston. He holds a PhD from Trinity College Dublin, an MSc from the University of London, and a BA from American University in Washington, DC. Craig is a native of Needham, Massachusetts.

