

CAMPUS CHAPEL

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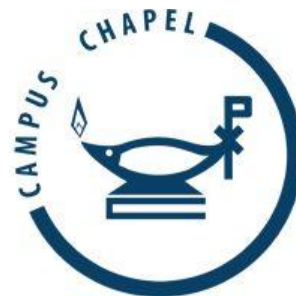
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

## INKLINGS

the newsletter of campus chapel ministries

[www.campuschapel.org](http://www.campuschapel.org)





## EVENING WORSHIP

*But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us,  
because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."*

You probably know the story. It is the first Easter Sunday, and those two physically exhausted and emotionally wrung out disciples are walking home and trying to make sense of it all. Lost in the confusion and fatigue of grief, they wrestle with the first resurrection accounts. And then a stranger shows up to walk beside them, one whose words set their hearts afire. When he goes to continue the journey, they invite him in. And there, at the evening table, "He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread."



There is something about gathering at the end of the day. All the weariness and burden we carry, the moments of joy and frustration that we have experienced, can muddle our hearts and minds. We, too, seek to make sense of all that we have seen and heard, done and experienced. So a moment of peace, a space of quiet contemplation, is a welcome balm to weary souls.

This fall we made a big change at the Campus Chapel. Our regular worship gatherings moved from Sunday mornings to Sunday evenings, followed by a community meal. The graduate students, young professionals, and undergrads who make up our community have grown increasingly ecumenical and diverse over the years, and evening gatherings allow us to lean into our identity as a campus ministry and not a congregation.

And these evening services offer a peaceful, contemplative worship space, consistent with our past and our present. We prominently feature the music of the Taizé community, something that has long been a feature of Chapel worship. Every week we celebrate Holy Communion, and our liturgies are adapted from a wide range of ecumenical resources. It has been lovely to see members of our community embracing prayers from the Book of Common Prayer and ancient liturgies from the church's history. All of this is topped off with warm table fellowship, usually over bowls of homemade soup.

If you're in town, feel free to join us on Sundays at 5:00 at the Chapel, and plan to stick around for dinner afterward! Together we'll see our resurrected Lord made known in the breaking of the bread.

*-Pastor Matt*

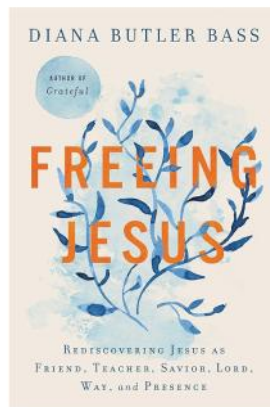
## SHOULD CHRISTIANS BE LEFTISTS?



Our public-facing Center for Faith & Scholarship event this fall was a book talk by author, UM professor, Calvin University alum, and friend of the Campus Chapel, Phil Christman. In September, Eerdmans published his most recent book, *Why Christians Should Be Leftists*. We had a packed house at the Chapel to hear Phil speak with longtime local pastor, Rev. Paul Simpson-Duke, about the book's main themes. The core of the argument is that the words and actions of Jesus, particularly those in the Sermon on the Mount, suggest that Christians should live in solidarity with the poor and reject any idea of earthly sovereigns. And what are those who amass incredible wealth and own the means of production, but a form of earthly sovereigns? Phil called it a Christian take on "No Kings." The talk generated a lot of discussion, and the Q&A part of the event was particularly lively. As always, we are grateful when we can create space for important conversations and engage challenging ideas from a faith perspective.

## NEWS AND NOTES

- This fall our community's focus has been on Jesus, something that should probably go without saying. In our worship we have dug into gospel narratives from Luke, examining how they encourage wholeness and healing. And our community has read and studied the book *Freeing Jesus*, by author and religious historian Diana Butler Bass. Every week after Wednesday Night Dinner, we gather on the comfy couches in the Chapel basement to discuss it together. The book is part theological reflection and part memoir, mapping Bass's faith journey onto six different images for Jesus: friend, teacher, savior, lord, way, and presence. Her life experience of growing up in the



church, studying at a Christian college, and then pursuing graduate education and a life in academia mirrors many of ours. The book presents some challenging ideas, but our group has appreciated both the personal and doctrinal aspects of it, and we have come away with a deeper and fuller picture of who Jesus is.

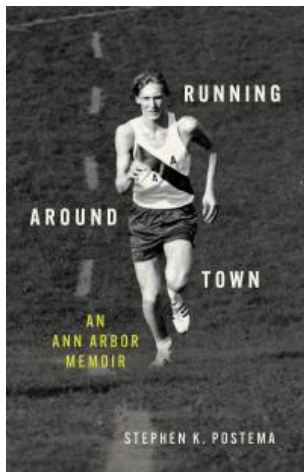
- In October, we were privileged to host a meeting of the UM Association of Religious Counselors where we welcomed Interim University President, Domenico Grasso. He told the gathered group of religious professionals about his own faith journey and spoke about the need for a healthy religious environment at UM, with strong interfaith engagement.





- Many of us have been blessed by Don Postema's books, but there is a new Postema author in the family. This fall Stephen published a collection of essays, *Running Around Town: An Ann Arbor Memoir*.

The stories chronicle Stephen's years of growing up in Ann Arbor during the tumultuous 60s and 70s. Unsurprisingly, the Campus Chapel and the whole Postema family feature prominently, with stories of Tom and Stephen working as janitors at the Chapel building to Elaine's incredible baking that many of us remember. You can learn more at his website: [www.authorstephenpostema.com](http://www.authorstephenpostema.com).



- Earlier this fall, Pastor Matt was honorably released from ordination in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) and joyfully welcomed into the City Classis of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). He writes, "It was not easy to leave the denomination of my baptism, the one that most deeply shaped and formed me, and the one I've done my best to serve faithfully as a Minister of the Word for twelve years. But this new community of ministry colleagues has welcomed me with open arms, and I am so grateful."



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

This fall we learned that in the upcoming year our longtime ministry partner, Classis Lake Erie of the CRC, will be cutting their financial support for us in half. This is a reflection of changing financial realities for the Classis. We have also seen cuts in our grant support from Resonate, the mission agency of the CRCNA. Though the Chapel remains fiscally healthy and solvent, our funding streams are shifting from ecclesiastical sources toward individuals, families, and foundations. We're committed to fully funding all the ministries that nourish and grow the Chapel community through this time of transition. Please consider your level of financial support and let us know if you are aware of or can help us pursue other avenues for support. As always, you can scan the QR code to donate!

