

Uniting Church in Western Australia



Preachers Update on Genesis, Thursday June 8 with Dr Sue Boorer

4.30 to 6.30 pm and 7.00 to 9.00 pm at Willetton or online

Dr Sue Boorer, Senior Lecturer in Old Testament at Murdoch University, will present the second and third of four Preacher Updates aimed at providing updates for ministers and lay preachers on books which appear in the Revised Common Lectionary. The second session on June 8 will focus on Genesis, which appears in the lectionary from June to August this year.

The seminar explores the family stories about Israel's ancestors in Genesis 12-50, and in particular the passages that are set as the Old Testament readings in the Lectionary in July and August. These ancient stories can mirror back to us current day family and group dynamics (such as conflict between siblings, reconciliation etc.) as they struggle with who is God and how God's promises can unfold in the midst of everyday and often messy human interactions.

With a format of some lecturing and also workshopping, as well as providing an overview of these texts, there will be opportunities to delve into the details of some of these texts, and to think through how it might be possible to preach on them.

Cost is \$20, including tea, coffee and dinner. To register contact cedal@wa.uca.org.au If you are in a rural area, you will be given information at the time of registration about how to log in via the internet to this event.



Preachers Update on Exodus, Thursday June 15 with Dr Sue Boorer

4.30 to 6.30 pm and 7.00 to 9.00 pm at Willetton or online

In the third Preacher Update, Dr Sue Boorer, Senior Lecturer in Old Testament at Murdoch University, will explore Exodus, which appears in the lectionary this year, from August to October.

This seminar explores the passages from the book of Exodus that are set as the Old Testament readings in the Lectionary at the end of August and through September and October. These rich texts, which portray the beginnings of the nation Israel and the forming of their identity, explore such topics as, their liberation from slavery by God and the liturgical celebration of this, the wilderness wanderings where they rebel against God but are nurtured by God, the disobedience of the people, and the whole issue of divine presence and in particular how God can be present to a disobedient and rebellious people. These texts reflect then on areas of life that are still current such as the forming of community identity, denial of, or rebellion against that identity, and the movement forward into the unknown with all that that entails. And it does this consistently within a theological

framework that asks the question, who is God and how does God deal with, or how is God present to, a messy and far from perfect community.

With a format of some lecturing and also workshopping, as well as providing an overview of these texts, there will be opportunities to delve into the details of some of these texts, and to think through how it might be possible to preach on them.

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