



# FEMINIST THEALOGY 2024-2025 Program

**THE SEASON OF WITCHES October 20** Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM

Speaker Maggie Beaumont will talk about Samhain, the autumn holiday during which the veil between the world of the living and the dead is thin--providing us an opportunity to honor our ancestors and descendants. Also discussed will be the process of degree initiation into Wicca and men's role in modern Wicca.

**“WICKED” November 17** Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM Come explore this book by Gregory Maguire based on characters from Frank L. Baum’s “Wonderful Wizard of Oz.” Made into a 2003 Tony award winning musical, this is to be released as a film in November 2024. Join Tiffany Hill and Tara Webb Duey for discussion of this soon-to-be movie.

**LESSONS FROM LABOR December 8** Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM In December, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. But what about Mary? How might the experience of moving through her labor have contributed to the birth of a new dimension of herself? Perhaps Mary reflected on her experience with contraction pain and the uncertainty of labor. We’ll explore what there is to learn from this childbirth metaphor,

Deborah Ward: A long-time member of USG, Debbie worked as a labor and delivery nurse for 25 years before retiring in 2012. For nearly 20 years, she has participated in a writing group and is currently writing about the process of labor as a metaphor for women moving through the stages of their lives.

**HEALING FROM SEX-NEGATIVE RELIGION January 5** Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale will share thought-provoking revisions to common negative religious teaching with affirmations and exercises from her new book, *“Who Told You That You Were Naked? Meditations on the Sexual Body.”*

The Reverend Beverly Dale is a minister of the United Church of Christ, and founder of the Incarnation Institute of Sex and Faith.

**IMBOLC CELEBRATION February 2** Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM Join Gale Gibbons and Tiffany Hill to discuss the traditional Celtic holiday of Imbolc. This holiday encourages contemplation and renewal, a time for the joy of fresh starts. We will discuss rituals and practices. Imbolc celebrates the ancient Goddess Brigid, the keeper of the hearth. Brigid

reappears as the Irish Catholic Saint Brigid, who is identified with the rustic Brigid's cross, woven of dried grasses and which some believe will protect their homes from danger. An old tradition is weaving these crosses with friends and neighbors. We will make some of these together.

**EVE ISN'T EVIL March 16** Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM Discussion of the book by Julie Faith Parker. Parker "interprets the Bible through a feminist lens, reclaiming the biblical figure of Eve as a hero and questioning the common idea that only men authored scripture. Parker also argues for the view that some of the women in Jesus' circle are more important than some of the twelve disciples." <https://divinity.yale.edu/> Discussion leader Tara Webb Duey.

**FEMINISM BEYOND GENDER April 27** Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM Everybody needs feminism; with this lens we explore what feminism can mean for men, non-binary persons, and any others who don't identify as women. Listen to and share stories of intersectionality, personal journeys, changing mindsets, life lessons, and wonderings. Leader: Dan Schultz

**THE HEROINE WITH A 1001 FACES May 18** Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM Discussion of the book by Maria Tatar, who takes the challenge of Joseph Campbell's "Hero with A Thousand Faces" and asks, "What about the women?" Discussion led by Linda Maldonado and Deb Kish Silver.

Linda Maldonado minored in anthropology/archaeology for her undergraduate degree. She was and is always interested in the folktales of the various societies she studied.

**MARY MAGDALENE FROM THE ORTHODOX PERSPECTIVE June 8**

Edna Jones Room. 12:00-1:30 PM

Mary Magdalene was a significant subject in the "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" series in 2021. However, this figure has quite a different history and spiritual representation in the Christianity of Byzantium. We will cover those areas of variance, and look again at this powerful historic figure.

Susan Bockius is a long-time member of USG with an interest in women's history.