



Calvert Peace Project

Broadview Church | Peace Through Action

ACTIVITY PROFILE Peaceful Readers Book Club

Version 10142021

Join our Peaceful Readers Book Club! How? Register [here](#).

Brief Description

The Peaceful Readers Book Club gathers adults to reflect upon and discuss non-fiction books on civic and social topics with a focus on peace.

Purpose

Through this activity, the Calvert Peace Project seeks to bring curious adults together for shared learning through reflection on and discussion of books on compassionate living, peaceful practices, and social justice topics.

Intended Participants

- Adults 18+ who enjoy reading books.
- Adults who enjoy learning.
- Adults who enjoy discussions centered around peaceful ways of living and social justice.
- Adults with time available to read one non-fiction book over the course of two months.
- Adults with time available to gather for a virtual discussion of about one hour per month.

Detailed Description

The Peaceful Readers Book Club is open to adults calling Calvert County, Maryland home as well as adults from other areas of the country.

The club will read one book each two months. We will divide each book into parts. We will discuss Part 1 the first month and part 2 the second month. We hope club participants participate in both discussions, but welcome those who can join only one.

The book discussions will be approximately one hour in duration. We will use interactive techniques to engage participants and inspire new ways of understanding the text.

The book club will convene twice each month, once on a weekday and once on a weeknight. Club participants may choose the one session each month that suits their schedule best.

The club will convene virtually using Zoom videoconferencing.

Participants may enter and exit the club as their time and interest allows. Ideally, some participants will commit to the full series of readings and discussions to build a club bond.

Participants are responsible for reading assigned parts of the books ahead of each discussion. Participants will receive reflection questions prior to the meeting to spark contemplation.

Participants are responsible for borrowing, renting, or buying their own copy of the books. The Calvert Peace Project will purchase copies of each book in the series for lending to up to two participants facing a monetary barrier to participation. We will satisfy lending assistance requests on a first-requested, no-questions-asked basis. Once the discussions of a book are concluded, the borrower will return it so that we can make it available to others.

The first book selected for 2021-2022 is Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life, by Karen Armstrong.

Club participants will have an opportunity to consider options for future book choices. Examples of books being considered include *Atlas of the Heart*, by Brené Brown; *The Power of Now*, by Eckhart Tolle; and *8 Habits of Love: Overcome Fear and Transform Your Life*, by Reverend Ed Bacon.

Performance Measures

We will measure the effectiveness of the Peaceful Readers Book Club with a brief participant survey after each discussion. The survey will ask participants to report whether they acquired new knowledge, new attitudes, or a desire to take some form of action as a result of reading and discussing the book. Also, we will ask participants to rate their satisfaction with the club sessions and the overall activity experience.

The Calvert Peace Project seeks to increase understanding, collaboration, and community among youth and adults in Calvert County, Maryland by providing civic and social engagement activities with a focus on peace. The project is a partnership of Broadview Church and Peace Through Action USA.

Broadview Church has the mission to grow deeper and broader in our spiritual lives while partnering to meet needs in our community. We seek to make each other “broader” by mutually helping open new experiences of God, informing each other’s understanding of the world, and inspiring spirit, hope, and energy for community-centered change work.

Peace Through Action USA activates and equips Americans to implement practical peaceful solutions to aggression and violence in their communities and our country. We are a national-scope, charitable, civic, and social capital-building organization.