



2021 Elephant in the Room - Unboxed

| Month | Topic | Date/3 rd Tuesday @ 7:00 pm | Speaker |
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| February | Words & Their Meaning | February 16 | Monica Hardman is a retired Master Sergeant from the Oklahoma City Police Department. She retired from there after 23 years in 2011. She is a co-author of the book Fabulous New Life II along with 18 other beautiful, brave women. She is the mother of three adult children and she has two grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys photographing birds, crafting, bible journaling, reading, listening to Jazz, and honing in on her purpose and enjoying life God's way. She also promotes positive and encouraging growth in one's self and others, on Facebook (#MoniesMoments & #Seeding2018) and in person through speaking. She lives in Spencer, Oklahoma with her husband. |
| March | I Am: Womanism and the Positionalities Assigned to Women Focus: I Bring the Voices of My People: A Womanist Vision for Racial Reconciliation by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes | March 16 | Rev. Valerie Jones Steele, Lead Pastor of Quail Springs United Methodist Church. In ministry, she finds her heart extremely happy equipping adults/young adults/youth/children for Kingdom service. She has a strong passion for criminal justice ministry. She loves to preach, teach the Word and especially loves basking in the presence of God through worship. |
| April | In My Own Skin. Focus: Killing the Black Body | April 20 | Tahira Karriem has over a decade of experiences as a nurse specifically critical care. |



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| May | One of the Biggest Issues Facing America Today – Our Educational System(s). Focus: "How the Other Half Learns : Equality, Excellence, and the Battle Over School" Choice by Robert Pondiscio (1 of 3) | May 18 | Dr. Marsha Herron is the Chief of Equity and Student Supports of Oklahoma City Public Schools and the speaker for this event. She brings a strong background in education, specifically special needs and, public school education. |
| June | One of the Biggest Issues Facing America Today – Our Educational System(s) (2 of 3). Focus: Date to Lead: brave work, tough conversations, whole hearts by Brene Brown. | June 15 | Suzette Chang is the Founder and CEO of Thick Descriptions, an organization committed science empowerment and cultural intelligence for all. Suzette will continue the conversation regarding education in the United States. |
| July | We the People: Positionality Assigned to Minority Communities within the | July 20 | Dr. Violet Ford has a strong background in strategic planning, performance and research development within the context of education. |



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| | Context of Education; Focus: Emotional Learning | | |
| August | Minority Health Disparities and Health Policies/COVID Anxiety Focus: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot | August 17 | Dr. Jessica Blanchard is the Director of the Center for the Ethics of Indigenous Genomics Research and co-directs the Genomics and Ethics Program for Native Students . Her research builds upon a larger applied medical research program that focuses on community-engaged research addressing the reduction of health disparities in AI/AN and African American communities, and particularly on issues of cancer, ethical and social implications of genomics research, and community partnerships in health research. |
| September | One of the Biggest Issues Facing America Today – Our Educational System(s). Focus: Law and Education (3 of 3) | September 21 | Alicia Currin-Moore, Director/Office of Career Development at the University of Oklahoma was a public school teacher for 10 years. She began her legal career with the Underwood Law Firm in Texas, where her focus was public and higher education law. Mrs. Currin-Moore has also been an Executive Director at the Oklahoma State Department of Education as well as a Legal Analyst for Oklahoma City Public Schools. |
| October | Art and Humanity | October 19 | Deah Caldwell currently serves as an Administrative Program Coordinator and Project Manager at The University of Oklahoma. A mother of three children, she is constantly using the world as a playground to teach them about the human experience. Caldwell is a historian by training with an emphasis on feminism, and she is an artist by nature. She has written numerous songs—one of which aired on BBC radio in 2003. She currently keeps a blog of original poetry at worddepot30.com , where she enjoys taking historical concepts and using them to highlight human emotions. Both history and art, especially poetry, is how she makes sense of and takes snapshots of the human experience. |



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| Not offered during November and December | | | |
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