

Haden Park Congregational Church  
6 Clover Street, Worcester MA

**Lenten Book Discussion Group**  
***Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know about Life and Love  
and How It Can Revitalize Christianity***

This Lent, the Christian Education Committee will offer a five-week book discussion to explore the queerness of the Christian tradition. Participants will read and discuss *Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity* (Beacon Press, 2016), written by Episcopal priest Elizabeth M. Edman.

“Authentic Christianity is and must be queer,” said Edman. “This isn’t about sexuality, it’s about Jesus’ demand that we challenge – or ‘queer’ – simplistic, black and white thinking that pits us against each other. The world badly needs to hear this aspect of our faith, now more than ever.”

The five-week study will guide participants in reading the book *Queer Virtue*, which lifts up queer ethics as a model for progressive Christian practice. At each session, participants will watch a short video together, and be given prompts for individual reflection, one-on-one conversation, and small/large group discussion. Participants will need copies of *Queer Virtue*, which can be obtained online in print and e-editions, and is available in many public libraries.

*Queer Virtue* explores several aspects of queer experience, including Identity and Pride, Risk and Coming Out, Scandal, and Adoption. These experiences forge an ethical path that is deeply resonant with the ethical path that Christians are called to follow. Each session will explore one or two steps on this path. By paying attention to queer experience, Edman asserts, Christian communities can learn a great deal about how to live their faith – how to be the church more effectively and with greater consequence.

“Lent is a crucial time to explore these queer aspects of our faith,” said Edman. “During Lent, we pray, repent and ponder the courage that Jesus showed and that he demands of us. Reading *Queer Virtue* together can help church members prepare to walk with Jesus through the strenuous events of Holy Week, and emerge into a new and even more powerful understanding of what Easter means.”

For more information about the book *Queer Virtue* and about the Queer Virtue Lenten Study, go to [www.queervirtue.com](http://www.queervirtue.com). If you’re interested in participating in the five-week study, please email Sarah Sund-Lussier at [ssundlussier@gmail.com](mailto:ssundlussier@gmail.com) or call her at 978-798-0026.