

Rev. Jack Soper:

Rev. Jack Soper, a retired Elder in the North Texas Conference, was the Senior Pastor of Arapaho United Methodist Church in Richardson, Texas where he served for twenty-four years. He is the organizing pastor of Holy Covenant UMC in Carrollton, Texas where he served for eighteen years. Jack holds degrees in psychology, philosophy, and a Masters of Theology in Biblical Research from Boston University School of Theology. He has been involved in issues of social justice for his entire ministry with emphasis on refugee immigration, the death penalty, racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights and interfaith dialogue. For eight years Jack served as the chairperson of the Commission of Church and Society for the Texas Conference of Churches, the State's ecumenical organization. Jack is an instructor in the Course of Study Program for the North Texas Conference where for 18 years he has taught courses in Christian Ethics, the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and Theology for the Contemporary Church. He is married to Rev. Marti Soper, also an ordained United Methodist minister and former Director for the North Texas Conference Center for Leadership Development. They have four adult children and eight amazing grandchildren. Jack and Marti have lived in Topsfield for just one year.

Bible Study for the Curious – Starting March 14th:

Have you as a person of faith been curious about what the Bible teaches regarding the importance of prayer or the power of grace? Do you wonder about God's role in human suffering? Are you baffled by churchy words like "eternal life," "resurrection," or "the kingdom of God?"

Over four Tuesday evening Zoom sessions during Lent we will spend an hour and a half together looking at the New Testament from the perspective of practical biblical theology. Along the way we will consider basic steps in biblical study that will help us identify the message the author intended for their communities to hear, and then what we might find helpful as faithful people. As we approach Holy Week and Easter, we will talk about the spiritual treasures of resurrection and eternal life as blessings for both now and later.

Rev. Jack Soper will lead this study. He has been a United Methodist pastor for nearly fifty years and has been a curious student of the Bible for all of that time. The Zoom link will be provided as we near the date and time of the first session. We will hold this study on Tuesdays, March 14th, 21st, 28th and April 4th at 7:00PM. Everyone is invited to join, whether you are a Bible novice or a lifelong student.