

March 2024
DUPC Sunday Forum Series
Sundays, 9:45AM—Shaw Room

MARCH
3

Beyond Resistance
The Institutional Church
Meets the Postmodern World

MARCH
10

by **John Dorhauer**

Come join in the continuing discussions of this thought-provoking book led by several congregation members.

MARCH
17

March 3rd will be a time for attendees to share thoughts and ideas, and discuss the recently posed questions.

March 10 & 17 - led by Leah Kone and/or Nancy Simpson

MARCH
24

The Science of Gratitude

Presenter: David A. Orange

Research shows gratitude does more than just help us to feel good—being grateful can also support greater mental and physical health for ourselves and our communities.
Come learn more about the many benefits of gratitude.

Welcome!

John Dorhauer's *Beyond Resistance* book review and discussion.

DUPC Sunday Forum 3-10-2024

- PowerPoint to review of the rest of the book.
- Video clips from John Dorhauer's author talk with the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, on November 18, 2023.
- Discussion, sharing ideas, etc....
- Next week: Lea Kone.
- (Hand-outs and scribing: If something missing/wrong, please let me know—will do edits.)

Beyond Resistance

Beyond Resistance:
The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World
by John Dorhauer

*ALL OF THESE SLIDES WITH THIS DESIGN ARE FROM SUSAN ORR'S BOOK STUDY THAT SHE PROVIDED FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY.
Such great interest—she did the study three times.*

Chaps 8 - 10:

Three Innovative Worshiping Communities

- ▶ This was an exploration of hope after a time when decades of diminishing capacities had eroded hope.

Susan Orr's book study

Chap 8:

ReImagine

► A postmodern community of faith
(*not a church*) serving the greater
San Francisco area

www.reimagine.org

Susan Orr's book study

Chap 8:

www.reimagine.org

- ▶ A faith-based, non-profit organization built to explore how the details of Jesus's life are made manifest in our daily living.
- ▶ They want to know that their impact serves the common good.

Chap 8:

www.reimagine.org

- ▶ Storytelling is very important to the life of ReImagine.
- ▶ Reimagine gathers and asks five different people each time to tell THEIR story informed, as they see it, by the life of Jesus.

Susan Orr's book study

Chap 8:

www.reimagine.org

- ▶ The simplicity and ease with which an individual recognizes and accepts the authenticity of another person's spiritual gifts will transform the nature and role of ministry in the postmodern church.

Relmagine

- Founded by Mark Scandrette.
- Make a yearly vow of how they will walk in their community as Jesus did in his time.
- Take note of the “longings in the community”, which focuses their prayer life for the coming month.
- No offerings taken. No building.
- Home gatherings; scripture; meals together.
- Retreats twice a year.

Chap 9:

The Mount

- ▶ A postmodern community of faith in Salt Lake City.
- ▶ A balm for the bitter and the tired.

Chap 9: The Mount

- ▶ “In between” - there are times when these communities feel conflicted about what stays from church 2.0 and what goes. To some, it feels like the old, stale, painful way of being Church they left behind; while to others, it is less about a call to abandon the old as it is a challenge to repurpose the old and infuse it with new meaning.
- ▶ “This is an intentional re-creation intended to meet the needs of those whose search for the sacred and divine and are not being met by the current model of Church.”

The Mount

- This faith community will be mentioned in one of the videos clips.
- It's a new “church” planted and supported by an existing (Presbyterian) church—but designed for a whole new demographic.
- Info about how this looks and operates is in the video.

Chap 10:

The Emergent Desert

- ▶ These are children of the creator seeking ways to experience something profoundly sacred, being fed and nurtured in a community that loves them where they are, and then doing what simple acts they can to make a difference in their world and in the lives of those who suffer unjustly.

The Emergent Desert

- This faith community will be mentioned in one of the video clips, too.
- Founded by Joy Lynne Schroeder. Phoenix, Arizona.
- She had had painful experiences related to the “Church”; left.
- But “could not fully escape the tug of the Spirit’s calling to her.”
- No credentials or training or authorizations, but opened her home to others who want to “experience something that enriched their spirits and fed them on their own journeys in faith.”
- E.g. Mission/Action: One Friday night/mth: Quarters at the laundromat. (Yearly fundraiser.)

Chap 11: What, Then, Are We to Say About These Things?

► **Postmodernity is not about your age but your orientation.**

“It sounds very much as if the Church is in a paradigm shift between Christianity as a belief and Christianity as a way of life.”

Chap 11: What, Then, Are We to Say About These Things?

- ▶ **You have postmoderns worshipping with you weekly.**

Churches have to think critically and carefully about adaptive changes that respond to current postmodern realities.

Finding the right balance between holding on to those things that matter and adapting new behaviors to meet the needs of the postmoderns among us has been, and will remain for some time, a very difficult challenge.

Chap 11: What, Then, Are We to Say About These Things?

► **Find out how it is that you encounter the sacred.**

The fluidity within postmodern communities when it comes to spiritual and sacred practices is a benchmark of their faith experience.

Consider putting every piece of your current liturgy life to a simple test: does this enhance or impede the presence of the divine?

Chap 11: What, Then, Are We to Say About These Things?

► Discover your non-negotiables.

Knowing the difference between what can change for the sake of the gospel and your mission, and what can't change for the sake of your identity is crucial.

How many of these are habits, and how many are essential to your mission and identity?

Chap 11: What, Then, Are We to Say About These Things?

► Interdependence

We should be cultivating partnerships and relationships between churches and other organic bodies who share their vision, their mission, and their core values.

Interdependence is too crucial an aspect of our health, our vitality, our growth, and our mission to be left untended.

Chap 11: What, Then, Are We to Say About These Things?

- ▶ **Have a clear mission, a reason for why you exist.**

Postmoderns will look for a faith community that exists as a presence in the community and the world.

Finding a mission that drives your collective passions and that every member is fully invested in - is the smartest and most potent thing a church can invest its time and resources in.

Presbytery of Genesee Valley's New Faith Communities

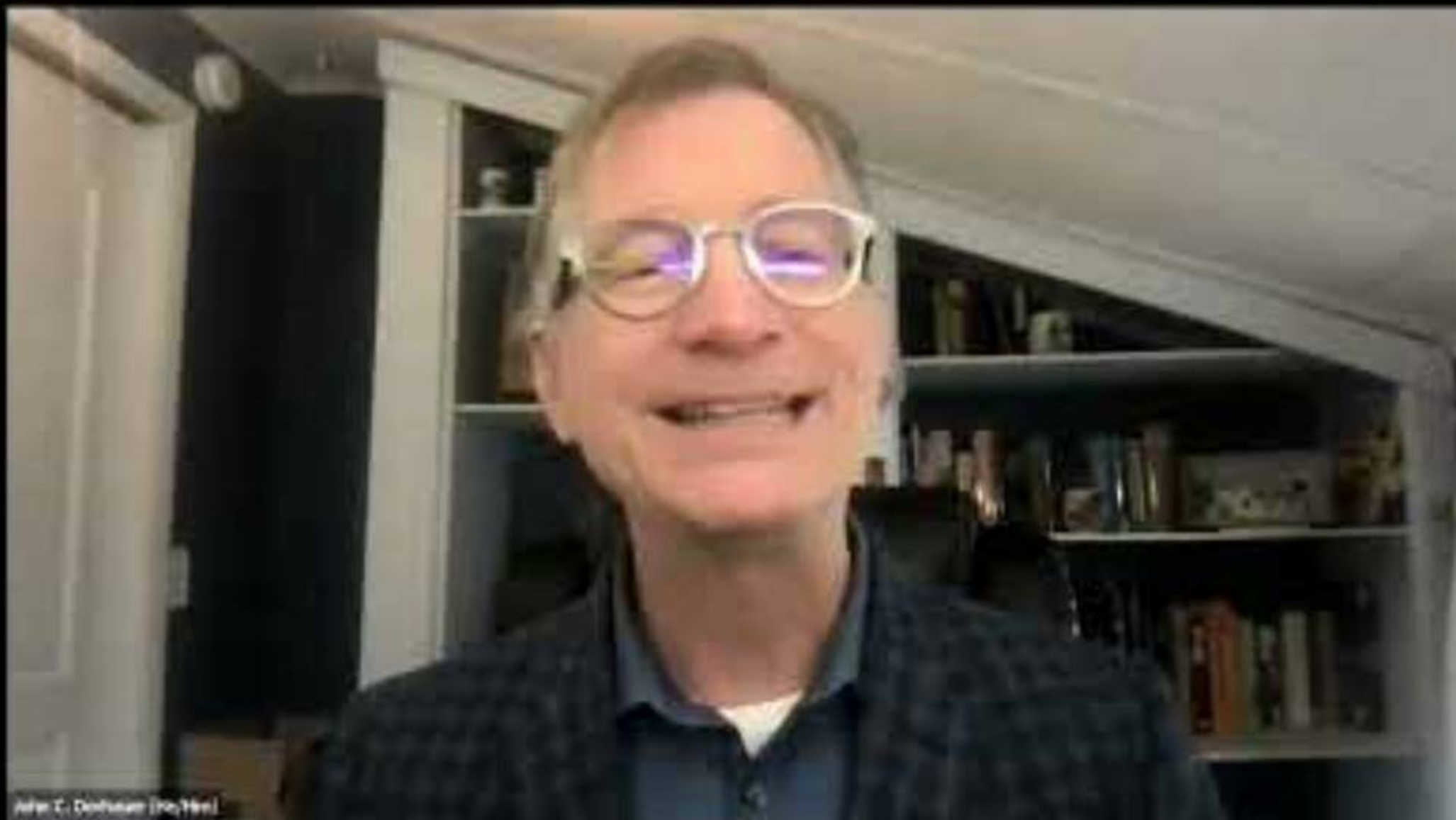
- Seekers
- Companions on the Way (Rev. Kevin Hershey)
- South's Fellowship of Faith (Rev. Deb Swift)
- Pray and Play (Rev. Whitney Scoville)
- Leaders are bringing a proposal to the PGV's HCCT (Healthier Congregations Coordinating Team) to get their thumbs up vote to bring it to Presbytery as another Working Group.
- "This Working Group would act as the initial presbytery body to approach for those wishing to create and/or sustain a new faith community within the Presbytery, for the purposes of advocacy, support, and information. This would not be an oversight or permission-giving body."

Thank you!

- Two video clips.
 - The first clip touches on The Mount.
 - The second clip touches on the Emergent Desert.
- Questions & Discussion.
 - Notes will be compiled and shared.

Video clip from John Dorhauer's author talk with the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, on November 18, 2023.

In the video: Marked at 1:18:50 to 1:24:15 (~6 minutes)
Church 2.0 and Church 3.0.

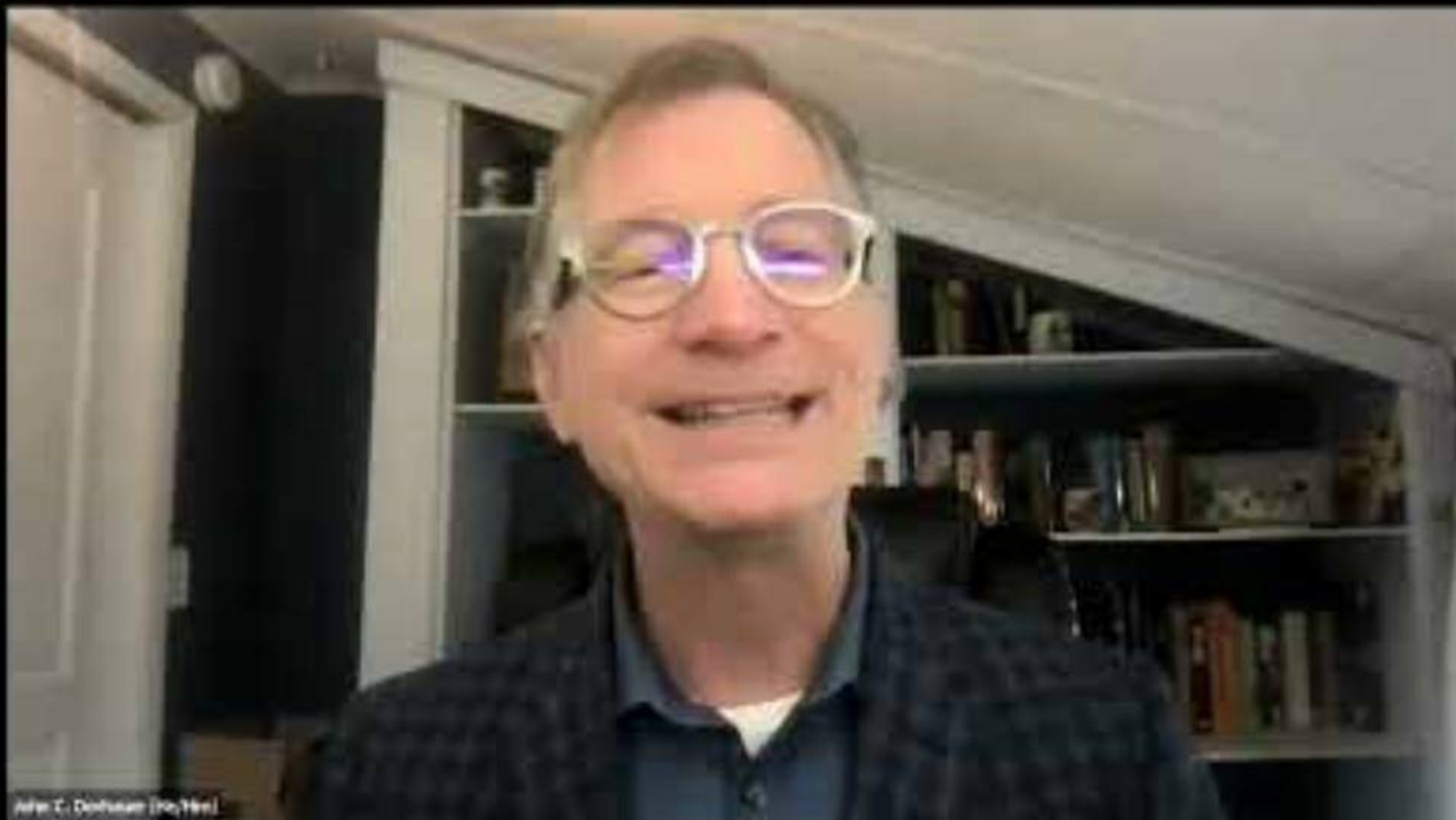


John C. Doherty (PhD)

Video clip from John Dorhauer's author talk with the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, on November 18, 2023.

In the video: Marked at 1:27:01 to 1:36:49 (~10 minutes)

We are a resurrection people. Establishing your Mission
(Mission vs Building)



John C. Doherty (PhD)

DUPC Sunday Forum Series: John Dorhauer's

Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World

3-10-2024: Nancy Simpson

Attendees: Carol Samuel, Sam King, Joan and Bill Mackey, Mary Rees, Nancy Brown, Bob Richane, Kim McConnell, Sebastian Maroundit, Carolyn DeHority, and David Lee. (And, if a name is missing, please let Nancy Simpson know.)

Zoomers: Marie Gibson, Peg Meeker, and Bob Carlisle. (And, if a name is missing, please let Nancy Simpson know.)

Discussion:

- We need to try to not get bogged down with big ideas of mission and goals.
 - Start small.
- Mission and the presence of the divine:
 - Consider how the mission could come from a place of the divine.
- Racial Justice Working Group at the Presbytery of Genesee Valley:
 - They offer grants.
 - We need to consider the person power required.
- We need to work with allies: e.g. Spiritus Christi & other worshipping communities, the community.
- Some of the community around us is made up of folks moving into downtown.
 - That community is growing; is prosperous.
 - What brought them into downtown living?
- We could invite the community, in general, for input for what they want.
- And we can also maybe “just do it”, as a starting point, e.g. do and advertise a monthly free meal for all of DUPC and the community.
- We need to develop a strategic point of view