

Greetings from the Center for Public Humanities at Messiah College!

Last year Messiah students and faculty had the wonderful opportunity of exploring your churches' rich histories of pursuing freedom and civil rights locally and nationally. What a gift this was for us and for our students!

This year, we are celebrating our colleague, Emerson Powery's recently published book, "[*The Genesis of Liberation, Biblical Interpretation in the Antebellum Narratives of the Enslaved.*](#)" His book explores the function of the Bible in the "slave narratives." Emerson Powery also served as faculty mentor for our students who worked on the church history projects, and as we've continued to listen to and read transcriptions of your stories this fall, we've been struck by the connections between the narratives of such folks as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, and your own churches' struggle for civil rights right here in Harrisburg. We've also been struck by the many connections between the three churches! As part of the church history projects, we would love to pursue these connections further. Towards this end, we invite members from Wesley Union AME, Capital Presbyterian, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church to join us for a workshop and brunch, **"Their Stories, Our Stories" on Saturday, November 12, 10:00–1:30, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 248 Seneca St. Harrisburg, PA.**

The workshop will be led by Drs. Emerson Powery (professor of Bible) and Jean Corey (professor of English). During the first half of the workshop Dr. Powery will share some of his findings about the function of the Bible and religion in some of the better known "slave narratives." The 2nd half of the workshop will be devoted to participants responding through discussion of their own stories. In order to foster real discussion, the workshop is limited to 20-21 people. Ideally, we'd love to have 6-7 people from each congregation.

If you would like to register for the workshop please contact Denise Brown, 717-766-2511 ext. 2025, or email dlbrown@messiah.edu with your name, email and phone. If you have further questions about the workshop, please feel free to email or contact Jean Corey