



Journey through the foundational centuries of Christianity—from the bold witness of the early church fathers to the profound insights of St. Augustine. Explore the dramatic moments that shaped our faith: the rise of heresies, the perseverance of persecuted believers, and the defining declarations of the Nicene Creed. Whether you’re new to church history or a lifelong learner, this class will deepen your understanding and enrich your discipleship.

If you would like to be involved in a Small Breakout group, please contact Lellen Lane.

Supplemental Reading: *The Story of Christianity, Volume 1*, by Justo L. Gonzalez

September 10/11	The First 500—Overture	
September 17/18	Fools and Heretics: The Tribulations of the Early Church: Pagans and Jews	Acts 18:1-22; Acts 19, I Corinthians Gonzalez, chapters 1-4
September 24/25	The Blood of the Martyrs	John 16; I Peter 3:8-22, 4:12-19; Revelation 6:9-11 Gonzalez, chapters 5-7, 10
October 1/2	Getting it Right: Against the Heretics	I Timothy 4, 6:1-16; II Timothy 4:1-5; Jude Gonzalez, chapters 8-9
October 8/9	Christianity and Empire	I Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-7 Gonzalez, chapters 12-14, 22
October 15/16	Mystics, Monks and the Desert Fathers	Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 10:17-31; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; Revelation 14:4 Gonzalez, chapter 15

October 22/23	The Beginnings of the Bible	Psalms 1, Psalm 119; II Timothy 3:14-17 Gonzalez, chapter 23
October 29/30	The Trinitarian Controversy	Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:19-20 Gonzalez, chapter 17
November 5/6	The Christological Controversy	Matthew 17:1-8; Luke 2:52; John 1:1-4, 14; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 2:14-18 Gonzalez, chapters 19, 20
November 12/13	Augustine and the Struggle for Grace: Donatus, Pelagius, Augustine and the Doctrines of the Church and Grace	Ephesians 1:1-2:10; Romans 7:21-8:39 Gonzalez, chapters 16, 21, 24
November 19/20	Conclusion: Over the Horizon-- Celtic Christianity and Beyond	Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:44-47; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:8-17 Gonzalez, chapters 25-27