

Giving Our Hearts Away Study

Sherry Wack, a member of the Eastern PA Conference Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM), leads a 6-week Lenten study on Native American history, culture, faith and social concerns at her church, Evansburg UMC.

The weekly study on Mondays, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, begins Feb. 22. She will use as a primary resource the Rev. Thom White Wolf Fassett's popular, ground-breaking book *Giving Our Hearts Away*, published in 2008 for a United Methodist Women Mission Study course on Native Americans.

Goals for this Study



To provide information about Native American histories, ceremonies, world views, religions and spiritualities through the lens of “Give Away.”



To examine these key issues and their impact:

- ✓ Land
- ✓ Sovereignty
- ✓ Treaties
- ✓ Natural resources
- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ Women, children and youth
- ✓ Racism



To explore the root causes of these issues through applying a methodological grid of race, class, culture, gender and misconceptions (e.g. media, myths of the dominant culture).



To address the issue of commodification* as it relates to spirituality, culture, symbols, and artifacts.



To explore the impact of past Christian mission.



To lift up current mission:

- ✓ Exploring initiatives of the Native American Comprehensive Plan and their impact on church and society.
- ✓ Considering how to influence U.S. public policies for the well-being of Native Americans.
- ✓ Developing action plans and advocacy efforts as individuals to work in solidarity with Native Americans.

*commodification – the action or process of treating something as a commodity.