

Trail of Death, Pioneer Cemetery, and the "Haunted Histories" of our Lives

Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

September 15 through November 3

Location: Illinois Classroom and Zoom Meeting

Taught by Eileen Gebbie, MA, MDiv

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In 1838 the Potawatomi Indians were forcibly moved from Indiana to Kansas by way of Illinois, across land now incorporated into Allerton Park.

Adjacent to that "Trail of Death" are the burial grounds of colonists whose lives overlapped with the passage.

Using Elaine Enns' and Ched Myers' "Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization," we will explore what it might mean for us ("settlers") to now live on this same, wounded land.

Though the authors do this work from a Christian Mennonite perspective, the work is open to all who want to learn about Indigenous justice and "response-ability."

Optional pre-class walk to the Pioneer Cemetery at Allerton Park on Thursday, September 8 at 9:30 a.m. Registration required. Please e-mail or call me by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7. I will then send directions to the Lost Garden Parking Lot. Be prepared for uneven terrain. We will walk about ½ mile in each direction.

September 15

Decolonization as personal and political healing

Introductions, a brief history of this land, and its people.

What are colonization, decolonization, and political healing?

September 22

Landlines 1: Where our immigrant ancestors walked from

A more detailed description of the life of Robert Allerton as well as students' lives. Please have in mind all of the places you have lived in North America. If you are not an immigrant yourself, please bring as many details as you have available about the locations lived by the family/family member whose move to North America resulted in your being born here.

- September 29** **Bloodlines 1: Remem-bearing**
Inheritance, generational trauma, and/or silence in our families as well as the peoples indigenous to what is now Champaign County.
- October 6** **Songlines 1: Traditions of Resilience**
The narratives (and counter-narratives), cultural practices, and ceremonies that sustain and transform individuals and communities.
- October 13** **Landlines 2: Origin stories, “re-vising” settler history, and becoming treaty people**
Looking at the Allerton family’s and the University of Illinois’ stories of Allerton Park, that of the pioneer cemetery, and the impetus and obligations of the Potawatomi Trail of Death.
- October 20** **Bloodlines 2: De-assimilating.**
How we become white, turning innocence to “response-ability,” and perpetrator trauma v. moral injury.
- October 27** **Songlines 3: Traditions of Restoration.**
Truth, reconciliation, resurgence, and restoration.
- November 3** **Experiments in Decolonization**
Redistributive justice, restorative solidarity, reparation, and repatriation. What will you do with this learning?

Accomplices Not Allies: Abolishing the Ally Industrial Complex (An Indigenous Perspective) <https://www.indigenouaction.org/accomplices-not-allies-abolishing-the-ally-industrial-complex/>

Ejeris Dixon’s and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha’s *Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement* (Chico, California: AK Press, 2020)

Elaine Enns’ and Ched Myers’ *Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization* (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2021)