

**ARCH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS**

# **THE MYTH OF DISCOVERY RE-THINKING THE MEANING OF COLUMBUS DAY**

**THE FIRST FORUM IN THE AMERICAN MYTHS SERIES**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 FROM 6 TO 8 PM**

Columbus's arrival in the Bahamas in 1492 has been widely understood as a discovery of a "New World," but it was certainly not new to the millions of people who had long lived in the Western Hemisphere. Columbus's arrival initiated a period of tremendous suffering for Native people and they still endure the consequences of conquest and colonization to this day. Despite his well-documented crimes against humanity, Columbus is revered by many as an American hero and a symbol of ethnic pride. What is the history of Columbus Day celebrations? How has the meaning of Columbus changed over the years? Why do so many believe that American history only begins when Europeans arrive? This forum will facilitate a thoughtful discussion on the meaning of the Columbus story and other American discovery myths. It will also challenge participants to think critically about whose perspectives we emphasize when we talk about history and whose we ignore. The event will conclude with an opportunity to sign a petition to call for Philadelphia civic leaders to consider the official recognition of Indigenous People's Day. All are invited to attend. Several scholars and community leaders will serve as panelists, including:

**Rev. Dr. John Norwood** – the founding pastor of the Ujima Village Christian Church and a leader in the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Nation

**David M. Krueger, PhD** – historian and author of *Myths of the Rune Stone Viking Martyrs and the Birthplace of America*

## **THE AMERICAN MYTHS SERIES CONTINUES:**

**JANUARY 27, 2016:** America's Racial Myths

**APRIL 20, 2016:** Myths of a Christian Nation

Join with the Philadelphia community for three seasons of community forums on four thematic tracks. The forums are free, and a light supper and childcare will be provided.

For more information, please contact [davidkrueger01@gmail.com](mailto:davidkrueger01@gmail.com).

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