

Join us for a conference of presentations on the ancient city of Magdala and Mary Magdalene. Lunch will be provided. A \$20 donation is requested. See the [registration form](#) for additional information. Please join us!

Where: Christ United Methodist Church, 2375 S. 3300 S. Salt Lake City

When: Saturday, November 10, 2018; 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

For more info: 801.486.5473

# MARY MAGDALENE

## INSIGHTS FROM ANCIENT MAGDALA



“Every Christian disciple has so much to learn from the real Mary Magdalene. Jennifer Ristine helps sift fact from fiction, Gospel from pseudo-gospel, feminine genius from feminine gnosticism, in a way that will help everyone get to know, love and imitate the once demon-dominated woman who became the great Apostle to the Apostles“.

-Fr. Roger J. Landry, Author of *Plan of Life: Habits to Help You Grow Closer to God*

**Author & Speaker: Jennifer Ristine, consecrated woman of Regnum Christi**

Jennifer has been serving at the recently excavated site of ancient Magdala in the Holy Land since 2014. Her shared research and reflections are the fruit of countless visitors' questions. Through archaeological discoveries, historical texts, scriptural sources, and a survey of traditions, she offers a mosaic-like representation of the figure and importance of Mary Magdalene.



**MAGDALA**

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Permanent Endowment Fund**

# **Mary Magdalene: Insights from Ancient Magdala**

**Jennifer Ristine, Consecrated Woman and Author**

**Christ United Methodist Church**

**Salt Lake City Utah**

**Saturday, November 10, 2018**

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

<b>9:00</b>	<b>Introduction &amp; Presentation 1</b>	<b>Mary Magdalene's Hometown: A Virtual Tour through Ancient Magdala</b>
<b>9:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Presentation 2</b>	<b>The Life Drama of Mary Magdalene: Insights from Sacred Scripture</b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Presentation 3</b>	<b>The Mystery of Mary Magdalene: Insights from Historical Tradition</b>
<b>11:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Question &amp; Answer</b>	
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Book Signing</b>	

## **Conference Overview and Introduction**

Mary Magdalene is a mystery, in a real and theological sense. A mystery, in its basic definition, is that which is unknown and secret. In theology, a mystery is an aspect of revelation that remains beyond our full comprehension, while at the same time we partly grasp it in faith. More than grasping a mystery with our intellect, we can enter into its dynamic. The mystery of Jesus' sacrificial death, for example, is beyond our human capacity to grasp in all its significance and greatness. Nonetheless, in our personal suffering or in prayer, we touch the mystery and unite to the suffering of Jesus, allowing it to bear fruit in our spiritual journey, as his suffering bore fruit for the redemption of humanity.

Mary Magdalene's person and life represent a mystery. The details elude us. But the essential message of her life-project shines out for all to admire. She exemplifies the drama of redemption at work within every human person. She embodies the dynamics of the Christian life in its fullness, from sinner to seeker, from curious follower to committed disciple. Reflecting on the mystery of her person we find encouragement for our journey.

Despite the fact that the totality of her figure is "veiled," a glimpse into her person reveals essential universal messages with which all can identify: the deep need to experience unconditional love and acceptance, the desire to be set free of the toil and turmoil of life's

demands, the joy of encountering the Lord, the fortitude experienced when God's grace and the Holy Spirit take over, and the hope that Jesus offers us throughout our lives.

I would like to "unveil" some of the mystery surrounding the person of Mary Magdalene by sharing insights gained through study, reflection, and prayer on the archaeology, geography, and history of ancient Magdala, as well as the scriptural passages and historical traditions prevalent through the centuries. We will also reflect on the dynamic of her encounter with Jesus, her response to the call to discipleship and her maturity in freedom and love, hoping that it can serve as reflection for your personal journey with the Lord.

### **Presentation 1**

#### **Mary Magdalene's Hometown: A Virtual Tour through Ancient Magdala**

This conference gives context to the town in which Mary Magdalene lived allowing us to enter into the gospel context of Mary's life and possible movements in her soul that brought her into contact with Jesus and to the point of conversion. This tour will "paint the town" for our imagination through a presentation of the archaeology, history and geography surrounding first century Magdala.

### **Presentation 2**

#### **The Life Drama of Mary Magdalene: Insights from Sacred Scripture**

This conference offers commentaries on Mary Magdalene's life as seen from Sacred Scriptures, particularly through her role in the history of God's redeeming love. As we look at each of the places in Scriptures where she is mentioned participants are invited to reflect on the dynamic of the Christian life: the role of curiosity and the posture of listening, the courage needed to be vulnerable and abandon in trust, the experience of one's dignity in discovering the unconditional love of God, and the call and commitment to discipleship.

### **Presentation 3**

#### **The Mystery of Mary Magdalene: Insights from Historical Tradition**

A plethora of ideas are promulgated about Mary Magdalene, developed from various philosophical, pastoral, cultural and pious movements throughout history. This conference offers a survey of a few of these movements, while gleaning characteristics of Mary Magdalene's personality from various historical sources. It also delves into the rich theological, spiritual and pastoral lessons that she offers us today. Participants are invited to listen to how the Holy Spirit call us to a deeper encounter with the Lord, transforming our mind and heart to become committed disciples in a secular world.



**CHRIST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

2375 East 3300 South  
Salt Lake City Utah 84109  
801-486-5473

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## INSIGHTS FROM ANCIENT MAGDALA

*Conference Registration*

*Saturday, November 10, 2018*

*9:00 am—2:00 pm*

*Lunch Provided*

*Please complete the information below and return:*

- Email: [christumc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:christumc.secretary@gmail.com)
- USPS: See address above

***Registration deadline is November 7, 2018***

Name		Home Church (if any)
Address		
Phone & Email		

***Suggested donation of \$20 per person will be collected at the event.***

***Thank you!***