



A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast

Listening Guide – Media, Society & Culture Episodes

Episode	Guest	Question	Timestamp
Episode 18	Jimmie Hawkins, Director, Office of Public Witness	In the wake of the attack on the capitol on January 6th, has the flag become a symbol of terror?	16:57
Episode 28	Rich Copley, Communications Strategist, Presbyterian Mission Agency	In a time of polarization and heavy digital/social media use, there is a lot of "fake news" and "clickbait" headlines. How do we, as people of faith, who are called to seek truth, distinguish real news from fake news, fact from opinion, and good journalism from bad? I think good reporting/journalism will report facts accurately but is allowed to provide discussion to encourage readers to walk away with a lesson from the story or consider the story from a new perspective. But some reporting doesn't even seem to establish facts before forcing an opinion down the reader's throat. What are your thoughts? How do we be informed readers/consumers of news and journalism?	35:26
Episode 48	DeEtte Decker, Social Media Relations Strategist, Prresbyterian Mission Agency	We've all seen toxicity on the internet particularly on social media in comments feeds. People will make mean comments that don't have anything to do with the original post just to be a "troll". Often they are criticizing the person or the organization that made the post or content for the sake of expressing their own view point. Does anyone have guidance about how to handle these situations with grace? *mention comments on Carolyn Winfrey Gillete's hymn on climate change	32:37
Episode 54	Kathryn Threadgill, Associate Mission Director, Theology, Formation & Evangelism, PCUSA	People have a lot of feelings, positive and negative, about the word "evangelism". Does evangelism have the same meaning as it did say, 50 or 100 years ago? Or has it changed? What does evangelism mean in a modern, progressive Christian context?	34:35
Episode 58	Maura Drewry, Social/Clinical Advanced Research Assistant, UNC Center for Health Equity Research	We have been hearing the term "public health" more often in the news and media. What it is it and why does it matter to people of faith? How does public health relate to things like justice and equity?	21:45

Episode 62	Teri McDowell Ott, Editor & Publisher, Presbyterian Outlook	We hear so much about the power and influence of conservative faith media and press, but not as much about progressive faith media. Why is that and what could initiate a change?	19:30
Episode 64	Richard Hong, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Englewood, NJ	I understand that our churches need to have more of an online presence, especially on social media. But how do we know what to post, when to post, and to which social media platform would be best? And where are we supposed to get the content from when we're just trying to keep things afloat?	13:11
Episode 65	David Barnhart, Filmmaker & Associate for Story Ministry, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	When people think of movies and filmmaking, they often think of big budget Hollywood films that are beautiful to look at but maybe lack original ideas or independent films that are trying to make social statements. Further, we often keep film in the box of "entertainment" or "art", without recognizing intersectionality with other areas of life. How can filmmaking be a type of ministry? And is the only hope for films that really challenge us emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually in the documentary and independent space?	19:43
Episode 79	Sarah Hedgecock, PhD Candidate in Religion at Columbia University	As progressive Christians, we often describe ourselves, our perspectives, and our actions in contrast to evangelical Christianity. But evangelical Christianity also changes and adapts to the times and trends, albeit sometimes in different ways from progressive Christianity. How are we to understand evangelical Christian identity today? And are there any implications for progressive Christians?	26:11
Episode 81	Dr. Carolyn Chen, Sociologist, Co-Director of the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies; University of California, Berkeley	Across many Christian denominations, we hear about declining church membership and that fewer people are attending church. But we don't always talk about the how the role that faith and religion plays in our lives might have changed in relation to the role that work plays in our lives. How have you seen these roles change? What do you think it means for the future of faith communities?	29:04
Episode 83	Hannah Chappell-Dick, Women's Cross Country and Assistant Track Coach, Brown University	How does faith inform your coaching with athletes at some of the highest levels of competition? Also, how do you walk the line between encouraging and pushing your athletes, while making sure they are being taken care of physically and mentally?	36:53

Looking to go deeper on issues of media, society and culture with [A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast](#)? This listening guide outlines a list of our favorite conversations with our guests about these issues. We provide the accompanying questions for you to use to reflect on these episodes. These questions could be used for individual or group study. All links and resources mentioned are in each episode's show notes.

Want to get connected with A Matter of Faith? Write in your thoughts and questions to faithpodcast@pcusa.org

Reflection Questions

What are 3 words that came up during these podcasts that stuck out to you?

What did you learn in these podcast episodes about the power of media and culture in our society?
How do you think it applies to us as people of faith?

Where do you see examples of the intersection of faith, media and culture mentioned by the podcast guests mention?

What new ideas do these episodes give you about how to use media as part of your congregation or faith community's ministry?