

St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute *is pleased to announce*

RECLAIMING BROKEN BODIES: THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT THE OPIOID CRISIS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2019 | 7:00 PM | LAUBACHER HALL

The opioid crisis is on multiple levels about the brokenness of human bodies, only some of which fall under the purview of medicine; for all the real good it does, medicine alone cannot offer healing. "Healing," says the poet, essayist, and social critic Wendell Berry, "is impossible in loneliness. It is the opposite of loneliness. Conviviality is healing."

Berry's claim is altogether consistent with one of the fundamental tenets of Christianity, which is that God's redemptive work, mediated by the gathered community of God's people, is to make of alienated, lonely individuals a community of mutual love and support. God's work is to reclaim persons from isolation and remember them into a community where "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it (1 Cor 12:26)."



Speaker: **Joel Shuman, PhD, PT**

is Professor of Theology at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania who works at the intersection of theology and medicine. Dr. Shuman also teaches in the CONNECT: Faith, Health, and Medicine certificate program of St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute. After practicing physical therapy for several years, he pursued theology, studying New Testament with Richard Hays and Christian Ethics with Stanley Hauerwas at Duke University. Joel spent the 2018-19 academic year as the Scholar in Residence with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School, where he researched the opioid epidemic. He is currently co-authoring a book on congregational responses to the opioid crisis. His previous books include *The Body of Compassion: Ethics, Medicine and the Church*, *Heal Thyself: Spirituality, Medicine and the Distortion of Christianity* (with Keith Meador, M.D.), *Reclaiming the Body: Christians and the Faithful Use of Modern Medicine* (with Brian Volck, M.D.), and *To Live is to Worship: Bioethics and the Body of Christ* (2007). He co-edited (with L. Roger Owens) and contributed to the volume of essays, *Wendell Berry and Religion: Heaven's Earthly Home*.



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To register: reclaiming_broken_bodies.eventbrite.com