

Dear Friends,

For the past several weeks in chapel, we have been focusing on the important work of the Holy Spirit. If you have not been able to hear these messages in person, you can either listen to them as [podcasts](#) or watch the [videos](#) ("Walking in the Spirit" series). This week, we will hear an empowering message regarding the fruit of the Spirit and how the Spirit enables people to live godly lives that represent Christ well.

As I reflect on what it means to represent Christ well, I believe one of the areas Christians struggle is in the area of conflict management. Too often, the fruit of the Spirit is pushed to the side as our pride rises up during a conflict. Recently, while I was standing in a long line at Home Depot, myself and several other people were waiting for the person at the register to check out. It honestly took a long time, and I could feel the tension rising. The man in front of me made it clear his patience had run out by making a statement which included a few expletives. He looked at me for my approval. I smiled at him and admitted that my patience was also being tested, but that I was doing my best to keep my cool. He marched up to the front of the line and engaged in a screaming match that only escalated the situation and represented him terribly to everyone else in line.

So, how do we handle conflict? The Holy Spirit can help us. In Acts 15, a conflict arose between Jews and Gentiles. After some deliberation, the apostles and elders make a statement that clearly indicated the inclusion of the Holy Spirit in the resolution process. The statements begins, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements" ([Acts 15:28](#)). The whole chapter contains many of the elements of good conflict management, including: hearing reports from both sides of the story, gathering evidence surrounding the issue, making a plan for a solution, and practicing articulate communication. However, the most significant contributing factor to a favorable outcome was that the Holy Spirit's presence was invited and welcomed throughout the process.

Can you image for a moment if the next time you witnessed conflict, the individuals involved stopped and asked for the presence of the Holy Spirit to provide guidance or patience? Doing so might change the way we talk, tweet, and ultimately represent Christ, who is the giver of the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit that directs our lives.

Lord, we ask for your guiding Spirit to be present in our daily activities. We pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be present as we represent you. While we live in this world, we cannot avoid difficult moments, but we can ask you to provide a good outcome by being involved in the process. Amen.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, April 8 | Liturgical Rhythms: Jonathan DeMacedo | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Mon, April 8 | Choralons Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

Tues, April 9 | Prayer Training: Gifts of the Spirit* | Campus Min Office, 8pm **Spiritual Life Credit Offered*

Wed, April 10 | Walking in the Spirit: Josh Ziefle | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Wed, April 10 | The Table: Evangelism Training* | Butterfield Chapel, 7pm **Spiritual Life Credit Offered*

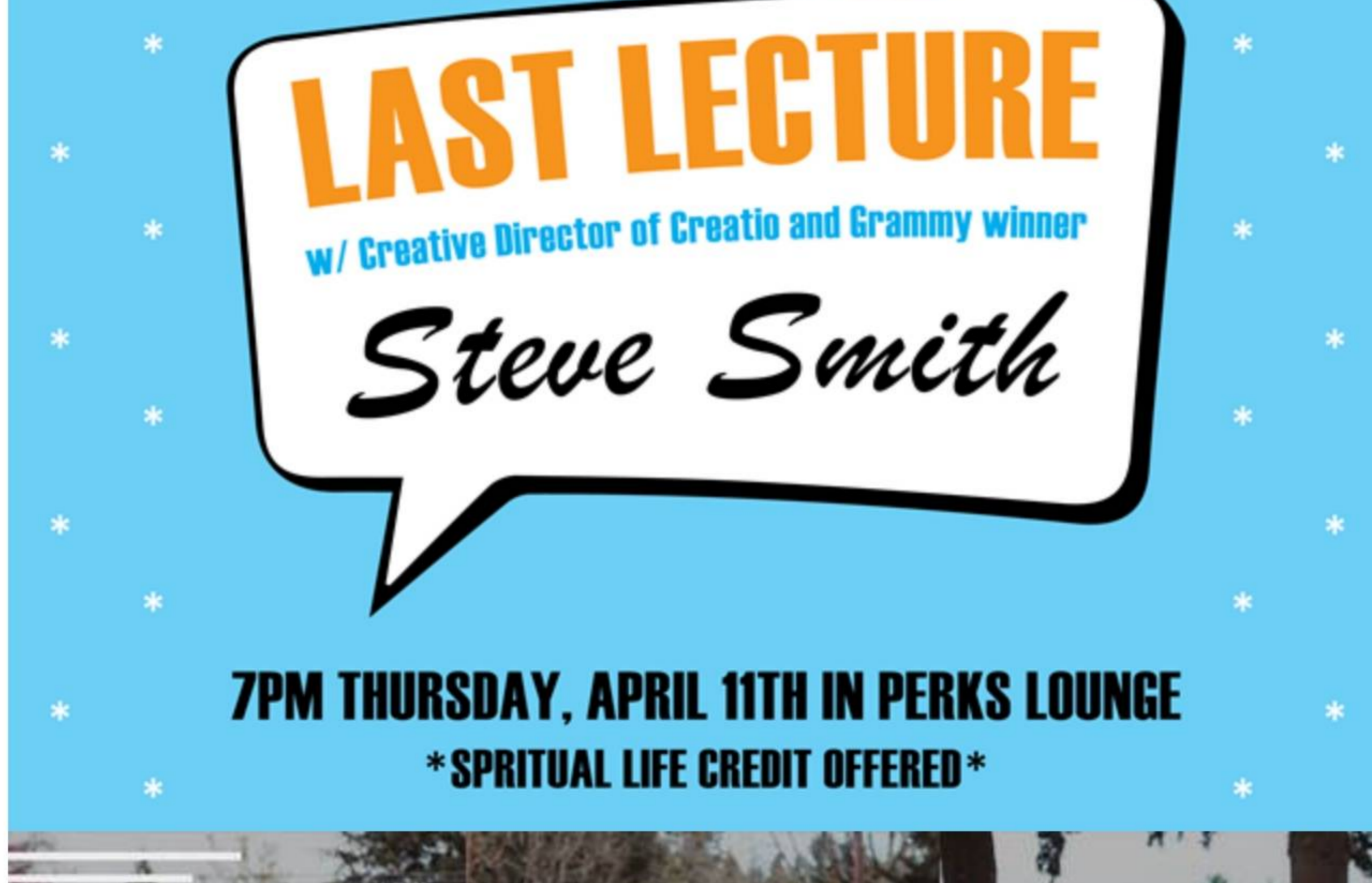
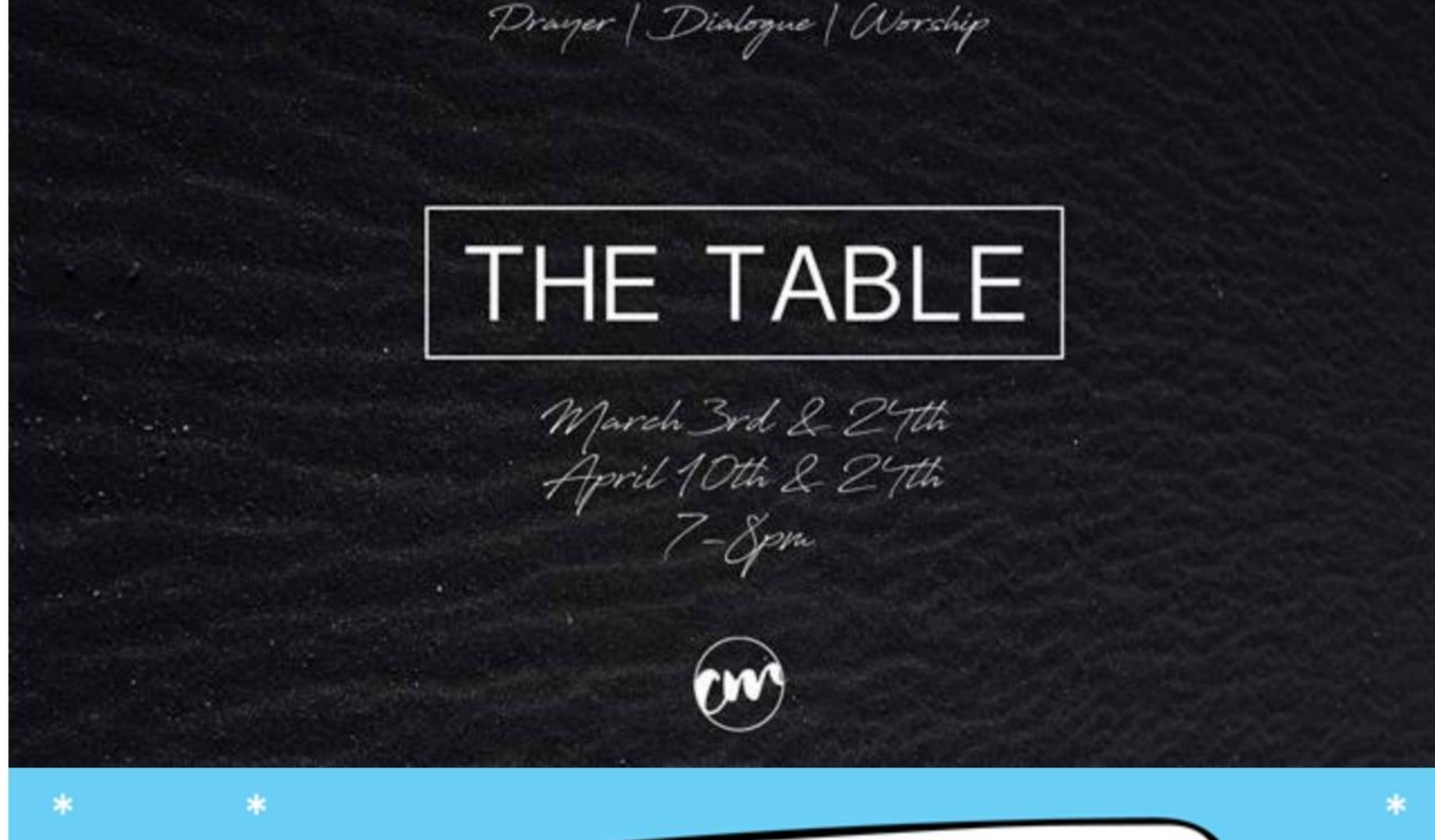
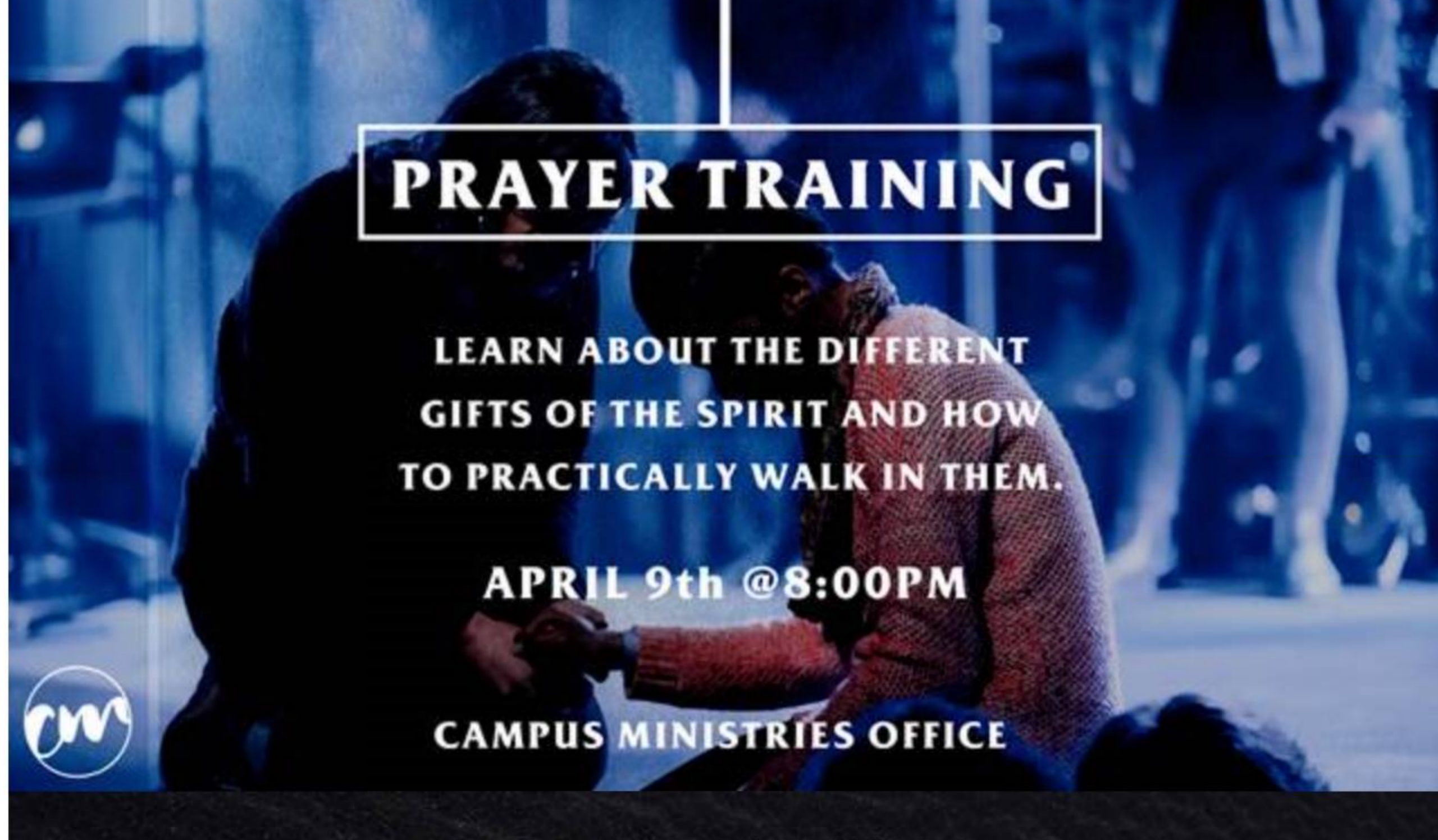
Thurs, April 11 | Last Lecture: Steve Smith* | Perks Lounge, 7pm **Spiritual Life Credit Offered*

Fri, April 12 | Deuteronomy: Christian Dawson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Fri, April 12 | NU Missions Car Wash Fundraiser | Wellness Center Parking Lot, 3-5pm

Fri, April 12 | Celebrate Conference* | Butterfield Chapel, 7pm **Spiritual Life Credit Offered*

Sun, April 14 | FellaShip: Phil Rasmussen, "Building Character"* | Argue HSC 231, 7pm **Spiritual Life Credit Offered*



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Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges

