

## “Rescuing Revelation’s Prophetic Word from ‘Prophecy Experts’”

Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

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The book that closes our New Testament canon is one of the most frequently misunderstood and misused texts in the Bible. It is not a playbook for the end times. It is not a mysterious coded message that allows the “expert” to predict who will emerge as the Antichrist, what country will rise up as “Babylon the Great,” or when some “rapture” will occur. It was a message to seven real Christian congregations living under Roman rule at the end of the first century that, when read as such, also reveals its fundamental challenges to us in our contemporary settings. Join us for a *free* half-day seminar as David deSilva presents a historically grounded way to take Revelation seriously as Scripture and to wrestle with its call to our churches to discover the path to faithful obedience and uncompromised witness to God’s reign in our contexts.

### Schedule:

- 9:00-9:30 Registration and Refreshments
- 9:30-10:30 Session One: “Re-thinking Revelation: What *Is* This Book and *Where* Was It Speaking?”
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:45 Session Two: “Two Tales of One City: Rome as seen in the market place and in the light of God’s Reign”
- 11:45-1:00 Lunch (on your own or in our fellowship hall)
- 1:00-2:00 Session Three: “Coming Out from Babylon Today”

Admission is free. A light lunch is available for \$6 (there are also numerous restaurants within three miles of the church).

The Rev. Dr. David deSilva is Trustees’ Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, Ohio) and Interim Pastor at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church. He has written over two dozen books on the New Testament and early Jewish literature, including two on Revelation – *Seeing Things John’s Way: The Rhetoric of Revelation* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009) and *Unholy Allegiances: Heeding Revelation’s Warning* (Hendrickson Publishing, 2013).