



## CHPC Reading and Reflection Book Group Schedule 2017-18

We meet monthly on third Tuesdays at 6:45 pm  
at the home of Christina Hansen.

*Our group (we're not a club!) reads widely and includes a diverse community of faith traditions & those who do not profess any particular faith. That being said, our congregation feels that anything can be read with the eyes of faith!*

### **From How to Read Anything with the Eyes of Faith by Eugenia**

**Gamble:** All of life is shot through with the presence and tenderness of God. Each human life, whether intentionally or not, unfolds around the great Biblical themes of creation, love, sin, redemption, and calling.

- New things happen (creation)
- Love blossoms, changes, is sought, is lost, is recovered, is given unexpectedly (grace)
- Selfishness, prejudice, fear and violence seem to rule decisions (sin)
- In the midst of the worst imaginable, people are given fresh, albeit sometimes chastened, new and unearned starts (redemption)
- People seek and discover their true identity and purpose in the world—where their greatest joy meets the world's deepest need (calling)

September 19 – ***Acedia and Me: A Marriage, Monks and a Writer's Life*** by Kathleen Norris (nonfiction, memoir) This personal and moving memoir resurrects the ancient term acedia, or soul-weariness and brilliantly explores its relevancy to the modern individual and culture. An examination of acedia in the light of psychology, spirituality, the healing powers of religious practice, and Norris's own experience, *Acedia & Me* is both intimate and historically sweeping, brimming with exasperation and reverence, sometimes funny, often provocative, and always insightful.

October 17 – ***Monsoon Summer*** by Julia Gregson (romantic and historical novel) A nurse who is derailed from meeting requirements to become a midwife meets a young Indian man completing his requirements to practice medicine. This epic story about forbidden love moves from England to India. Kit, hiding a painful secret and exhausted from nursing soldiers, escapes to Wickam Farm where her friend is setting up a charity sending midwives to the Moonstone Home in South India.

November 21 – ***The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*** by Dalai Lama XIV & Desmond Tutu (memoir) These two friends, both winners of the Nobel Prize, are recognized as great spiritual masters and moral leaders of our time. Both have been tested by great personal and national adversity, and here they share their personal stories of struggle and renewal with each other, their interviewer, and the reader.

December 19 – ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** by Oscar Wilde (farical play) Cecily and Gwendolen are both in love with the same mythical suitor. Jack has wooed Gwendolen as Ernest, while Algernon has also posed as Ernest to win the heart of Jack's ward, Cecily. When all four arrive at Jack's country home on the same weekend, only a senile nursemaid and an old, discarded hand-bag can save the day!

January 16 – ***The Hidden Life of Trees: what they feel, how they communicate: discoveries from a secret world*** by Peter Wohlleben (nonfiction, trees & ecology) Drawing on groundbreaking scientific discoveries, the author and forester makes the case that the forest is a social network. He describes how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. The author states that "forests matter at a more fundamental level than most of us realize."

February 20 – ***Exit West*** by Mohsin Hamid (Novel, 2018 Multnomah County Library Everybody Reads Book) Two young people fall in love in a distant unnamed city, but soon bullets begin to fly, fighter jets streak the sky, and curfews fall. As the spell of violence spreads, they flee their country, leaving behind their loved ones. Early in *Exit West*, Hamid explains that geography is destiny, and in the case of his two young lovers, geography dictates that they must leave. Hamid offers up a fantastical device to deliver his refugees to places: they pass through magic doors.

March 20 – ***Martin Marten*** by Brian Doyle (novel set on Mt. Hood) This braided coming-of-age tale like no other, told in Brian Doyle's joyous, rollicking style, won a 2016 Oregon Book Award. Dave is a human male, eager, and headlong, about to start high school. Martin is a pine marten, a small, muscled hunter of the deep woods, about to leave home for the first time. It's a scary and alluring time for both of these energetic, brilliant, creative, sinewy, muddled, animals as they adventure off on their native Mount Hood, through the deep, wet, green glory of Oregon. Their lives, paths, and trails will cross, weave, and blend.

April 17 – ***Lights Out: A Cyberattack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath*** by Ted Koppel (nonfiction about preparedness/self-reliant living) In this New York Times bestselling investigation, Ted Koppel reveals that a major cyberattack on America's power grid is likely, and that the U.S. is shockingly unprepared. A well-designed attack on just one of the three electric power grids could cripple much of our infrastructure. He states that the federal government has no plan for the aftermath of an attack and the nation's estimated three million "preppers" are taking matters into their own hands, from individuals to the unrivaled disaster preparedness of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

May 15 – ***Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*** by J.D. Vance (nonfiction, politics) A former marine, Vance describes growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. The book is a passionate and personal analysis of white working-class Americans. His graduation from Yale Law School is a conventional marker of success in achieving upward mobility for his family, but his grandparents, aunt, uncle, and mother struggled to varying degrees with the demands of their new middle class life. They and Vance still carry around the demons of their chaotic family history.

June 19 – ***A Gentleman in Moscow*** by Amor Towles (historical novel set in Moscow) In 1922, a count who has never worked a day in his life is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. An indomitable man of erudition and wit, he must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. His reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

July 17 – ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*** by Trevor Noah (nonfiction, memoir) Noah's memoir was named as One of Best Books of 2016 by NY Times & NPR. He shares explanations of the apartheid system, how it came about, its end, and the many cultures involved. His birth to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother was a criminal act at the time. It is also the story of his coming of age with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother - determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse. He currently hosts *The Daily Show*.

August 21 – ***Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind*** by Yuval Harari (nonfiction, history, technology, civilization) 100,000 years ago, at least six different species of humans inhabited Earth. Why is there only one, homo sapiens, today? What happened to the others and what may happen to us? Most books about the history of humanity pursue either a historical or a biological approach, but Dr. Harari breaks the mold with this highly original book that begins about 70,000 years ago with the appearance of modern cognition.

Contact our office for questions:

(503) 236-2430 ❖ [office@chpcpdx.org](mailto:office@chpcpdx.org) ❖ [www.chpcpdx.org](http://www.chpcpdx.org)