

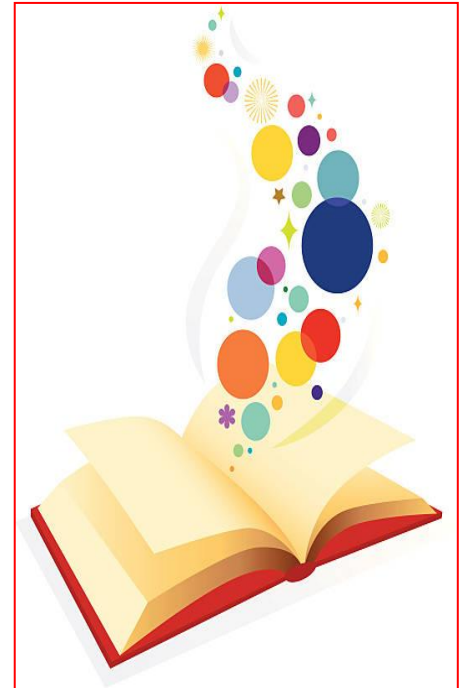
Reading and Reflection Book Group Schedule 2020-2021
6:45 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month
Locations and/or By Zoom Will Be Announced Monthly

*Our group reads broadly, both with and without the lens of faith.
Here are some ways of thinking about spiritual reading.*

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 & 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)



This year's list:

September 15 – *Bossy Pants* by Tina Fey (Memoir): Tina Fey recounts episodes from her life as a comedian and writer for Saturday Night Live and 30 Rock. Born in a Philadelphia suburb to two loving parents, Jeanne and Don, she remembers enjoying childhood.

October 20 – *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward (Memoir): Ward examines rural poverty and the lingering strains of racism in the South by the bad luck that can follow people who live in poverty, particularly black men.

November 17 – *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail* by Ben Montgomery (Biography and 2014 National Outdoor Book Award Winner): A hiking celebrity, Gatewood hiked the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail at age 71 and the Appalachian Trail before that. The author uses interviews, newspaper and magazine articles, and Gatewood's own writings to tell her story.

December 15 – *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea (Novel): This story of the De La Cruzes tells what it means to be a Mexican in America, to have lived two lives across one border. Three generations gather to celebrate a birthday of a dying man and the funeral of his 100 year old mother, recounting the many inspiring tales that have passed into family lore, acts both ordinary and heroic.

January 19 – *Here for It* by Eric Thomas (Memoir): Thomas shares stories that are alternating hilarious, touching, reflective, and insightful, about experiences as a gay black Christian man searching for social and spiritual community.

February 16 – *Everybody Reads, To Be Announced*

March 16 – *A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith* by Timothy Egan (Memoir): Egan follows in the footsteps of centuries of seekers, embarking on a thousand-mile pilgrimage through the theological cradle of Christianity to explore the religion in the world that it created. A thrilling journey, a family story, and a revealing history,

April 20 – *How the South Won the Civil War* by Heather Cox Richardson (Nonfiction): Debunking the myth that the Civil War released the nation from the grip of oligarchy, Richardson reveals how and why the Old South not only survived in the West, but thrived. New states entered the Union in the late nineteenth century and western and southern leaders found yet more common ground. The region's influence grew. Movement Conservatives claimed to embody cowboy individualism and embraced Confederacy ideology.

May 18 – *God's Hotel A Doctor, A Hospital, and A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine* by Victoria Sweet (Memoir): San Francisco's Laguna Honda Hospital was the last almshouse in the country, a descendant of the Hôtel-Dieu (God's hotel) that cared for the sick in the Middle Ages. Those who ended up here include ballet dancers and rock musicians, professors and thieves, those who had fallen, or, often, leapt, onto hard times. The author came for two months and stayed for twenty years. It transformed the way she understood her work.

June 15 – *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett (Novel): This book was suggested because of its powerful lesson about race as a social construct. Twin sisters leave home together. After her twin disappears, Desiree returns to her Louisiana hometown 10 years later with her daughter, Jude, who has skin so dark it shocks locals. The town was founded by their ancestor for light skinned men like him. Spanning decades, the story travels to UCLA with teenage Jude, unknowingly nearing her Aunt Stella's world.

July 20 – *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America* by Firoozeh Dumas (Memoir): Dumas, who first came to America from Iran as a young girl in 1972, recounts many anecdotes about her family's adjustment to this country in a light, humorous style. There are glimpses of middle-class life in prerevolutionary Iran and immigrant experiences of one very entertaining family.

August 17 – *Beyond the Messy Truth: How We Came Apart, How We Come Together* by Van Jones (Nonfiction): Jones has made it his mission to challenge voters' views to stand in one another's shoes & disagree constructively. He offers a blueprint for transforming our collective anxiety into meaningful change.

We identify new suggestions in June, vote in July and finalize the schedule in August & September each year.

Folks are welcome to join us for one book discussion, or on an ongoing basis—just contact the Church office.

All Are Welcome

