



## Reading and Reflection Book Group Schedule 2021-2022

6:45 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month

(2nd Tuesday in December)

Locations and/or by Zoom will be announced monthly  
in the newsletter and weekly worship bulletin announcements

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 21 – *The Girl Who Reads on the Metro-* by Christine Féret-Fleury (Domestic**

**Fiction/Books/Booksellers):** A modern fairytale about a French woman whose life is turned upside down when she meets a reclusive bookseller and his young daughter. A delayed coming-of-age story about a young woman who dares to change her life, and a celebration of the power of books to unite us all.

**October 19 – *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*, edited by Ibram**

**X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain (Biography/African American History):** A chorus of extraordinary voices tells one of history's great epics: The four-hundred-year journey of African Americans from 1619 to the present, a journey defined by inhuman oppression, visionary struggles, stunning achievements, and millions of ordinary lives passing through extraordinary history.

**November 16 – *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare (Teenage Girls-Women, Nigeria/Social**

**Conditions):** 14-year-old Adunni hears the devastating news from her father that, instead of returning to school as she has longed to for three years, she has been sold in marriage to a much-older neighbor in their Nigerian village. The prose provides a window into the lives of Nigerians of all socioeconomic levels and shows readers the beauty and humor that may be found even in the midst of harrowing experiences.

**December 14 – *The Adventures of John Carson in Several Quarters of the World* by Brian Doyle**

**(Biographical/Historical Fiction):** Robert Louis Stevenson never wrote his novel about his San Francisco landlady's adventurous and globe trotting husband. Now Brian Doyle brings Stevenson's untold tale to life, braiding the adventures of seaman John Carson with those of a young Stevenson, wandering the streets of San Francisco, gathering material for his fiction, and yearning for his beloved across the bay. A time-traveling plunge into The City by the Bay during its own energetic youth. (Note we meet 2nd Tuesday instead of 3rd Tuesday this month)

**January 18 – *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams (Sci Fi):** Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor. Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from The Hitchhiker's Guide and a galaxy-full of fellow travelers:

**February 15 – *Under the Whispering Door* by T.J. Klune (Humorous Fiction/LGBTQ Fantasy Fiction):** Even in death, Wallace is not ready to abandon the life he barely lived, so when he is given one week to cross over, he sets about living a lifetime in seven days. Hilarious, haunting, and kind, it's an uplifting story about a life spent at the office and a death spent building a home.

**March 15 – Multnomah County Library, Everybody Reads Book: [\*Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations\*](#) by Mira Jacob** Jacob's presents a period of the author's life in comic book format. Like many 6-year-olds, Mira Jacob's half-Jewish, half-Indian son, Z, has questions about everything. At first, they are easy enough to answer, but as tensions from the 2016 election spread, Z's questions become much more complicated. Trying to answer him honestly, Mira has to think back to where she's gotten her own answers, and how conversations about race, color, sexuality, and love have informed her identity. Written with humor and vulnerability, this deeply relatable graphic memoir is a love letter to the art of conversation—and to the hope that hovers in our most difficult questions.

**April 19 – *The Pull of the Stars*, by Emma Donoghue (Nurses/Influenza Epidemic/Dublin):** A nurse/midwife navigates her way through the Spanish flu pandemic in Ireland., doubly ravaged by war and disease. Expectant mothers who have fallen sick are quarantined into a separate ward. Two outsiders step in, a woman doctor who is a rumored Rebel and a teenage girl procured by the nuns from their orphanage as an extra set of hands. The women come together in unexpected ways.

**May 17 – *Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Land* by Sierra Murdoch Crane (Missing Persons/Criminal Investigations - 2021 Pulitzer Prize finalist and winner of the Oregon Book Award):** Investigative reporter Murdoch wants to learn why Lisa Yellow Bird is obsessed with finding out what happened to the son of another woman. Personal stories of all three are woven into the narrative, with lots of people stories & insights into the oil industry, especially its work with the North Dakota pipeline. Murdoch deepens her narrative with a searing look at the deficiencies of law and order on Native American land, corruption, and the abrogation of responsibility by the federal government.

**June 21 – *Send for Me* by Lauren Fox (Historical Fiction/Antisemitism):** Based on letters from Fox's own family, this novel moves between Germany on the eve of World War II and present-day Wisconsin, unspooling a thread of love, longing, and the powerful bonds of family. Annelise and her husband are given the chance to leave for America, but they must go without her parents, whose future and safety are uncertain. It's an epic and intimate exploration of mothers and daughters, duty and obligation, hope and forgiveness.

**July 19 – *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson (Social Stratification/Ethnicity):** In this outstanding work of social history, Pulitzer Prize winning author Wilkerson explains how a rigid social order, or caste, is about power. Beginning with the first caste system in the United States, which started with slavery in 1619, Wilkerson details how caste would become the cornerstone of U.S. social, political, and economic policy, with whites being dominant, African Americans subordinate, and Native Americans conquered.

**August 16 – *The Fishermen*, by Chigozie Obioma (Suspense Fiction/Brothers-Nigeria):** This Cain and Abel-esque story of an unforgettable childhood is told from the point of view of the 9 year old youngest of 4 siblings growing up in Nigeria in the 90s. At the ominous, forbidden nearby river, they meet a dangerous local madman who persuades the oldest of the boys that he is destined to be killed by one of his siblings. What happens next is an almost mythic event.

**Extra selection- *See No Stranger- A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur (Memoir)** we may make another kind of opportunity to read this book with a conversation!

**All Are Welcome**