

CHPC Reading and Reflection Book Group Schedule 2016-17

Contact the church office to participate and for location.



September 20 — *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi: This is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a brilliant writer who became both, a young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis who attempts to answer the question "What makes a life worth living in the face of death?" Kalanithi died while working on this book; his words live on as a guide and a gift to us all. (Nonfiction)

October 18 — *The Beekeeper's Ball* by Susan Wiggs: A light-hearted read about a chef — Isabel Johansen, who transforms her childhood home into a cooking school. (Romantic Fiction)

November 15 — *Waking up white: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving:

Irving offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance from her own struggle to understand racism and racial tensions. Unpacking her long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, she considers how these well-intentioned mindsets actually perpetuates ill-conceived ideas about race. Exercises at the end of each chapter prompt readers to explore their own racialized ideas. (Nonfiction)

December 13 — *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple: When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee takes a trip to the ends of the earth to find her. As creative forces like Bernadette stop creating, they become 'a menace to society. Even more appealing is the mutually adoring mother-daughter relationship at its warm heart. (Novel)

January 17 — *My Life on the Road* by Gloria Steinem: Gloria's story of personal growth and also the growth of a revolutionary movement is moving, funny, and profound; It's the story of how surprising encounters on the road shaped both — from her first experience of social activism among women in India to her work as a journalist in the 1960s. From the whirlwind of political campaigns to the founding of Ms. magazine; from the historic 1977 National Women's Conference to her travels through Indian Country — a lifetime spent on the road allowed Gloria to listen and connect deeply with people, to understand that context is everything, and to become part of a movement that would change the world. (Memoir)

February 21 — *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond (2017 Multnomah County Library Everybody Reads Book): Desmond explores stories of tenants and landlords in the poorest areas of Milwaukee. Through both personal stories and data, he proves that eviction undermines self, family, and community, bearing down disproportionately hard on women with children. Being behind on rent gives landlords the opening to serve an eviction notice, which leads to a court date. It may seem easy to side with the landlords, but as *Evicted* pulls back layer after layer, what's exposed is a cycle of hurt that all parties—landlord, tenant, city—inflict on one another. Whether readers agree with Desmond's conclusions for how to break this cycle in order to strengthen families and

neighborhoods, it's obvious by the end that we must try. (Nonfiction)

March 21 — *Light Between Oceans* by M. L. Stedman: On the isolated island of Janus Rock, lighthouse keeper Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. After two miscarriages and a stillbirth, a boat washes up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. Tom accommodates Isabel's decision to keep this "gift from God." Extraordinarily compelling characters seek to find their North Star in a world where there is no right answer, where justice for one person is another's tragic loss. (Novel)

April 18 — *I'm Just a Person* by Tig Nataro: In the span of four months, Nataro was hospitalized for the debilitating intestinal infection C. Diff, her mother unexpectedly died, she went through a breakup, and was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer. Hit with this barrage, it seems that she can turn something awful into something funny, taking her grief onstage. Days after her cancer diagnosis, she broke new comedic ground, opening an unvarnished set with the words, "Good evening. Hello. I have cancer." Now, the wildly popular star takes stock of that no good, very bad year — a difficult yet astonishing period in which tragedy turned into absurdity and despair into joy. (Memoir)

May 16 — *Winter Solstice* by Rosamunde Pilcher: The story, mostly about older people is told from the perspectives of an eclectic array of characters. Learning to live with their losses, they find themselves collectively spirited northwards, from Sussex to Scotland, by way of Cornwall. As events unfurl, those in need find solace in unexpected places. Pilcher's greatest strengths lie in her natural, easy narratives of everyday life and her thoroughly researched and captivating descriptions of scenery and surroundings (Psychological Fiction)

June 20 — *The Green Road* by Anne Enright: The story of matriarch Rosaleen, Ardeevin, County Claire, Ireland, spans 30 years and 3 continents. When her oldest brother, Dan, announces that he will enter the priesthood, young Hanna watches her mother howl in agony and retire to her room. The children leave one by one: Dan for the frenzy of New York under the shadow of AIDS; Constance for a hospital in Limerick; Emmet for the backlands of Mali; and Hannah for the modern day Dublin. When Christmas Day reunites the children under one roof, each confronts the terrible weight of family ties and the journey that brought them home. (Novel)

July 18 — *The Zhivago Affair: the Kremlin, the CIA, and the battle over a forbidden book* by Peter Finn & Petra Couvee: In May 1956, an Italian publishing scout took a train to a village just outside Moscow. He left carrying the original manuscript of Boris Pasternak's first and only novel, which Pasternak believed was unlikely ever to be published in the Soviet Union; the authorities regarded it as an irredeemable assault on the 1917 Revolution. Beginning in Italy, *Doctor Zhivago* was widely published in translation throughout the world. (Nonfiction) *Have your suggestions for next year's reads in by this day*

August 15 — *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume: In 1987, Miri returns to her hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey, to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life when she was fifteen and a succession of airplanes fell from the sky, leaving a community reeling. Against this backdrop of actual events that Blume experienced in the early 1950s, she imagines and weaves together a haunting story of three generations of families, friends, and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed by these disasters. (Novel)