

Summer 2018 Reading for Faith Formation

Looking for some thoughtful reading choices about faith this summer? Here are some creative, thought-provoking choices that reflect our church and our theology.

NADIA BOLZ WEBER, the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America), is coming to FUMC in March of 2019! She is a prophetic voice in 21st century Christianity and a New York Times bestseller. We are VERY excited about her visit, so get to know her through these two books of hers:

Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and a Saint

Nadia Bolz-Weber reclaims the term “pastrix” (pronounced “pas-triks,” a term used by some Christians who refuse to recognize female pastors) in her messy, beautiful, prayer- and profanity-laden narrative about an unconventional life of faith.

Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People

“Accidental Saints is a triumph in faithful storytelling. In just a few lines of description and dialog, Nadia Bolz-Weber manages to capture all that is beautiful and maddening and frightening about our shared humanity, including her own inconsistencies and struggles as a Jesus-loving sinner-saint. This is one of those rare books that will make you simultaneously wince with recognition and sigh with relief.” - Rachel Held Evans, author of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* and *Searching for Sunday*

BRYAN STEVENSON

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship — and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. *Just Mercy* is an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice, and an eye-opening view into the challenges our country has with its justice system.

BRIAN MCLAREN

We Make the Road by Walking: A Year Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation

This book is organized into fifty-two (plus a few) weekly readings which can each be read aloud in 10 to 12 minutes. They offer a simple curriculum of insightful

continues

reflections and transformative practices. Organized around the traditional church year, these readings give an overview of the whole Bible and guide an individual or a group of friends through a year of rich study, interactive learning, and personal growth. This is a gentle start to opening up a spiritual practice in your life!

WAYNE MULLER

Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives

Wayne Muller uses the tradition of Sabbath to show us how to create an oasis of sacred time within a scheduled, frenetic life. There are stories, poems, and suggestions within *Sabbath* that will help you rest your mind and body, restore a sense of peace and help you encourage that in others. This is a great read!

RACHEL HELD EVANS

Faith Unraveled: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to ask Questions

Rachel Held Evans faced a trial of her own when she began to have doubts about her faith. Raised in a fundamental community in Tennessee, she finds that in order for her faith to survive, it must adapt to change and evolve. Using as an illustration her own spiritual journey from certainty to doubt to faith, Evans challenges you to disentangle your faith from false fundamentals and to trust in a God who is big enough to handle your tough questions. In a changing cultural environment where new ideas seem to threaten the safety and security of the faith, *Faith Unraveled* is a fearlessly honest story of survival.

THOMAS R. HAWKINS

Every Step a Prayer: Walking as Spiritual Practice

While it's common knowledge that walking is good for physical health, many people may never have considered that walking is also good for their spiritual health. In this high-tech, fast-paced world, people long to slow down. Thomas Hawkins lifts up walking as a Christian spiritual practice that can help readers find their way to God. Each of the 6 chapters includes suggestions to help the reader experience prayerful walking, plus reflection questions.

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More great reads for faith formation:

Barbara Brown Taylor

Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith

Learning to Walk in the Dark

Anne Lamott – a favorite of many readers!

Help Thanks Wow: The three essential prayers

Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy

Sara Miles

Take This Bread – the spiritual memoir of a twenty-first-century Christian

Peter Enns

The Sin of Certainty: *Why God Desires Our Trust More Than our Correct Beliefs*

Bruce Feiler

Walking the Bible: *A Journey by Land through the Five Books of Moses*

Marcus Borg

Convictions: *How I Learned What Matters Most*