

A Suggested Reading List

To Complement the Fall 2012
Sermon Series based on
being the *Heart of The Community*

1. Amos 7: 7-9 What is the question to which this is the answer?
2. How do I go about rediscovering a life of faith again for the first time?
3. Is it time for this Christian to change?
4. Why do I need to look at the Bible again?
5. Why do I need to read what someone else says I should read about the Bible?
6. Tell me again, what is the Kingdom?
7. Justice? Isn't that what law courts are all about?



- Each of the titles listed below is a part of the Library of the First United Methodist Church, Madison, Wisconsin. Those marked {LINKCat} are *also* available in one or more of the collections of the South Central Library System. A smaller number, marked DL can *also* be downloaded in digital formats from LINKCat. [Access LINKCat through your local public library] Be sure to note that many of the titles listed below are available locally *only* from our FUMC library.

The FUMC Library
Open Sundays
9:00 to 12:15

100 Philosophy, psychology

155.4 The Moral Intelligence of Children: How to Raise a Moral Child {LINKCat} Col Coles, Robert

A guide for parents and others who work with children; combines stories of children experiencing the struggles of growing up and advice on nurturing character and morality in young children.

158 Walking A Sacred Path : Rediscovering The Labyrinth as a spiritual Move practice {LinkCat}

Denise Moffat says in a brief review that no negative psychological or spiritual upheaval has ever occurred by walking the labyrinth. It has only deepened the insight of the people under stress. It's a place to order the chaos and calm the frightened heart. Dr. Artress has summarized after interviewing thousands of people who have walked the labyrinth.

200 Religion, Bible

201.5 Religion under attack: getting Theology right Lea Leaves, Nigel

In this book Nigel Leaves examines the main critics of religion today -- the new atheist --. He does not confine himself solely to Christianity but also discusses the attack on Islam from both within and outside its borders. Leaves proposes a unique theological response to the crisis of belief. He wrestles religion from extremists and into the hands of reasonable and sane believers. He offers hope to the future direction of religion, because in the absence of a major theological revolution, religions will continue their further decline into either obscurity or fossilized fundamentalism. This not only analyses the current vibrant (and hostile) debate as to the value of religion today, but also offers a workable solution: religion must be rescued by good God-talk

225.9 Paul was not a Christian : the original message of a misunderstood Eis apostle. {LINKCat} Eisenbaum, Pamela

Pamela Eisenbaum, a practicing Jew, teaches at Iliff School of Theology in Denver. Her premise here is a startling one for most Christians: Paul, far from renouncing his Jewish faith and "converting" on the road to Damascus, remained throughout his life a staunch Jew, follower of the Law. And, he preached the Lord Jesus Christ as savior.

226.8 **Re-imagine The World: An introduction to the Parables of Jesus**
Scott, Brandon

In his parables Jesus re-imagines the world. The re-imagined world – the Kingdom of God – presents his followers with a new option for living, one that contrasts with the default world of the everyday. The new world is both terrifying and liberating. In his book the author sets his interpretation of the key parables of Jesus in the context of other things Jesus said and did. The result is a startling and provocative picture of the historical figure and the challenge he presents to contemporary life.

229.8 **Reading Judas: The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity {LINKCat}**
Pagels, Elaine H

Reading Judas is a highly controversial work, not because of its authors, but because of Judas' words. It begins by explaining how Judas was deigned to betray Jesus as part of a divine plan. Yet Judas' gospel reveals over and over his disbelief that a Divine God would request blood sacrifice of any human being, particularly an incarnate son. Since Judas' gospel "... ends as he hands Jesus over to the enemies who will kill him," one wonders about this vicious circle of reasoning.

230 **The Christian Challenge : A Shortened version of On Being a Christian.**
Kung, Hans

Two of Kung's twenty propositions on Being a Christian : Jesus means for modern man a basic model of a view of life and practice of life to be realized in many ways. Both positively and negatively he is in person invitation ("you may" appeal ("you should"), challenge ("you can") for the individual and society He makes possible in the concrete a new basic orientation and basic attitude, new motivations, dispositions, projects, a new background of meaning and a new objective for the Church, too. Jesus must remain the authoritative standard in all things. The Church is credible only when it follows in his way as a provisional serving, guilty, determined Church. At all times practical consequences must be drawn from this for constant internal church reform and for ecumenical understanding.

234 **Becoming a Thinking Christian : If we want Church Renewal We Will**
Cob **have to Renew Thinking in the Church.**
Cobb, John V Jr.

Cobb challenges Christians to think. Committed lay Christians are already theologians; he wants them to realize this and become good theologians. Laypersons are just as capable as professional theologians of intellectual hard work, but they no longer expect the church to ask this of them. Cobb discusses why it is important for Christians to think more.

232.9 **The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering The Truth That Could Change Everything**
McL **McLaren, Brian D**

When Brian McLaren first offered this alternative vision of Christian faith, He ignited a firestorm of praise and condemnation that continues to spread across the religious landscape. To some religious conservatives, McLaren is a dangerous rebel without a doctrinally correct cause. To others though, McLaren is a fresh voice, a welcome antidote to the staleness, superficiality, and negativity of the religious status quo. A wide array of people from around the world, say he has helped them find-for the first time in their lives-a faith that makes sense and rings true.

234.2 **The Speed of Love: an Exploration of Christian Faithfulness in A Technological World**
You **Young, David P**

Technology is the business of breakthroughs – from the wheel to the steam engine to nuclear energy and genetic engineering – taxing, exhilarating, challenging the human mind ... discoveries of how to make things easier, faster, more efficient more probing than before. But is the human race ready to handle it? Where is the Connection between our desire to make technological progress and our desire to be faithful to God? What is the momentum, the direction, the speed – of love?

241.09 **Confronting the Controversies: A Christian Looks at the Tough Issues**
Ham **Hamilton, Adam**

Created from a sermon series by the author, seven chapters include the following issues : separation of church and state, creation and evolution, the death penalty, euthanasia, prayer in public schools, abortion and homosexuality.

240 **Christian moral and devotional theology**

241.53 **Cost of Discipleship**
Bon **Bonhoeffer, Dietrich**

The whole book is a powerful attack on 'easy Christianity' and a warning that in a world such as Bonhoeffer could see coming, faith was not easily attained....Bonhoeffer is a teacher and thinker whose truths were tested in a time of trouble and whose life and death certified to the strength of his desire to follow Christ.

242
Sey **Finding God Between the Lines : New Insights From Familiar Passages and Places**
Seymour, Jody

Listing poetry, short narratives, vignettes and Scripture the author portrays everyday scenes that offer new meaning within the subtleties of well-known Christian themes.

248.4
Mey **Approval Addiction : Overcoming Your Need to Please Everyone First {DL}**
Meyer, Joyce

There is an epidemic of insecurity in society today. Many people suffer from an unhealthy need for attention. They are not capable of feeling good about themselves. The author understands the need for seeking approval to overcome feelings of rejection and low esteem. The good news she says is that there is a cure. God provides all the security anyone needs. Her goal is to provide a pathway toward freedom from

248.4
Law **The Practice of the Presence of God {LINKCat}**
Lawrence, Brother

"My most usual method is this simple attention, an affectionate regard for God to whom I find myself often attached with greater sweetness and delight than that of an infant at the mother's breast, to choose an expression I would call this state 'the bosom of God,' for the inexpressible sweeteners I taste and experience there." This is how Brother Lawrence describes his constant practice of speaking with and reflecting upon God in the midst of mundane tasks to life.

248.3
Row **Responding to God : A Guide to Daily Prayer**
Rowlett, Martha

The questions the author asks – your questions – are important to us: What is prayer? How do I know God hears my prayer? If God knows everything already, why pray? How do I pray? Is there a proper kind of prayer? Do I need o pray in a special way? Is it OK to pray for myself? How can I be open to God's Will? Does prayer make a difference in the world? How do I pray for other people and their needs? The author also includes a guide for daily prayer at the end of each chapter to encourage us to practice the life of prayer.

250-260 Local Christian church and Christian religious orders

252.076 What Does the Lord Require? : Meditations on Major Moral and Social Issues **Kil Killen, James L**

Contemporary life is filled with a host of contentious moral and social issues. How do we as Christians respond to these? The author has chosen to prepare thoughtful meditation on a number of topics, such as religious pluralism, materialism, gender roles, abortion, homosexuality, race relations, economic justice, environmental stewardship suicide, personal integrity, AIDS, war.

259.29 Deadly Spin: An Insurance Company insider speaks out on How Corporate PR is killing Health Care and Deceiving Americans. **Potter, Wendell**

In June 2009 Wendell Potter made national headlines with his scorching testimony before the Senate panel on health care reform. This former senior VP of CIGNA explained how health insurers make promises they have no intention of keeping how they flout regulation designed to protect consumers, and how they skew political debate with multibillion-dollar PR assaults play an insidious role in our political process anywhere that corporate profits are at stake – from climate change to defense policy. Deadly Spin tells us why – and how – we must fight back.

260 Body Politics : Five Practices of the Christian Community Before the Watching World **Yoder, John Howard**

Yoder argues that the original New Testament practice has been today almost entirely lost in most churches. (1) Binding and loosing - moral discernment through dialogue and forgiveness as described in Matthew 18 - is rarely practiced. (2) The sense of the Eucharist as a meal (1 Corinthians 11) where people share their food with one another is rarely practiced. (3) Baptism (Galatians 3:27-28) rarely communicates the profound transcending of social and cultural barriers - between Jew and Gentile, slave and free there is one baptism. (4) In almost every church there are a few so-called "gifted" people who dominate the church while most congregation members are spectators. (5) And it is the rare congregation that truly opens the floor for all congregation members to participate. (Corinthians 14).

261 After Christendom? How the Church is to Behave if Freedom, Justice and a Christian Nation are Bad Ideas **Hauerwas, Stanley**

Hauerwas challenges commonly held conceptions about how the church should interact with a democratic society. He then offers an alternative paradigm for the church, one that involves the discipline of a community to help people learn to worship God. In the last two chapters, Hauerwas explores some concrete practices that should accompany such an understanding of the church. Whether you agree with it or not, this book will certainly make you think about the way Christians should live in a democracy.

261 Mac **Everything must change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope**
McLaaren, Brian D {LINKCat}

The overall arc of this book is that we are in desperate need of a new (or perhaps recovered) framing story. We learn of "four deep dysfunctions" of the current dominant framing story in the world. (1) environmental breakdown - prosperity crisis, (2) expanding gap between wealthy and poor - equity crisis, (3) danger of cataclysmic war - security crisis, (4) failure of world religions - spirituality crisis (p.5). And so the current framing story, which is the force through which people find meaning and direction, is currently framed, in Brian's purview, by these four crises. We are warned that this is an invitation to seeing the world in a new way and thus correspondingly encounter and hear Jesus in new ways. From the outset Brian is extremely clear that because we don't live in a black in white world and these issues are extremely complex; more thinking and questioning and responding is needed and so several resources are included in the back to dig behind his writing.

261.1 Wai **Rediscovering Values : On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street**
Wallis, Jim

Getting back to "the way things were" is not an option. It is time we take our economic uncertainty and use it to find some moral clarity. Too often we have been ruled by the maxims that greed is good, it's all about me and I want it now. Those can be challenged only with some of our best values : enough is enough and thinking , we are in it together and thinking not just for tomorrow but for future generations. the solutions to our problems will be found only as individuals, families, friends, churches , mosques, synagogues and entire Communities wrestle with the question of values together.

261.2 Med **Muslims, Christians and Jews : gaining understanding and building relationships**
Medaris, Carl

"A guide to gaining understanding and building connections and relationships." – Provided by publisher

261.7 Cro **God and Empire : Jesus Against Rome Then and Now**
Crossan, John Dominic {LINKCat}

"At the heart of the Bible is a moral and ethical call to fight unjust superpowers whether they are from Babylon, Rome, or even America. ...Crossan reveals what the Bible has to say about land and economy, violence and retribution, justice and Peace, and ultimately redemption. In contrast to the oppressive Roman military occupation of the first century he examines the meaning of the non-violent Kingdom Of God prophesized by Jesus and by Paul to the early Christian churches

261.7 **More than Witnesses : How a Small Group of Missionaries aided Korea's**
Ste **Democratic Revolution**
 Strentze, Jim

This book is a rare collection of moving, first-hand accounts by westerners, both men and women, with broad knowledge, love and respect for the Korean people whose struggle for democracy and human rights in the 70s and 80s they supported and shared.

261.8 **Food & Faith : Justice, Joy and Daily Bread**
Sch **Berry, Wendell, Barker, Dan, Schut, Michael**

With a variety of voices the authors prompt us to explore the meaning of our meals, examining basic issues related to food: its sacramental character, its connections to health, the demise of the family farm, the human and ecological impacts of industrial agribusiness questions of genetically modified organisms and world hunger. It's time for individuals and communities to bring about a healthier and more equitable world through the foods we eat.

261.87 **Choosing Against War : A Christian View {LINKCat}**
Rot **Roth, John D**

Theologically sophisticated, readable book about pacifism as a response to war. The book balances careful theological thought, effective stories, an historical survey and questions of practical application. The author faces head-on the difficult question of how to be a Christian and a citizen.

262 **The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus.**
Mey **Meyers, Robin**

The Underground Church invites Christians to encounter a radical Jesus, to practice a subversive way of life, and to move beyond belief to love. This is no longer merely Church – rather it is a movement that many are aching to join!" Marcus Borg.

268.4 **Cultivating Fruitfulness : Five Weeks of Prayer and Practice**
Sch **for Congregations**
 Schnase, Robert C

Radical Hospitality. Passionate Worship; Intentional Faith Development. Risk-Taking Mission and Service. Extravagant Generosity. Thee Five Practices capture the core ministries in our congregations. The words help us understand our purpose and mission as Disciples of Christ in the world. Individually or with other households in our congregation we journey through five weeks of prayer and practice.

270 Historical, geographical persons treatment of Christianity

270.8 The Future of Faith {LINKCat} Cox, Harvey

For the author, "To be a Christian meant to live in his Spirit, embrace his hope, and to follow him in the work that he had begun" (p.5). So, where are we today? "We stand on the beautiful threshold of a new chapter in the Christian story - Christians on five continents are shaking off the residues of the second phase (the Age of Belief) and negotiating a bumpy transition into a fresh era for which a name has not yet been coined. I would like to call it the Age of the Spirit"

Where does he conclude? "A religion based on subscribing to mandatory beliefs is no longer viable" "The wind of the Spirit is blowing. One indication is the upheaval that is shaking and renewing Christianity. Faith, rather than beliefs, is once again becoming its defining quality"

275.95 Bethlehem Besieged : Stories of Hope in Times of Trouble {LINKCat} Rah RHEB,

Once again "the hopes and fears of all the years" seem to focus on Bethlehem. Its painful history, stubborn hopefulness, and indefatigable spirit shine through the pages of this remarkable and deeply troubling book. It is required reading for anyone who wants to understand the Israeli-Palestine conflict and its importance for the whole world. (Marcus Borg)

INTERLUDE

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.

And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;

it tolls for thee

John Donne

300 Social sciences, sociology, social interactions, change

305.5 Days of Destruction Days of Revolt {LINKCat} Hed Hedges, Chris

The devastation on Pine Ridge, in Camden, in southern West Virginia and in the Florida produce fields has worked its way upward. The corporate leviathan has migrated with the steady and ominous thud of destruction from the outer sacrifice zones to devour what remains. The vaunted American dream, the idea that life will get better, that progress is inevitable If we obey the rules and work hard, that material prosperity is assured, has been replaced by a hard and bitter truth. The American dream, we now know, is a lie. We will all be sacrificed. The virus of corporate abuse – the perverted belief that only corporate profit matters – has spread to outsource our jobs, cut the budgets of our schools, close our libraries, and plague our communities with foreclosures and unemployment. This virus has brought with it a security and surveillance state that seeks to keep us all on a reservation. No one is immune. The suffering of the other, of the Native American, the African American in the inner city, the unemployed coal miner, or the Hispanic produce picker is universal. He went first. We are next. The indifference we showed to the plight of the underclass, in Biblical terms our ‘neighbor’, haunts us. We failed them, and in doing so we failed ourselves. We were accomplices in our own demise. Revolt is all we have left. It is the only hope.”

306.85 The Shelter of Each Other : Rebuilding our Families {LINKCat} Pip Pipher, Mary

The author writes of the American family trying to help readers see the desperate realities of the family and move the reader to find the courage to protect, and to nurture, and revivify the families we cherish, and to resist the worst of the culture around us and to substitute the best of themselves

320.973 Healing the Heart of Democracy : The Courage to Create a Pal Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit Palmer, Parker J

This important book comes at a time when a prophetic and deeply loving voice needs to call to America from its edge and at the same time its center regarding the ancient truth of how we have ever been remarkable, through the beauty, tragedy and capacity of our hearts Palmer loves America enough to be honest and gentle with her and us.

610 We carry each other : Getting through Life's toughest times, what to Lan to say, what to do, how to care with compassion. Langshur, Eric

The authors write to give us a compassionate, caring and ultimately inspirational look at what we do and say when a loved one or friend is facing serious illness or loss, and that friend or loved one needs support, and humor, and our love.

- Car
Liv** **Living Faith {LINKCat}**
Carter, Jimmy
- For thirty years Jimmy Carter spent part of Sunday mornings reading from scripture and sharing his personal faith with neighbors, friends, visitors to his hometown of Plains, Georgia who have guided, and challenged his spiritual development .
- 956.94
Cha** **Blood Brothers**
Chacour,Ellas
- Blood Brothers* is the story of Elias Chacour, a Palestinian Christian. His life story extends the history of Christianity in the Middle East with a new perspective on Bible prophecy and the Zionist movement. The book addresses such controversial questions as: What is the true root of conflict between Palestians and Jews? What behind-the-scenes politics touched off the turmoil in the Middle East? What role did Britain play? And America? What does Bible prophecy really have to say? Can bitter enemies ever be reconciled?
- 956.94
Cha** **We belong to the Land : The story of a Palestinian Israeli
who lives for Peace & Reconciliation**
Elias Chacour and Jensen, Mary
- The conflict of being a clergyman and a Palestinian Arab in Israel forms the backdrop for the author's story as he tries to serve as a spokesperson for fellow Palestinians against what they perceive as injustices imposed on them by a Jewish state.
- UMW
230.51
Cof** **Letters to a Young Doubter**
Coffin, William S
- In an exchange of letters over the months of an imagined friend, a bright, young college student, answering his questions and giving his typically sage advice about problems of faith, the difficulties of personal life, and the ever-more confusing and complex problems of today's world. In these letters, he demonstrates that religious faith despite doubts is far stronger than one without doubts.
- UMW
241.4
Gre** **If You Know Who You Are...You'll know what to do :
Living with integrity**
Greer, Robert J
- From the back cover: "This is a book about integrity. Integrity means doing the right thing when we know it's the right thing to do. It means knowing who we are, and being true to the lives to which we have been called. Integrity is about who we are and how we live that out both someone's watching and when there is not a soul in sight.

**UMW
248.86
Bro** **Breathe : Finding Freedom To Thrive in Relationships After
Childhood Sexual Abuse
Bromley, Nicole Braddock**

Childhood sexual abuse is suffocating thousands of victims across our Nation. With one in three women and one in six men experiencing Some form of sexual abuse or assault, our world is full of survivors Longing to be healed. The author, a fellow survivor, guides abuse Victims and those who love them from muffled existence to Exuberant life.

**UMW
250.22
Sto** **Forgotten Girls :Stories of Hope and Courage
Strom, Kay**

All over he world, women and girls face starvation, displacement, Illiteracy, sexual exploitation and abuse. These are stories of deep pain and suffering, inspiring courage and incredible hope, of girls who have discovered their value in God's eyes in the midst of cultures that have rejected them.

**UMW
259.4
Owe** **Caring for Mother : A Daughter's Long Goodbye
Owens, Virginia Stern**

This book will be a helpful companion to those who have recently assumed the role of caregiver, helping them anticipate some of the emotional turbulence the will encounter along the way.

**UMW
261.87
Law** **The Wolf Shall Dwell With the Lamb : A spirituality for Leadership
in a Multicultural Community
Law,Rric H.F.**

From the back cover: In this book on multiculturalism the author uses a combination of theology and cultural anthropology to explore why people of certain cultures – most notably whites of Northern European origin -- tend to **dominate** in multicultural situations, driving those of other races and ethnic groups to silent rage and outright rebellion.”

**UMW
287
Goo** **Being a Christian in the Wesleyan tradition :
Belonging/Believing/Living/Growing
Gooch, John O**

The author provides an accessible overview of what it means to be a United Methodist Christian in these early days of the 21st century. Both adults new to United Methodism and lifelong United Methodists will appreciate his easy-to-understand description of our unique core beliefs. Not only that, but Gooch concludes with an invitation into the Social Principals that will help even the newest United Methodist claim our heritage of strong social witness.

**UMW
956.053
Wil**

**It's Easier to Reach Heaven Than the End of the Street :
A Jerusalem Memoir
Williams, Emma**

In August 2000 Emma Williams arrived in Jerusalem with her three small children to join her husband and to work as a doctor. For the next three years she witnessed an astonishing series of events in which hundreds of thousands of lives, including her own, were turned upside down. The book brings to life the realities of the Palestinian--Israeli conflict.

**UMW
986.6
Sai**

**End of the Spear : a True Story
Saint, Steve**

Steve and his wife make the difficult choice to leave behind a comfortable life in the U.S. and return to the jungle to live among the Waudani people

**LL
248.82
Bue**

**Growing as Jesus Grew
Buerge, Jane**

A child tries to understand the process of growing up from a Christian point of view.

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**The Boy Who Couldn't Talk
Hathaway, Lulu**

A young Burmese boy who never says a word or pays attention to anyone forms a special attachment with a Christian boy who befriends a young Burmese boy who never says a word or pays attention to anyone. The doctors can't find anything wrong with San Lin. Yet there must be something the matter. Though he looks to be six or seven years old, he never says a word. Whether he's forgotten how to talk, or whether he just won't, nobody knows. His friendship helps him find his voice and new friends.

if you do not find a title you want to read on the above list additional titles can be found in the general subject headings below. Approximately sixty books have been used in at least one adult education programs in the past twenty-five years. Most can be accessed through our catalog. Check items under one or both of the following subject headings:

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UMW Reading Program**