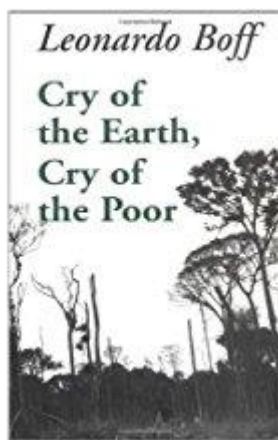


White Bear Lake United Methodist Church

Favorites from Pastor Bill

A great way to get to know our new senior pastor, Bill Eaves, is through reading! Bill is an avid, eclectic, and discerning reader – and that’s about the highest praise your librarian can offer. Bill has provided us with a list of some of his favorites. There’s everything from fiction to ecology, spirituality to murder mystery. Give one (or many) of these a try, and let Bill know what you think.

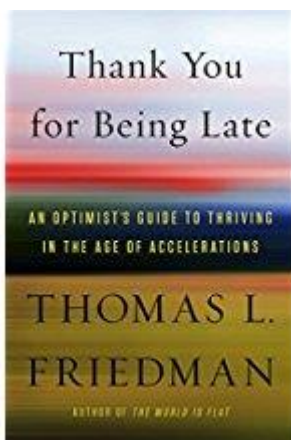
Nonfiction



Find it on the library shelf at:
17 Bof

Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. Leonardo Boff. 1997.
[Environment/Social Justice]

"Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor" links the spirit of liberation theology with the urgent challenge of ecology. Focusing on the threatened Amazon of his native Brazil, Boff traces the ties that bind the fate of the rain forests with the fate of the Indians and the poor of the land.

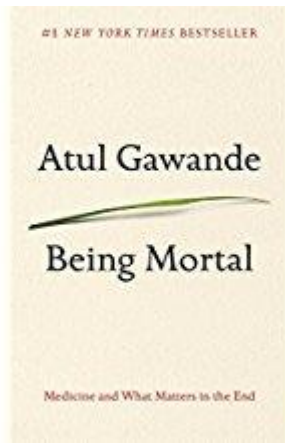


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11 Fri

Thank You For Being Late. Thomas L. Friedman. 2016.
[Contemporary Society]

Friedman’s thesis: to understand the twenty-first century, you need to understand that the planet’s three largest forces - Moore’s law (technology), the Market (globalization), and Mother Nature (climate change and biodiversity loss) - are accelerating all at once. These accelerations are transforming five key realms: the workplace, politics, geopolitics, ethics, and community. With his trademark vitality, wit, and optimism, Friedman shows that we can overcome the multiple stresses of an age of accelerations—if we slow down, if we dare to be late and use the time to reimagine work, politics, and community.

Even if technology and globalization make your eyes glaze over, Friedman’s personal stories of how they have affected his life will make sense and help you understand more about our world.



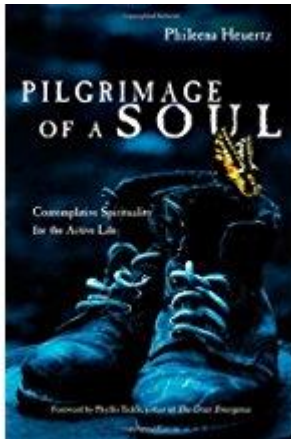
Find it on the library shelf at:
12 Gaw

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters In the End.

Atul Gawande. 2014. [Health Care/Aging]

The goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.

Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified.

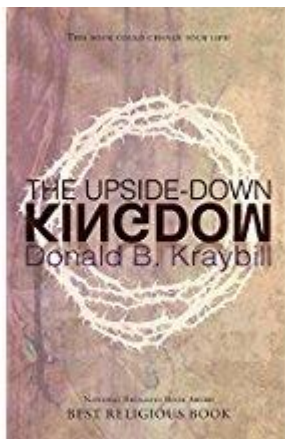


Find it on the library shelf at:
3 Heu

Pilgrimage of a Soul. Philenna Heuertz. 2010.

[Spirituality]

Activists often see contemplation as a luxury, the sort of thing that must necessarily be laid aside in the quest to see the world set aright. But in *Pilgrimage of a Soul* we see that contemplation is essential --not only to a life of sustained commitment to the justice and righteousness of God, but to the growth in faith and discipleship that the Holy Spirit beckons each of us to. Tracing seven movements from a kind of sleepfulness to a kind of wakefulness, Heuertz shows us that life is a journey that repeats itself as we are led by Christ deeper and deeper into our true selves and a truer knowledge of God.



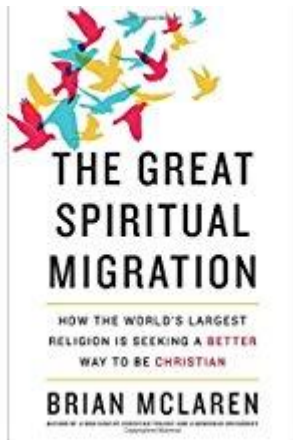
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8 Kra

The Upside-Down Kingdom. Donald B. Kraybill. 2011.

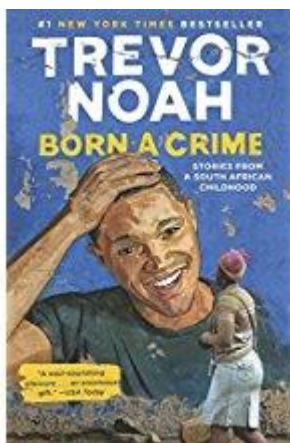
[Theology/Christian Life]

The kingdom of God announced by Jesus appeared upside-down in first-century Palestine. Jesus wins by serving and triumphs by losing. Today, God's way still looks upside-down as it breaks into diverse cultures around the world. Kraybill studies the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament and puts them into the context of the Hebrew religion of the time, helping us understand why Jesus' view of the kingdom of God was - and is - so revolutionary.

I only recently discovered this book, but it helped me understand Jesus and Sermon on the Mount in new and surprising ways.



Find it on the library shelf at:
7 McL



Find it on the library shelf at:
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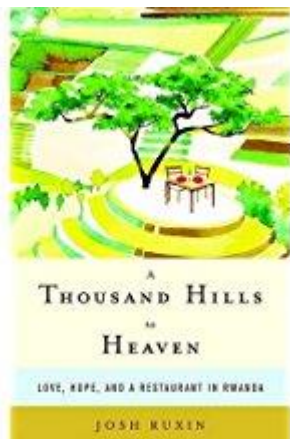
The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian. Brian D. McLaren. 2016. [Theology/Spirituality]

Brian McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that— notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun. Drawing from his work as global activist, pastor, and public theologian, McLaren challenges readers to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead, to embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the church.

Born A Crime: Tales from a South African Childhood. Trevor Noah. 2016. [Biography]

Well-known comedian Trevor Noah was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

The host of Comedy Central's The Daily Show is more than just a funny guy. His own life story is a study in the meaning of race and class, and his telling of it is unforgettable.



Find it on the library shelf at:
4 Rux

A Thousand Hills to Heaven: Love, Hope, and a Restaurant in Rwanda. Josh Ruxin. 2013. [Biography]

Newlyweds Josh and Alissa were at a party and received a challenge that shook them to the core: do you think you can really make a difference? Especially in a place like Rwanda, where the scars of genocide linger and poverty is rampant? While Josh worked hard bringing food and health care to the country's rural villages, Alissa was determined to put their foodie expertise to work. The couple opened Heaven, a gourmet restaurant overlooking Kigali, which became an instant success. Remarkably, they found that between helping youth marry their own local ingredients with gourmet recipes (and mix up "the best guacamole in Africa") and teaching them how to help themselves, they created

much-needed jobs while showing that genocide's survivors really could work together.

Although this book is about an American family living in Rwanda, it helped me to understand the promise and the perils of international development and how to be more discerning about which development methods I want to support.

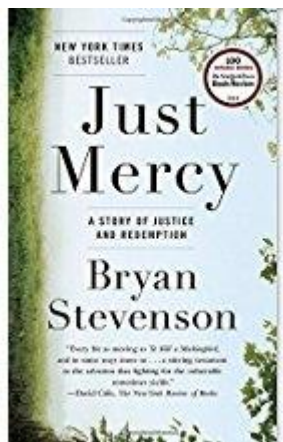


Find it on the library shelf at:
4 Rux

Suffering. Dorothee Soelle. 1975. [Theology/Spiritual Life]

"My heart is torn with anguish, and the terrors of death come upon me. Fear and trembling overwhelm me and I shudder from head to foot." Ps 55:2-5.

To this day people ask questions that can neither be answered nor dismissed. Why must one suffer? Can pain possibly have any meaning? Should one learn from suffering, as the Judeo-Christian tradition urges? Dorothee Soelle wrote her meditation on suffering at the end of the Vietnam War. She states, "I am writing this out of the bitterness of those who, in the midst of new American bombing and demonstrations against it, ask themselves, 'Why isn't our outcry doing any good? Is there any use protesting? Why have we found no allies?'" Against this backdrop, Soelle considers the age-old question of suffering with clear sight and without facile excuses.

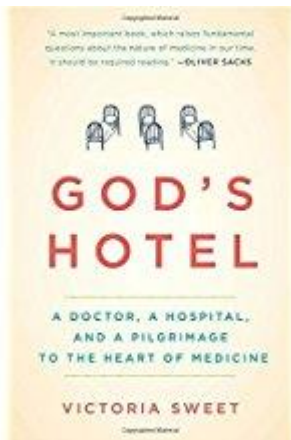


Find it on the library shelf at:
UMW Ste

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption. Bryan Stevenson. 2014 [Social Justice]

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.

This may be the most important book on my list. Every American should read it. Stevenson's blending of history, the law, and his own experience has stayed with me like few other books I have read.



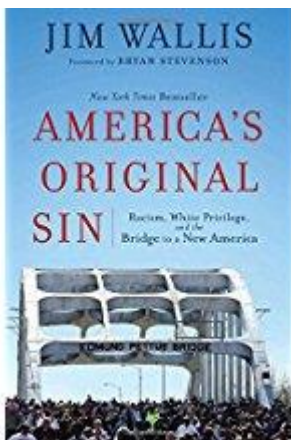
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4 Swe

God's hotel: a doctor, a hospital, and a pilgrimage to the heart of medicine. Victoria Sweet. 2012. [Health Care/Biography]

San Francisco's Laguna Honda Hospital is the last almshouse in the country, a descendant of the Hôtel-Dieu (God's hotel) that cared for the sick in the Middle Ages. Ballet dancers and rock musicians, professors and thieves—"anyone who had fallen, or, often, leapt, onto hard times" and needed extended medical care—ended up here. So did Victoria Sweet, who came for two months and stayed for twenty years.

Laguna Honda, relatively low-tech but human-paced, gave Sweet the opportunity to practice a kind of attentive medicine that has almost vanished. Gradually, the place transformed the way she understood her work.

I read this book during the last year of my father's life, while he was in a memory care facility. It helped me to understand health care from the side of a professional who was seeking to be a healer in every way.



Find it on the library shelf at:
13 Wal

America's original sin: racism, white privilege, and the bridge to a new America. Jim Wallis. 2016. [Social Justice]

"It's time we right this unacceptable wrong," says bestselling author and leading Christian activist Jim Wallis. Fifty years ago, Wallis was driven away from his faith by a white church that considered dealing with racism to be taboo. In *America's Original Sin*, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians -- particularly white Christians -- urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.

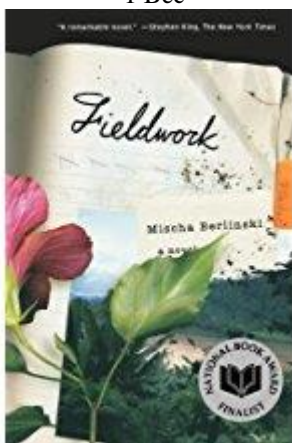
Fiction



Jakob the Liar. Jurek Becker. 1969.

Set in an unnamed German-occupied ghetto, the story centers on an unlikely hero, Jakob Heym, who accidentally overhears news of vital importance: the Russians are advancing on a city three hundred miles away. As Jakob's tidings rekindle hope and the promise of liberation, he feels compelled to elaborate. Forming a protective bond with a young orphan girl, Jakob becomes caught in his own web of optimistic lies.

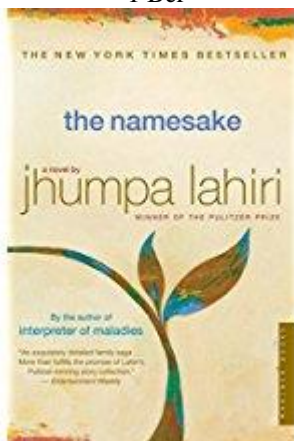
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1 Bec



Fieldwork. Mischa Berlinski. 2007.

When his girlfriend takes a job in Thailand, Mischa Berlinski goes along for the ride, planning to enjoy himself and work as little as possible. But one evening a fellow expatriate tips him off to a story: a charismatic American anthropologist, Martiya van der Leun, has been found dead--a suicide--in the Thai prison where she was serving a life sentence for murder. Curious at first, Mischa is soon immersed in the details of her story. This brilliant, haunting novel expands into a mystery set among the Thai hill tribes, whose way of life became a battleground for the missionaries and the scientists living among them.

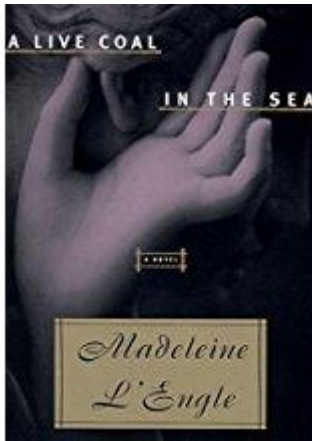
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1 Ber



The Namesake. Jhumpa Lahiri. 2003.

On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name.

Find it on the library shelf at:
1 Lah

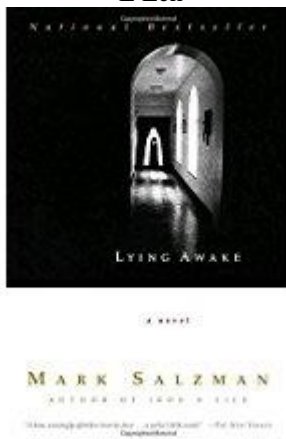


A Live Coal in the Sea. Madeleine L'Engle. 1997.

An account of one family's struggles with loyalty, faith, commitment, and identity focuses on the central character of Dr. Camilla Dickinson, who faces a multigenerational crisis when her granddaughter confronts an old family scandal. The prequel volume, *Camilla*, is also available at E Len.

Although A Wrinkle in Time is her best known book, this one helped me to grasp the real meaning of grace.

Find it on the library shelf at:
E Len



Lying Awake. Mark Salzman. 2000.

Sister John's cloistered life of peace and prayer has been electrified by ever more frequent visions of God's radiance, leading her toward a deep religious ecstasy. Her life and writings have become examples of devotion. Yet her visions are accompanied by shattering headaches that compel Sister John to seek medical help. When her doctor tells her an illness may be responsible for her gift, Sister John faces a wrenching choice: to risk her intimate glimpses of the divine in favor of a cure, or to continue her visions with the knowledge that they might be false-and might even cost her her life.

Find it on the library shelf at:
1 Sal

I discovered this book 15 years ago and it remains my favorite novel. I even convinced Sherry to use it with her college students, and they love it too.

August, 2017