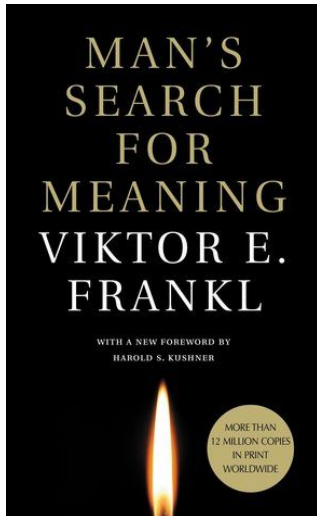


SOUTHMINSTER FIRST TUESDAY BOOK GROUP 2020-2021

The [Southminster Presbyterian Church](#) First Tuesday Book Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, on Zoom or in Room 7, see [calendar](#) for details.



July 7: *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl

Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Between 1942 and 1945 Frankl labored in four different camps, including Auschwitz, while his parents, brother, and pregnant wife perished. Based on his own experience and the experiences of others he treated later in his practice, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose. Frankl's theory—known as logotherapy, from the Greek word *logos* ("meaning")—holds that our primary drive in life is not pleasure, as Freud maintained, but the discovery and pursuit of what we personally find meaningful.

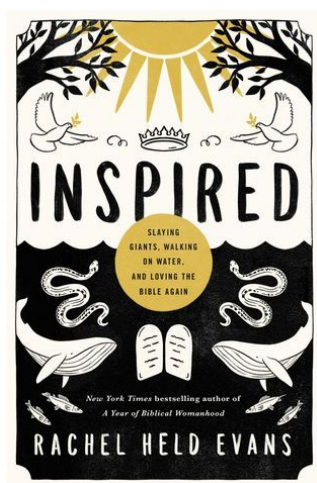
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August 4: *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo

In this breakout book, Ijeoma Oluo explores the complex reality of today's racial landscape—from white privilege and police brutality to systemic discrimination and the Black Lives Matter movement—offering straightforward clarity that readers need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide.

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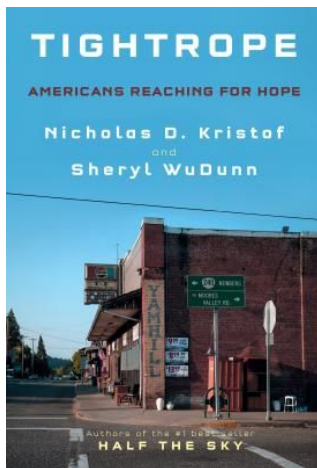


September 1: *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving That Bible Again* by Rachel Held-Evans

Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and interpretations, retelling them through memoir, poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and screenplay. Undaunted by the Bible's most difficult passages, Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.

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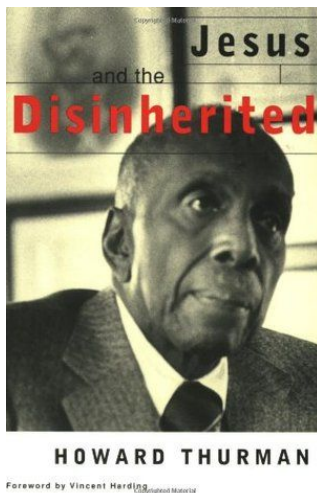
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**October 6: Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope
by Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn**

The Pulitzer Prize-winning authors of the acclaimed, best-selling *Half the Sky* now issue a plea--deeply personal and told through the lives of real Americans--to address the crisis in working-class America, while focusing on solutions to mend a half century of governmental failure. "A deft and uniquely credible exploration of rural America, and of other left-behind pockets of our country. One of the most important books I've read on the state of our disunion."—Tara Westover, author of *Educated*

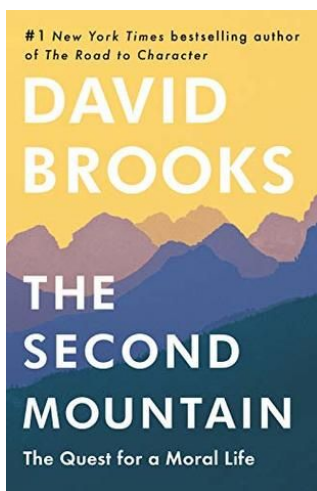
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November 3: Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman

In this classic theological treatise, the acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman (1900–81) demonstrates how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. Jesus is a partner in the pain of the oppressed and the example of His life offers a solution to ending the descent into moral nihilism. Hatred does not empower—it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

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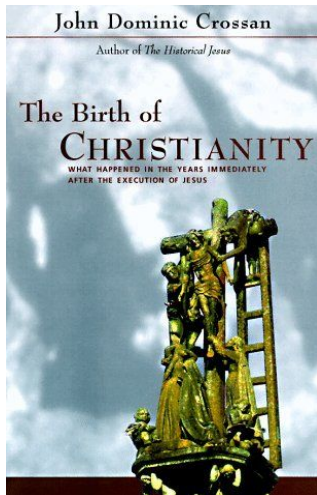


**December 1: Second Mountain: Quest for Moral Life
by David Brooks**

Most of us, over the course of our lives, will make four big commitments: to a spouse and family, to a vocation, to a philosophy or faith, and to a community. Our personal fulfillment depends on how well we choose and execute these commitments. In *The Committed Life*, David Brooks looks at people who have lived joyous, committed lives, and who have embraced the necessity of dependence. He gathers their wisdom on how to choose a partner, how to pick a vocation, how to live out a philosophy, and how we can begin to integrate our commitments into one overriding purpose.

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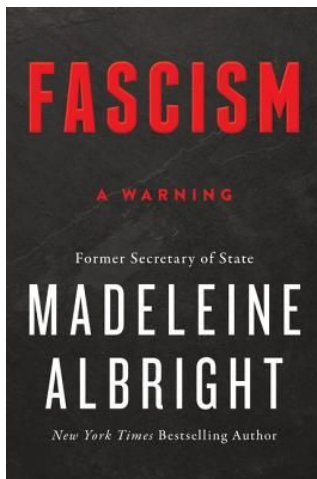
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January 5: ***The Birth of Christianity* by John Dominic Crossan**

In this long-awaited companion to his landmark *The Historical Jesus*, John Dominic Crossan, the world's foremost expert on the historical Jesus, explores the lost years of earliest Christianity, those immediately following the execution of Jesus. He establishes the contextual setting by an interdisciplinary combination of anthropological, historical, and archaeological approaches. He identifies the textual sources by a literary analysis of the earliest discernible layers within our present gospels, both inside and outside the New Testament. Ground-breaking and brilliantly crafted, *The Birth of Christianity* is an indispensable addition to our understanding of the origins of the Christian faith.

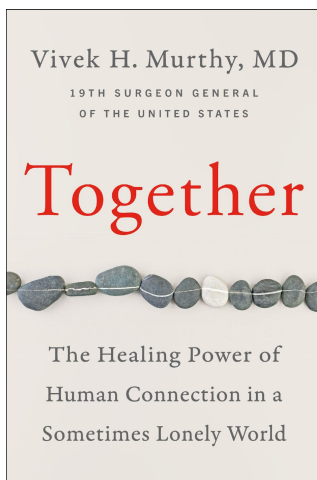
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February 2: ***Fascism, A Warning* by Madeleine Albright**

A personal and urgent examination of Fascism in the twentieth century and how its legacy shapes today's world, written by one of America's most admired public servants, the first woman to serve as U.S. secretary of state. A Fascist, observes Madeleine Albright, "is someone who claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is utterly unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use violence and whatever other means are necessary to achieve the goals he or she might have."

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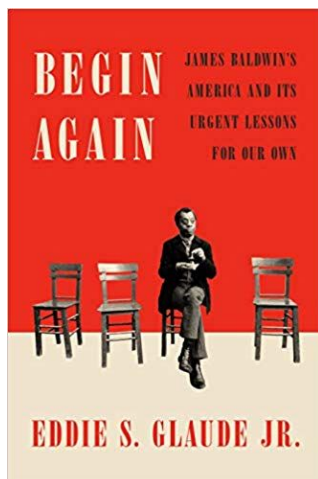


March 2: ***Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World* by H. Murthey, M.D.**

In this groundbreaking book, Murthy argues that loneliness is the underpinning to the current crisis in mental wellness and is responsible for the upsurge in suicide, the opioid epidemic, the overuse of psych meds, the over-diagnosing and pathologizing of emotional and psychological struggle. The good news is that social connection is innate and a cure for loneliness. In *Together*, the 19th Surgeon General will address the importance of community and connection and offer viable and actionable solutions to this overlooked epidemic.

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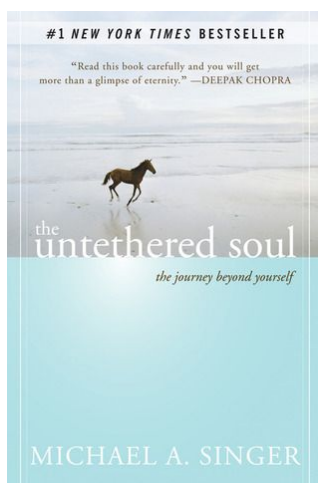


April 6: **Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own** by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

James Baldwin grew disillusioned by the failure of the civil rights movement to force America to confront its lies about race. In the era of Trump, what can we learn from his struggle?

"Searing, provocative, and ultimately hopeful . . . *Begin Again* challenges, illuminates, and points us toward if not a more perfect union then at least a more just one."--Jon Meacham

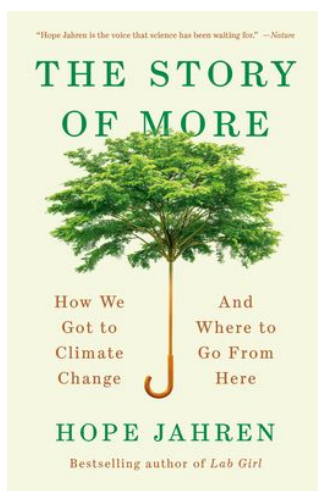
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May 4: **The Untethered Soul: The Journey Beyond Self** by Michael A. Singer

Whether this is your first exploration of inner space, or you've devoted your life to the inward journey, this book will transform your relationship with yourself and the world around you. You'll discover what you can do to put an end to the habitual thoughts and emotions that limit your consciousness. By tapping into traditions of meditation and mindfulness, author and spiritual teacher Michael A. Singer shows how the development of consciousness can enable us all to dwell in the present moment and let go of painful thoughts and memories that keep us from achieving happiness and self-realization.

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June 1: **The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where We Go From Here** by Hope Jahren

From the bestselling author of *Lab Girl* comes a slim, urgent missive on the defining issue of our time: here is Hope Jahren on climate change, our timeless pursuit of more, and how the same human ambition that got us here can also be our salvation. Jahren is an award-winning geobiologist, a brilliant writer, and one of the seven billion people with whom we share this earth. *The Story of More* is her impassioned open letter to humanity as we stand at the crossroads of survival and extinction.

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