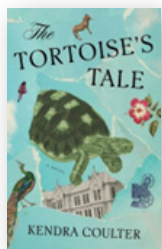


# winter READING LIST

Continue your learning from recent and upcoming sermon series or read for fun with these recommendations from our pastors, Creation Care & Inclusion teams, and Messiah's Book Club:

## Creation Care



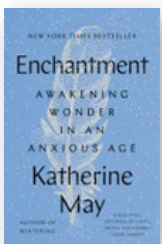
***The Tortoise's Tale* by Kendra Coulter** — A century of American history unfolds through the eyes of a giant tortoise with a heightened awareness for live music, the location of edible flowers, and the nuances of human behavior. A whimsical exploration of humanity's journey, it calls us to recognize life's interconnectedness and the possibility of healing.

***World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments* by Aimee**

**Nezhukumatathil** — A lyrical collection of essays on the wonders of the natural world and the lessons its creatures offer. Interweaving a woman's search for home with vivid portraits of animals and plants, this natural history will captivate nature lovers and readers drawn to thoughtful, introspective writing.



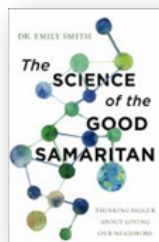
## Inclusion



***Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age* by Katherine May** — Amid the grind of constant change—news cycles, social media, and divided families — this author leads us on a journey to rediscover wonder in the natural world. Moving through earth, water, fire, and air, she reveals the quiet traces of magic found when we choose to look.

***The Science of the Good Samaritan: Thinking Bigger about Loving Our Neighbors* by Dr. Emily Smith**

Loving your neighbor isn't just a nice idea — it's one of Jesus's most important commands. Dr. Smith will transform your understanding of this instruction and help you live it out in practical, everyday ways by sharing fascinating stories of faith at work in the Bible, in her life, and in the lives of others.



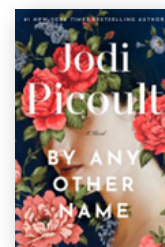
***Where Rivers Part: A Story of My Mother's Life* by Kao Kalia Yang**

— This is not only a personal account of resilience and survival but also a powerful look into Laos's Secret War and the lived experiences of the Hmong people. This author excavates the plight of many refugees, who suffer silently and are often overlooked as one of the essential foundations of this country.

## Messiah Book Club

Check out the Messiah Women's Book Club! They meet once a month on Sundays from 4-5:30 pm in Heritage Hall (dates below). All book lovers are welcome!

***By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult** — (January 18 read) Told in intertwining timelines, this book is a sweeping tale of ambition, courage, and desire centering on two women who are determined to create something beautiful despite the prejudices they face. Should a writer do whatever it takes to see her story live on...no matter the cost? This novel, rooted in historical sources, ensures the name Emilia Bassano will no longer be forgotten.



***The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher** — (February 15 read) A novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune — an unlikely friendship that changed the world. This is the story of two different, yet equally formidable, passionate, and committed women, and the way in which their singular friendship helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.

***The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar** — (March 15 read) While clearing out her New York brownstone, a Hollywood auctioneer discovers what she thinks is her famous grandmother's diary. But the journal actually belongs to Johanna Bonger — Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law, who inherited his paintings. A young widow with a baby in 19th-century Paris, barely speaking the language and with no means of support, she nonetheless introduced van Gogh's legacy to the world.



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