

## **Arbor Covenant Church**

### **Covenant Women Booklist**

**2019**



#### **Amanda F's Picks**

##### **White Fragility by Robin Deangelo**

This has been a transformative book for me as I explore my own privilege and racism. I have been so challenged by this book.

##### **When Everything Changed by Gail Collins**

Collins is a favorite author of mine, and this narrative of women's rights in the workplace have helped me understand a pattern of misogyny I have experienced in my education and work life. I was inspired by the stories of intelligent and brave women who have gone before me.

##### **A Path Appears by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn**

Kristof and WuDunn have expertly shared amazing stories of real people from all over the world who are contributing to this world in beautiful ways and how we can be a part of the beauty if we pay attention to who could use a little help.

##### **Saints for All Occasions by J. Courtney Sullivan**

I read this book very quickly probably because I was so interested in the story. Following the journey of two sisters from Ireland to the US in the fifties. It is a story of family and faith.

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#### **Amanda P's Picks**

##### **The Glass Ocean by Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, Karen White**

The lives and loves of three remarkable women—two in the past, one in the present—and the tragic final voyage of the HMS Lusitania.

##### **In Another Time by Caroline Leech**

A glowing story of friendship, growth, and a steadfast first love, as teenage Maisie negotiates the forests of the heart and of World War II Scotland with equal determination (Elizabeth Wein)

##### **The Retreat by Mark Edwards**

This story had everything I love in a mystery – a small town with secrets, a gloomy, isolated setting that's potentially haunted, a legend involving a spooky old woman, who lives in the woods, and steals children, and at its center, the mystery of a young girl, Lily, who presumably drowned two years prior.

**Not Even Bones by Rebecca Schaefer**

A dark fantasy about a girl who sells magical body parts on the black market — until she's betrayed.

**The Impossible Girl by Lydia Kang**

"A cat-and-mouse story of intrigue, set in 1850 and featuring a strong-willed female protagonist striving to stay one step ahead of an unknown foe who would murder her for profit

**Christmas Sisters by Sarah Morgan**

The McBride sisters all have different reasons for finding the holiday season challenging, but their adoptive mother is determined this year will be different.

**Contagion by Erin Bowman**

A twisting, turning, edge-of-your-seat blend of science fiction, thriller, and horror.

This pulse-pounding, hair-raising, utterly terrifying novel is the first in a duology from the critically acclaimed author of the Taken trilogy.

**Lights on the Sea by Miguel Reina**

Wildly imaginative, deeply poignant, and entirely unexpected, *Lights on the Sea* sweeps readers away on a journey of fate, acceptance, redemption, and survival against the most rewarding of odds.

**What the Woods Keep by Katya De Becerra T**

The stunning debut of Katya de Becerra, who combines mystery, science fiction, and dark fantasy in a twisty story that will keep you mesmerized right up to the final page.

**Heartless by Marissa Meyer**

Long before she was the terror of Wonderland, she was just a girl who wanted to fall in love.

An Alice in Wonderland prequel from the #1 bestselling author of *The Lunar Chronicles*.

**The Other Woman by Sandie Jones**

Psychological suspense at its most addictive, with a shocker of an ending.

**Baby Teeth by Zoje Stage**

A battle of wills between mother and daughter reveals the frailty and falsehood of familial bonds

**The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater**

Every year, Blue Sargent stands next to her clairvoyant mother as the soon-to-be dead walk past. Blue never sees them—until this year, when a boy emerges from the dark and speaks to her.

**Ready Player One by Ernest Cline**

*Ready Player One* takes place in the not-so-distant future—the world has turned into a very bleak place, but luckily there is OASIS, a virtual reality world that is a vast online utopia.

**Lies by T.M. Logan**

Outstanding and very well-written debut psychological thriller. The book was so gripping I genuinely found it hard to put down. (KL Slater)



## Ann-Britt K's Picks

### Library Book by Susan Orleans

In 1986 the public library in LA burned and this is Orleans story about this.

### Educated by Tara Westover

Brought up in a dysfunctional family in Idaho she struggles with loving her family but having to suffer abuse by a sibling and no one taking her seriously. She eventually teaches herself to read and goes on to college and to England for her PhD. This is a true story,  
(Ann-Britt, Elrene, Kris, Janis, Ruth)

### Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

A young girl is left to fare by herself among the marshes of North Carolina. It is well written and does not answer your question until the very last.

### Life and Death of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan

A well written story not only of the Great Lakes but of all the unwanted species of organisms in the rivers of the US. I found the middle part very hard to read but felt more hopeful at the end. Having lived in Buffalo, Wisconsin and Minnesota I have swum and sailed on all the lakes and want them to continue to supply us with water and fish. (Ann-Britt, Elrene) Elrene: Wow scary. I heard a Native American prophesy on NPR/ TTBOOK that I can paraphrase: "There will be a time when an ounce of water will cost and ounce of gold

### Witch Elm by Tana French

Different from her Dublin mysteries but is some ways still a mystery and psychological thriller as they try to find out whose body was in the Elm tree

### Us against You by Fredrick Backman

A sequel to Beartown and as far as I was concerned even better.

### Raven Black, White Night, Red Bones, Blue Lightning, Dead Water, Thin Air, Cold Earth, and Wild Fire by Anne Cleeves

Shetland Island Mysteries. Somewhat similar to the series on TV. Same people but at different ages. I enjoyed both the books and the show.

### Great Alone by Kristen Hannah

Set in Alaska we see a very dysfunctional family trying to deal with love, abuse, denial , and reconciliation

### Eternal Life by Dara Horn

A story about Rachel who cannot die and is around 2000 years old. Maybe death is not so bad.

### The Light Over London by Julia Kelly

A story set in London in WWII and then continued in present day England.

### The Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin

Siblings who see a fortune teller and then live out their lives as if that had to be true. I don't mean to imply that that they intentionally make things happen but what they are told definitely influences them. The author has a strong belief that siblings are probably not alike and she likes to incorporate that into her stories.

Two more books by **Ronald Balsom**. **The Trust** set in Ireland and still featuring the same detective. And **The Girl from Berlin**. This is set in Italy and goes back and forth between now and WWII.

### **The Light of the World by Elizabeth Alexander**

Elizabeth is a poet who read her poem at Obama's inauguration. This is a memoir of the life she and her husband lived. He died a few days after his fiftieth birthday. There were many things that spoke to me. The person that dies does not get older so although I am 82, Phil is still 71. My sister is 22.

I also read all of **Anne Cleaves** books set in England and featuring deceive Vera. Some of you may have seen this program on tv. I have not.

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### **Cheryl S's Picks (Kris' friend)**

#### **Those Who Wish Me Dead by Michael Koryta...**

A young witness to a murder goes into the mountains to hide as part of a witness protection plan and is pursued by the murderers he witnessed. That is way over simplifying this very complex, character rich, pursuit thriller. Great mystery thriller.... loved it!

#### **The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley by Hannah Tinti**

"A gripping American-on-the-run thriller . . . a brilliant coming-of-age tale and a touching exploration of father-daughter relationships."—*Newsweek*- very good

#### **Magic Hour by Kristin Hannah**

An incandescent story about the resilience of the human spirit, the triumph of hope, and the meaning of home.

#### **Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris**

"*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* is an extraordinary document, a story about the extremes of human behavior existing side by side: calculated brutality alongside impulsive and selfless acts of love.

#### **The Woman in the Window by A.J. Finn**

Twisty and powerful, ingenious and moving, *The Woman in the Window* is a smart, sophisticated novel of psychological suspense that recalls the best of Hitchcock.

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### **Debby M's Picks**

#### **Grant by Ron Chernow**

Long, fascinating and very detailed biography of Ulysses S Grant. I learned a lot, found Grant to be a wonderful man of history and terrible judge of character and business.

#### **We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter**

Story of Polish family from Radom during WWII and how they survived after scattering to Siberia, Tel Aviv, Italy and Rio di Janeiro. Amazing!

#### **The Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott**

Irish Catholic family in NY that tries to survive after the father commits suicide. Mom works as laundress in nunnery raising daughter on her own. Lovely story of grace, friendship, heartache and forgiveness.

#### **The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle**

Religion writer of 20<sup>th</sup> century looks at how the church faces serious change and challenges every 500 years since Christ. We are in one of those now. Great history and writing. She is a wonderful!

### **Girl Waits with Gun by Amy Stewart**

First book in a trilogy based on true story of woman who becomes local police detective after her buggy is hit by an auto driven by a local businessman thug. She tracks him down and gets justice and impresses local police to get hired.

### **Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig**

Last book by Doig – one of the sweetest writers ever. Story of orphaned Montana boy who has to take the bus to stay with other relatives while his grandmother has surgery. He escapes these relatives and his adventures allow him to meet some wonderful, quirky characters to a happy end. A wonderful read.

### **Virgil Wander by Leif Enger**

Virgil has a car accident that set in motion a series of events in their small community that rearranges life with a stranger coming to town, a mystery explored, love blooms and bad guys leave. Enger writes the sweetest books.

### **The Secrets Between Us by Thrity Umigar**

Bhima raises her granddaughter alone in Mumbai after her husband leaves her. By industry and grit she starts her own business with most unlikely friends who all have their own stories. The stories unfold as the book progresses. Wonderful book.

### **Frederick Douglas: Prophet of Freedom by David Blight**

Biography of Douglas that gives a whole new understanding to the mid-1800's and the Civil War and afterwards. Like the Grant book, these are real people who give their lives in service to make us a better country with their own strengths, weaknesses and blind spots.

### **News of the World by Paulette Jiles**

Captain Kidd is an itinerant news reader throughout Texas after the Civil War. He agrees to take a recaptured 10-year-old girl back to her family after being stolen by a native tribe when she is 6. She remembers almost nothing of her early life and speaks no English. It is the story of their travels to south Texas to return her to family. Surprise ending. Wonderful language and story.

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## **Elrene L's Picks**

Right now I am reading **The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr**. There is also a podcast that goes along with this book called "Another Name for Every Thing". Both are challenging and uplifting.

I have also been slowly working my way through both Ruth Baker Ginsberg books: **Notorious RBG** and **My Own Words**. If you can't get to reading the books, DEFINITELY see the RBG movie. Sooo good. It is available for free I believe on Amazon Prime Video. I've seen it twice and will watch it again anytime. The dramatic movie (not a documentary) **In the Matter of Sex** about her early life and work is also worth seeing in my opinion.

**Montaigne in Barn Boots by my old friend Michael Perry**. Maybe a little more quirky and obscure than his others. But...it's Michael from WI.

Old book: **Brown Girl Dreaming" by Jacqueline Woodson**, her lyrical autobiography in verse is lovely. New book: **An American Marriage" by Tayri Jones**, life, love and marriage in contemporary US south. Different life experiences but common human sympathies to stretch the mind and heart.

## Gunnard S's Picks

### **Under a Cloudless Sky by Chris Fabry**

Here is what Chris writes about himself: "Then I look at my own life and the things I am carrying, things I've never told a soul, and the way those things hold me back from those I love. It is my hope that this story will remove some weight for you, that it will give you permission to allow some burden to be lifted so that there can be healing and wholeness, and a lightness to your step, no matter how old or young you are.

Follow the lie-ridden life of Ruby Handley Freeman. The storyline switches from 1933 to 2004. Mr. Fabry has cobbled together this story from separate scenarios he has heard as a radio host. A coal-mining company in West Virginia is the setting. Two young girls, Ruby and Bean, from each side of the proverbial social track become fast friends. They witness a massacre. For the celebratory opening of a museum in her childhood home, Ruby returns. What she has to say changes many lives. Ruby's abduction is a diversion that Mr. Fabry could have edited out since it did not contribute to his main message.

A suspenseful read. Remember **The Color Purple**? A number of twists bring this story to a happy conclusion.

### **The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah**

I did not think I would react as emotionally as I did to the end of this book. I seldom read books about war but this book is a bit different.

The Nightingale takes place in a quiet village in France in 1939. Two sisters, Vianne and Isabelle, each takes a different path when the Nazis invade France. Vianne is married and has one daughter. She decides to wait patiently for the war to be over. Isabelle, a bit more rebellious, decides to fully engage in the resistance.

Isabelle lives dangerously, saving American pilots under the noses of the Nazis. Vianne tries to live quietly in the village of Carriveau but as the danger escalates around her, she must make one terrible choice after another.

When the war comes to an end Vianne and Isabelle are reunited carrying with them the scars of war. Years later Vianne is invited back to France for a celebratory dinner, honoring her deceased sister, Isabelle, for her involvement in the war.

At the honorary dinner, the novel comes to a rapid and emotional close. Kristin Hannah skillfully ties all the loose ends together. After the final sentence, Vianne and her son will return to the United States. Vianne decides it is time to divulge to her son the many secrets of the war and what she endured during WWII in France.

### **The Reader by Bernhard Schlink**

Not a book for everybody. Set in Germany around the time of the holocaust, a sickly teenager vomits outside an older woman's apartment building. The older woman cares for the young boy. The young boy returns to thank the woman for her care. A deep relationship forms and the two become lovers. The woman requires that the boy read to her before they had sex.

In the middle of this serious relationship, the woman abruptly leaves town without a trace, betraying the young man.

Many years later, the young man is in law school and a class takes on the project of observing and reflecting on the trial of five or six women guards of the German government, who allowed a group of Jewish women to perish in a locked church which burned down. Two Jewish women survived the ordeal and brought the lawsuit against the guards.

The young man recognizes one of the defendants as his lover. He follows the trial every day and comes to realize that his lover had a secret. It was this secret that convicted her for the death of the Jewish women in the church and she is sent to jail.

The man, out of the love, continues to read to her in jail, not in person, but by sending tapes of books that he would record for her.

He continues to send "books on tape" to her until she is to be released from prison after serving her sentence.

The ending of the story is bittersweet. What was the secret she had that sent her to prison? Love prompted the man to send her "books on tape." What does the man learn about the woman's activities while in prison? Do they live happily ever after or does something or someone intervene to disrupt their love story?

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## Jan G's Pick

### **Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict**

This fictional story is told by an Irish immigrant who secures a position in the Pittsburgh household of the Carnegie family as a lady's maid to the elder Mrs. Carnegie. With a secret that could jeopardize her position, Clara Kelley strives to become indispensable to Mrs. Carnegie so that she can continue to send money to her poverty-stricken family in Ireland. As time passes, Clara becomes a well-regarded friend of Mrs. Carnegie's oldest son, Andrew, who recognizes her brilliance and innate understanding of business even though she is a household servant. They often talk of the need for everyone to have free access to books and educational materials to improve their lives. As their guarded relationship becomes more personal and Andrew quickly builds his fortune, Andrew's mother threatens Clara leaving no choice but for her to disappear. Over the next number of decades, Andrew Carnegie built over 2500 libraries possibly as the result of Clara inspiring his transformation from ruthless industrialist to the world's first true philanthropist. A fascinating look at the immigrant world of that period and the importance of class status among the newly-affluent American families.

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## Janis H's Picks

### **Beartown by Fredrik Backman**

*Beartown* explores the hopes that bring a small community together, the secrets that tear it apart, and the courage it takes for an individual to go against the grain.

### **Rosemary, the Hidden Kennedy Daughter by Kate Clifford Larson**

Joe and Rose Kennedy's strikingly beautiful daughter Rosemary attended exclusive schools, was presented as a debutante to the Queen of England and traveled the world with her high-spirited sisters. And yet, Rosemary was intellectually disabled — a secret fiercely guarded by her powerful and glamorous family. Major new sources — Rose Kennedy's diaries and correspondence, school and doctors' letters, and exclusive family interviews — bring Rosemary alive as a girl adored but left far behind by her competitive siblings. Kate Larson reveals both the sensitive care Rose and Joe gave to Rosemary and then — as the family's standing reached an apex — the often desperate and duplicitous arrangements the Kennedys made to keep her away from home as she became increasingly intractable in her early twenties. Finally, Larson illuminates Joe's decision to have Rosemary lobotomized at age twenty-three, and the family's complicity in keeping the secret.

### **Sing, Unburied Sing: A Novel by Jesmyn Ward**

*Sing, Unburied, Sing* is many things: a road novel, a slender epic of three generations and the ghosts that haunt them, and a portrait of what ordinary folk in dire circumstances cleave to as well as what they — and perhaps we all — are trying to outrun."

### **The Round House by Louise Erdrich**

One of the most revered novelists of our time - a brilliant chronicler of Native-American life - Louise Erdrich returns to the territory of her bestselling, Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Plague of Doves* with **The Round House**, transporting readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. It is an exquisitely told story of a boy on the cusp of manhood who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family. *The Round House* is a page-turning masterpiece of literary fiction - at once a powerful coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a tender, moving novel of family, history, and culture.

### **Homegoing: A novel by Yaa Gyasi**

*Homegoing* begins in fire, as a house slave sets herself free by burning her master's African village to the ground, and ends in the ocean, as two of her two descendants - from two completely different lineages - find, finally, perhaps, a sort of reconciliation. In between, Ms. Gyasi traces the entire history of Africa and African-Americans

### **Dreamland by Sam Quinones**

A scathing and incendiary account of drug culture and addiction spreading to every part of the American landscape.

With the same dramatic drive of **El Narco** and **Methland**, Sam Quinones weaves together two classic tales of American capitalism. The stories of young men in Mexico, independent of the drug cartels, in search of their own American Dream via the fast and enormous profits of trafficking cheap black-tar heroin to America's rural and suburban addicts and that of Purdue Pharma in Stamford, Connecticut, determined to corner the market on pain with its new and expensive miracle drug, Oxycontin; extremely addictive in its own right. Quinones illuminates just how these two stories fit together as cause and effect; hooked on costly Oxycontin. American addicts were lured to much cheaper black-tar heroin and its powerful and dangerous long-lasting high. Embroiled alongside the suppliers and buyers are DEA agents, local small-town sheriffs, and the US attorney from eastern Virginia whose case against Purdue Pharma and Oxycontin made him an enemy of the Bush-era Justice Department, ultimately stalling and destroying his career in public service.

### **Before we Were Yours A Novel by Lisa Wingate**

A [story] of a family lost and found . . . A poignant, engrossing tale about sibling love and the toll of secrets."—*People*

### **Robin by Dave Itzkoff**

From his rapid-fire stand-up comedy riffs to his breakout role in *Mork & Mindy* and his Academy Award-winning performance in *Good Will Hunting*, Robin Williams was a singularly innovative and beloved entertainer. He often came across as a man possessed, holding forth on culture and politics while mixing in personal revelations – all with mercurial, tongue-twisting intensity as he inhabited and shed one character after another with lightning speed. But as Dave Itzkoff shows in this revelatory biography, Williams's comic brilliance masked a deep well of conflicting emotions and self-doubt. Itzkoff also shows how Williams struggled mightily with addiction and depression – topics he discussed openly while performing and during interviews – and with a debilitating condition at the end of his life that affected him in ways his fans never knew.



## Joyce B's Picks

### **Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History by S.C. Gwynne**

(Amazon) In the tradition of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, a stunningly vivid historical account of the forty-year battle between Comanche Indians and white settlers for control of the American West, centering on Quanah PARKER, the greatest Comanche chief of them all.

S. C. Gwynne's *Empire of the Summer Moon* spans two astonishing stories. The first traces the rise and fall of the Comanches, the most powerful Indian tribe in American history. The second entails one of the most remarkable narratives ever to come out of the Old West: the epic saga of the pioneer woman Cynthia Ann Parker and her mixed-blood son Quanah, who became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches.

Although readers may be more familiar with the tribal names Apache and Sioux, it was in fact the legendary fighting ability of the Comanches that determined just how and when the American West opened up. Comanche boys became adept bareback riders by age six; full Comanche braves were considered the best horsemen who ever rode. They were so masterful at war and so skillful with their arrows and lances that they stopped the northern drive of colonial Spain from Mexico and halted the French expansion westward from Louisiana. White settlers arriving in Texas from the eastern United States were surprised to find the frontier being rolled *backward* by Comanches incensed by the invasion of their tribal lands. So effective were the Comanches that they forced the creation of the Texas Rangers and account for the advent of the new weapon specifically designed to fight them: the six-gun.

The war with the Comanches lasted four decades, in effect holding up the development of the new American nation. Gwynne's exhilarating account delivers a sweeping narrative that encompasses Spanish colonialism, the Civil War, the destruction of the buffalo herds, and the arrival of the railroads—a historical feast for anyone interested in how the United States came into being.

Against this backdrop Gwynne presents the compelling drama of Cynthia Ann Parker, a lovely nine-year-old girl with cornflower-blue eyes who was kidnapped by Comanches from the far Texas frontier in 1836. She grew to love her captors and became infamous as the "White Squaw" who refused to return until her tragic capture by Texas Rangers in 1860. More famous still was her son Quanah, a warrior who was never defeated and whose guerrilla wars in the Texas Panhandle made him a legend.

S. C. Gwynne's account of these events is meticulously researched, intellectually provocative, and, above all, thrillingly told. *Empire of the Summer Moon* announces him as a major new writer of American history.

## Kris B's Picks

### **Pachinko by Min Jin Lee**

*Pachinko* is an "extraordinary epic" of four generations of a poor Korean immigrant family as they fight to control their destiny in 20th-century Japan (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

### **Janesville: An American Story by Amy Goldstein**

This is the story of what happens to an industrial town in the American heartland when its main factory shuts down—but it's not the familiar tale.

### **Rooftops of Tehran by Mahbod Seraji**

An unforgettable debut novel of young love and coming of age in an Iran headed toward revolution.

### **Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as we Age by Mary Pipher**

A timely examination of the cultural and developmental issues women face as they age. Drawing on her own experience as daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, caregiver, clinical psychologist, and cultural anthropologist, she explores ways women can cultivate resilient responses to the challenges they face

### **Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck**

Set at the end of World War II, in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined—an affecting, shocking, and ultimately redemptive novel

### **Black Water Lilies by Michael Bussi**

This is the story of thirteen days that begin with one murder and end with another. Jérôme Morval, a man whose passion for art was matched only by his passion for women, has been found dead in the stream that runs through the gardens. In his pocket is a postcard of Monet's *Water Lilies* with the words: *Eleven years old. Happy Birthday.*

### **Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng**

A riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives.

### **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine: A Novel by Gail Honeyman**

"This wacky, charming novel. . . draws you in with humor, then turns out to contain both a suspenseful subplot and a sweet romance. . . Hilarious and moving." —*People*

## **Mark H's Pick**

### **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer, Milkweed Editions, Minneapolis, MN 2013.**

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a member of the Potawatomi Nation. That is a nation that originated near the mouth of the Saint Lawrence River and was one of three branches of a larger group. A second branch is the Ojibway. The Potawatomi nation once controlled the fur trade in the western Great Lakes, before finally being removed from Wisconsin in a "death march" to Oklahoma. Years later a reservation is established in Forest County and in Milwaukee on which the nation now owns a large casino. Robin is a mother, scientist, professor, and the Director of the Center for Native Peoples and Environment at SUNY. She spent time as a child in Oklahoma (where her ancestors were driven) and did graduate training at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, including time at the Arboretum.

Braiding Sweetgrass is a fascinating, but dense and slow reading book. It's not a single story, but rather a large number of plant-based stories woven to create a larger narrative of indigenous knowledge and practice in working with plants and land. While it helps to have some understanding of ecology and botany, it's not required to enjoy and appreciate this work.

What's revealing in these stories is on how many fronts, European based and Indigenous knowledge, language, and customs are different, and even in conflict. For example:

-English is a heavily noun based language with only 30 percent of the words being verbs. The Potawatomi has 70 percent of its language as verbs. It does not distinguish between people, plants, and animals in language while in English, anything but people become "it." The phrase Brother Wolf takes on a different meaning.

-Western science seeks objectivity with the removal of values and emotion. Indigenous knowledge is based on a different, reciprocal understanding between say plants and the person. This is especially true

as traditional practice, such as using fire burning to enable the growth of birch (and many other plants), provided a strong ecological management framework that was largely not recognized when Europeans arrive in North America.

-Concepts of ownership and gift giving are different. And different concepts of ownership create very different notions of economy. It's difficult to align capitalism with indigenous knowledge. It should also be acknowledged, that a field of economics is emerging that focuses on measuring resource values and the services that natural resources and ecosystems provide as measures of economic activity. Some indigenous knowledge?

The different creation stories between indigenous people and the Judeo-Christian practice also create points of contrast. It is thought provoking and asks one to distinguish between what culture pushes us to do versus what faith practice is asking us to do. Christianity has been appropriated for many unsavory purposes by popular culture...I'm shocked.

I recommend this "hymn of love to the world."



## Mary P's Picks (Kris' friend)

### **There There by Tommy Orange**

A brilliant propulsive (People Magazine) story of twelve unforgettable characters, urban Indians living in Oakland California, who converge and collide on one fateful day. It's the "year's most galvanizing debut novel" (Entertainment Weekly). Groundbreaking, extraordinary (NY Times)

### **House of Broken Angels – Luis Alberto Urrea**

In this 'raucous, moving, and necessary (SF Chronicle) story, the De La Cruzes family on the Mexican American border, celebrate two of their most beloved relatives during a joyous and bittersweet weekend.

### **Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger**

Ordinary Grace is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.



## Matthew F's Picks

### **March Books 1, 2, and 3 by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell**

This thorough history of John Lewis' involvement in the Civil Rights Movement is rich, stark, and compelling. Lewis and his collaborators tell a story of active peace in the face of injustice--a story that we need to hear and re-hear.

### **American War by Omar El Akkad**

This work of speculative fiction considers how climate change may facilitate the second American Civil War. El Akkad creates a startlingly believable world and uses it to follow the tragic story of one woman caught up in this conflict.

### **White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo**

I know Amanda also mentioned this book, but it's good enough to warrant multiple recommendations. DiAngelo tackles issues of race with force and clarity. She develops a very readable theory that clarifies how and why white people in America respond problematically to racism.

### **The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion**

Didion works through the year her daughter became suddenly sick and then her husband died. This is a poignant reflection on personal memories and public responses to grief and loss.



## Rachel W's Picks

### **We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter**

I picked this up on a whim from the library; it was riveting and has given me lots to think about since. The book is fictionalized retelling of Hunter's Jewish during Poland in World War II. She has said that every arrest, police run-in, escape, or near-death experience is true. It is an amazing story.

### **I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown**

I read this book twice this year; mid-way through the first read, I already knew I was going to need to pick it up a few months later and revisit Brown's work. Brown writes about her experience as a black woman in Christian circles and institutions. As a Christian, woman, and mother I connected with her story in powerful ways. I think every Christian needs to read this--especially if you're white.

### **Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lives I've Loved by Kate Bowler**

Kate was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, and writes about her experience, especially through the lens of the prosperity gospel. It was hard to read, but I have found myself thinking back and reflecting on her thoughts often since reading.

### **An American Marriage by Tayari Jones**

A captivating story about newlyweds whose marriage is almost immediately strained. A gripping story that reflects on love, relationships, and our justice system.



## Ruth H's Picks

### **The Simplicity of Cider by Amy Reichert**

I liked this book for a number of reasons. First of all it took place in an apple orchard in Door County. It was fun to read about places I have visited. Second, two of the main characters were Swedes whose last name was Lund! Lastly it was an enjoyable story. It was about a young woman who was fighting to save her beloved apple orchard that was in trouble financially. Along with this it was the story of a young boy and his father who spent a summer working at the orchard and had their own issues.

### **My Dear Hamilton by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie**

The story of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton – a revolutionary woman who, like her new nation, struggled to define herself in the wake of war, betrayal, and tragedy. "**My Dear Hamilton** is a superbly written, meticulously researched homage to the birth of America [...] At once a wartime drama, a woman's coming of age, and a lesson on politics that resonates in today's world, **My Dear Hamilton** is the book of the year." (Kate Quinn)

### **The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom**

In this gripping novel, a dark secret threatens to expose the best and worst in everyone tied to the estate at a thriving plantation in Virginia in the decades before the Civil War.

### **Glory Over Everything by Kathleen Grissom**

A heart racing story about a man's treacherous journey through the twists and turns of the Underground Railroad on a mission to save the boy he swore to protect.

### **Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate**

"A [story] of a family lost and found . . . a poignant, engrossing tale about sibling love and the toll of secrets."—*People*

## **The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee**

Aged seventeen, she decided to escape North Korea. She could not have imagined that it would be twelve years before she was reunited with her family. the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom.

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## **Sue P's Picks**

### **The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 In Gander, Newfoundland** By Jim DeFede

"When thirty-eight jetliners bound for the United States were forced to land in Gander Newfoundland, on September 11, 2001, due to the closing of United States airspace, the citizens of this small community and surrounding towns were called upon to care for thousands of distraught travelers.

Their response to this challenge was truly extraordinarily. "

This is on the back cover of this remarkable book. I found it very uplifting as I read about various people and the way the community responded to each on an individual level. I was not aware of all of this until I read this book. It is an easy read, and very uplifting about what people did for others in such a crisis. I also learned more about people, other than those in New York, faced on that historic day.

There is now a musical about this and I will see it soon.

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## **Ulrika S's Picks**

I'd like to submit for the ACC book list a couple of Kindle books written by a North Park friend of mine: **Edgar and the Dragon** and **Edgar and the Dragon 2 by Joseph Davis**. They are children's books (Amazon lists them with age level 6-12), so they are quick reads. The first is available for free, the second for only \$0.99. I found them to be clever and charming. Here are the Amazon annotations.

### **Edgar and the Dragon**

The Dragon Kingdom has been overrun by shadowy monsters! In their desperation, the dragons send for the only hero brave and clever enough to help them: a young boy named Edgar. Armed with nothing but a couple of tennis balls, the odd vegetable, and a few tricks that he learned in Sunday School, Edgar sets off on a perilous quest to help his scaly friends. But the dark invaders grow more powerful by the minute. Can Edgar and his friends defeat an enemy that no weapon can touch?

### **Edgar and the Dragon 2**

The birthday feast for the Dragon Princess is magnificent, but disaster strikes as an old enemy appears, wielding an ancient power. The Kingdom is plunged into confusion and despair. Brave young Edgar and his resourceful companion, Lucretia, are sent on a perilous journey in search of hope. Armed with a green piece of paper, an unopenable bag and a handful of Bible verses, they brave the dangers of the mysterious Unicorn Forest and the enemy fortress beyond. Will the two young heroes make it through before it is too late?

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I also just finished the book **Extracted by RR Haywood** which is the first of a trilogy. Once I got into it, I really enjoyed it. In 2061, a young scientist invents a time machine to fix a tragedy in his past. But his good intentions turn catastrophic when an early test reveals something unexpected: the end of the world.

A desperate plan is formed. Recruit three heroes, ordinary humans capable of extraordinary things, and change the future. (Amazon) There is some questionable language in this book.