

Changing the World One Book at a Time ***Coral Gables First United Methodist Church***

A book discussion group of personal stories of hope on global social issues at Coral Gables First United Methodist Church. Meets monthly on third Tuesdays 12:30 – 2 p.m. in Hanger Building Room 209, starting September 19, 2017. *Bring your lunch—feed your body as well as your soul!*

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

September 19, 2017	February 20, 2018
October 17, 2017	March 20, 2018
November 21, 2017 cancelled	April 17, 2018
January 16, 2018	May 15, 2018

Reading Group FAQs

Is a Reading Group for you?

If you find yourself bringing up your current read several times a day or if you have told some friends that they “just have” to read a book when you’re through or if you find yourself relating strongly to characters or themes as you read, then you probably would love a reading group. Reading groups are meet-ups for readers around particular books. The sole purpose of the meeting is to connect with other readers and to dig deep into stories. These conversations illuminate the human condition and push us to examine our lives through the lens of someone else’s story. Part of the fun is even finding out that we understood a part of the book in a completely different way than other members of the group.

Great reading groups share developing friendships, beyond the surface conversation, good advice, gained wisdom, and a quest for faith, hope, love, and action.

Group Member Tips

If you just joined your first reading group or you have been a member of the same reading group for years, here are some suggestions for you to get the most out of the discussions.

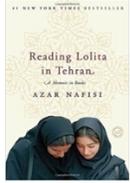
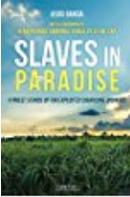
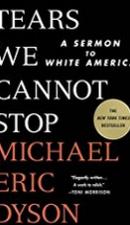
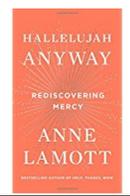
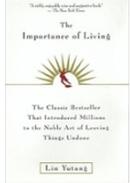
- What you receive from the discussion will be in direct proportion to your involvement. Be an active participant!
- Read the book and review the discussion questions prior to the meeting. You may want to jot down your own questions as you read, along with answers to some of the discussion questions.
- Be supportive and appreciative of your group facilitator as well as other members of the group.
- Have fun and enjoy the experience!

Reading Group Facilitator: Sharyn Ladner

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Phone: 305-443-1122 (home); 305-401-6467 (cell)

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Coral Gables First United Methodist Church
2017-2018 Selections

Date	Title
Sept. 19, 2017	Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey , by Jane Goodall
	<p>Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books, by Azar Nafisi. Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reissue edition (November 4, 2008). 400 pp. Amazon \$9.46; MDPL</p> <p>Every Thursday morning for two years in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azar Nafisi, a bold and inspired teacher, secretly gathered seven of her most committed female students to read forbidden Western classics. Some came from conservative and religious families, others were progressive and secular; some had spent time in jail.... Azar Nafisi's luminous masterwork gives us a rare glimpse, from the inside, of women's lives in revolutionary Iran.</p>
Nov. 21, 2017	Note: meeting cancelled – November title moved to May 15, 2018, meeting (see below).
	<p>Slaves in Paradise: A Priest Stands Up for Exploited Sugarcane Workers, by Jesús García. Ignatius Press (April 10, 2017). 300 pp. Amazon \$16.10. [original Spanish edition, 2012].</p> <p>With its beautiful beaches and golf courses, the island of the Dominican Republic is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Caribbean. Yet when missionary priest Fr. Christopher Hartley arrived in the country in 1997, he discovered another side to this paradise: the deplorable living and working conditions of the people who harvest the country's sugarcane, and the illegal human trafficking that brings them to the plantations as slaves.</p>
	<p>Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, by Debby Irving. Elephant Room Press (January 9, 2014). 288 pp. Amazon \$17.99</p> <p>For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview.</p>
	<p>Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America, by Michael Eric Dyson. St. Martin's Press (January 17, 2017). 240 pp. Amazon \$12.49 (hardcover); MDPL</p> <p><i>Tears We Cannot Stop [is] a provocative and deeply personal call for change. Dyson argues that if we are to make real racial progress we must face difficult truths, including being honest about how black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted. "One of the most frank and searing discussions on race ... a deeply serious, urgent book, which should take its place in the tradition of Baldwin's The Fire Next Time and King's Why We Can't Wait."</i> —<i>The New York Times Book Review.</i></p>
	<p>Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy, by Anne Lamott. Riverhead Books (April 4, 2017). 192 pp. Amazon \$13.39 (paper).</p> <p>"<i>Marcy is radical kindness.</i>" In her latest book Lamott ventures to explore where to find meaning in life. We should begin, she suggests, by "facing a great big mess, especially the great big mess of ourselves." It's up to each of us to recognize the presence and importance of mercy everywhere—"within us and outside us, all around us"—and to use it to forge a deeper understanding of ourselves and more honest connections with each other.</p>
	<p>The Importance of Living, by Lin Yutang. Harper (1996). 478 pp. Amazon \$13.44; MDPL</p> <p><i>The Importance of Living is a wry, witty antidote to the dizzying pace of the modern world. Lin Yutang's prescription is the classic Chinese philosophy of life: Revere inaction as much as action, invoke humor to maintain a healthy attitude, and never forget that there will always be plenty of fools around who are willing-indeed, eager-to be busy, to make themselves useful, and to exercise power while you bask in the simple joy of existence.</i></p>