

Wesley Advocates' Reading 8 Rev.

01.29.2017

Here is the final list for this cycle. Please print and bring tomorrow so we can discuss and vote. Thanks.

Methodism

Campbell, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*, rev. ed.

Chilcote, *Recapturing the Wesleys' Vision: An Introduction to the Faith of John and Charles Wesley* (nonfiction, history, theology)

Collins, *The Theology of John Wesley* (nonfiction)

Heizenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, 2nd ed. "groundbreaking survey of the Wesleyan movement . . . story of the many people who contributed to the theology, organization, and mission of Methodism." Topics include means of grace; Conference, Charles Wesley, Wesley and America, ordination, prison ministry, apostolic church, music, children, Susanna and Samuel, Christian library, itinerancy, connectionalism, doctrinal standards, JW as historian, Oxford don, preacher

Hempton, *Methodism: Empire of the Spirit*

Vickers, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to American Methodism (Cambridge Companions to Religion)*. ". . . introduction to various forms of American Methodism, including the African-American, German Evangelical Pietist, holiness, and Methodist Episcopal traditions. Includes history, literature, theology, religious studies, explores beliefs and practices of American Methodist churches

Wesley, *John Wesley Sermons: An Anthology* (nonfiction; theology)

Wesley, *Charles Wesley: A Reader* (nonfiction)

Yrigoyan, *Belief Matters: United Methodism's Doctrinal Standards*—book reminds us what we believe and explains doctrinal standards of UMC, describe and exposit four official Doctrinal Standards of the UMC, including sermons, articles of religion, confession of faith

Christianity and Religion

Ehrman, *How Jesus Became God* (you know and like Ehrman)

Funk et al. *Five Gospels* (theology)

Keck et al., *Isaiah: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary* (in the same volume with your *Ezekiel* commentary) (2001)

Lerner, *The Creation of Patriarchy* (nonfiction, history, anthropology, theology)

Oswalt, *Called to Be Holy: A Biblical Perspective* (doctrine of holiness traced through OT and NT; book recommended by Kaitlin)

Spong, *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic*

Tolstoy, *The Kingdom of God Is Within You* (theology, philosophy, non-violent resistance—important influence on Gandhi and, through him, King)

Weatherford, *Genghis Khan and the Quest for God: How the World's Greatest Conqueror Gave Us Religious Freedom* (nonfiction, history)

Wouk, *This Is My God* (Judaism)

History, Politics, Anthropology, Sociology, Human Rights

Carter, *A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power* (human rights)

Carter, *Palestine: Peace, Not Apartheid* (history, world affairs)

Carter, *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis* (separation of church and state)

Congressional Quarterly, *The United States Constitution* (history, law, nonfiction)

Coogan, *The Famine Plot* (history of Irish famine)

Donnelly, *The Great Irish Potato Famine* (history)

Jenkinson, *Becoming Jefferson's People* (material from Jefferson's many writings with responses from a Jefferson scholar; short, provocative)

Laderman, *Rest in Peace: A Cultural History of Death and the Funeral Home in Twentieth-Century America*

Classics and Literature

Aeschylus, *The Oresteia--Three Plays: Agamemnon, Choephoroi, Eumenides* (Agamemnon's return from Troy and the bloody aftermath, including the establishment of law and justice in place of cycles of revenge—fabulous plays; classics everyone should know)

Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* and *The Sound and the Fury* (masterpieces of American literature, almost as great as *Absalom, Absalom*)

Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea* (classic story of human struggle against the forces of nature); perhaps Hemingway's best writing)

Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies* (prize-winning short stories; America and India)

Lahiri, *The Lowland* (National Book Award finalist; prose fiction; India)

Marra, *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* (Booker finalist; prose fiction, Chechnya)

Milton, *Paradise Lost* (epic poem about Eternal Father's war with Lucifer-Satan, creation of earth, Adam, and Eve, the paradox of the Fall—is it time to revisit this great, great work?)

Milton, *Paradise Regained* (short epic, only four books, about Christ's temptation in wilderness); if you don't know *Paradise Lost*, we should re-examine this great epic, perhaps the greatest study ever of the trinity and of biblical issues such as good and evil and original sin

Milton, *Samson Agonistes* (choric drama about Samson and Delilah; late work written by blind Milton about blind Samson—and their failed hopes)

Moore, *Lamb* (brilliant, sympathetic, hilarious novel about Jesus and his close friends Mary and Biff, told from Biff's point of view—great read which expands our understanding of Jesus, Jews, Hindus, others))

Munro, *Dear Life* (Nobel-prize winner's short fiction; Canadian)

O'Casey, *Three Plays: Juno and the Paycock, Shadow of a Gunman, The Plough and the Stars* (urban plays about Ireland around WWI and concerning troubles with England; O'Casey regarded as one of Ireland's great playwrights—with Yeats, Synge, Shaw, Wilde)

Robinson, *Home* and *Lila* (excellent novels continuing the Ames-Boughton story in Gilead, Iowa, with Robinson's Calvinism always significant)

Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Tempest* (a dark comedy and two romances; the first about fairness, justice; the other two about middle-aged persons who have made terrible errors, hurt others, but somehow receive the grace of a chance to make amends)

Sir Gawain and the Greene Knight, trans. Maria Boroff (journey and trial of simultaneously prideful and fearful Sir Gawain against the beheaded Green Knight who challenges Arthur's court; another great, great read)

Sophocles, *Three Plays: Oedipus Tyrannos, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone* (you probably know the plots already, but may not know the essentials; classics everyone should know); I would add *Trachinian Women* and *Philoketes* (these plays would lead to discussions about conflicts between man's law and god's law, problems with knowing, ironies of free will)

Synge, *Complete Plays: Riders to the Sea, In the Shadow of the Glen, The Well of the Saints, The Tinker's Wedding, Deirdre of the Sorrows, Playboy of the Western World* (plays about rural Ireland, her legends, religion, myths; some of the most beautiful, lyrical language ever written by Ireland's most lyrical dramatist)

Science, Medicine, Environment

Barry, *The Great Influenza* (non-fiction study of medical education as developed in U. S. and of influenza epidemic during First World War)

Fortey, *Earth: An Intimate History*

Fortey, *Horseshoe Crabs and Velvet Worms: The Story of Animals and Plants That Time Has Left Behind*

Harris, *Grave Matters: A Journey through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial* (2008)

Kalanithi, *When Breath Becomes Air*

Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (2014 Pulitzer-Prize winner and NYT bestseller: reflecting on the five mass extinctions over the past half-billion years, Randall explores the current one, the sixth, predicted to be most devastating extinction since asteroid destroyed dinosaurs; shows how human beings have altered life on Earth as no species has done before; draws on many disciplines, describes species already lost, and history of extinction as concept)

Randall, *Dark Matter and the Dinosaurs* (2015 NYT bestseller) (nature of the universe, dark matter, the Milky Way galaxy, comets, asteroids, and impacts; synthesis exploring relationships among the visible and the hidden—and the astonishing beauty of connections that surround us— after reading this book, we will never look at Earth or sky again in same way)