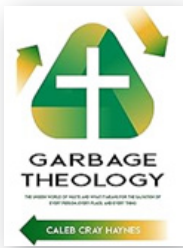




spring
READING LIST

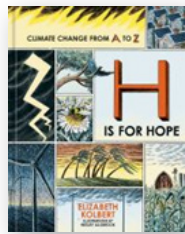
Continue your learning from recent and upcoming sermon series or read for fun with these recommendations from our pastors, Creation Care & Inclusion teams, and Messiah's Book Club:

Creation Care

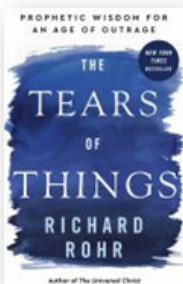


Garbage Theology: The Unseen World of Waste and What it Means for the Salvation of Every Person, Every Place, and Every Thing by Caleb Cray Haynes — This easy to read, hopeful book seeks to connect our Biblical call to keep and serve creation with how we live our lives today. Through personal stories extracted from years of working in the trash and recycling industry while pastoring a local church, the author examines a theology of waste through the lens of Scripture and our story as the people of God in the context of our current global waste emergency. Small things matter and small changes make a difference.

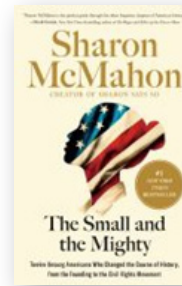
H is for Hope: Climate Change from A to Z by Elizabeth Kolbert — In twenty-six short essays, the Pulitzer Prize winning author takes us on a hauntingly illustrated journey through the history of climate change and the uncertainties of our future. From "A," for Svante Arrhenius, who created the world's first climate model in 1894, to "Z," for the Colorado River Basin, ground zero for climate change in the United States.



Inclusion



The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for An Age of Outrage by Richard Rohr — The author turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, showing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a path forward today. Drawing on a century of Biblical scholarship and written in the warm, pastoral voice that has endeared millions to Rohr, this book breathes new life into ancient wisdom and paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a wholehearted way of living in a hurting world.



The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, From the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement by Sharon McMahon — A heartfelt, inspiring portrait of twelve ordinary Americans whose courage formed the character of our country. You'll meet a woman astride a white horse riding down Pennsylvania Ave, a young boy detained at a Japanese incarceration camp, a formerly enslaved woman on a mission to reunite with her daughter, a poet on a train, and a teacher who learns to work with her enemies. This is a book about what really made America — and Americans — great.

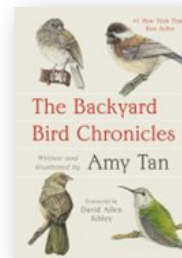
Messiah Book Club

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!



Up Home: One Girl's Journey by Ruth Simmons — (April 19 read) Born in 1945 as the twelfth child of Texas sharecroppers, Ruth Simmons grew up in a two-room home without electricity, running water, or books. She went on to become one of the nation's leading educators, serving as president of Smith College, Brown University, and later Prairie View A&M, inspiring generations of students while making history herself.

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi — (May 17 read) A mysterious stranger named Theo arrives in the southern town of Golden and begins buying the ninety-two pencil portraits hanging in the local coffeehouse — then returning each one to its original subject. Every exchange sparks a story, a new connection, and a small transformation. The novel explores generosity, wonder, and the quiet acts of kindness that bind a community together.



The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan — (June 28 read) In 2016, overwhelmed by a divided world, Amy Tan turned her attention to the birds outside her window. Her daily observations — captured in journal entries, questions, and her own sketches — trace the passage of time from before the pandemic through quarantine, revealing how the natural world offered her calm, focus, and renewal.



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