

Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence

by Jonathan Sacks

(Nonfiction, 320 pages)

Date: Sunday, April 10 11:30am

Place: Memorial Meeting Room, FCC

Discussion host: Pastor Ginny

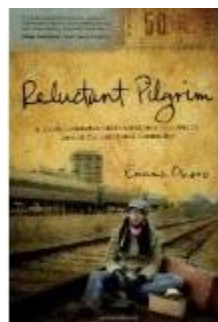
Despite predictions of continuing secularization, the twenty-first century has witnessed a surge of religious extremism and violence in the name of God.

In this powerful and timely book, Jonathan Sacks (chief rabbi of Great Britain) explores the roots of violence and its relationship to religion, focusing on the historic tensions between the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Drawing on arguments from evolutionary psychology, game theory, history, philosophy, ethics and theology, Sacks shows how a tendency to violence can subvert even the most compassionate of religions. Through a close reading of key biblical texts at the heart of the Abrahamic faiths, Sacks then challenges those who claim that religion is intrinsically a cause of violence, and argues that theology must become part of the solution if it is not to remain at the heart of the problem.

This book is a rebuke to all those who kill in the name of the God of life, wage war in the name of the God of peace, hate in the name of the God of love, and practice cruelty in the name of the God of compassion. For the sake of humanity and the free world, the time has come for people of all faiths and none to stand together and declare: "Not in God's Name."

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUPS



Reluctant Pilgrim: A Moody, Somewhat Self-Indulgent Introvert's Search for Spiritual Community

by Enuma Okoro

(Nonfiction, 192 pages)

Feb 8 & 22, March 14 & 28, April 11 & 25, May 9 & 23

10:30am at First Church

7pm at someone's house

"Maybe God is the urge to laugh." (Rumi) Part Augustine, part Jane Austen with a side of Anne Lamott, Okoro attempts to reconcile her theological understanding of God's call to community with her painful and disappointing experiences of community in churches where she often felt unseen, pigeon-holed or out of place. At turns snarky and luminous, laugh-out loud funny and vulnerably poignant, *Reluctant Pilgrim* is the no-holds barred account of a woman who prays to savor God's goodness and never be satisfied; a daring, insightful and deeply moving field guide for the curious, the confused and the convicted.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

June 17-19

Mercy Center, Madison CT

For info, contact Linda Smyth

Sign-up sheet in Pastor Ginny's mailbox



Adult Study Opportunities Winter 2016

Together, we Explore ... Connect ... Serve



**First Congregational
Church of Granby**

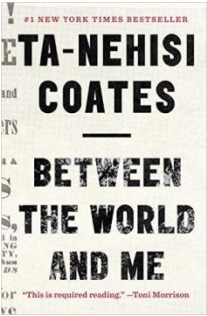
Myths about Hospice

Taffy Wilcox

(not a book!)

Sunday, January 24 at 11:30am

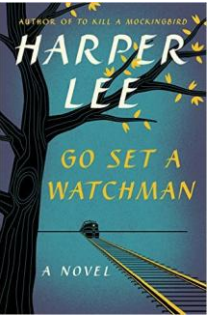
Memorial Meeting Room



Between the World and Me
by Ta-Nahesi Coates
(Nonfiction, 176 pages)

Date: Friday, Jan 29 7pm
Place: Shaw’s, 72 Canal Road
Discussion host: Don Shaw

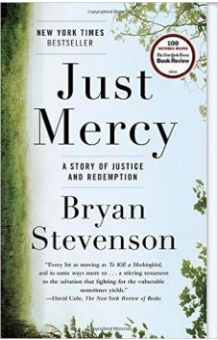
If you’re not already familiar with Ta-Nahesi Coates’s name, then prepare for your life to change. Coates won the 2015 National Book Award for nonfiction in November for *Between the World and Me*, a visceral, blunt exploration of his experience of being a black man in America, which was published this summer in the middle of a national dialogue about race relations and inequality. He is a talented writer and journalist (staff writer for *The Atlantic*). *Between the World and Me* is his second memoir. Written as a letter to his teenage son, Coates weaves his childhood growing up in Baltimore, attending Howard University, finding his place in the world with the history of racism in America. It is at once an intimate glimpse into the relationship between a father and son and a framework for understanding and discussing one of the greatest issues we face today.



Go Set a Watchman
by Harper Lee
(Historical Fiction, 288 pages)

Date: Friday, Feb 12 (snowdate 2/26)
Place: Giles home
Discussion hosts: Jim Brown, Bob & Peg Giles

In this novel which takes place two decades after the events in Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 26-year-old Jean Louise Finch—“Scout”—returns home from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her. Written in the mid-1950s (before *TKAM*), *Go Set a Watchman* imparts a fuller, richer understanding and appreciation of Harper Lee. It not only confirms the enduring brilliance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but also serves as its essential companion, adding depth, context, and new meaning to an American classic.

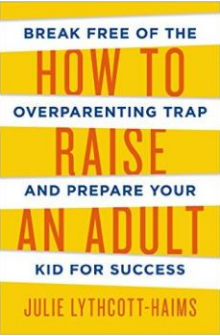


Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
by Bryan Stevenson
(Nonfiction, 368 pages)

Date: Friday, Feb 26 7pm
Place: Shaw’s, 72 Canal Road
Discussion host: Don Shaw

(from Wikipedia) “An American lawyer, social justice activist, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and a clinical professor at NYU School of Law, Stevenson has gained national acclaim for his work challenging bias against the poor and minorities in the criminal justice system.”

PARENTING



How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success
by Julie Lythcott-Haims
(Nonfiction 368 pages)

Date: Monday, March 21 7pm
Place: First Church
Discussion host: AnneMarie Cox

Are today’s young adults more immature than their age mates in previous generations? Yes, says the author... but it’s not their fault. Well-educated, affluent parents set extremely high standards for themselves and their children, and adopt a very involved parenting style. Unfortunately, this intense approach to parenting does not allow children space to develop the skills they will need in order to succeed as adults. After providing copious examples of the serious harm today’s parenting style is doing, Lythcott-Haims switches from description to prescription. The overall message to parents is” “Slow down, take a deep breath, look within, hug your partner, and hug your kid: Parenting doesn’t have to feel so hard.”

Other Topics in the Granby Parenting Series

- Registration required by calling 860-844-5355
These sessions take place at the Granby Youth/Senior Center, Mondays at 7pm, facilitated by AnneMarie Cox.
- Jan 11 - Talking to our kids about risky behaviors
 - Jan 25 - The increase in heroin addiction in suburban youth
 - Feb 8 - Suicide risks in youth from wealthy communities
 - Feb 29 - Cutting: Self-harm - what are the causes and how do we treat it?
 - March 4 - Sexual assault on college campuses