

2023-2024 WHPC Daytime Book Club

Meets 3rd Thursday of each month – in-person & Zoom
WHPC Parlor at 11:00 AM Fellowship, Noon– Book Discussion
Peggy Greenawalt, Librarian

September 21, 2023

Books, Reading, and Libraries, OH MY!

The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams F

Widower Mukesh lives a quiet life in the London Borough of Wembley after losing his beloved wife. He worries about his granddaughter, Priya, who hides in her room reading while he spends evenings watching nature shows. Aleisha is a teenager working at the local library for the summer when she discovers a crumpled-up piece of paper in the back of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It's a list of novels that she has never heard of, and she decides to read every book on the list. When Mukesh arrives at the library with his bookworm granddaughter, Aleisha passes along the reading list. The shared books create a connection between two lonely souls, as fiction helps them escape their grief and everyday troubles.

October 19, 2023

Celebrating World Octopus Day – Oct. 8th

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt F

Staying busy has helped Tova cope ever since her son disappeared decades ago. So when her husband dies, she takes a job at an aquarium, where she develops an unlikely friendship with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus, reluctantly residing at the aquarium. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

November 16, 2023 Zoom only at Noon

Happy Birthday author Charles Martin!

Reader's Choice of a book by Charles Martin

Charles is a bestselling award winning author of inspirational, fiction and non-fiction novels. He holds a strong Christian faith, which is often reflected in the themes and messages found in his novels, such as love, faith and redemption. He is 53 years old, and was born November 3, 1969. We will celebrate his success and his 54th birthday.

Awakening Books:

The Dead Don't Dance, Maggie

Murphy Shepherd Books:

The Water Keeper, The Letter Keeper, The Record Keeper

Standalone Novels

Wrapped in Rain, When Crickets Cry, Chasing Fireflies, Where the River Ends, The Mountain Between Us, Thunder and Rain, Unwritten, A Life Intercepted, Water from My Heart, Long Way Gone, Send Down the Rain

Non-Fiction Books:

River Road Memoir, What If It's True?. They Turned the World Upside Down, Son of Man: Retelling the Stories of Jesus

December 21, 2023 Brunch at 10am, Discussion at 11am *Christmas Sacrifices, Love and Faith*

Before I Called You Mine by Nicole Deese F

After many failed matchmaking schemes, teacher Lauren Bailey's one goal is to become a mother. Remaining single to meet the adoption agency's requirements seems simple, until Joshua Avery appears. With an impossible decision looming, she will have to choose between two deep desires. This beautiful story of love, faith, and sacrifices will provide a special Christmas discussion of the book.

January 18, 2024

International Holocaust Remembrance Day - January 27th, 2024

All the Broken Places by John Boyne HF

Follow up to *Boy With the Striped Pajamas*, but it can be read as a stand-alone.

Post WWII....Ninety-one-year-old Gretel Fernsby has lived in the same mansion block in London for decades. She lives a quiet life, despite her disturbing, dark past. She doesn't talk about her escape from Nazi Germany at age 12. She doesn't talk about the grim post-war years in France with her mother, and she doesn't talk about her father, who was the commandant of one of the Reich's extermination camps. Then, a new family moves into the apartment below her. Gretel begins a friendship with the little boy, Henry, though his presence brings back memories she would rather forget. One night, she witnesses a violent argument between Henry's mother and father, one that threatens Gretel's hard-won, self-contained existence.

February 15, 2024 **Black History Month**

Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez HF

Montgomery, Alabama 1973. Nurse Civil Townsend has plans to make a difference, especially in her African American community. At the Montgomery Family Planning Clinic, she intends to help women make their own choices for their lives and bodies. Decades later, with her daughter grown and a long career in her wake, Dr. Civil Townsend is ready to retire and to leave the past behind. But there are stories that refuse to be forgotten. Based on the true story of Mary Alice and Minnie Lee Relf, who at ages 12 and 14, were surgically sterilized without their consent. With the help of the Southern Poverty Law Center, the family responded with a lawsuit that challenged the U.S. Dept of Health, Education, and Welfare, exposing a vast campaign of sterilization of primarily impoverished people.

March 21, 2024 **Women's History Month**

Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel by Bonnie Garmus HF

Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist. Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with her mind. True chemistry results. But life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*.

April 18, 2024 **U.S. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month**

Funny Farm: My Unexpected Life with 600 Rescue Animals by Laurie Zaleski NF

Funny Farm is Laurie's true story: of promises kept, dreams fulfilled, and animals lost and found. It's the story of Annie McNulty, who fled a nightmarish marriage with few skills, no money and no resources, dragging three kids behind her, and accumulating hundreds of cast-off animals on the way. And lastly, it's the story of the brave, incredible, and adorable animals that were rescued.

May 16, 2024 **Horses and the Kentucky Derby**

Horse by Geraldine Brooks HF

Based on the true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art, science, love, obsession, and our reckoning with racism. A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit and injustice. Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom, Jarret, and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories. New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a 19th century equestrian mysterious oil painting. Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, are connected through their shared interest in the horse.

June 20, 2024 **For Better or For Worse...Celebrating Weddings**

The Wedding Veil by Kristy Woodson Harvey HF

This novel follows four women across generations, bound by a beautiful wedding veil and a connection to the famous Vanderbilt family. A secret connection will change their lives and history as they know it. Present Day: Julia Baxter's wedding veil, bequeathed to her great-grandmother by a mysterious woman on a train in the 1930s, has passed through generations of her family as a symbol of happy marriage. But on the morning of her wedding day, something tells her that even the veil's good luck isn't enough to make her marriage last forever. 1914, Asheville, NC: Socialite Edith Vanderbilt is struggling to manage the Biltmore Estate after the death of her husband. She is determined to uphold the Vanderbilt legacy-- and prepare her daughter Cornelia to inherit it. As Cornelia explores world around her, she is torn between upholding tradition and pursuing the exciting future that lies beyond Biltmore.

July 18, 2024 **Discussing the Crisis and Prevention of Suicide**

Awful Beautiful Life: When God Shows Up in the Midst of Tragedy by Becky Powell, Katherine Reay NF Memoir

A gripping story of grace, faith, and triumph for a woman whose world shattered hours after her husband's, Mark, suicide. It came down to a loving God, who surrounded her, a present and dedicated family, and friends, who made her life, offered her sanctuary and showed up for her and her kids in tangible ways. This is a story of remarkable grit, strength and what the Body of Christ in action looks like. A true story from the year 2012, that takes place in Austin, Texas.

August 15, 2024 **National Book Lover's Day - August 9th**

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict HF

The remarkable story of Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, who became powerful women in New York despite the secret she kept in order to make her dreams come true. In her twenties, Belle is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture on the NYC society scene and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world. But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and an advocate for equality.