

OFF THE SHELF



Mission Statement: To energize church library ministry through education, resource sharing, spiritual encouragement and fellowship.

Spring 2025

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Hard Copy Library

Members enjoy free unlimited loan or review access to our hardcopy library, including:

- Books
- Curricula
- DVDs & Study Guides
- Worship Resources

TCACLA Spring Meeting Messiah United Methodist Church May 10, 2025 8:30-12:30.

Our keynote speaker is Rev. Emily Meyer. An ordained pastor in the ELCA, she is currently serving as the Executive Director of The Ministry Lab. The Ministry Lab cultivates vibrant church leaders and congregations by curating resources for all areas of congregational life: CYF ministries, worship and preaching, contemplative practices, justice work, stewardship, mission/vision development, and small church/specialized ministries via its platforms and through one-on-one consultation. It is located on the campus of United Theological Seminary in St. Paul.



Among its many resources, The Ministry Lab offers its members a library that includes books, curricula, DVDs, and study guides. Dr. Meyer will introduce us to her organization and its resources, talk about how a library can be a change agent for its church, and discuss intergenerational resources with an emphasis on children and teens.



767 N Eustis St, Ste 140
St Paul, MN 55114
theministrylab.org
651.279.1677

Information

The **Twin Cities Area Church Library Association (TCACLA)** is a non-profit support organization serving church librarians. Membership is open to individuals and churches of all denominations that desire to network with others on church library development and enrichment.



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TREASURER'S REPORT

01/01/2025	\$1,437.91	Beginning Balance
	\$217.50	Membership Renewals
	-\$84.44	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Expenses
	-\$22.17	Website Fee
04/15/2025	\$1,548.80	Ending Balance

Dear friends:

Happy belated spring! I hope you all had a lovely winter season!

I would like to invite you and your friends to our spring event on Saturday, May 10th, which you can read about in another section of this newsletter.

On another aspect of our Twin Cities Area Church Library Association, we will be electing two new officers in the fall of 2025. The positions will be Vice President and Treasurer. If you would be interested, it is a great opportunity to be involved in the planning of spring and fall events. There might be opportunities to learn more about what is involved from our current officers. We will also be looking for a host church in the fall. It is held in October. All expenses are reimbursed to the church hosting the event.

Looking forward to seeing you at our spring event.

Janet Howard, President

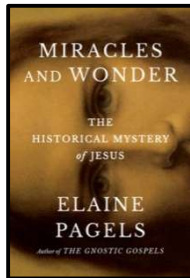


WHAT CHURCHES ARE READING

Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this section. Please send book titles and authors to otseditor@gmail.com.

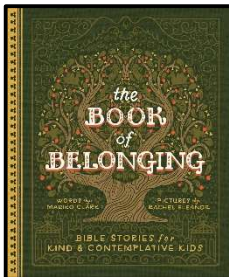
“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.”— Henry Ward Beecher

MIRACLES AND WONDER: The Historical Mystery of Jesus by Elaine Pagels, Doubleday, 2025.



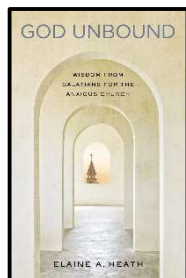
Pagels' latest book reads like a historical mystery, with each chapter addressing a fascinating question and answering it based on the gospels Jesus's followers left behind. How did a poor young Jewish man inspire a religion that shaped the world? Why is Jesus said to have had a virgin birth? Why do we say he rose from the dead? Did his miracles really happen and what did they mean? Not just does Jesus come to life but his desperate, hunted followers do as well.

THE BOOK OF BELONGING; Bible Stories for Kind and Contemplative Kids by Mariko Clark, Convergent, 2024.



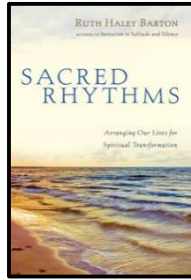
Designed for families seeking a Bible storybook that reflects the diversity of God's people and for everyone seeking a more expansive and wondrous view of God. The thoughtful text and rich illustrations present some of Scripture's most important and overlooked stories—including many female-centered ones—alongside old favorites reimagined to convey greater inclusivity, diversity, and historical representation. Readers will learn who God is and be reminded over and over that God tells each of us, "You are Beloved, you Belong, and you are Delightful." Ages 7-9

GOD UNBOUND; Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church by Elaine A. Heath, Upper Room Books, 2016.



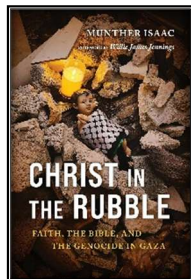
Christianity is currently undergoing a cultural shift just as challenging as the situation confronting Paul and the Galatians. As many churches decline, congregations and pastors feel uncertain and anxious about how to continue their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Heath extends an invitation to broaden our view of God by moving beyond the walls of buildings and programs to become a more diverse church than we have ever imagined. While honoring tradition, she calls the church to boldly follow the Holy Spirit's leadership into the future and offers practical advice and hope for how the church can move through anxiety to courageous, culturally sensitive, and Spirit-led engagement in our rapidly changing world.

SACRED RHYTHMS; Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation by Ruth Haley Barton, IVP, 2006.



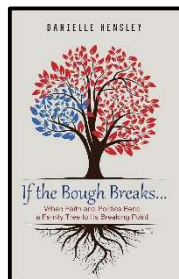
Spiritual disciplines are activities that open us to God's transforming love and the changes that only God can bring about in our lives. Picking up on the monastic tradition of creating a "rule of life" that allows for regular space for the practice of the spiritual disciplines, Barton takes readers more deeply into understanding 7 key disciplines, along with practical ideas for weaving them into everyday life. Each chapter includes exercises to help begin the practices, individually and in a group context.

CHRIST IN THE RUBBLE; Faith, the Bible, and the Genocide in Gaza by Munther Isaac, Eerdmans, 2025.



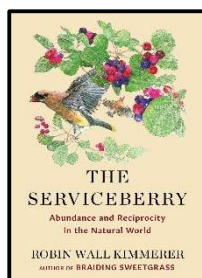
Writing from Bethlehem with close-up knowledge of conditions on the ground and rooted in a commitment to nonviolence and just peace, Isaac urges readers to consider that support for Zionism's genocidal project entails a failure to bring a properly Christian theological criticism to bear upon colonialism, racism, and empire. He calls on Christians to repent of their complicity in the destruction of the Palestinian people. And he challenges them to realign their beliefs and actions with Christ—who can be found not among perpetrators of violence, but with victims buried under the rubble of war.

IF THE BOUGH BREAKS....When Faith and Politics Bend a Family Tree to Its Breaking Point by Danielle Hensley, Cascade Books, 2024.



Hensley examines the seemingly universal and growing chasm between the right and the left through the lens of a single family where ideological, political, and spiritual differences can be as subtle as they are pernicious. Her tale is also the love story of a daughter/sister/granddaughter/mother fighting passionately against external and internal forces that conspire to destroy love and to continue unhealthy cycles of abuse and denial in her family.

THE SERVICEBERRY; Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer, Scribner, 2024.



An Indigenous scientist asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? Our economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources, and we have surrendered our values to a system that actively harms what we love. Meanwhile, the serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth—its abundance of sweet, juicy berries—to meet the needs of its natural community. And this distribution ensures its own survival.



TCACLA BOOK SWAP TABLE: You may want to bring an empty tote bag - or two - with you on May 10. Besides the usual array of duplicate or gently used books that attendees can bring to share with others, there will be a selection of books provided by Rev. Meyer. Reminder: If you bring books that aren't taken, please bring them home with you instead of leaving them for the host church to dispose of.

REVIEW BOOKS FOR LIBRARYTHING: If you are a member of LibraryThing, you have a chance to win up to 4 new and forthcoming books every month from select publishers and authors through its Early Reviewers program. By opting to receive books, you agree to read and review the books you win. However, you are not obligated to leave a positive review and you can express your opinion freely.



Before the Reclass	
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After the Reclass!	
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If you use the Dewey Decimal System in your library, did you know that an alternate arrangement was created in the Religion section in 2019? This was done in response to criticism that the existing system reflected a predominantly Christian centric perspective. The new system organizes religious subjects more equitably by chronology and geography. While many public and school libraries have made these changes, Christian church libraries may want to continue to use the original arrangement. Criticism of the racism and homophobia that's embedded in the system continues.

TOP TEN MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2024	
	1. "All Boys Aren't Blue," George M. Johnson
	2. "Gender Queer," Maia Kobabe
	3. (Tie) "The Bluest Eye," Toni Morrison
	3. (Tie) "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," Stephen Chbosky
	5. "Tricks," Ellen Hopkins
	6. (Tie) "Looking for Alaska," John Green
	6. (Tie) "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl," Jesse Andrews
	8. (Tie) "Crank," Ellen Hopkins
	8. (Tie) "Sold," Patricia McCormick
	10. "Flamer," Mike Curato

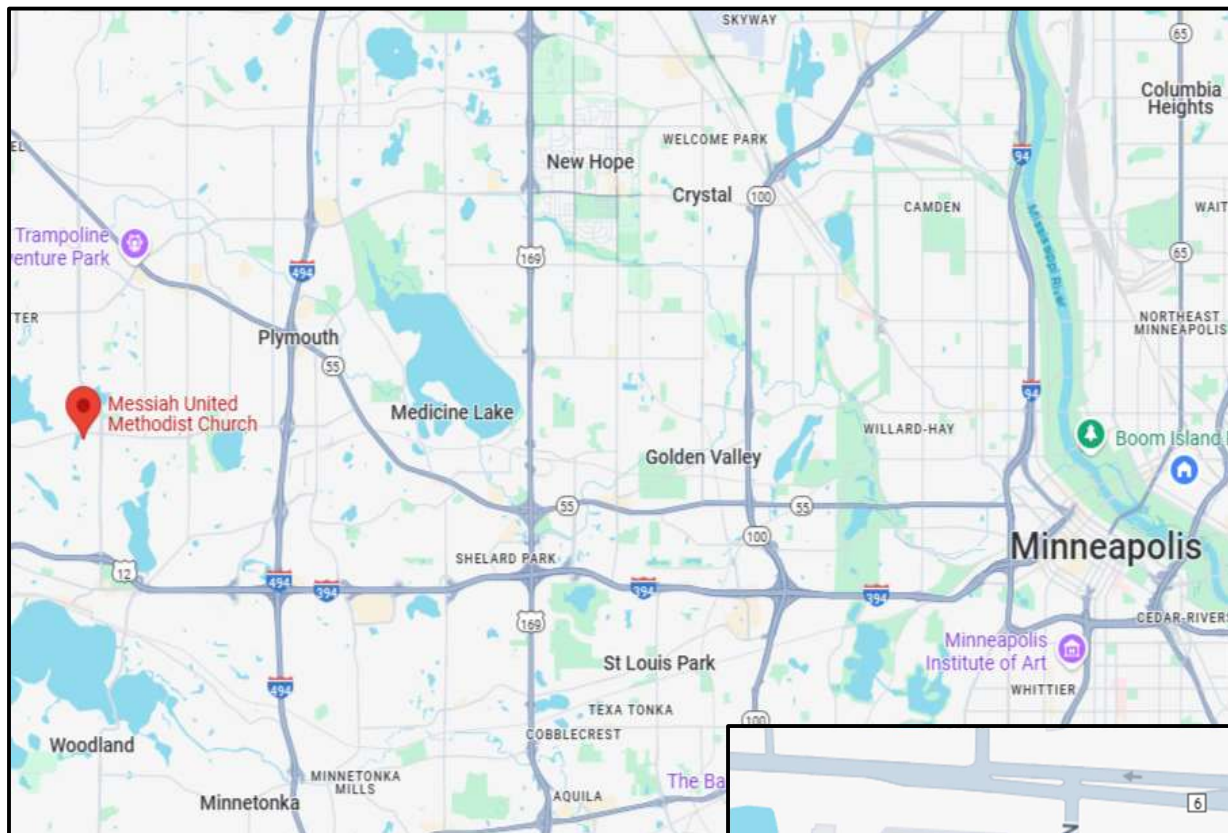
HOST CHURCHES NEEDED

If it's been a while since your church hosted a TCACLA meeting or you've never hosted one, the board encourages you to consider doing so this fall or in 2026. Whether your library has 600 books or 4,000, we'd love to see it.

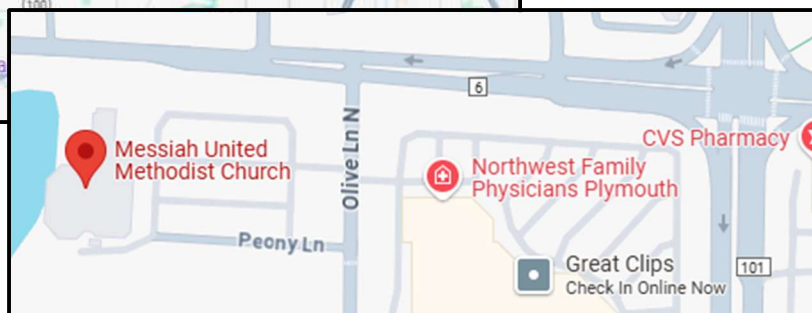


MESSIAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

17805 COUNTY ROAD 6, PLYMOUTH



There is an exit to west County Road 6 on I-494. The church is a short distance past the intersection with County Road 101. The entrance to the parking lot is on Olive Lane N.



Messiah United Methodist Church covenants to *become* love in word, action, and deed. “We are a community rooted in the love of Jesus. We welcome and affirm the full inclusion of all people; all LGBTQIA+, all ages, all

racess and ethnicities, all political affiliations, all economic statuses, and all abilities into the life and ministry of the church. Moving forward in bold hope, we renew our commitment to follow the inclusive example and teachings of Jesus by loving God, loving each other, and loving the world.”

Messiah’s library has over 1,300 books that are catalogued on LibraryThing. They create a recommended reading list each quarter that is based on recommendations from the pastors, Creation Care & Inclusion teams, and Messiah’s Book Club.

The season of weekend road construction projects, detours, and lane closures has begun. Be sure to check your route on the morning of May 10 before leaving home.



**Twin Cities Area Church Library Association Meeting
Saturday, May 10, 2025**

The book swap and church library will be open all morning.

8:30	Registration
9:00	Welcome and Devotions
9:15	Announcements
9:30	Rev. Emily Meyer Presentation
10:30	Break; Library and Church Tours
10:45	Workshop: How Can We Use the Resources of the Ministry Lab in our Libraries
11:30	Break
11:45	Lunch

**TCACLA Spring Meeting
May 10, 2025
MEETING REGISTRATION FORM**

Please pre-register by May 7.

Your church name: _____

Name(s) of person(s) attending: _____

Number of registrants: _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____.

Make checks payable to TCACLA. Mail the completed form and check(s) to:

Roberta Shaw
940 Franklin Ter Apt 404
Minneapolis MN 55406-1136



**TCACLA Spring Meeting
May 10, 2025**

One of the missions of TCACLA is to provide a forum for church librarians to exchange information with each other. In addition to our meetings and our newsletter, we do this via our Facebook page, Twin Cities Area Church Library Association, and our website at www.tcaccla.com.



If you have an upcoming book event at your church, have had a special promotion for your library, want to recommend a new book, or have any other news that would interest our members, please send the information to otseditor@gmail.com.

**OFF THE SHELF
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