



Village Pastors Share Book Recommendations

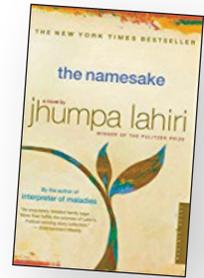
Many of you have asked what books our Village Church pastors are reading. Here are a few titles our pastors recommend.

From Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor

The Namesake. Jhumpa Lahiri. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2003



Pulitzer Prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri offers this coming of age novel about Gogol Ganguli, son of Ashoke and Ashima. The novel explores the normal father and son issues that arise when a young man seeks his own place in the world. But these issues are further complicated by the reality that Ashoke immigrated from Bengali. As a second-generation immigrant, Gogol discovers that there is too much of India in him to be fully at home in America, and too much America in him to be fully at home in India. It echoes theological tones, as our home is the kingdom of God, and therefore, we are never fully at home in this culture but live as a sort of immigrant in this world.

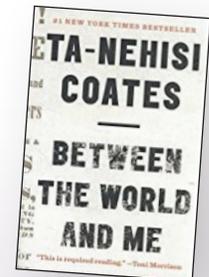


From Rev. Len Carrell, pastor for pastoral care

Between the World and Me. Ta-Nehisi Coates. New York: Penguin Random House, 2015



This title, "Between the World and Me," comes from a 1957 poem by Richard Wright in a book entitled White Man Listen! In the 80's and 90's, one of my favorite playwrights was August Wilson because of his passionate portrayal of the black experience in America. Someone told me I had to read Coates' book. Coates addresses his memoir to his young son. It is his story and the story of our nation and our current crisis between race relationships. It tells how America has built this idea of "race," a falsehood that is damaging to us all but falls most violently of black women and men. So, I listened!

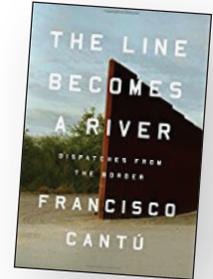


From Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor for young adult ministry

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border. Francisco Cantú. New York: Penguin Random House, 2018.



What has most startled me when traveling to the U.S./Mexico border is the sheer amount of “stuff,” information, history, humanitarian issues, that I wouldn’t know had I not traveled. Even as a seeker of information, much of it is hard to find, if available at all. We have had a blind spot when it comes to our southernmost border, and I am hopeful that blind spot is beginning to attract some light. This new book is the best telling, through both personal narrative and careful research, I have found. It’s an easy and inviting read, at times grabbing at your heart, and at times portraying nightmarish images. Our southernmost border isn’t a political issue. It’s a place, where people live and work and struggle. If you’re like me and have found yourself wondering why you don’t know more about it, start here.

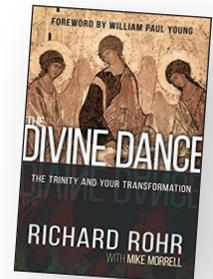


From Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate

The Divine Dance. The Trinity and Your Transformation. Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2016.



The church continues to evolve in its understanding of the wonderful and perplexing doctrine of the Trinity. I read this book in preparation for a Village U course I taught on the Trinity. Franciscan priest Richard Rohr and writer Mike Morrell have teamed together to share new thoughts about how God is the three in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They give us the image of a God who is in community as the three persons of the Trinity. Further, this community that is God is constantly engaged in a kind of dance as each person in the Trinity not only shows us who God is, but also responds to one another. The tone is more conversational and reflective than dogmatic and systematic. I found this to be engaging and provocative reading.



From Rev. Zach Walker, pastor for youth ministry

Canoeing The Mountains. Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory. Tod Bolsinger. Grand Rapids, MI: InterVarsity Press, 2015.



This book came suggested from several friends who also work in leadership contexts. I was surprised at how helpful and insightful it was when thinking about group dynamics and operating in new and diverse settings. I was particularly drawn in by the analogy to Lewis and Clark’s leadership styles and how those were at play in their own explorations. Bolsinger explains that sometimes our past experiences can actually be a hindrance when we need to imagine radically different futures that require us to develop new methods, habits and a willingness to chart new territory.

