

2020 READING LIST - BY REV. TERRI SWAN

"I am still busy, but reading is vital for my learning, for my ministry, and for my soul." - Rev. Terri Swan



Many years ago, a group of pastors interviewed me for ministry in the North Texas Annual Conference, and, as we finished the interview, they gave me words of encouragement and offered some advice. They said, "We know you are busy but, keep reading! You need to read beyond what is required for school." I can remember thinking they obviously did not understand my time constraints. At the time of the interview, I was a mom of two young girls, with supper to fix, and laundry to tackle. I was a full-time pastor, a full-time wife and mother, and a full-time student. Reading anything beyond what I needed to read for school seemed almost impossible! When was I going to have time to read for my own edification?

I have reflected upon that advice many times over my years of ministry. Even though I thought these preachers were being too "preachy," they were spot-on with their advice! I am still busy, but reading is vital for my learning, for my ministry, and for my soul.

Currently, I have at least three books that I am reading sections of until I move to the next group. Usually I am reading one book on leadership, one on theology or Bible, and one that addresses our current culture. Joe is never surprised to see the Amazon package in the mail as I receive yet another book. Do me a favor, and don't ask him about my amazon packages!

As I begin 2020, I want to share the books I am currently reading.

The Bible

Personally, I am reading through the Psalms, Bible journaling as I go, which has become a vital spiritual discipline for me. As the Lenten season launches next month, I will begin the book of Job. As a staff and church family, we will be reading through the parables of Jesus, and we will include a devotional reading plan for the congregation.

Leadership

For leadership I am reading, a new book by Susan Beaumont entitled, *How to Lead When You Don't know Where You're Going . . . Leading in a Liminal Season*. I am already finding nuggets of wisdom that are helping me in this season of potential change for the United Methodist denomination. Another helpful book in this season is *The Anatomy of Peace* by The Arbinger Institute. I read this book before, but I am re-reading some

sections as I lead the Salem Board through discussions on the book.

Theology

As I prepare to be on the other side of the table for interviews for candidates in ministry, I am reading an articulation of our rich Wesleyan theology by Kenneth Collins, *Holy Love and the Shape of Grace*. I am grateful to have such a firm foundation for ministry in our Wesleyan tradition. As an aside, I should mention that Sean McIntyre, our Student Pastor of Outreach is a part of the upcoming group of pastors being interviewed for provisional membership in the Missouri Annual Conference. Please take the time to offer Sean words of encouragement, and keep him in your prayers.

I hope I am not being too preachy when I encourage you as well to "keep reading!" Find the time to learn something every day.

The proverbial wisdom of God's Word says, "Teach the wise, and they will become wiser; inform the righteous, and their learning will increase. The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord; the knowledge of the holy one is understanding." - Proverbs 9: 9-10

Blessings,
Rev. Terri Swan



Today's decisions affect tomorrow's outcomes. With the benefit of hindsight, we can see things in our past that we might do differently. By the same token, we can also see the decisions that helped shape our future for the better. Sometimes it is difficult to see where God is leading, but when we look back we can see God's presence. Join us on Sunday mornings in January as we explore the benefits of hindsight.



**DON'T MISS OUT!
REGISTER FOR
CONFIRMATION
2020 NOW**

Do you have a 7th grader in your family? Have you signed up for confirmation? The confirmation experience is designed for 7th grade students to learn about their faith from a United Methodist perspective and explore ways to make faith a part of their everyday lives. Begins January 21. Register now! For more details or to register, visit www.salemstlouis.com/confirmation or contact Sean McIntyre in the office.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

We'd love to see you at our annual Ash Wednesday worship service at Salem our Mid-County Site on February 26 at 7:00 pm in the Salem Sanctuary. This service, marking the season of Lent, features the imposition of ashes, a variety of musical selections, Holy Communion, and message. Transportation will be available from The Connection to Salem. Call (314) 991-0546 to sign up.



JOIN A CONNECT GROUP

Small groups are one of the most important things we do as a church. They are intended for hanging out, developing friendships, asking questions, growing in our love for Jesus, and serving alongside others to make a lasting impact in our communities. Small groups diverse in leadership, meeting times, and locations will start up this month. Contact Rev. Tim Power (tim@salemstlouis.com or (314) 991-0546) if you have questions or for more information. For a complete list visit salemstlouis.com

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club, an older adult ministry, meets on the first Thursday of the month beginning February 6 from 10:30 am-1:00 pm. The program will feature music by the Salem United Methodist Preschool, musicians from both traditional and modern worship services. All seniors welcome. To make reservations for the \$10 catered lunch call Jennifer Horne at (314) 991-0546.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Are you looking for a preschool for your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or friend? Salem has a highly rated, accredited preschool on-site. We've provided high quality early childhood learning experiences for over 50 years. Open spots are available now. Schedule a tour today by calling (314) 991-8601. Talk to teachers and staff, tour our classrooms, and start the enrollment process. We offer morning and afternoon class for children age 2 1/2 through pre-kindergarten. Learn more at <https://www.salemstlouis.com/preschool>.



OUTREACH FOCUS: EPWORTH CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Founded in 1864 by United Methodist Women as an orphanage, Epworth helps children, youth, and families move toward self-sufficiency by focusing on health, housing, education, and employment. Epworth was a founding agency of the United Way of Greater St. Louis in 1922 and has been accredited by The Joint Commission since 1982. Epworth serves nearly 8,000 children, youth and families annually.

Epworth offers four locations in St. Louis County and City, in addition to providing community-based and in-home services that reach into St. Charles County. Children and youth, birth through age 25, are primarily served across the agency; however, parents and caregivers are also supported through case management, parenting skills and education, and therapeutic services. The children and families served experience a variety of challenges including mental illness, behavioral issues, being at risk of or actively homeless, trauma history, intellectual/developmental disability, being in foster care, and having involvement with Children's Division or Juvenile Justice systems.

Epworth seeks to break down these barriers by providing an array of services through

colleagues, volunteers, and partnering organizations including: Supportive Housing (Youth emergency shelter with supportive services, Transitional living and Independent living programs), Residential and intensive treatment, Psychological Services, Street Outreach, A Drop-In Center for homeless and at-risk youth, and services for current and former foster care youth. Additionally, Epworth provides a Family Support Network and Foster Care Case Management.

Salem has had a long relationship serving Epworth.

We currently make weekly lunches with the Youth of the Drop-In Center. Our members Mentor Youth, engage in fun activities with Residential Youth, and share knowledge and expertise with Life Skills training. Out-of-Our-Bounty donations go to Epworth. Our Pastors conduct music, informal worship, and offer communion to the Youth. In 2020, we'll begin tutoring programs for Epworth Youth.

January 25th will be an **Epworth Serve Day from 10:00 am to Noon**, where we will be engaged with serving opportunities at three of Epworth's campuses and at Salem's Mid-County site. Sign-up today to make a difference for St. Louis youth at www.salemstlouis.com.



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January 15, 2020



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed
Feb. 1: Holy Smokers Men's Group, 8:00 am (Mid-County)
Feb. 6: Friendship Club Senior Adult Group, 10:30 (Mid-County)
Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7:00 pm (Mid-County)
Feb. 28: Preschool Family Reading Night, 6:00 pm (Mid-County)
March 14: Tales from the Depths Concert, 7:30 pm (Mid-County)
April 5: Palm Sunday
April 9: Maundy Thursday Service (details coming soon)
April 10: Good Friday Service (details coming soon)
April 10: Office Closed
April 12: Easter Sunday
April 26: Confirmation Sunday
May 9: Wish Upon a Star Concert, 7:30 pm (Mid-County)
May 10: Mother's Day
May 15: Work as Worship Retreat
May 25: Memorial Day
June 8-12: Vacation Bible School, 9:00 am-Noon (Mid-County)

**VISIT SALEMSTLOUIS.COM FOR THE
COMPLETE CALENDAR**



SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MID-COUNTY

1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131
(314) 991-0546
salemstlouis.com

SOUTH-CITY

6701 Virginia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63111
(314) 256-0545
theconnectionstlouis.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 am Chapel
9:30 am Modern
10:45 am Traditional

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 am Worship

SUNDAY CLASSES & NURSERY

9:30 am Classes for adults &
children (2 years-6th grade)
8:30 - 11:45 am Nursery for
infants & toddlers

SUNDAY KIDS & NURSERY

10:30 am Kids Connection
for children & Nursery for
infants

WEDNESDAY

PRAYER SERVICE

6:00 - 6:30 pm Chapel



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