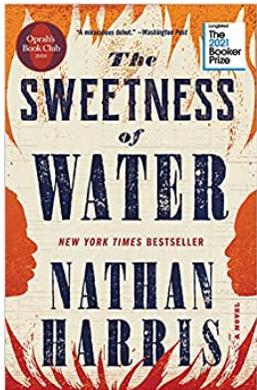


St. Paul's by-the-Sea

Weekly news & updates

December 31, 2021



SPBTS Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club is Monday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom, when *The Sweetness of Water* will be discussed.

Listed below are the books suggested and information off the internet about each of the books.

January 17 - **The Sweetness of Water** by Nathan Harris - In the waning days of the Civil War, brothers Prentiss and Landry—freed by the Emancipation Proclamation—seek refuge on the homestead of George Walker and his wife, Isabelle. The Walkers, wracked by the loss of their only son to the war, hire the brothers to work their farm, hoping through an unexpected friendship to stanch their grief. Prentiss and Landry, meanwhile, plan to save money for the journey north and a chance to reunite with their mother, who was sold away when they were boys.

Parallel to their story runs a forbidden romance between two Confederate soldiers. The young men, recently returned from the war to the town of Old Ox, hold their trysts in the woods. But when their secret is discovered, the resulting chaos, including a murder, unleashes convulsive repercussions on the entire community. In the aftermath of so much turmoil, it is Isabelle who emerges as an unlikely leader, proffering a healing vision for the land and for the newly free citizens of Old Ox.

With candor and sympathy, debut novelist Nathan Harris creates an unforgettable cast of characters, depicting Georgia in the violent crucible of Reconstruction. Equal parts beauty and terror, as gripping as it is moving, *The Sweetness of Water* is an epic whose grandeur locates humanity and love amid the most harrowing circumstances.

The Dove Keepers by Alice Hoffman - In 70 C.E., nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path. Yael's mother died in childbirth, and her father, an expert assassin, never forgave her for that death. Revka, a village baker's wife, watched the horrifically brutal murder of her daughter by Roman soldiers; she brings to Masada her young grandsons, rendered mute by what they have witnessed. Aziza is a warrior's daughter, raised as a boy, a fearless rider and an expert marksman who finds passion with a fellow soldier. Shirah, born in Alexandria, is wise in the ways of ancient magic and medicine, a woman with uncanny insight and power.

The lives of these four complex and fiercely independent women intersect in the desperate days of the siege. All are dovekeepers, and all are also keeping secrets - about who they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love.

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom - is an autobiographical memoir by Corrie ten Boom, a devoutly religious woman who lived in the Holland city of Haarlem during the Nazi occupation. Compelled by her unshakeable Christian morality, she defied tyranny to rescue her Jewish neighbors who faced annihilation during the Holocaust. She was ultimately caught and sent to the notorious Ravensbruck death camp, where she witnessed scenes of unimaginable cruelty. In the camp, it was Corrie's bedrock faith in the glory of God that sustained her. She discovered that love was a far more powerful force than hate—for God's love was truly unconquerable.

The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz - Jake Bonner is a failed writer who teaches at a third-rate MFA program. One day, one of his students, Evan, tells him about a book he's working on with a great plot. Later, Jake learns that Evan died without writing his book.

Years later, Jake ends up becoming a bestselling author based on the plot of that book. However, he starts receiving anonymous messages from someone who knows he his book's plot.

In this thriller and book-within-a-book, Jake must uncover the truth behind the plot of his own book.

The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles - When the Nazis march into Paris, Odile stands to lose everything she holds dear, including her beloved Library. Together with her fellow librarians, Odile joins the Resistance with the best weapons she has: books. But when the war finally ends, instead of freedom, Odile tastes the bitter sting of unspeakable betrayal.

The Book Club is open to anyone who loves to read. If you'd like to join the group please reach out to Debbie Shuster or Jody Farley.

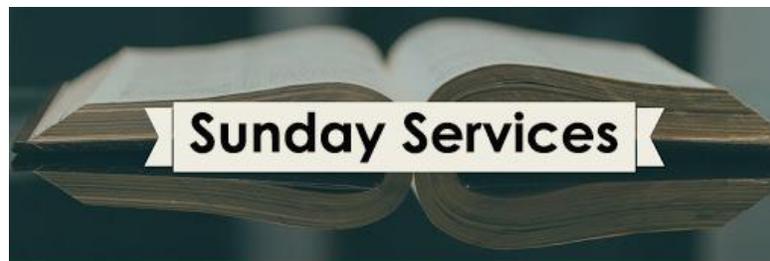


Mary Wright welcomes anyone who wants to enjoy poinsettias at home to take them after the service or during the week.

Your 2022 envelopes are available for pick up. They are located in the pew at the back of the church.



Three generations of the Regan Smith family after the Christmas Eve Service.



January 2:

Second Christmas

Rite II Morning Prayer service with music, officiated by our Lay Worship Leaders, Paul and Cami Rogers.



January 9:

First Epiphany

Rite II Holy

Eucharist service with music, celebrated by Pastor Blake Wamester.



January 16:

Second Epiphany

Rite II Holy

Eucharist service with music, celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Frieda Malcolm.

[Click here](#) for a PDF version of the 1/2/2021 bulletin so you can follow along.



Church Online

The Sunday, December 26th service was not live streamed.



Birthdays

Bob Rothermel (1/2)
Mary Bunting (1/4)
Tammy Johnson (1/4)

Prayer List

Please keep those on our prayer list in your daily prayers.

Robbie Whittington Joyce, Cindy Dreslin, Kyle Harmon, Shirley Connor, Jose Cabrera, Ryan Fischer, Katlyn, David Warren, Letty Trimper Hurst, Rev. Penny Morrow, Fr. Joe Rushton, Connie Mayers, Doug Dryden, Brian Friedman, Grace, Fr. Ron Knapp, Delores Rothermel, Ronnie Skinner, Randy Hastings, Gary Ballard, Hugh, Frank Candeloro, Jr., John Rogers, John Seward, Stephanie Hill, Douglas Allan, Yvetta Henry Tull, Melvin, Jimmy Farley, Alex Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Nancy Wimbish, Francisco Hector Diaz Diaz, Fred Smith, Jean Charles, Tom Shuster

Worship Leaders Schedule

This Week—January 2, 2022

Officiants: Cami & Paul Roger
Altar Guild: Mary Wright
Usher: Kay Ayres

Next Week—January 9, 2022

Celebrant: Pastor Blake Wamester
Reader: Nancy Knotts
Altar Guild: Mary Wright
Usher: John Knotts
Counters: Nancy Knotts, Debbie Shuster



[Click here to view the Parish Calendar](#)

