



Dec. 30, 2020

Welcome to the third issue of *NoCo Beet*.

Our goal is to deliver a monthly package of events, resources and ideas that you will find useful in your own faith formation.

Did your Christmas packages arrive on time? It's still too early to tell because Christmastide runs through January 5. On the other hand, it might technically be a bit late for Christmas Eve worship but we have two suggestions: participate again with the recorded service from First Church that is linked from the home page at <https://fcfumc.net/> and enjoy the mashup of the past three Christmas Eve services from United Methodist Church of the Resurrection that are linked below in the regional.

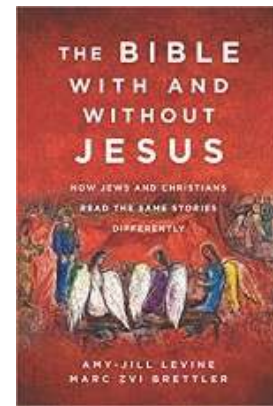
The Northern Colorado Faith Library is again closed to self-service due to higher levels of Covid-19 in our area. However, volunteers are standing by to deliver books and DVDs to your doorstep. Browse the catalog at fcf.scoolaid.net or contact me for suggestions and to schedule a delivery.

David W. Reid, editor



The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently is a six-week study on Thursdays with sessions led by David Reid and Rev. Cynthia Paquette. Bible scholars

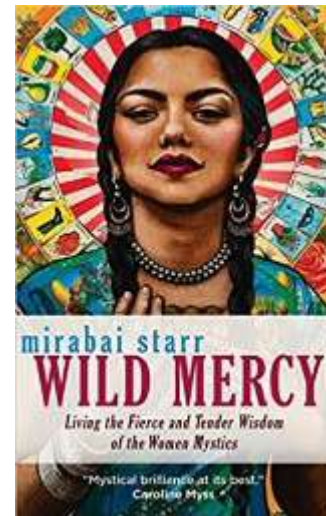
Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler take readers on a tour of numerous Hebrew Bible stories referenced in the New Testament to reveal what the ancient texts meant in their original contexts and to show how and why the Jewish and Christian traditions find very different meanings in them.



This study starts at 7 p.m. January 14. If demand is sufficient, a noon Thursday section will be added. Hardback \$30; e-book \$17. To register and obtain the Zoom link or for more information, contact David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707 (voice or text).

First Church will offer back-to-back studies that have a gender focus. Women and men (or is that men and women?) are encouraged to attend both!

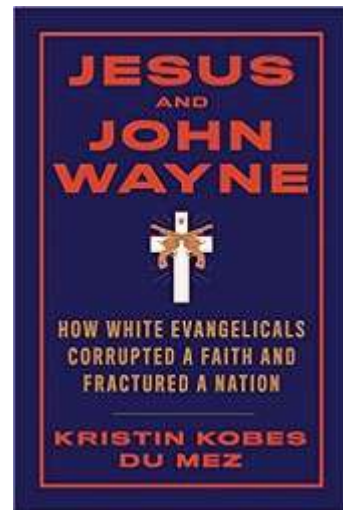
Sandy Merriweather will facilitate a study of *Wild Mercy: Living the Fierce and Tender Wisdom of the Women Mystics* at 7 p.m. Wednesdays beginning January 13 for five weeks. Published in 2019, *Wild Mercy* by Mirabai Starr has been praised by the late spiritual teacher Ram Dass, Episcopal priest and author Barbara Brown Taylor and novelist and nonfiction writer Anne Lamott. Hardback \$11.60, e-book \$9. [Here's](#) the author's website.



Beginning Thursday, February 18, David Reid will lead a five-week study of ***Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation***. This is a comprehensive study of masculinity in white evangelical culture from the anti-communist crusade of the 1960s to evangelical support for Donald Trump. The author is Kristin Kobes Du Mez, a professor of history and gender studies at

Calvin College. *Englewood Review of Books* selected Jesus and John Wayne as the book of the year for 2020. Hardback \$29; e-book \$15. Read an interview with Du Mez [here](#).

To register and obtain the Zoom link for either class or for more information contact David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707 (voice or text).



Elizabeth Sink will lead the discussion at 3 p.m. January 17 for the **Spirituality Book of the Month** group hosted by the Northern Colorado Faith Library and Fort Collins Interfaith Council. The book is *You Don't Have to Be Wrong for Me to Be Right: Finding Faith without Fanaticism* by Brad Hirschfield. For details and a Zoom link, contact Martha Conant at marthaconant@gmail.com. [Here](#) is Sink's TedxCSU Talk on interfaith cooperation.

Are you clued in to **Faith In Progress**, the KRFC radio show hosted by Rabbi Hillel Katzir and Rev. Joseph Moore that presents local issues from a multifaith perspective? It airs at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at 88.9 FM. Podcasts of previous Faith in Progress episodes can be found [here](#).

The start of the year calls for new habits. Here are several books from the Northern Colorado Faith Library that can help you develop a daily devotional practice. We will make an exception with any one of these volumes and allow you to check it out for a full year.

- [Reading Between the Lines: The Hidden Wisdom of Women in the Gospels](#) by Martha Driscoll
- [Prayers from the East: Traditions of Eastern Christianity](#)
- [Morning by Morning](#), daily meditations from the writings of Marva J. Dawn
- [Gift and Task: A Year of Daily Readings and Reflections](#) by Walter Brueggemann

- [*Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children*](#) by Marian Wright Edelman
 - [*Celtic Prayers from Iona*](#) by J. Philip Newell
 - [*Earth Prayers From Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*](#)
 - [*Streams in the Desert: 366 Daily Devotional Readings*](#)
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Regional

Hurry if you want to register for **Justice for Everyday Life**, a course open to everyone via Zoom that begins January 3. The group meets 2-4 p.m. every Sunday in January and is sponsored by the Lay Servant Ministries of the Rocky Mountain Conference. Register [here](#).

Ring Lake Ranch in Dubois, Wyoming offers a variety of speakers throughout the summer in a beautiful, rustic setting. Because of uncertainty about the pandemic, the number of participants has been restricted for 2021. It's about a 6-hour drive from Fort Collins. You'll find some familiar names and some new ones in the lineup [here](#).



United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City solved the problem of pandemic restrictions by pulling together highlights from the last three years of its Christmas Eve extravaganzas.

[Tune in](#) at your convenience to enjoy singers, dancers, choirs, orchestras, handbells, kids in pajamas, drum and soprano sax solos, re-enactments of the birth story on stage and on video, and even Santa Claus.



National/International

Travel to the island of Iona, Scotland for a pilgrimage with renowned spirituality teacher **J. Philip Newell** in September 2021. This trip will be led by Cami Twilling, director of contemplative spirituality at Trinity United Methodist Church in Denver. At deadline, four spaces remained open. Information is on [this page](#).



Dr. Amy Oden, who delivered the 2018 Hagen Lecture at First Church, will lead a three-day Academy of Spiritual Formation on “Stretching Beyond Our Limits: Community + Hospitality” January 31-February 2. Sponsors of this online cyber cloister academy are the North Texas and Central Texas conferences of the United Methodist Church and the Upper Room. Register

by January 10 to receive all retreat resources by mail but you may also register later. Learn more [here](#).

Wondering what to do next with your desire to seek racial justice? Take the 30-day Challenge at [The AntiRacist Table](#).



Publisher's Weekly has declared [these five books](#) the best on religion of 2020. All are either cataloged or scheduled to be cataloged soon at the Northern Colorado Faith Library.

NoCo Beef is a publication sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team and Northern Colorado Library Board at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. Publishers are Rev. Melanie Rosa and Rev. Cynthia Paquette, both of First Church. David Reid serves as editor. Haley Candelario is the designer and copy editor.

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