



March 30, 2021

After Boulder.

Prayers and services will be offered to help heal the wounds that individuals, families and communities suffered in the mass shooting in Boulder the night this issue was being written.

Once again, our national debate on gun violence will go into overdrive with people of faith holding a variety of understandings. We offer these spiritual and theological resources:

- [Prayers for Boulder – Bishops of Colorado](#)
- This [Litany for Gun Violence](#), written by Fran Pratt five years ago.
- [The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church on gun violence](#)

We also offer these three books in the Northern Colorado Faith Library:

- [For Such a Time as This: Hope and Forgiveness after the Charleston Massacre](#) by Sharon Risher with Sherri Wood Emmons
- [America and Its Guns: A Theological Expose](#) by James E. Atwood
- [Fundamentalism and Where it Is Taking America](#) by James E. Atwood

David W. Reid, editor



First Church will hold its first in-person adult class in more than a year with the study of *We Are Called to be a Movement* by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. The three-week class will be offered in-person at noon on April 14, 21, and 28 with masks and physical distancing required. That section will be

limited to the first 12 people who sign up.

The class also will be available on Zoom at 7 p.m. on those dates. Contact facilitator David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707 to register and get complete details.

This short, inexpensive book is a sermon encapsulating the biblical ideals behind Barber's Poor People's Campaign. The movement works toward achieving a more economically just and equal nation. Barber is senior pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro, N.C. He was president of the North Carolina NAACP for a decade and is visiting professor of public theology and activism at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He was a MacArthur Fellow in 2018.



Rev. William S. Barber II was arrested many times at Moral Mondays protests.

Mission teams from First Church and Aspen Community UMC pause during their trip to Kenya. Below, girls who received some of the 547 hygiene kits assembled by First Church volunteers with Kate Norton, second from right.



Less than two months before the pandemic struck, six First Church members traveled to Kenya to support the Clean Water Project and Days for Girls. Now, the missionaries will present pictures, descriptions and accounts of their work in a Zoom presentation at 7 p.m. April 26. Contact davidreid24@gmail.com for the link.

The Clean Water Project brings clean water systems to rural schools and has been supported by First Church under the leadership of Rich Fisher since 2010. More than 90 schools have been helped by the project. First Church members on the trip included Fisher, Elaine Karns, Rick and Kate Norton, Diane Petersen and Bonny Thomas. They and members of Aspen Community UMC did cement work, painting and installed a water system.

The volunteers also delivered 547 reusable feminine hygiene kits assembled by a team of volunteers organized by Kate Norton for the Days for Girls project. This work also included providing health education. Background on this global charity is [here](#).

The *Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu is the focus of the April 11 meeting of the **Interfaith Spirituality Book of the Month** group, which is sponsored by the Interfaith Council and hosted by the Northern Colorado Faith Library. It is a short, classic Chinese text that is foundational for religious and philosophical Taoism.

The Zoom meeting starts at 3 p.m. Contact marthaconant@gmail.com for the link.



Sculpture of Lao Tzu (also Laozi), the reputed author of the Tao Te Ching.

To sift through the many translations available, you can read about them on the [Shambhala website](#). Among the highly recommended translations are those by Stephen Mitchell and Ursula LaGuin.

These sites offer complete copies online:

- <https://www.organism.earth/library/document/tao-te-ching>
- <http://classics.mit.edu/Lao/taote.html>
- https://www.with.org/tao_te_ching_en.pdf
- <https://taoism.net/tao/tao-te-ching-online-translation/>
- <https://www.sacred-texts.com/tao/taote.htm>

There's also [this one](#) to listen to on YouTube.

Open Hearts class at First Church will present *Wonders of the National Parks* from the Great Courses on April 11 and 18. "Evil, Suffering and God of Love," a selection from *Living the Questions* video series is set for April 25. This Sunday morning group will launch a five-week video study of *Embracing an Adult Faith* by Marcus Borg on May 2.

Contact Martha Conant at marthaconant@gmail.com for Zoom links.

Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World is both the title of a book by Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy, M.D. (pictured right), and the first Adult Faith Formation offering to highlight

the Visioning Team's theme for 2021 of Healing, Wellness and Wholeness. Murthy demonstrates that there is an epidemic of loneliness and that we have many ways to do something about it. This class is scheduled to be offered in-person to a limited number of participants for six Wednesday sessions at noon from May 5 through June 9. An evening Zoom section is scheduled for the same dates at 7 p.m.



Contact davidreid24@gmail.com to register for help obtaining the text. Cost of the book is about \$20.

Does a mountain stream or the sweep of a large river evoke awe in you? Does that experience engage us to care for the earth? Should the wonder of a fish swimming upstream be used to motivate environmental activism? Join the conversation as a philosopher and a stream ecologist discuss the experience of awe and its relationship to environmental ethics.

Awe, Ethics and River Conservation is an event on Zoom sponsored by World Wisdoms Project from 1:30-3:30 p.m. April 25. Katie McShane, a professor of philosophy at Colorado State University, will discuss the experience of awe and its relationship to environmental ethics with Kurt Fausch, professor emeritus of environmental ethics at CSU. Details and registration can be found [here](#).



An **Anti-Racism Allyship Group** is forming at First United Methodist Church Loveland and is open to anyone who wants to engage in personal growth and advocacy to work for change in ourselves and the community. Weekly meetings provide opportunities to learn and grow with others. Advocacy work includes support for community organizations, sponsoring educational events at your church and more. All are welcome.

To join or learn more about this group, contact Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris, associate pastor at FUMC Loveland, at lee@fumcloveland.com or (970) 667-0876.

Regional

Reproductive Rights and Justice is the theme of a 90-minute Zoom session sponsored by Iliff School of Theology at 1 p.m. April 12. The speakers are Rev. Amanda Henderson, director of Iliff's new Institute of Religion, Politics, and Culture, and third-year Masters of Divinity student Sam Carwyn.

Details and \$5 registration [here](#).



Rev. Amanda Henderson and Masters of Divinity Student Sam Carwyn.

Easter at Red Rocks won't be the same again this year, thanks to Covid-19. But you should be able to see a virtual service sponsored by the Colorado Council of Churches at [this page](#).

Several episcopal leaders are scheduled to participate, including Bishop Karen Oliveto of the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church.



National/International

Luke Bretherton, a professor of moral and political theology at Duke University Divinity School, has started a podcast series on the meaning, purpose, and mechanics of community organizing. Discussions explore how organizing connects democracy and the church, particularly at a local, congregational level, and how organizing embodies a distinctive vision and practice of democratic politics, one in which churches can play a key, constructive role.



[Here](#) are details about Listen, Organize, Act!

These books by Bretherton are available in the Northern Colorado Faith Library:

- [*Christ and the Common Life: Political Theology and the Case for Democracy*](#)

- [Resurrecting Democracy: Faith, Citizenship and the Politics of a Common Life](#)
 - [Christianity and Contemporary Politics: The Conditions and Possibilities of Faithful Witness](#)
 - [Hospitality as Holiness: Christian Witness Amid Moral Diversity](#)
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Are you itching to travel? Famed travel writer and activist Rick Steves says that travel can be a spiritual act. [Here's](#) a replay of his March 23 interview at an online event sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.



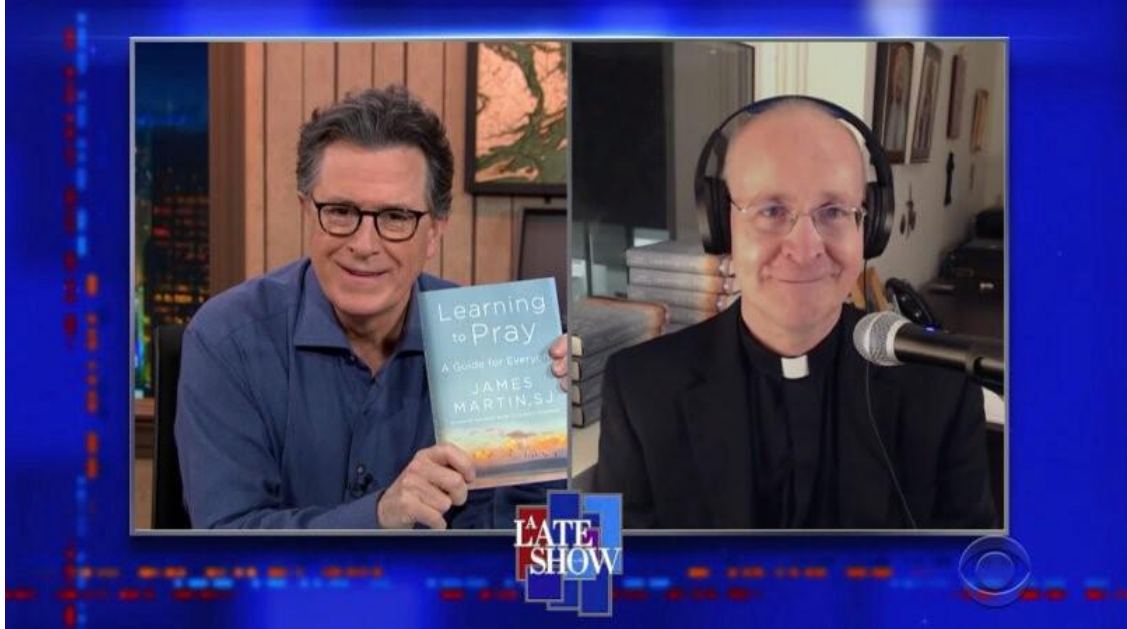
Spirituality and Practice refused to be limited to only **10 Most Spiritually Literate Films of 2020**.

[See all](#) the categories and all the titles and summaries.



In the image above, Alan S. Kim plays five-year-old David in "Minari."

Several new books on prayer are gaining attention. Emily McFarlan Miller [rounds up](#) some of the most interesting for Religion News Service.



Stephen Colbert, left, interviews Rev. James Martin about his new book.

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