



NoCo  
Beet

April 30, 2021

## Welcome back.

All adult Sunday classes at First Church will have the opportunity to meet at the church beginning May 2. Some will come back immediately; others have chosen to continue to meet online for the present. Anyone participating in a class at the church will be required to maintain physical distance of 6 feet and wear a mask. For more information, contact your class leader or David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707.

The Northern Colorado Faith Library will return to self-checkout during the hours that First Church is open. Those hours are: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (enter through East entrance only); 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday when other activities are scheduled for the building (enter through South entrance only); and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays.

Meanwhile, [here](#) are some hopeful words from Kate Bowler, an historian of Christianity.

*David W. Reid, editor*



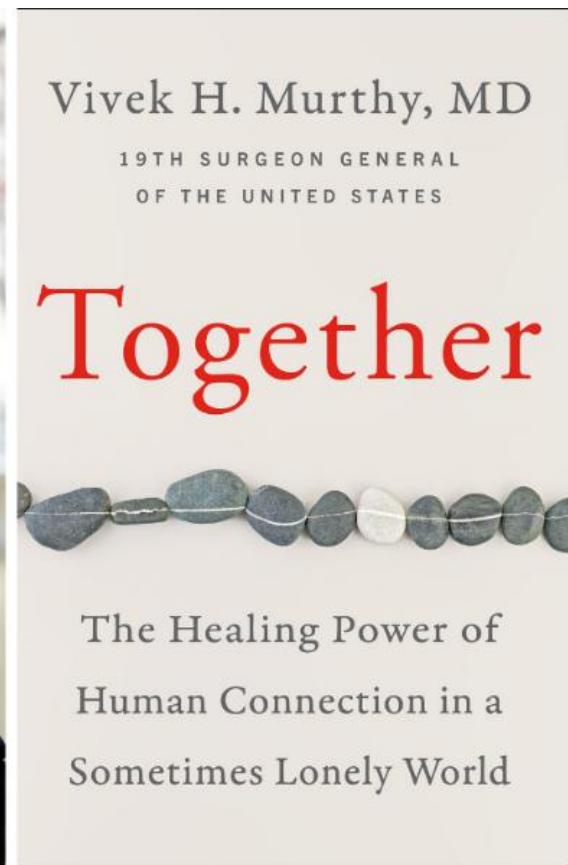
Northern Colorado



**Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, M.D.**, has a prescription for the loneliness that plagues one in five adults. He explores the problem and offers four ways to help fix it in *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World*.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it's time to put these solutions to work for our own health and the health of friends, neighbors, and families. If enrollment is sufficient, there will be an in-person class at noon that will meet outdoors when possible and a Zoom class at 7 p.m. Both sections will run for six Wednesdays beginning May 5.

Books: About \$20. Contact David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707. Listen to an interview Brené Brown did with Murthy about his book [here](#).



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***The Road to Character*** by New York Times columnist David Brooks is the May selection for the Interfaith Spirituality Book of the Month group. The group plans to resume meeting in person with this discussion at First Church at 3 p.m. May 16. Questions: Martha Conant at marthaconant@gmail.com.

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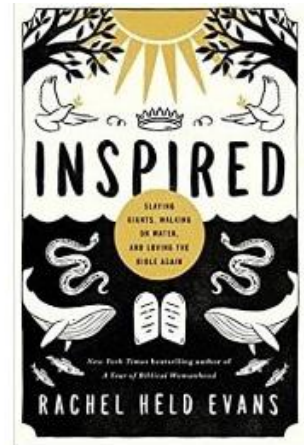


*Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson is one of many new offerings in the Northern Colorado Faith Library. Whether you have read it or not, you can drop in on a discussion about the book at Riverside Church in New York.

The book is available [here](#). Scan down [this page](#) to register for the discussion at 9 a.m. (MDT) May 8.

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Coming in June! First Church member Whitney Pennington will lead a study of *Inspired* by the late **Rachel Held Evans**. Look for full details in next month's *Beet*.



*The late Rachel Held Evans, author of "Inspired." Details for a First Church study of the book will be included in next month's issue.*

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## Regional

Illiff School of Theology **Professor Miguel De La Torre** discusses his new book, *Decolonizing Christianity: Becoming Badass Believers*, [here](#) on the Crackers and Grape Juice podcast. As always, De La Torre provokes and makes us uncomfortable.



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**Iliff's Renewal series continues in May** with an online discussion on Mental Health and Justice featuring Aires Almon, partner director of the Iliff Artificial Intelligence Initiative and director of innovation at the Mental Health Center of Denver; and Dr. Philip Butler, Iliff assistant professor of theology and black posthuman artificial intelligence systems.

Register for the event [here](#).



*Aires Almon, left, and Dr. Philip Butler.*



If you think that passing your faith to the next generation is important, [a new book](#) from Christian Smith and Amy Adamczyk could be your guide to what works and what does not.

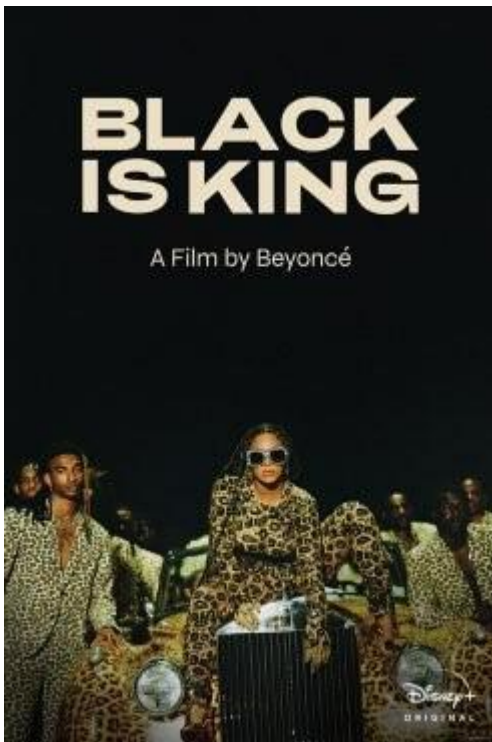




*Christian Smith, left, and Amy Adamczyk.*

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**Religion News Service** compiled its own [list of 2020 movies](#) “that caught hold of some truth about faith or glimpsed the spiritual in the stories they told.” If Beyoncé’s United Methodist upbringing helps qualify her film, so be it.



*Beyoncé’s film “Black Is King”, left, and Chloe Zhao’s “Nomadland” were included in Religion News Service’s list of 2020 films with spiritual angles.*

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**The Armenian Genocide** that was finally acknowledged by an American

president is deeply tied to ethnicity and religion. Columnist Jeffrey Salkin [unwinds these threads](#).



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You can participate in “**Practicing Spirituality**,” a 40-day course of daily emails from [Spirituality and Practice](#). Among the writers featured are Sue Bender, Edward Hays, Alan Morinis, Pema Chodron, Brenda Peterson, Gary Thorp, Deng Ming-Dao, Donald Altman, Melannie Svoboda, Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Brian Doyle, Anthony Lawlor, Drew Leder and Henri Nouwen.

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**Marian Anderson** sang a mix of American spirituals and classic repertoire in her historic Lincoln Memorial concert that was recently documented by PBS. [Here's a dramatic, nine-minute video clip](#) recommended by the Commission on the Status and Role of Women at First Church. The clip illustrates the impact the Black church had on Anderson.



*Harold L. Ickes introduces Marian Anderson at Lincoln Memorial in 1939.*

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**Duke Divinity School** says you should consider attending the [Summer Institute for Reconciliation online](#) May 12-14 if you “are committed to the ongoing training and equipping of others, calling forth the gifts of the community to inspire, form, and support people to become ambassadors of God’s movement of hope; that foster a life together that is a witness to now being “the acceptable time,” now being the “day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

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*NoCo Beet* 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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