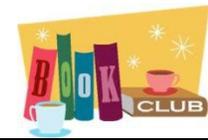


## 2026 - A Book & A Prayer Book Club Selections



Date	Book Title	Author	Pages	Summary
Jan 8	Patriot	Alexis Navalny	496	The posthumous memoir of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, which chronicles his life as an anti-corruption activist, his political career, and his fight against Vladimir Putin's regime. The book begins with his near-fatal poisoning in 2020 and recovery, then delves into his youth and rise in politics. Navalny details his experiences with government repression, his love for Russia, and his eventual imprisonment, culminating in a final call to his supporters and a testament to his principles.
Feb 12	James	Percival Everett	320	A reimagining of Mark Twain's <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> told from the perspective of the enslaved Jim. The book follows Jim's quest for freedom after he learns he will be sold and separated from his family, leading to a journey down the Mississippi River with Huck Finn. The novel offers a new, nuanced portrayal of Jim, emphasizing his intelligence, literacy, and agency, while also re-examining the historical period through satire and a critical lens.
Mar 12	Only the Beautiful	Susan Meissner	579	A historical fiction novel about a pregnant teenager named Rosanne in 1938 California who is unjustly sent to an institution after losing her parents, while a parallel story follows Helen Calvert in 1947 Austria who uncovers the truth about Rosanne's fate. The book explores themes of eugenics, motherhood, synesthesia (seeing colors when hearing sounds), and the fight for a mother to keep her child. It is described as a heartrending but hopeful story with interwoven narratives that highlight dark periods in history.
Apr 9	Project Hail Mary	Andy Wier	496	A science fiction novel about Ryland Grace, a middle school teacher who wakes up alone on a spaceship with amnesia. He gradually remembers he's on a last-chance mission to save Earth from a dimming sun caused by alien microbes called <i>Astrophage</i> . The mission's goal is to investigate a resistant star, <i>Tau Ceti</i> , for a solution. On his journey, he unexpectedly encounters and allies with an alien from another star system facing the same problem, and they must work together to save both their species.
May 14	Tom Lake	Ann Patchett	320	A novel about a mother, Lara, who recounts her youthful romance with a famous actor, Peter Duke, to her three adult daughters during the COVID-19 pandemic on their family cherry farm in Michigan. The story unfolds over two timelines: the present day in 2020, and the past summer of 1984 when a 24-year-old Lara acted in a play with Duke in the town of Tom Lake, Michigan. The book explores themes of first love, married love, parenthood, and the lives parents led before their children were born.

June 11	Isola	Fiona Hardingham	368	A historical novel based on the true story of Marguerite de la Rocque, a 16th-century French noblewoman who was marooned on a remote island. The novel explores her journey of survival as she is abandoned by her guardian and left to fend for herself in the wilderness, battling isolation and harsh weather while rediscovering her inner strength.
July 9	The Small and The Mighty	Sharon McMahon	320	A book that tells the stories of twelve unsung Americans who significantly changed the course of history, despite not being famous or wealthy. The book highlights individuals from the founding era through the Civil Rights Movement, emphasizing that perseverance, courage, and action are key drivers of historical change. It aims to show that ordinary people, often from marginalized groups, are the ones who truly made America great and that their contributions are vital to understanding history.
Aug 13	Little Bee	Chris Cleave	290	A novel that tells the story of a young Nigerian refugee named Little Bee and a British magazine editor, Sarah. The two women meet on a Nigerian beach and their lives become intertwined after Little Bee flees violence and arrives in England seeking asylum, where she finds Sarah. The novel is a dual narrative that explores themes of trauma, identity, asylum, and compassion as it follows Little Bee's struggle for survival and Sarah's confrontation with her own affluent, but compromised, life.
Sept 10	American Dirt	Jeanine Cummins	400	A novel about Lydia Quixano Pérez, a Mexican bookstore owner and her eight-year-old son, Luca, who must flee their home in Acapulco after a drug cartel massacres their family. They begin a perilous journey north, stowing away on freight trains, known as La Bestia, and facing dangers from both cartels and corrupt officials as they try to reach the United States. The book explores themes of survival, resilience, motherhood, and the harsh realities of the migrant experience.
Oct 8	Love Medicine	Louise Erdrich	384	A collection of intertwined stories chronicling the lives of two Chippewa (Ojibwe) families—the Kashpaws and the Lamartines—on a North Dakota reservation. The narrative spans six decades, from 1934 to 1984, exploring themes of love, betrayal, cultural identity, resilience, and the impact of historical trauma on the characters' lives.
Nov 12	The End of Your Life Book Club	Will Schwalbe	352	A memoir by Will Schwalbe about the two years he and his mother, Mary Anne Schwalbe, spent reading books together after her terminal pancreatic cancer diagnosis. During her chemotherapy appointments, they discussed a diverse range of books, using the conversations to process her illness, mortality, and other difficult topics, ultimately deepening their mother-son relationship. The book is a

				tribute to his mother, celebrating her life and exploring the power of literature to comfort, illuminate, and help people navigate life and death.
Dec 10	One Big Happy Family	Susan Mallery	320	A book about a mother who wants a quiet Christmas, but her adult children unexpectedly arrive at the family cabin, bringing their own complicated lives and a new boyfriend. The story, set during the holidays, follows the chaos that ensues as the family navigates past secrets, present drama, and the potential for reconciliation and forgiveness, especially with the addition of the mother's new, younger boyfriend, Heath