

The Book Group will be meeting Tuesday, July 25th (the 4th Tuesday of the month) at 10:30, in the church library. We will be discussing *His Name is George Floyd* by Samuel Roberts and Toluse Olorunnipa.

'His Name Is George Floyd'

by Samuel Roberts and Toluse Olorunnipa

We saw him die. We say his name. Yet how well do we know George Floyd, whose death in Minneapolis police custody inspired a cataclysmic racial reckoning? This gripping oral history offers a behind-the-scenes look at the man, his loved ones and community, and the aftermath of his horrific death. Perry, as he was known to his family, was a complicated man, a dreamer with demons and unfulfilled ambitions who was deeply loved. Samuels and Olorunnipa enlarge on the poster image by introducing us to people whose lives were changed by encountering Floyd: family members, friends, teachers, lovers, co-workers, and the traumatized witnesses to his murder. Watching global protests for racial justice, Floyd's younger brother, Philonise, begins to question a lifetime of passive acceptance. Floyd's white girlfriend, Courteney, has a racial epiphany when Floyd and her student Daunte Wright are killed by police within a year. There are the officials who tried to minimize or exploit Floyd's killing, the cynical phone call from President Trump, the defense strategy highlighting Floyd's drug use and "deploying the racist trope of Black men being too wild to contain." Derek Chauvin was convicted, but support for Black Lives Matter has waned, and Philonise wonders if the soul-searching made any difference. A wrenching chronicle of one of the most devastating events of our time. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Ongoing attention to police violence and racial injustice and the media attention sure to surround this vital and illuminating work make it a must-have. Booklist