

# GROW 2019 - 2020

GROW is an educational ministry of Fort Myers Congregational United Church of Christ. It draws upon the resources that make our church unique to foster an atmosphere of intellectual and social experimentation. GROW is a series of free classes, workshops, and social events led by staff members, retired clergy people, and guest facilitators who seek to edify our community through the enlightenment and organization of its members. You are welcome to attend any course listed at any point in its progress. If you would like more information about GROW or any of its courses, please contact our Community Minister Wesley Snedeker at [wesleysnedeker@gmail.com](mailto:wesleysnedeker@gmail.com).

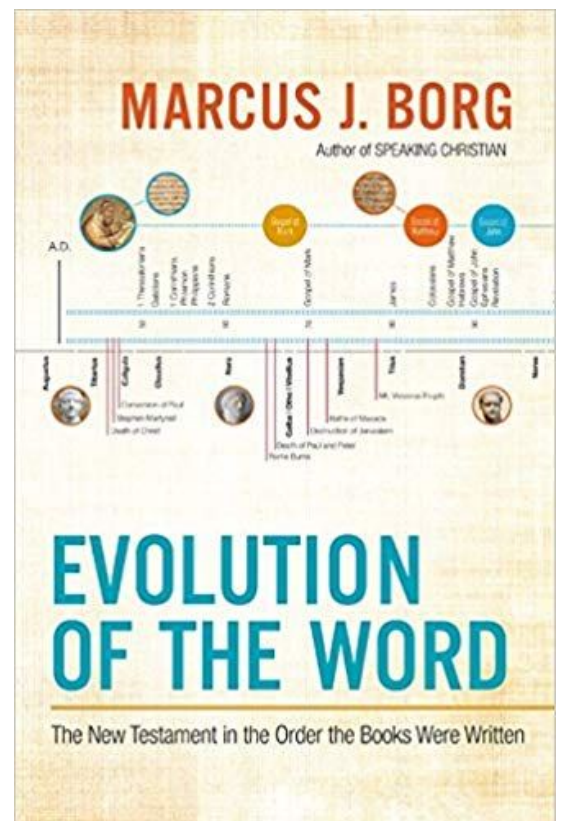
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## New Testament Study

Facilitators: The GROW Team  
Sunday Mornings before Worship at 9:00 am  
beginning November 3

GROW's New Testament Study will provide church and community members the opportunity to explore the Christian canon in a new way. Using Marcus Borg's *Evolution of the Word* as its central text, the class will review the New Testament in depth, in the order the books were written (rather than the order they appear in the canon). Such a reading will offer a strong, historical foundation to those who wish to expand their knowledge about the Bible and provide a glimpse into the development of early Christian thought. Sessions will be held at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings (before worship), and will cover the book(s) that participants would have been asked to read over the previous week.

*This learning opportunity will be facilitated through a collaborative effort by a number of GROW team members, which will offer participants a great diversity of perspective, experience, and insight into the Christian scriptures.*



## Gratitude Walk

Facilitator: Nancy Van Fleet

Sunday November 10 following worship

Labyrinths have been found all over the world, dating from earliest antiquity. Once popular in the Middle Ages, labyrinths have been experiencing a resurgence in recent years. According to Veriditas, an organization that promotes labyrinths world-wide, they are used "to quiet the mind, recover a balance in life, and encourage meditation, insight, self-reflection, stress reduction, and to discover innovation and celebration. The practice of labyrinth walking integrates the body with mind and the mind with the spirit. They can be found in medical centers, parks, churches, schools, prisons, spas, cathedrals and retreat centers as well as in people's backyards." On Sunday 11/10 after worship, we will consider the power of this contemplative practice and walk the labyrinth in our own fellowship hall!

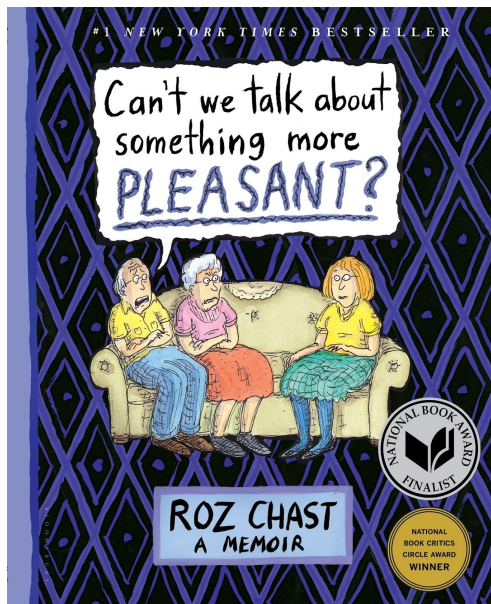
*Nancy is a Veriditas Certified Advanced Labyrinth Facilitator. She trained with the leader of the labyrinth movement, Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress. She works with people of all ages in classes, retreats and programs to present the labyrinth and walks with them in the mystery. Her work was recently featured in Lucy Tobias' book, Circle the Center – Labyrinths in Florida. Nancy creates, walks, and photographs labyrinths as a spiritual practice in her own life.*

## Can't we talk about something more pleasant?

Facilitator: Rev. Wesley Snedeker  
December 5, 12, 19; 11:00 am - Noon

Our Community Minister will lead a discussion series on aging, caring, and end of life, using Roz Chast's humorous and insightful graphic memoir as its primary text. We will reflect upon our families, our experiences, our hopes, and our troubles together as we grapple with this deeply human subject.

*Rev. Wesley Snedeker is a United Church of Christ pastor and hospice chaplain. He completed his Master of Divinity at Chicago Theological Seminary, where he worked to develop a theological perspective that explores Christ's call to concrete social action in Southwest Florida.*



## UCC History and Polity

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Jim Boler and Rev. Wesley Snedeker

January 12, 19, 26

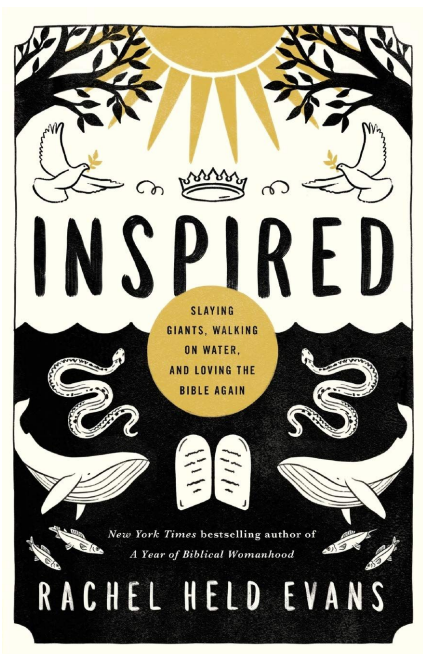
Rev. Dr. Jim Boler and Community Minister Rev. Wesley Snedeker will offer a three session workshop that will consider the origins, identities, and workings of the United Church of Christ. We will draw from personal experiences, official denominational resources, and the stories of those gathered to explore where the UCC came from and where we're headed. If you have ever been curious about our denomination and what it stands for, this is the course for you!

*Rev. Dr. Jim Boler has been active in serving the messianic project through the United Church of Christ for a few years longer than Rev. Wesley Snedeker. They both went to Chicago Theological Seminary.*

## Inspired : Book Discussion for Women

Facilitator: Rev. Nancy Rohde

January 6, 13, 27, February 3 at 2:00 pm



If the Bible isn't a science book, instruction manual, or position paper, then what is it? New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans invites readers on a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old, familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present.

*Nancy Rohde says she has done something different about every 10 years. In college, she majored in English literature and minored in music and education. When she decided to go back to school, however, she surprised her family by seeking a degree in theology. Nancy's ministry, focused mostly in Michigan, was rich and varied: she and her husband John co-pastored a church for about 10 years, Nancy worked in substance abuse treatment, was a hospice chaplain, and did 10 interims. In retirement, Nancy enjoys music, dance, reading and activities in the water.*

## Lectio Divina

Facilitator: Rev. Beverly Latif Duncan  
February 13, 20, 27; 2:00 - 3:30 pm

The Bible is a treasure trove of history, those who peopled it, and testimonies to the grand sweep of the salvation story. *Lectio divina* (“sacred reading”), rather than academic, is a slow, contemplative way to read Scripture, enabling the Bible—the Word of God—to speak to each of us personally. Please bring a pen and a pad of paper, and we’ll give it a go.

*Bev Duncan graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1992 and served congregations across Massachusetts, retiring in 2007. She moved to Naples in 2009 and served Naples United Church of Christ as Assistant Minister until December 2018.*

## Sunday Cinema

Potluck, Film, and Discussion

The Fourth Sunday of Every Month—Arrive with a dish for the potluck at 5:30 pm, film to start at 6:00 pm, discussion to follow!

FMCUCC’s GROW team hosts a movie night on the fourth Sunday of each month! Be sure to arrive at 5:30 with a dish so that you can get your plate together before the film begins. The movies that will be shown span genres and eras but are unified in their contribution to important artistic, social, and cultural conversations.

More exciting and enlightening programs are in development!  
Be sure to sign up for our email list, find us on facebook, and  
stop by for worship at **10:00 am on Sunday mornings!**

**Fort Myers Congregational United Church of Christ**  
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