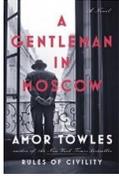


# Books and Movies for North Parish Book Group for the 2017 to 2018 Church Year



**September 13**

**A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles**

A Gentleman in Moscow immerses us in an elegantly drawn era with the story of Count Alexander Rostov. When, in 1922, he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.



**October 11**

**Hidden Figures**

In the race to space between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, three black female mathematicians play a key role in launching astronaut John Glenn into outer space, making him the first American to orbit Earth.



**November 8**

**Praying for Sheetrock by Melissa Fay Greene**

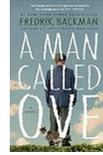
This non-fiction book is about a small backwoods county in Georgia in the 1970s struggling to be included in the progress for civil rights and about the idealists who lead the cause against entrenched racism. It's a story that reads like a novel, filled with eccentrics and ordinary folks. The author follows in the footsteps of Studs Terkel and Theodore Rosengarten, recording the voices of a small group of individuals to convey large human concerns. Ms. Greene, a first-time author, was inspired by her work as a paralegal in the Georgia Legal Services Program to look more deeply into the lives of the people of McIntosh County during the last 15 years.



**December 13**

**Fences**

Working as a trash collector in 1950s Pittsburgh, Troy Maxson struggles to raise his family while trying to transcend the bitter experience of being a talented baseball player denied the opportunity to play in the majors because of his race.



**January 10**

**A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman**

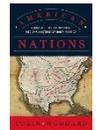
A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door. Thus begins a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will shake one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.



**February 14**

**La La Land**

While pursuing showbiz fame, jazz pianist Sebastian falls for aspiring actress Mia, and the two embark on an intense love affair. But as their separate paths of ambition force them to make tough choices, their relationship starts to fray.



**March 14**

**American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America by Colin Woodard**

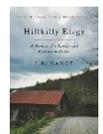
In American Nations, Colin Woodard leads us on a journey through the history of our fractured continent, and the rivalries and alliances between its component nations, which conform to neither state nor international boundaries. He illustrates and explains why "American" values vary sharply from one region to another. Woodard reveals how intranational differences have played a pivotal role at every point in the continent's history, from the American Revolution and the Civil War to the tumultuous sixties and the "blue county/red county" maps of recent presidential elections. American Nations is a revolutionary and revelatory take on America's myriad identities and how the conflicts between them have shaped our past and are molding our future.



**April 11**

**Moonlight**

Growing up in the drug-soaked world of 1980s Miami, young Chiron struggles to make his way through a helter-skelter adolescence while also grappling with confusion and anxiety about his emerging sexuality.



**May 9**

**Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance**

Vance's hybrid memoir of his childhood growing up poor in an Ohio town (Middletown) and social analysis of the plight of poor Appalachians. Vance seamlessly blends a memoir with social analysis of why the poor, white working class is failing to achieve upward mobility.

**🎁 June 13 TBD**