



February Book Club

Book Club meets monthly on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Our Savior's. For more information, contact, Deb Nollen At 262-367-6000 X 19 or dnollen@oursaviorshartland.org

Our next book for discussion on February 27 at 7 pm is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by [Rebecca Skloot](#). The discussion will be lead by Sandy Anderson. New discussion participants always welcome!

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer, yet her cells--taken without her knowledge--became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer and viruses; helped lead to in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks is buried in an unmarked grave. Her family did not learn of her "immortality" until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. The story of the Lacks family is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.

For those of you who like to do advance reading - the book for discussion on March 26 at 7 pm is *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* by [Anne Lamott](#). The discussion will be lead by Donna Schumell.

Description: With the trademark wisdom, humor, and honesty that made Anne Lamott's book on faith, *Traveling Mercies*, a runaway bestseller, *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* is a spiritual antidote to anxiety and despair in increasingly fraught times.

The world is a more dangerous place than it was when Lamott's *Traveling Mercies* was published in 2000. Terrorism and war have become the new normal; environmental devastation looms even closer. And there are personal demands on Lamott's faith as well: turning fifty; her mother's Alzheimer's; her son's adolescence; and the passing of friends and time.

Fortunately for those of us who are anxious and scared about the state of the world, whose parents are also aging and dying, whose children are growing harder to recognize as they become teenagers, *Plan B* offers hope in the midst of despair. It shares with us Lamott's ability to comfort, and to make us laugh despite the grim realities.

Anne Lamott is one of our most beloved writers, and *Plan B* is a book more necessary now than ever. It will prove to be further evidence that, as *The Christian Science Monitor* has written, "Everybody loves Anne Lamott."