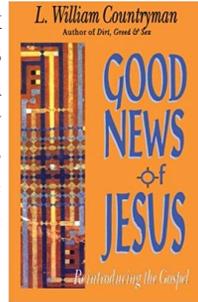
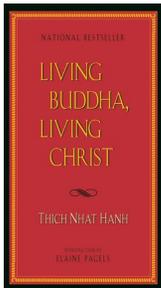


# 2019 LENTEN STUDY GROUPS

**Good News of Jesus** : Sundays at 1 pm in the Back Lounge. **March 10th, 24th, 31st, April 7th & 14th.** This year's book will be : *Good News of Jesus*, by L. William Countryman. Within the church and outside of it, people today are in a period of refocus and rediscovery, asking what is really central to the Christian faith. Countryman shows that at the heart of Christianity stands the figure of Jesus and the message he embodied - The Gospel.

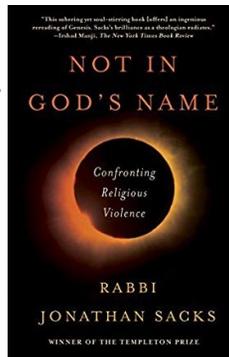


**Introduction to Islam** : Former parishioner Bill Voss and representatives of the Islamic Center in Orono will introduce us to the teachings and practices of Islam. Learn about one of the world's great religions. Get to know your Muslim neighbors. **Thursdays in Lent - March 14th, 21st, 28th, & April 4th in the Parish House Bangor Room.** Soup and bread served at 6 pm; Presentation begins at 6:45 pm.



**St. John's Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, March 19, 2 pm, at the home of Dee Virtue, 78 B Pine Street, Orono.** They will be reading *Living Buddha, Living Christ* (1995), by Thich Nhat Hahn (with Introduction by Elaine Pagels). Copies are available in libraries. Please let Dee know if you can come. ddhvhome@aol.com We are excited to have two new participants. New faces are welcome.

Please join us for the Book Discussion : *Not in God's Name* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on **March 24th, 31st & April 7th at 11:45 am in the Chapel.** *Not in God's Name* book discussion will be held with Beth El synagogue. This book tackles the phenomenon of religious extremism and violence committed in the name of God. Rabbi Sacks shows that religiously inspired violence has at its source misreading's of biblical texts at the heart of all three Abrahamic faiths. By looking anew at the book of Genesis, with its foundational stories of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Rabbi Sacks offers a radical rereading of many of the Bible's seminal stories of sibling rivalry: Cain and Abel, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers. Rachel and Leah. "It is not our task to conquer or convert the world or enforce uniformity of belief. "It is our task to be a blessing to the world. The use of religion for political ends is not righteousness but idolatry... To invoke God to justify violence against the innocent is not an act of sanctity but of sacrilege."



**Lenten Quiet Afternoon** : On April 7th from 4 - 6:30 pm, Fr. Jonathan Appleyard will lead a time of reflection and prayer, *Come Away with me for a while*, a Lenten Quiet Afternoon for members and friends of St. John's, St. Pat's & St. James' Episcopal Church. He will base several meditations on Jesus' invitation to make separate time and space for prayer. The women and men who were drawn to him never forgot those encounters. Each of the Gospels bears witness to "coming apart" as a distinctive quality of Jesus relationships. Is this invitation for us as well? What might we meet in ourselves if we come away, even for a while. We will meet in the Bethlehem Chapel.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Extra help is needed for our monthly serving at the **Soup Kitchen**. We are scheduled to serve the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Salvation Army, from **10 am - 1:30 pm**. Our next scheduled date is **Tuesday, March 26th**. For more information, please see Nancy Henry or Phil Ulrich or call the office at 947-0156.

Extra help is needed for our monthly serving at **Second Saturday**, hosted here in the Undercroft. We are scheduled to serve next on **April 13th from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm**. No need to sign up in advance, or even commit to coming monthly, just stop in to help out when you can. For more information, please see Nancy Henry or Phil Ulrich or call the office at 947-0156.

