

belonging

We belong to each other. We belong to our communities and our world.
We belong to God. We belong to God's story.

Explore our fall theme through these resources, recommended by friends and congregants.

—Movies—

As It Is In Heaven
Babe
Boys on the Side
Cast Away
Coco
Cool Runnings
Dumplin'
Encanto
Fox and the Hound
Garden State

Goonies
The Greatest Showman
Happy Feet
Hidden Figures
Inside Out
Lars and the Real Girl
Little Miss Sunshine
Lucas
Marcel the Shell with Shoes On
McFarland, USA
Miss Congeniality

Miss Firecracker
Mundo Alas
My Life as a Zucchini
Nomadland
The Station Agent
The Ugly Duckling
The Way Way Back
While You Were Sleeping
The Wizard of Oz
Wonder

—TV Shows—

Atypical
Cheers
Everything's Gonna Be Okay
Friends

Glee
How to Train Your Dragon
Lilo and Stitch
Schitts Creek

Sesame Street
Somebody, Somewhere
Ted Lasso

—Songs—

After the Storm by Mumford and Sons
Come With Me by Joe Jencks
Draw the Circle Wide by Mark Miller

Heart as Wide as the World by Krishna Das
Ho Hey by The Lumineers
Love Is the Reason by Joe Jencks
Our House by Crosby Stills Nash & Young
Rocky Mountain High by John Denver
Soul Sister by Ma Muse
The Christians and the Pagans by Dar Williams
The Souls are Coming by Holly Near
Up Where We Belong by Joe Cocker & Jennifer Warnes
We Are a Circle by Joan Szymko
We Belong by Pat Benetar
We Shall Be Known by Ma Muse
Why Can't We Be Friends by War

—Books & Short Stories—

The Authenticity Project by Clare Pooley
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy
Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
The Final Empire by Brandon Sanderson
Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss
Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach
Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares
The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne & E. H. Shepard
The Fifth Sacred Thing by Starhawk -

an apocalyptic novel about creating a new kind of community and way of living

The Parable of the Sowe, by Octavia Butler -

a story about the future when civilization as we know it has fallen apart; many disturbing images but I was fascinated by the strong young woman determined to survive, and rebuild community.

100 years of Margot and Lenni by Marianne Cronin -

a sweet/tragic/humorous story of 17 yr old Margot and 83 yr old Lenni meeting in the terminal ward of a hospital, and creating their own circle of belonging.

The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate -
tells the story of former black slaves in the U.S. trying to find their relatives
through ads in a newspaper printed by a southern church.

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate -
based on the true stories of children kidnapped by an orphanage
in Tennessee from poor families, and sold to the rich.

—Centers & Projects—

Centervention: Student-Drive Social Emotional Learning Interventions - CENTERVENTION.COM

The On Being Project - ONBEING.ORG

The Othering & Belonging Institute - BELONGING.BERKELEY.EDU

—Poems—

Wild Geese by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

Belonging by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

And if it's true we are alone,
we are alone together,
the way blades of grass
are alone, but exist as a field.

Sometimes I feel it,
the green fuse that ignites us,
the wild thrum that unites us,
an inner hum that reminds us
of our shared humanity.

Just as thirty-five trillion
red blood cells join in one body
to become one blood.

Just as one hundred thirty-six thousand

notes make up one symphony.
Alone as we are, our small voices
weave into the one big conversation.

Our actions are essential
to the one infinite story of what it is
to be alive. When we feel alone,
we belong to the grand communion
of those who sometimes feel alone—
we are the dust, the dust that hopes,
a rising of dust, a thrill of dust,
the dust that dances in the light
with all other dust, the dust
that makes the world.

Swans in Galway Bay by Floyd Skloot

Seven pairs of swans preen
this morning near the docks.

We walk down together
searching among the rocks
for a perfect feather
to commemorate the scene.

The swans float, one foot still
tucked underneath a wing,
the other held steady
as a rudder. They seem
both unconcerned and ready
for whatever the day will

bring them as they drift past.
Soon they are swept away
in pairs where the River
Corrib surges into Galway Bay—
from here just a sliver
of jagged state-blue glass

but fierce enough to spin
them sideways toward the sea.
Paired still, they carry on
their slow ceremonies,
adjusting with utter calm
to the currents they move in,

content, it would appear,
to end up wherever
they find themselves as long
as they are together,
each feather where it belongs,
each mate with a clear
line of site to the other.
We have come to the docks'
end emptyhanded. I turn
back, but she stops to watch,
holding me there as one
small feather drifts to shore.