

## ONA Resource List

- **Be Not Afraid--Help is on the Way!** *booklet* from Straight for Equality in Faith  
Community Link: <https://straightforequality.org/resource/be-not-afraid/>  
“The challenge of finding ways to be an ally and a person of faith remains one of the biggest barriers for people when it comes to expressing support for their LGBTQ+ friends and family. This publication will help readers examine what it means to be an ally of faith, hear the stories of other allies who have taken a similar journey, get suggestions for how to work past barriers, and find out specific ways to be an ally in your faith community”.
- **Sing You Home** – *novel* by Jodi Picoult - below is a summary from Oprah.com and may include spoilers for readers: <https://literarytreats.com/2011/08/08/review-sing-you-home-jodi-picoult/>

"Sing You Home follows the story of Zoe, Vanessa, and Max. After almost a decade of marriage and unsuccessful attempts to conceive with the aid of fertility treatments, Zoe and Max Baxter divorce and begin building their own separate lives. Max finds himself staring at the bottom of a bottle, until he finds salvation in the conservative Eternal Glory Church after a near-fatal, alcohol-induced car accident.

Meanwhile, Zoe, a music therapist, befriends Vanessa and their friendship ultimately blossoms into love. Soon after marrying, the two decide to try for a baby using the three remaining embryos from Zoe and Max's fertility treatments—a decision that brings Max and his new Christian community crashing into their lives. An emotionally draining court trial for custody of the embryos ensues, testing the limits of faith, love, and the definition of family".

- **Mad Honey** – *novel* by Jodi Picoult with Jennifer Finney Boylan  
“Goodreads: “*A soul-stirring novel about what we choose to keep from our past, and what we choose to leave behind.* <https://www.supersummary.com/mad-honey/summary/>”

Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising a beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in, and taking over her father's beekeeping business”. Note: There is a transgender character in the story

- **The Good Book: Reading the Bible with; Mind and Heart** *book* by Peter J. Gomes  
“Peter John Gomes was an American preacher and theologian, the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard Divinity School and Pusey Minister at Harvard's Memorial Church — in the words of Harvard's president "one of the great preachers of our generation, and a living symbol of courage and conviction." [Wikipedia](https://www.wikipedia.org/)  
<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/100812>”

"In his groundbreaking work *The Good Book*, Peter Gomes shows how to read the Bible and what it says about the topics that concern us all, including joy, suffering, evil, and goodness. He also explains what the Bible really says about women, gays and lesbians, and people of color. With compassion, humor, and insight, Gomes, who has been hailed by Time magazine as one of the best seven preachers in America, gives readers the tools and understanding they need to make the ancient wisdom of the Bible a dynamic part of their modern lives." *Bill McKibben, author of The End of Nature*

- **UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality** by Colby Martin

<https://zachary-houle.medium.com/a-review-of-colby-martins-unclobber-rethinking-our-misuse-of-the-bible-on-homosexuality-8f31a632fa8>

"Churches in America are experiencing an unprecedented fracturing due to their belief and attitude toward the LGBTQ community. Armed with only six passages in the Bible--often known as the "clobber passages"--the traditional Christian position has been one that stands against the full inclusion of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters. *UnClobber* reexamines each of those frequently quoted passages of Scripture, alternating with author Colby Martin's own story of being fired from an evangelical megachurch when they discovered his stance on sexuality.

*UnClobber* reexamines what the Bible says (and does not say) about homosexuality in such a way that breathes fresh life into outdated and inaccurate assumptions and interpretations" Amazon

- **The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World** book by His Holiness Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams

<https://www.blinkist.com/en/books/the-book-of-joy-en>

"The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World is a book by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu published in 2016 by Cornerstone Publishers. In this nonfiction, the authors discuss the challenges of living a joyful life. One commentator noted that both of the authors faced oppression and exile and yet have been able to maintain their compassion and forgiveness despite this. The commentator also noted the theme of the book is that fear, anger, and hatred exist internally as much as externally. [Wikipedia](#)"

- ***Mission: Joy - Finding Happiness in Troubled Times***, *Netflix film*: released in 2021, is based on *The Book of Joy* <https://variety.com/2021/film/reviews/mission-joy-finding-happiness-in-troubled-times-review-1234994380/>

- ***Fish Out of Water***, *film* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish\\_Out\\_of\\_Water\\_\(2009\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish_Out_of_Water_(2009_film))

"Fish Out of Water tackles the seven Bible verses used to condemn homosexuality and justify marriage discrimination. This feature documentary uses humor and original animation to make a traditionally complex and controversial topic accessible to those who don't like talking about

religion and sexuality. "Fish Out of Water" dives into the underbelly of America, crisscrosses red and blue states and talks to ministers from every denomination to uncover America's impassioned relationship with homosexuality and the Bible. With slapstick animation and quirky interviews taken everywhere from barbershops to mega-churches, "Fish Out of Water" delivers a voice to the oppressed and informs to the misled. Most importantly, "Fish Out of Water" sits down with hundreds of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender folks to impart their experiences with faith and sexuality. This unique lens spans across culture, race, religion, age, socio-economic level and puts a relatable face on the themes of Fish out of Water. The result is a cultural cross-stitching that serves as a piece of empowerment for the many Americans that still struggle to defend their identity within their own communities. By capturing the "other side of the debate", "Fish out of Water" shatters deep-rooted discrimination and challenges those who are spoon-fed information without ever questioning or exploring the legitimacy of it".—*Ky Dickens*

- **"How ONA Has Changed My Life"** by Ellen Godbey Carson, Nov 24, 2021 " *testimony*: link: <https://www.hcucc.org/single-post/how-ona-has-changed-my-life> Quote: "I encountered a personal crisis of faith when I could no longer reconcile my understanding of God with a literal interpretation of the passages in our Bible that are sometimes interpreted to say that homosexuality is sinful".
- **What does the Bible say about Homosexuality**, *article*, link: <https://theconversation.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-homosexuality-for-starters-jesus-wasnt-a-homophobe-199424>
- **What does the Bible say about homosexuality, same-sex attraction and being transgender** *article* link: <https://www.sthugh.net/lgbtq-affirming-scripture>
- **What the Bible Really Says about Gay Christians may surprise You!** *article* link: <https://openandaffirming.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Bill-Lyons-What-the-Bible-really-says.pdf>
- **Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality** *article* link: <https://www.manyvoices.org/blog/resource/biblical-perspectives-on-homosexuality/>
- **Homosexuality and the Bible** *article* link: <https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2019/6/25/homosexuality-and-the-bible>
- **The Bible and the UCC** *article* link: <https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/the-bible-and-the-united-church-of-christ>