



What does it mean to be a people of Courage?



What Does It Mean To Be A People of Courage?

“Courage doesn’t always roar.”
- Mary Anne Radmacher

For me, as a child, it was the basement. Down the cold, creaky stairs, past the circle of dim light cast by the fixture in the ceiling lay that terrifying space of darkness. You had to walk several feet through the darkness till you could reach for the next light switch on the wall, and every time I had to go down there, I was sure something was going to spring out of the darkness and get me. What was it for you? That place of your childhood where you were sure the monsters lurked? This month, as we venture into the theme of courage, we’re invited into risk, into fear, and into the vulnerability of moving from safety into the unknown.

We don’t know what lies beyond the edges of our known world, and into that space of unknowing, our imagination fills in the gaps, creating dragons or their equivalent for the unknown that we’re facing. As we imagine all the terrible things that *might* happen our fears are kindled, our perception of risk increased, and we crank up our anxiety. With so much seemingly at stake, it’s no wonder that we hold courage in such high regard, and why so many of us remark that we, ourselves, aren’t particularly courageous. What this also suggests is that how we understand courage depends a lot on our place in the world.

What if we took a different approach to courage? What if instead of focusing on the things that we fear and our ability to overcome that fear, we leaned into the “heart” that’s central to courage. The Latin root of courage points us toward the centrality of heart, but it’s the Greek that’s perhaps more instructive, as it invites us to view courage as being where we put our hearts. Courage then becomes the act of putting our hearts somewhere, and having done so, finding the faith to follow. And this is perhaps why people we view as courageous often don’t see themselves that way. Whatever we hitch our hearts to will call us into things that others see as courageous, but which we see as an act of love – we are after all only following our hearts.

Yet if we only view courage as action, we miss an important dimension. As Winston Churchill famously said, “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” Sometimes, courage isn’t following our heart into action, it’s following our heart into presence. Sometimes, the most courageous thing we can do is to be fully present with difficult circumstances, be it news that’s hard to hear, working with the daily challenges of living with addiction, or mental illness, or facing our final days. This dimension of courage isn’t the bold, solitary, public display we so often associate with courage. Rather, it is quiet, rooted deeply in community and in relationship.

Let’s discover together what it means to be a people of courage together this month.

In Faith,

Andrea

Our Spiritual Exercises

OPTION A:

Step Outside Your Comfort Zone

We rarely give ordinary courage the honor it is due. On a daily basis, the threats we face are not the dramatic dangers of burning buildings but the insidious hazards of our comfort zones. This reminds us that the enemy of courage is often not fear but safety and routine. Sometimes those routines support and structure our lives; sometimes they stifle and shrink them. So this month, you are invited to pursue the practice of ordinary risk and adventure. Your instructions are simple: Pick an activity that pulls you out of your comfort zone.

Here's some inspiration and guidance:

- <http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/step-out-of-the-comfort-zone.html>
- <http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/how-to-move-out-of-your-comfort-zone.html>

Come to your group ready to share:

1. Why you picked this activity - share a bit about how your comfort zone had become “dangerous.”
2. How your activity emboldened you, and hopefully changed you.
3. How you plan to stick with it - what skills or new ways of thinking did you learn that will keep you from falling back into your rut.

OPTION B:

Finally Say “No.”

Courage is often about bravely saying “yes,” but sometimes saying “no” is what is needed. Opening ourselves to new experiences enriches us, but putting our foot down and setting boundaries often saves us. So this month, you are invited to identify and lean into a brave “No!”

Here's an article to help you on your way: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/201311/the-power-no>.

OPTION C:
Prop Up The Courage of Others

We all have people in our lives who inspire us with their courage. But have we ever told them? We know how important it is to have our courage noticed, so let's be sure to offer that gift to others this month. Write a letter, give a symbolic gift or treat them to lunch or coffee--whatever it is, find a way to tell someone that their bravery is seen and matters. It's said that courage is contagious. But how would one ever know that their bravery has inspired many, unless we tell them so?

OPTION D:
The Courage of An Ally

As a faith movement, we are waking up to the need for radical action around racial justice and healing. For white UUs, that work involves a deeper and more developed understanding of allyship. It is possibly the most courageous work to which we are called today. So this month, you are invited to begin or lean more intentionally into that work. Here is one way to turn that work into a spiritual practice this month:

1. Listen and learn: Make time this month to go through the list of videos and essays below.
2. Identify Your Resistance: Notice where you find yourself pushing back while watching and reading the videos and essays. Try to avoid defensiveness. Also be sure to offer yourself compassion.
3. Identify and Commit to *Your* Work: Maybe it's more learning. Perhaps it involves finding the courage to confront racism from a family member or co-worker. You might even be ready to invite someone into a courageous conversation. Take your time to figure it out. If you listen deeply to the videos and articles, your work will surely and clearly emerge.

Resources For Courageous Allyship:

- **Tips For White Allies:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2c5xelPE8fc>
- **How To Be A White Ally - DON'T:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sOPngK1DSc>
- **White Allies:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5X4r7XZFJU0>
- **Five Strategies for Courageous Conversations about Racism with friends, family & co-workers:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Wq7mc5PAg&index=37&list=PLSPINNxdxiI6gcm6fxPDG9Yt_IMrMrluf
- **Eleven Ways White America Avoids Taking Responsibility for its Racism:**
<http://www.hopkinsmn.com/police/equity/pdf/11-ways-avoid-taking-responsibility.pdf>
- **Increase Your Racial Stamina: Take The Pledge:**
<https://notesfromanaspiringhumanitarian.com/white-people-increase-your-racial-stamina-take-the-pledge/>
- **We Need Co-conspirators, Not Allies:** <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/26/how-white-americans-can-fight-racism>
- **White People in Solidarity Against Racism:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KahoDIihsKI>
- **What Are White People To Do? - A Forum on Racism and Being Part of the Solution - UU Tulsa:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acx-PVNPDO0>

Your Question

As always, don't treat these questions like "homework" or a list that needs to be covered in its entirety. Instead, simply pick the one question that speaks to you most and let it lead you where you need to go. The goal is not to analyze what "welcome" means in the abstract, but to figure out what being a part of a people of pilgrimage means for you and your daily living. So, which question is calling to you? Which one contains "your work"?

1. Is it time to bravely start trusting people again?
2. Is it time to tell someone how scared you really are?
3. Is it time to bravely admit, "I was wrong"?
4. Is safely tiptoeing around "it" making you ill?
5. Where are you saying "yes" when you need to courageously say "no"?
6. Have you mistakenly convinced yourself that courage can come without sacrifice?
7. Who says it's always courageous to never give up? How might life be calling you to bravely let it go and walk away?
8. How might your life change if you saw optimism as our time's most courageous act?
9. Has your courage been bought off by money and status? Has comfort led you to forgetting what courage feels like?
10. Does your faith make you dangerous? Has your religion or your God become small and tame?
11. Instead of standing up and speaking out, is courage now asking you to sit down and listen?
12. Who in your life needs their courage affirmed and celebrated? Who needs told that their courage is contagious and helping you be more brave?
13. What's your question? Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it.

Recommended Resources

As always, this is not required reading. We will not analyze these pieces in our group. Instead they are here to companion you on your journey this month, get your thinking started, and maybe open you to new ways of thinking about what it means to be part of a people of courage.

Word Roots

Courage

From Latin *cor* 'heart: denoting the heart, as the seat of feelings.

Wise Words

Courage is a heart word

“Courage is a heart word. The root of the word courage is *cor* - the Latin word for heart. In one of its earliest forms, the word courage meant "To speak one's mind by telling all one's heart." Over time, this definition has changed, and today, we typically associate courage with heroic and brave deeds. But in my opinion, this definition fails to recognize the inner strength and level of commitment required for us to actually speak honestly and openly about who we are and about our experiences -- good and bad. Speaking from our hearts is what I think of as "ordinary courage.” - *Brene Brown*

Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Do not be afraid.

- **Frederick Buechner**

All around you, people will be tiptoeing through life, just to arrive at death safely. But dear children, do not tiptoe. Run, hop, skip, or dance, just don't tiptoe.”

- **Shane Claiborne**

Safety is not the thing you should look for. Joy is what you should look for. Security and joy may not come in the same package. They can, but they also cannot. There is no guarantee.

- **Neale Donald Walsh**

What the world desperately needs is more dangerous disciples of an unsafe God. You can only be safe if you've fashioned for yourself a God small and tame...because grace is a dangerous thing...and real love is never safe. There are Pharisees — and I've been one — who are alive and well and who feel far safer with a dead God, one they seal up in a coffin of mere theory, one they bury under the sod of human rationality and tidiness...Maybe faith isn't as much formula as the mystery of being drawn to, surrendering to, the overwhelming love and will of the most dangerous Reality in all the universe?...Those who have [God's dangerous love] in their bones aren't ever safe. Open flames are always dangerous.

- **Ann Voskamp**

“It's a shallow life that doesn't give a person a few scars.”

-- **Garrison Keillor**

It simply isn't an adventure worth telling if there aren't dragons in it.

- **J.R.R. Tolkien**

“To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.”

- **Unknown**

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear.”

- **Ambrose Redmoon**

"Don't be afraid of your fears. They're not there to scare you. They're there to let you know that something is worth it."

- **C. JoyBell**

“Perhaps all the dragons in our lives are princesses who are only waiting to see us act, just once, with beauty and courage. Perhaps everything that frightens us is, in its

deepest essence, something helpless that wants our love.”

– **Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet**

"Our word 'courage' comes from the French word *coeur*, 'heart'. Courage is a willingness to act from the heart, to let your heart lead the way, not knowing what will be required of you next, and if you can do it."

- **Jean Shinoda Bolen**

"Courage is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what.

- **Harper Lee (*To Kill a Mockingbird*)**

Softness is not weakness. It takes courage to stay delicate in a world so cruel.

- **Beau Taplin**

“Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, ‘I will try again tomorrow.’”

- **Mary Anne Radmacher**

Sometimes standing against evil is more important than defeating it. The greatest heroes stand because it is right to do so, not because they believe they will walk away with their lives. Such selfless courage is a victory in itself. - *N.D. Wilson*

“The reward for conformity was that everyone liked you except yourself.”

- **Rita Mae Brown**

"Courage is acting out of self respect for doing the right thing. To not act, or to do something different other than the right thing, is soul murder. Not being true to oneself and others leaves one diminished and in some ways less than human."

- **Harry Holleywood**

“A hero is no braver than an ordinary person, but they are braver five minutes longer.”

-- **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

“Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace.”

- **Amelia Earhart**

If we must both be right, we will lose each other.

- **Nayyirah Waheed**

Poetry

Micky ScottBey Jones, inspired by an unknown author’s poem

<https://uucf.org/blog-041017/>

Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a “safe space”

We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.

In this space

We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,

We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,

We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.

We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know,

We will not be perfect.

This space will not be perfect.

It will not always be what we wish it to be

But

It will be our brave space together,

and

We will work in it

side by side.

Courage – it takes more
by **Phillippa Yaa de Villiers**

Full poem:

<http://www.poetryarchive.org/poem/courage---it-takes-more>

“...It takes more than breath to be alive

more than blood to find your line
more than a hand to throw a stone
it takes a heart, a heart
beaten into bricks and built into a house

I Will Not Die an Unlived Life

Dawna Markova

<https://www.values.com/inspirational-quotes/6160-i-will-not-die-an-unlived-life-i-will-not-live>

I will not die an unlived life
I will not live in fear
of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart
until it becomes a wing,
a torch, a promise.
I choose to risk my significance;
to live so that which came to me as seed
goes to the next as blossom
and that which came to me as blossom,
goes on as fruit.

Roll the Dice

Charles Bukowski

Full poem:

http://www.agonia.net/index.php/poetry/13902956/Roll_the_Dice

“...if you’re going to try, go all the way...
it could mean not eating for 3 or 4 days.
it could mean freezing on a park bench.
it could mean jail, it could mean derision,
mockery,...

you will be alone with the gods...
you will ride life straight to perfect
laughter...

It is the only good fight there is.”

Courage

by Sri Chinmoy

<http://www.poetseers.org/poem-of-the-day-archive/poems-about-courage/index.html>

To speak ill of the world
Needs courage,

But fortunately or unfortunately
Everybody has that courage.
To love the world
As one’s own,
Very own,
Needs courage.
Unfortunately, most of us are wanting
In that courage.
The courage of the heart,
The courage of the soul
We badly need,
And not the courage
Of the unruly,
Aggressive,
Impure,
Demanding.

Videos

The Courage to be Human

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPGREQvK-dQ&list=RDagsL0QQaSP4&index=10>

All The Way

Charles Bukowski

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6_QUhUPrF4

What's Your Greatest Fear? | Ages 0-100

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCvfj1Yj0>

The Fear of Getting Close

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIMnFrXxEGo>

Getting close to another human isn’t the
trouble free process we might imagine. It’s
worth understanding just how frightening
closeness can be.

The Courage to Come Out...and Love

Steven Boyle reading his poem, “I Hit Send, or
Modern Meltdown”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxKUnT3Lq28>

Five Strategies for Courageous Conversations about Racism

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Wq7mc5PAq&index=37&list=PL8PINNxdxii6qcm6fxPDG9Yt_IMrMruf

Moral Courage and Courageous

Conversations:

“Confederate pride, white supremacy, and my state flag” - Moral Courage TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4QZrui7lp8>

Songs and Music

Quiet

MILCK with GW Sirens and Capital

Blend:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9lond4>

[SXgk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9lond4)

Choreographed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmOj5Y>

[Gs5NY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmOj5Y)

“I can’t keep quiet...” A repeat of their performance at the Women’s March.

Little Boxes

Malvina Reynolds

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_2lGk

[EU4Xs&index=24&list=RDF5fKaa7cXuM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_2lGk)

The courage to rise above the lure of little boxes and ticky tacky.

Brave

Sara Bareilles cover by Amy Hoffman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDFVX>

[Zi96oA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDFVX)

Take Me to Church

Cover by Neon Jungle:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya46q6>

[ALt9Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya46q6)

Cover by Kiesza:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwxIFk3>

[tZSI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwxIFk3)

Original:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juTxyGb>

[b5T0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juTxyGb)

The Courageous Call of Black Lives Matter

Hands Up by Daye Jack

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeFM>

[PU7fcA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeFM)

"Living with my head down, hands up/No, no, don't shoot"

Black Rage by Lauryn Hill

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_sduBW
[aY5o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_sduBW)

"Black rage is founded on two thirds a person/Rapings and beatings and suffering that worsens/Black human packages tied up in strings/Black rage can come from all these kinds of things."

Cry No More by Rhiannon Giddens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU3cG>

[LtULeI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU3cG)

“First they stole our body, then they stole our sons/Then they stole our gods and gave us new ones/Then they stole our beauty, comfort in our skin/And then they gave us duty and then they gave us sin... The legacy is mighty. We can’t carry this alone. You have to help us fight it. And together we’ll be home.”

Chains by Usher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Knd2eI>

[4Lfw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Knd2eI)

The courage to not look away...

Videos

The Courage to be Human

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPGRE>

[QvK-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPGRE)

[dQ&list=RDaqsL00QaSP4&index=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPGRE)

All The Way

Charles Bukowski

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6_QUh

[UPrF4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6_QUh)

What's Your Greatest Fear? | Ages 0-100

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCvFjIl>

[Yj0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCvFjIl)

The Fear of Getting Close

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLMnFr>

[XxEGo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLMnFr)

Getting close to another human isn't the trouble free process we might imagine. It's worth understanding just how frightening closeness can be.

The Courage to Come Out...and Love

Steven Boyle reading his poem, "I Hit Send, or Modern Meltdown"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxKUnT3Lq28>

Five Strategies for Courageous

Conversations about Racism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Wq7mc5PAg&index=37&list=PL8PINNxdxiI6gc m6fxPDG9Yt lMrMrluf>

Moral Courage and Courageous

Conversations:

"Confederate pride, white supremacy, and my state flag" - Moral Courage TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4OZru i71p8>

Podcasts

Fearless - Invisibilia Podcast

<http://www.npr.org/programs/invisibilia/377515477/fearless?showDate=2015-01-16>

What would happen if you could disappear fear? We'll hear about the striking (and rare) case of a woman with no fear. The second half of the show explores how the rest of us might "turn off" fear.

The Courage to Stop Hiding Your Pain & Vulnerability - TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/ash_bekham_were_all_hiding_something_lets_find_the_courage_to_open_up

"In this touching talk, Ash Beckham offers a fresh approach to empathy and openness. It starts with understanding that everyone, at some point in their life, has experienced hardship. The only way out, says Beckham, is to open the door and step out of your closet."

The Courage to be Emotionally Correct Not Just Correct - -TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/sally_kohn_let_s_try_emotional_correctness/autoplay=true

The Courage to Be Wrong - TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/kathryn_schulz_on_being_wrong

Most of us will do anything to avoid being wrong. But what if we're wrong about that? "Wrongologist" Kathryn Schulz makes a compelling case for not just admitting but embracing our fallibility.

The Courage of Heretics

A This American Life Radio show

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/304/heretics/>

(news interview with Pearson)

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14337492/>

The story of Reverend Carlton Pearson, a nationally-known evangelical pastor in Tulsa, Oklahoma, who cast aside the idea of Hell, and with it everything he'd worked for over his entire life. A story of a very courageous man who followed his conscience and lost just about everything.

UU connection: Carlton Pearson and the remaining members of his church joined with our UU congregation in Tulsa, Oklahoma! Here's a news article about it:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14337492/>

Articles

A Guide to Understanding Your Fear

<http://blog.iqmatrix.com/understanding-fear>

How To Understand And Conquer Your Fears

<http://www.vernoncoleman.com/facefear1.htm>

Thirteen Tips To Face Your Fear

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/13-tips-to-face-your-fear-and-enjoy-the-ride.html>

What's Your Brand of Courage?

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/what-s-your-brand-of-courage.html>

The Courage to Speak the Truth, but Not to Punish

by James Hoggan with Thich Nhat Hanh,
excerpt from *I'm Right and You're an Idiot*
<http://www.utne.com/community/speak-the-truth-but-not-to-punish-zm0z17szsel?pageid=1#PageContent1>

“The work seems to be about balance: speaking up against injustice with courage and passion but with greater awareness of the dangers in becoming overly adversarial and treating those who disagree as foes... Anger can give us the mettle to speak with courage and conviction, but also the venom that blinds us to the views of others...”

Books

Originals: How Nonconformists Move the World

By Adam Grant

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/014312885X/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=014312885X&linkCode=as2&tag=inccom05-20&linkId=5890e336cd984813de00e0537b68a156

The courage of nonconformity!

Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead

by Brené Brown

Dancing With Dementia

by Christine Bryden

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/184310332X/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=184310332X&linkCode=as2&tag=inccom05-20&linkId=27392cf4a9eb1e0ff5927c850fef8b9a

Recommended by neuroscientist and author [Lisa Genova](#).

After receiving a diagnosis of dementia at 48, a woman goes on to live courageously and meaningfully with early onset dementia.

To Wake, To Rise: Meditations on Justice and Resilience

Edited by William G. Sinkford

<http://www.uuabookstore.org/To-Wake-To-Rise-P18187.aspx>

An anthology of 29 poems, prayers, and reflections about resisting oppression and keeping courage in a new era of political and social division.

Out Stealing Horses

by Per Petterson

“In this quiet but compelling novel, Trond Sander, a widower nearing seventy, moves to a bare house in remote eastern Norway, seeking the escape of a quiet life of contemplation. But a chance encounter with a neighbor—the brother, as it happens, of his childhood friend Jon—causes him to ruminate on the summer of 1948, the last he spent with his adored father, who abandoned the family soon afterward. Trond’s recollections center on a single afternoon, when he and Jon set out to take some horses from a nearby farm; what began as an exhilarating adventure ended abruptly and traumatically in an act of unexpected cruelty.

Movies and Television

Spotlight

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/spotlight_2015

“The riveting [and courageous] true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world’s oldest and most trusted institutions. When the newspaper’s tenacious “Spotlight” team of reporters delves into allegations of abuse in the Catholic Church, their year-long investigation uncovers a decades-long cover-up at the highest levels of Boston’s religious, legal, and government establishment, touching off a wave of revelations around the world.”

They Will Have to Kill Us First

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/they_will_have_to_kill_us_first
<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/films/reviews/view/28116/they-will-have-to-kill-us-first>

A documentary celebrating the courageous and creative use of music as a form of resistance. Set in Mali where jihadists have banned all music-making.

In This World

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/in_this_world
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iirGjM3T5QI>

Revealing, studied window into people migration from Pakistan to the UK. Inspiring courage and humbling sacrifice at every turn gets you rooting for the leads and challenges you to question your views on immigration.

A Jihad for Love

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/a_jihad_for_love/

“Filmmaker Parvez Sharma travels into the secretive world of homosexuality within the Islamic faith. He interviews those who try to reconcile their faith with the ban on gays and lesbians, attempting to walk a fine line between persecution and honesty.”

Moonlight

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/moonlight_2016

“The tender, heartbreaking story of a young man's courageous struggle to find himself, told across three defining chapters in his life as he experiences the ecstasy, pain, and beauty of falling in love, while grappling with his own sexuality in an oppressive suffocating culture.”

13th

<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/13th>

The courage to confront our legacy of racism. “The title of Ava DuVernay's extraordinary and galvanizing documentary refers to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which reads "Neither slavery

nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States.” The progression from that second qualifying clause to the horrors of mass criminalization and the sprawling American prison industry is laid out by DuVernay with bracing lucidity.”

Tomboy

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/tomboy_2011

“A French family with two daughters, 10-year-old Laure and 6-year-old Jeanne, moves to a new neighborhood during the summer holidays. With her Jean Seberg haircut and tomboy ways, Laure is immediately mistaken for a boy by the local kids and passes herself off as Michael. This is a relationship movie: relationships between children, and the even more complicated one between one's heart and body.”

Shut up and Sing

http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/shut_up_and_sing/

In the early 2000's, it seemed the Dixie Chicks could do no wrong. Their concert tours were consistent sellouts, making them the most successful female group in the history of the recording industry. However, things took an unexpected turn as the Dixie Chicks spoke out against the U.S. invasion of Iraq which resulted in a death threat and dozens of others personal attacks by fans. The rest of the story involves being pulled into the courage to stand up for what believe--even when the cost is great.

This packet was created based on the Soul Matters Sharing Circle model of small groups.



<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcirc>

