

New Story December News

By special request (!), the next meeting of the FMC New Story Group will be Monday, December 26, from 7:00 to 9:00pm on Zoom. Come at 6:30pm for fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome. The Zoom link is the same: To participate in this event [click this link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

We will continue the discussion from our November meeting on “What is Ecotheology?” and watch Part Two of Philip Clayton’s video “Ecotheology: or Why Climate Crisis and Eco-Anxiety Require a Radically Different Kind of Theology” available [here](#) . Part One asks whether ecotheology is consistent with the central beliefs of the Catholic Christian tradition. Part Two (27:10 to 50:08) is the construction of an ecotheology on its own terms. In the introduction, Clayton says, “I want to propose a theology that fully incorporates ecology in the very heart of its methods and conclusions. This is an approach to theology that genuinely can bring hope. Christian theology and ecology can be fully fused in ecotheology. Ecotheology does not need to be Christian.”

At the FMC New Story Group meeting on Monday, November 28, Cornelia Parkes led a discussion on the query, “What is Ecotheology?” Her short answer is that ecotheology is the theology needed to bring the sacredness of nature into the Christian theology of theism. In *God and Gravity: a Philip Clayton Reader on Science and Theology*, Clayton explores the role of panentheism as the integrator. Karen Armstrong’s *Sacred Nature: Restoring our ancient bond with the natural world* shows how other religions have already integrated the sacredness of nature in their worldview. We had a lively discussion. The slides are available on the New Story webpage and as a [pdf download here](#).

For previous newsletters and resources, please visit the New Story [web page here](#). To be placed on the email list for New Story News and notices of future meetings contact Cornelia Parkes at new-story@fmcquaker.org.

New Story News

Quotes

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation for Thursday, November 10, 2022

Waking up is a community affair. Jewish wisdom suggests that the Messiah will not be an extra smart, radiantly beautiful, super powerful human being who will descend from on high to resolve our differences and repair the damage we have inflicted on one another and on the planet we share. . . . We each need to bring the best of who we are to the spiritual table and offer our own imperfect selves as the medicine for the critically ill spirit of humanity. This includes our despair and our ecstatic insights, the shadow we are most ashamed of and the crazy wisdom with which we astonish even ourselves.

The Guardian, December 4, 2022: “The wars of this century are wars over meaning.”

The battles of the 21st century are hybrid wars fought on any and all fronts: military, economic, political, technological, informational, cultural. Often ignored, or relegated to marginal status, the cultural front is nonetheless foundational. The wars of this century are wars over meaning. As American forces learned in Iraq and Afghanistan, if you lose on the cultural front, military and economic dominance swiftly erode. [Quoted in full by Chuck Fager [here](#).]

(Can we identify the actions of Russia in Ukraine with the actions of the United States when it tried to obliterate the culture of the Original Nations? An action in which Quakers unwittingly took part in the “Indian Boarding Schools”?)

Videos

Carol Kilby. [Click here](#) for her Sermon at Wesley United Church, November 14, 2021. A beautiful retelling of the New Story as we know it.

In *Out of the Woods and Back IN the Church*, [Carol Kilby] steps into a declining, rural congregation of sophisticated elders. They're willing to read the old stories with evolutionary eyes. They're open to the possibility that the environmental crisis is driving the evolution of humans, religion, and God. Together, they discover the Christian and Evolutionary stories are made stronger when they dance together, and together, they can make the Earth-family more resilient. [[Amazon review](#) of *Evolutionary Dancer: In, Out, and on the Fringe of the Church* by Carol Kilby.]

Jane Cutting recommends "How Can COP Be Effective?" with Jeremy Lent, Deep Transformation Network, 12/07/2023

[Click here](#) and scroll down to watch the video. “My overarching takeaway from this rich discussion: Ultimately, barring collapse, the Deep Transformation we seek will only occur if we can find a better way for 195 sovereign countries to work collectively toward global solutions. The COP process, with all its faults, is a model for developing the global process of facing into an existential crisis. We need to keep engaging with it—and try to change it from within as well as from without.”

Dave Damm-Luhr recommends “David Peat Extended Interview –*Infinite Potential: The life and times of David Bohm.*”

The late F. David Peat, Theoretical Physicist and Author, longtime colleague, and close friend of David Bohm, talks of Bohm and his quest for a radical new order to Physics...This interview is now available and not to be missed. [Click here](#). In the early 1970's, David Peat took a sabbatical year with Roger Penrose, but shortly after overheard a lecture by David Bohm and was instantly hooked. He made it his business to meet with and talk to Bohm, and soon after the two men became collaborators, sharing an interest in the nature of Consciousness. Then in 1987 they co-penned the book *Science and Creativity*.

Courses

Applying the New Cosmology: Module 2 Deeptime Leadership Program

10-week module—January 11 to March 24, 2023. Two sections to accommodate different time zones. Join each module separately. [Register here.](#)

“There is nothing more critical than leadership for our moment of transition to a flourishing future. This course is indispensable for such a transition – thoughtful, comprehensive, and engaging. Sink in and be deeply transformed!” — Mary Evelyn Tucker, co-author and executive producer, *Journey of the Universe*; and director, Forum on Religion & Ecology

Books and articles

Otto Scharmer “Protecting the Flame: Circles of Radical Presence in Times of Collapse” September 6, 2022, [16 minute read here](#). Scharmer writes:

- The first theme is that we are living in a time of accelerated breakdown and collapse.
- The second theme is the sinking feeling that arises when taking all of this in.
- The third theme is about the massive knowing-doing gap that has been embodied in our collective behavior over the past 50+ years.

Before I go more into detail on how to transform the knowing-doing gap — including a discussion of the key findings of the Earth for All study — let’s contemplate the deeper significance of these three themes.

Steve Stodola recommends [Saviors of God: Spiritual Exercises](#) by Nikos Kazantzakis.

In this “small book. . . in a passionate and poetic style, yet in systematic fashion, Kazantzakis set down the philosophy embedded not only in the *Odyssey* but in everything he has written, for he was a man of one overwhelming vision, striving to give it shape in all the forms he could master, in epic, drama, novel, travelogue, criticism, translation, and even political action.” – Kimon Friar

Roshi Joan Halifax and **Christiana Figueres** “Accessing courage in the midst of the climate catastrophe” Published May 5, 2022. [Available here.](#)

“Consistent with the wisdom of never wasting a good crisis, we can use the anguish we experience as a transformational force within ourselves and as the basis of our engagement with the world.

...

Without minimizing the urgency of those transitions, we should also recognize that if we want a fertile and resilient future, we must place equal importance on our psychospiritual transformation. It is our moral standing that determines our capacity to engage constructively with the outside world.”

Brian Swimme "[The Powers of the Universe](#)" November 28, 2022

This short (12 page) beautifully illustrated summary of Brian Swimme's epic video *The Powers of the Universe* is a great way to introduce friends and family (high schoolers and up) to Swimme's vision.

(And now to relax into the cozy warmth of the season.)

[Tone of Life Dialogue](#) is a beautiful collage of images from the James Webb telescope set to music. Take time out of this busy season to sit back, relax, and lose yourself in the glory of the cosmos. **Virginia Swain** shared this video with me, but you need to have Dropbox installed on your system to view it.

Goatwalking: A guide to wildland living, a quest for the peaceable kingdom by Jim Corbett

"*Goatwalking* is a book for saddlebag or backpack —to live with a while, casually. It is compact and multifaceted, but for unhurried reflection rather than study. It is woven from star-gazing and campfire talk, to open conversations rather than to lead the reader on a one-way track of entailment to necessary conclusions. I prove no points. This is no teaching." [Jim Corbett, quoted by Chuck Fager, [Let's Go Goatwalking Friends](#)]