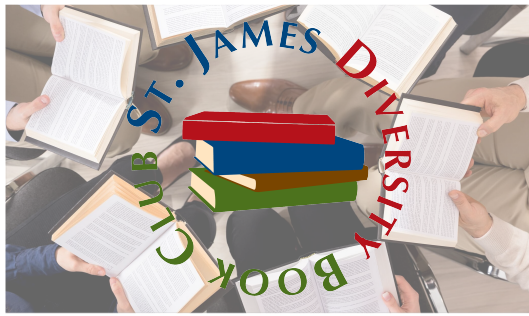


# Diversity Book Club



## Diversity Book Club First Fall Discussion October 19-12PM Lakeside Room

The St. James' Diversity Book Club will launch the Fall 2025 season with the Pulitzer Prize winning novel **James by Percival Everett.**

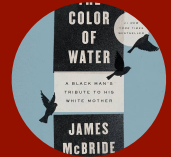
The discussion will be held at noon on Oct. 19 in the Toppie Bates Lakeside Room. The discussions are free and open to everyone, even if you have not read the book. Light refreshments will be served. James is a re-imagining of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn told from the perspective of Jim, Huck's enslaved companion on their raft-ride down the Mississippi River. In Everett's re-imagining, James' "agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light." "James is a surgical disarticulation of the bones that hold American racialism in place— more than physiognomy, our language has been shaped to keep us apart. James extols the virtues of literacy, self-naming, entelechy, and freedom, while showing us that these virtues mean little if they are expressed merely for the self. The protagonist carries us to a greener territory, a new world, where signifying is for beauty's sake—never again because of the whip" (National Book Foundation website). Everett is a Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California. His award-winning novels include *The Trees* (2021) and *Erasure* (2001), which was adapted as the Academy Award winning film *American Fiction* in 2023.

**The Fall 2025 season continues Nov. 23 with *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother* by James McBride.** First published in 1995, *The Color of Water* tells the story of McBride and his white, Jewish mother Ruth. Ruth was born in Poland and raised in Suffolk, Va, the daughter of an itinerant rabbi and a loving, disabled mother who spoke no English. At 17, Ruth fled the South, landed in Harlem, married a black man in 1941, founded a church, was twice widowed and raised 12 children in New York City. Despite hardship, poverty, and suffering, Ruth sent all 12 of her children to college.

The Diversity Book Club is a ministry of St. James' Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission. The discussions are held at noon in the Toppie Bates Lakeside Room and are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Judy Holmes (judyholmes76@gmail.com) or Meg Osborne (mhosborne7@gmail.com).



**October 19**  
James by Percival Everett



**November 23**  
The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother by James McBride (Nov,23)

**Spring Season**  
**January 18**

The Message by Ta-Nehisi Coates

**March 1**

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich – Native American

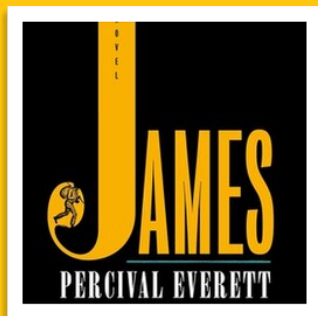
**April 12**

Obasan by Joy Kogawa

**May 17**

The Wrong End of the Telescope by Rabiiah Alameddine

You can attend these discussions on Zoom:  
ZOOM MEETING  
830 2296 3717  
PASSCODE 581919

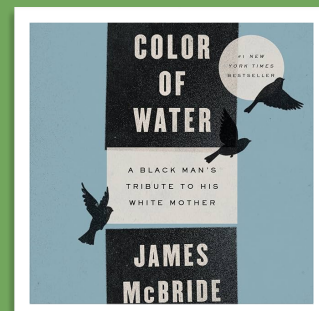


## JAMES BY PERCIVAL EVERETT

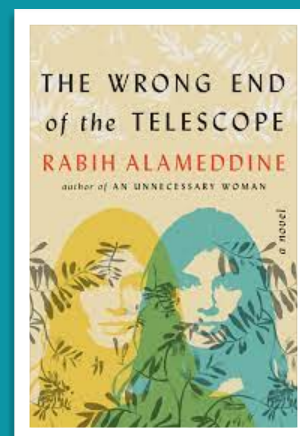
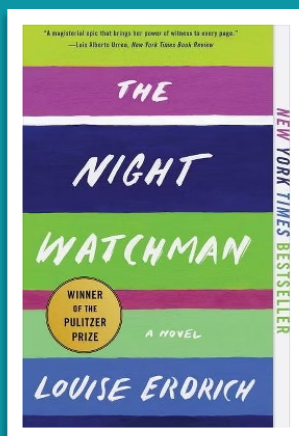
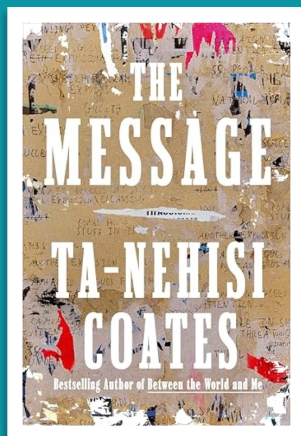
**October 19:** James is a re-imagining of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn told from the perspective of Jim, Huck's enslaved companion on their raft-ride down the Mississippi River.

## THE COLOR OF WATER BY JAMES MCBRIDE

**November 23:** The Color of Water tells the story of McBride and his white, Jewish mother Ruth. Ruth was born in Poland and raised in Suffolk, Va, the daughter of an itinerant rabbi and a loving, disabled mother who spoke no English.



## SPRING 2026 SEASON



For more information about  
The Diversity Book Club or  
St. James' Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission  
visit [StJamesSkan.org](http://StJamesSkan.org).