

PARKER J. PALMER

Author of Let Your Life Speak

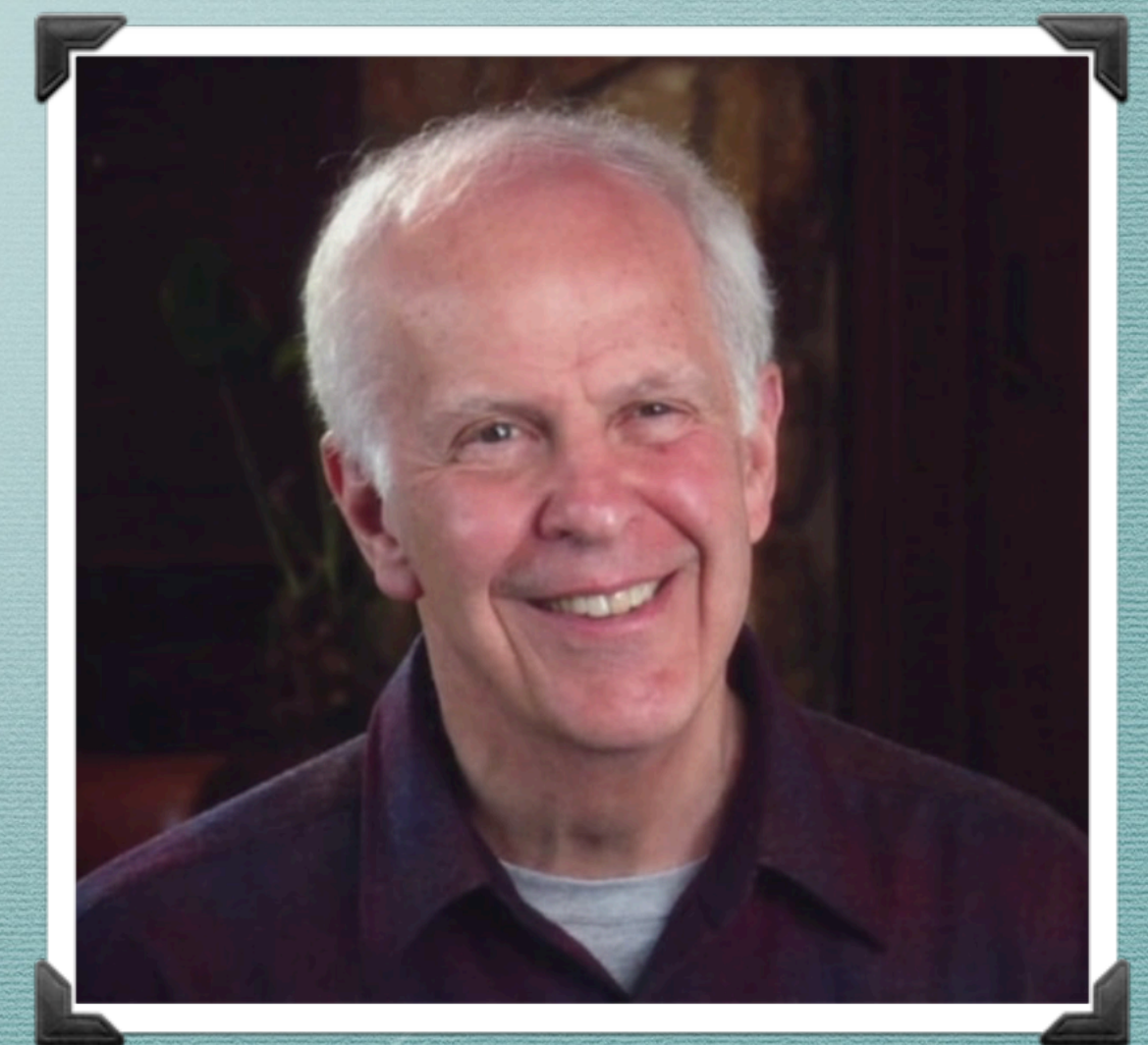
ON the BRINK
of EVERYTHING

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

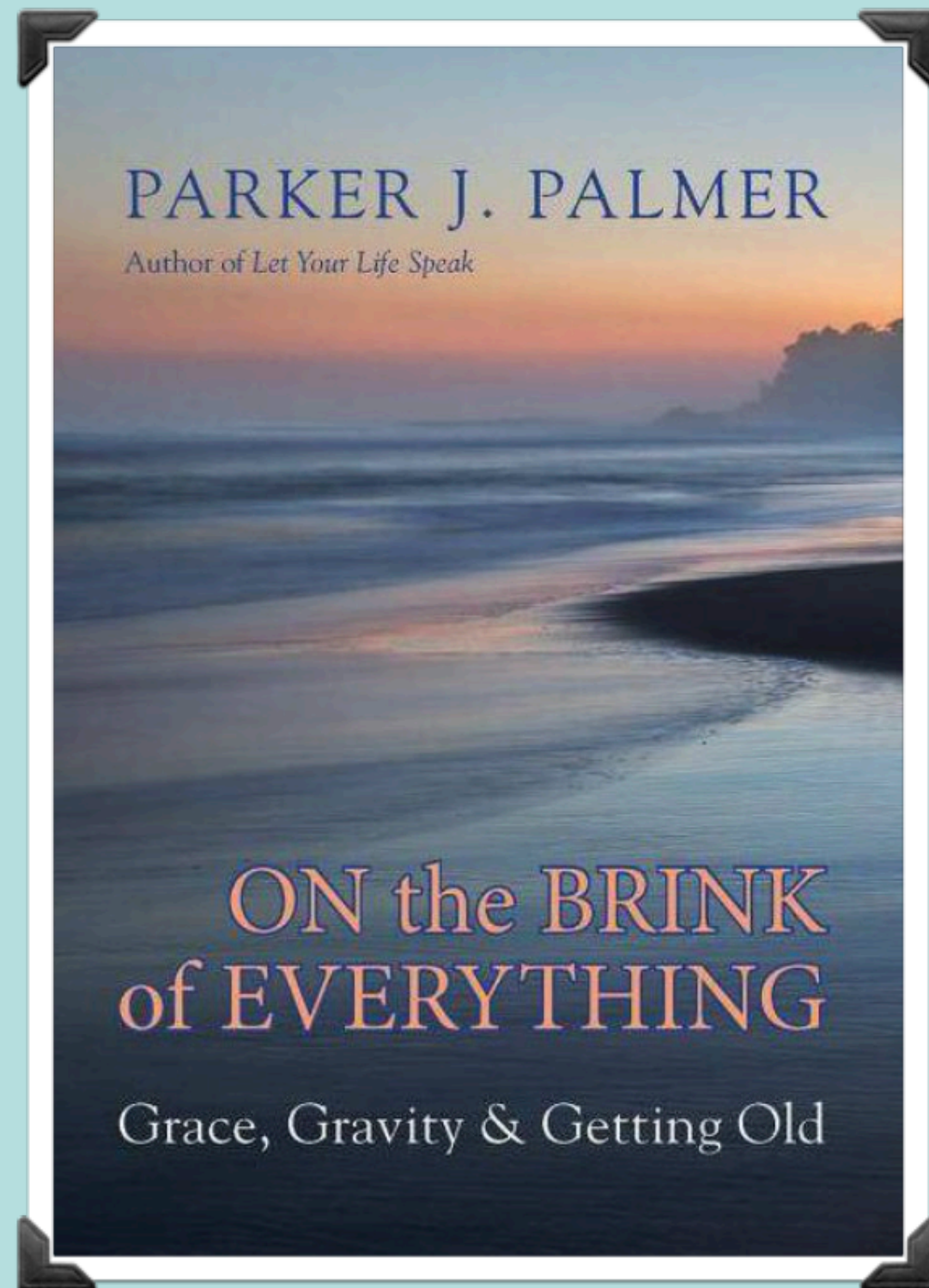
On the Brink of
Everything: Grace,
Gravity & Getting Old

Monday Night Book
Study at St. David's
United Church —

48 - 02



"We need to reframe aging as a passage of discovery and engagement. Not decline and inaction" (p.8)



Monday Night Book Study

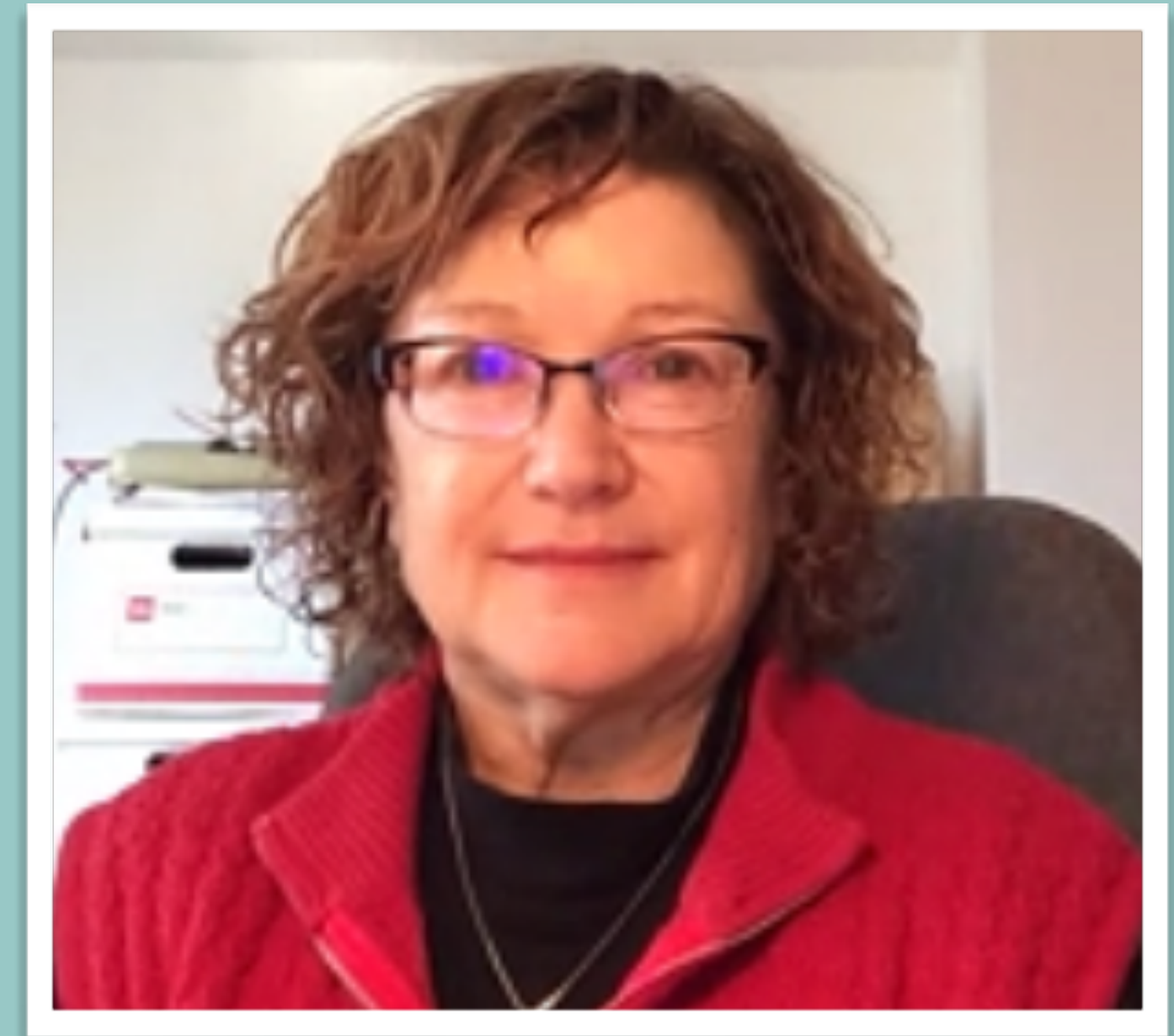
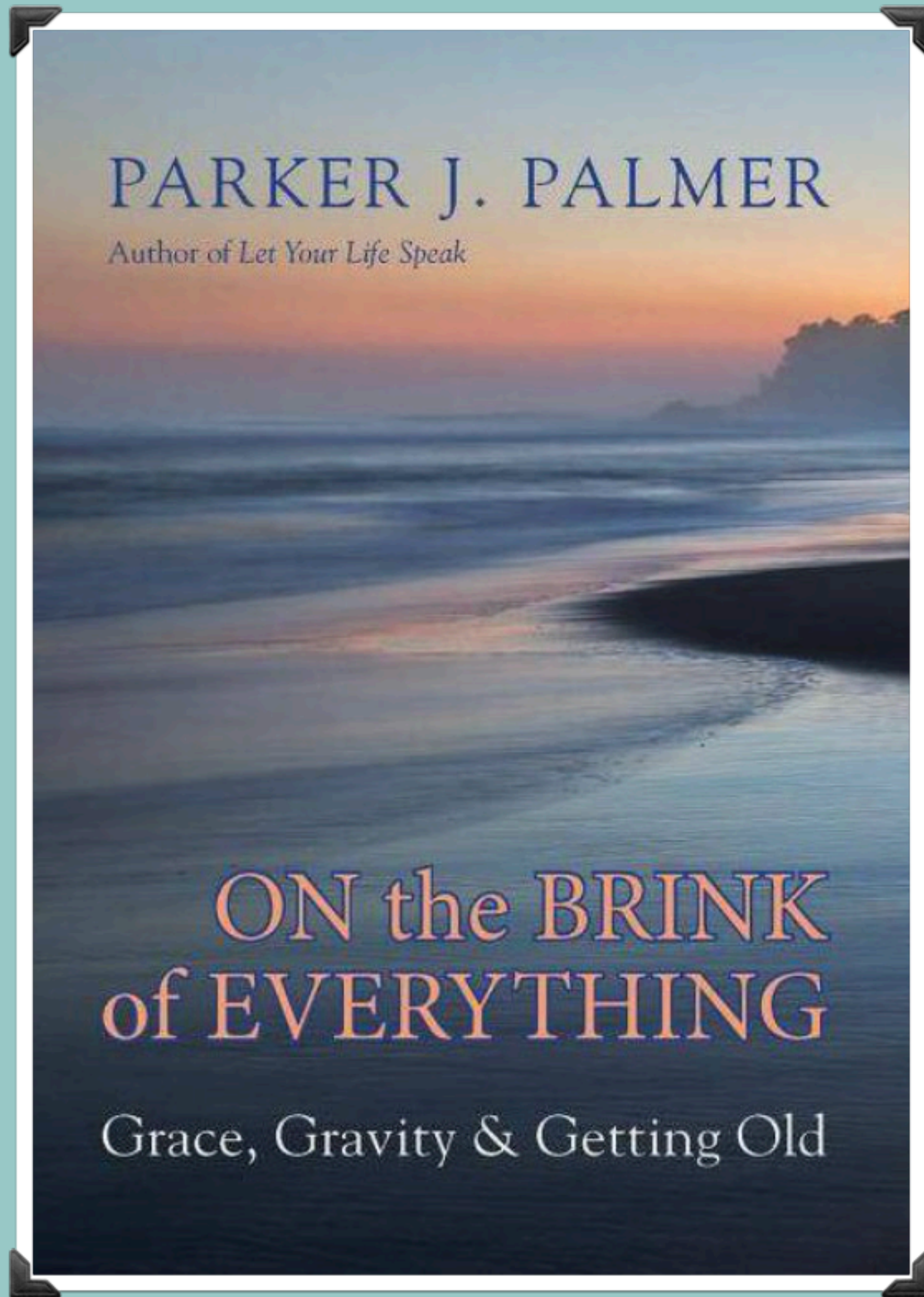
with

WAYNE, JOAN & BRENDA

ST. DAVID'S BOOK STUDY TEAM

ACTS WINTER 2022

BEFORE WE BEGIN

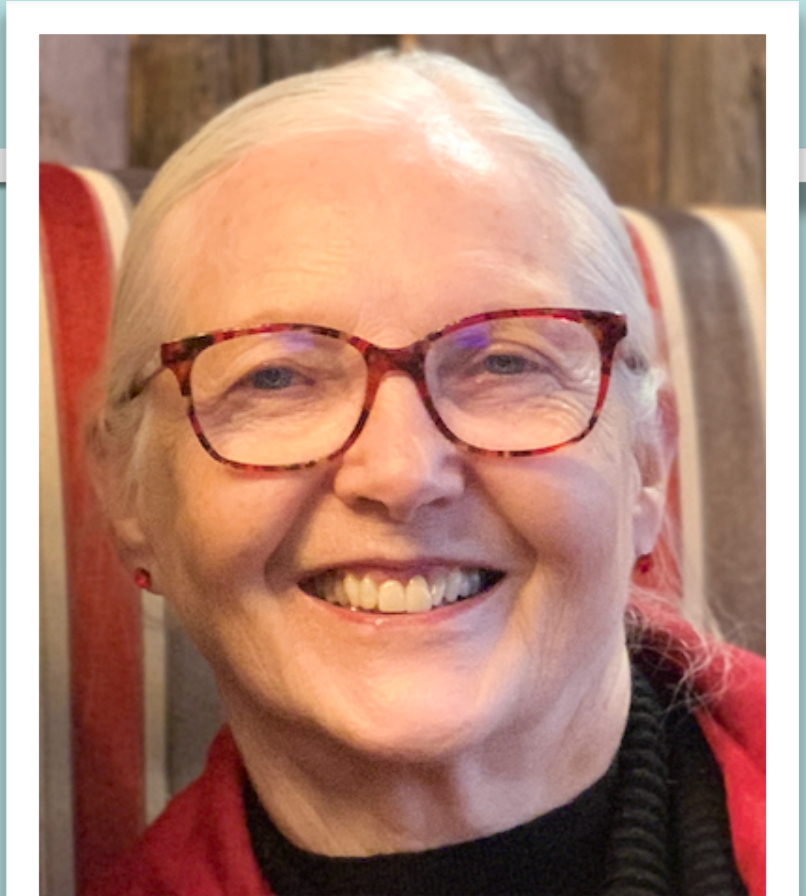


OPENING

Reading Guide for Monday Nights

- * **Session Three: Chapter I January 31**
- * **Session Four: Chapter II February 7**
- * **Session Five: Chapter III February 14**
- * **Session Six: Chapter IV February 28**
- * **Session Seven: Chapter V March 7**
- * **Session Eight: Chapter VI March 14**
- * **Session Nine: Chapter VII & Postlude March 21**
- * **Session Ten: Conclusions and Where to from here March 28**

housekeeping



REFLECTION ON THE MEANING OF 'PRELUDE'



Seven Ideas

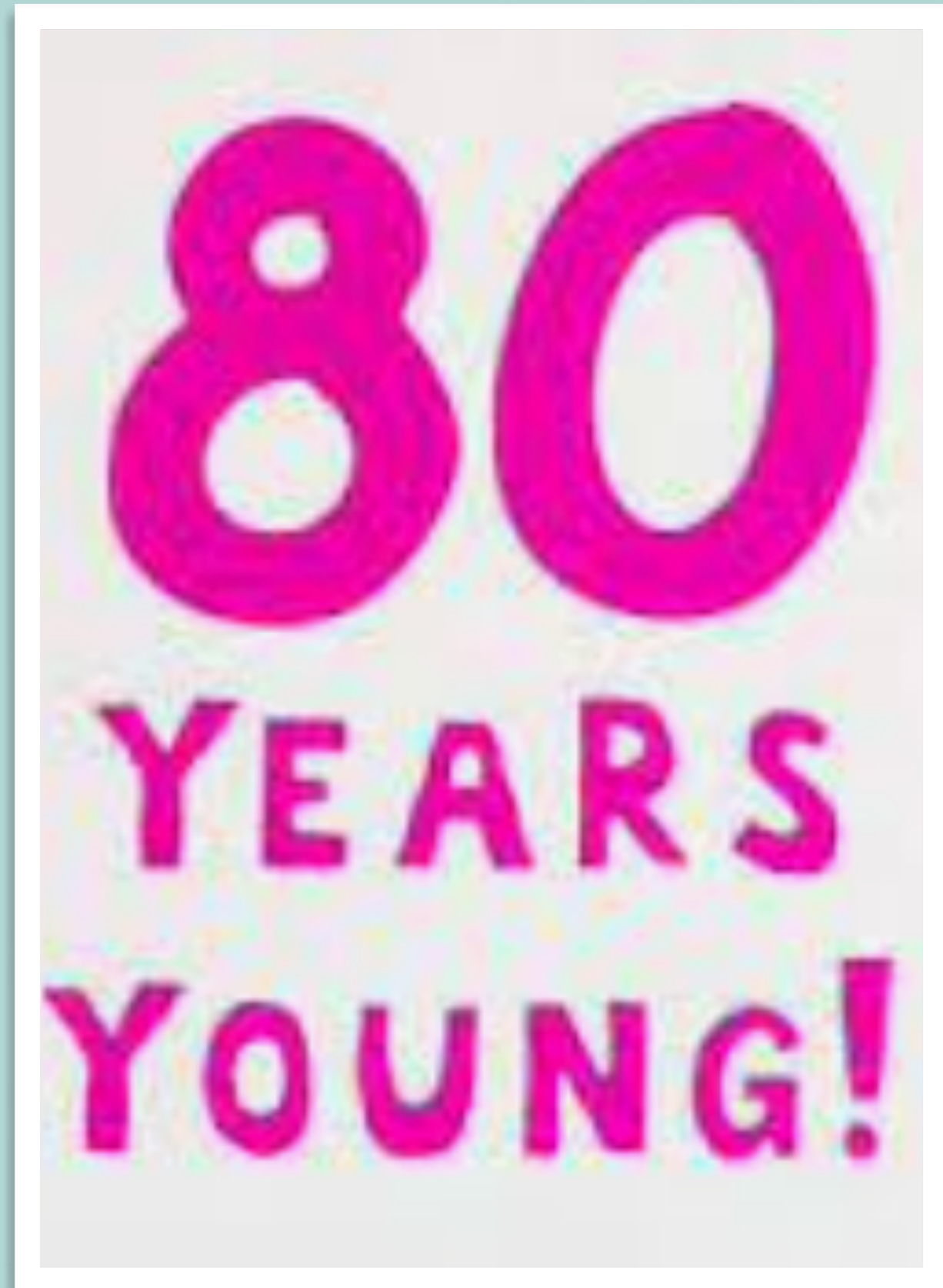
**1. Setting the tone of the book... why this book differs from others:
Poetry — not Facts**





2. Aging as Diminishment ...with Benefits

**3. Old age is
no time to
hunker
down unless
disability
demands it.**



**80
YEARS
YOUNG!**



4. We have no choice about death but we do have choices about how we hold the inevitable...

— Denial?

— Defiance?

— Collaboration?

The
Laws
of Gravity

Levity
and
Gravity



**5. Compare gravity
and levity...**

Jobs vs. Callings

6. Reflect, then, on the meaning of writing as a way of life.

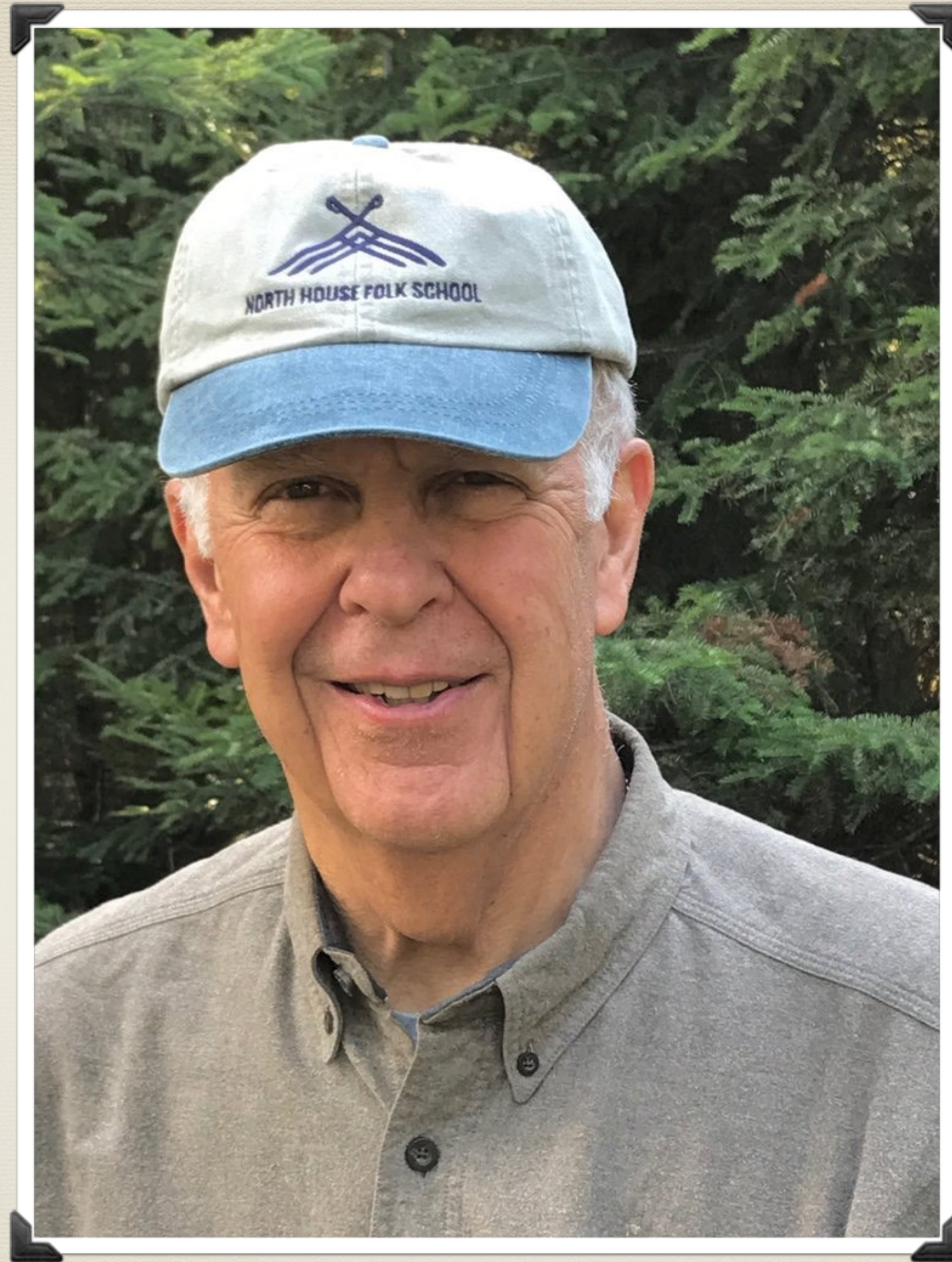


7. Key theme of this study -

“We need to reframe aging as a passage of discovery and engagement, not decline and inaction.”



**Who is
Parker
Palmer?**



[https://
www.newcomer
palmer.com/
home](https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/home)

QUOTES TO CONSIDER

“Wholeness is the goal (of life), but wholeness does not mean perfection. It means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life.”
Parker J. Palmer

The human soul doesn't want to be fixed, it simply wants to be seen and heard. The soul is like a wild animal - tough, resilient and shy. When we go crashing through the woods shouting for it to come out so we can help it, the soul will stay in hiding. But if we are willing to sit quietly and wait for a while, the soul may show itself.

Parker J. Palmer

Parker Palmer on Zoom May 2020

beginning at 11:18 to 18:44



Well-being for Changemakers

PARKER PALMER PhD

We the People: A Time to Act



11/16/19

beginning at 9:00-19:49

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxI3wnjb4wY>

LEONARD COHEN

<http://tinyurl.com/yaosaqzr>

vevo

I ' M Y O U R M A N



“my overriding feeling is gratitude for the gift of life.”

Excerpt From: Parker J. Palmer. “On the Brink of Everything.” Apple Books.
<https://books.apple.com/ca/book/on-the-brink-of-everything/id1354131326>

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

Break out Rooms

2022: Some things to discuss

- *Milestones in my life — spiritual and/or otherwise?**
- *Aging so far: Sharing my growing edges?**
- *Coping process? Gratitude * Writing * Risk Taking**
- *Racism/Anti Racism — Parker's Growing Edges**

Feedback and Summary

***Great ideas and stories that need to be shared**

**NEXT WEEK: Session III —
January 31, 2022**

- **Read Chapter One:**
 - **The View from the Brink:
What I can see from here. ...**
- **Check out ‘Pause to Consider’**
- **VOLUNTEER FOR OPENING
AND/OR CLOSING Next Week**



CLOSING WITH BRENDA



**The First of Three Songs written
and performed by
Carrie Newcomer for this Book
“On the Brink of Everything”
—Lyrics to Follow**

Carrie Newcomer



At night I heard a wood thrush calling,
In the evening like they sing
I saw you standing by the water
Out on the brink of everything
Yeah, all the things that used to matter
No, they don't need so much today,
Toss the seeds and let them scatter,
The birds and wind take them away
Til there is nothing in my way.
And this is has been too much and little
The ache of it bewildering.
But for now we'll stand together,
Here on the brink of everything,
I can't see past this horizon,
I can't say what's waiting there.
I never sang cause I knew something,
I sang because it was a prayer,
The finest one that I could bare.
And this is has been too much and little

The ache of it bewildering.
But for now we'll stand together,
Here on the brink of everything
This body has been many things
It's been rain and snow and earth and dust
I've worked and worried, searched and hurried
But now its all forgiveness,
Now its just forgiveness.
I'll walk with you far as I can,
And all we love is all we'll take,
I'll send a postcard when I get there,
Just to say I got there safe,
And I won't need no choir of angels,
Just that old song we used to sing.
But for now we'll stand in wonder,
Here on the Brink of Everything,

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Carrie Newcomer

The Brink of Everything Lyrics © BMG Rights Management

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