

The most popular subscriber-only *Century* articles

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

December 27, 2012

Having a subscriber-only paywall in front of most of our magazine content allows us to put the whole issue online and sell online-only subscriptions. Among other advantages, online-only subscriptions are cheaper—especially for folks who don't live in the States and would have to pay extra postage for print-magazine delivery.

This arrangement does, however, mean the articles behind the paywall generally get less traffic than the free ones. With this in mind, here's a separate top-12 list of just the paid content—i.e., the most popular articles of the year that were read online only by *Century* subscribers. Thanks, all of you, for supporting us. (If you don't subscribe, please [consider it](#).)

Here's the list:

- 1) [The seeker next door](#), by Linda Mercadante.** “It’s tempting to dismiss the spiritual-but-not-religious as salad-bar spiritualists concerned primarily with themselves. But many assumptions about this group are off target.”
- 2) [A hopeful universalism](#), by Paul Dafydd Jones.** “God's ‘consuming fire’ is the fire of holy love. It doesn't await sinners in the future; it burns up sin itself.”
- 3) [No need for church](#), by Adam J. Copeland.** “Why are there 45,000 young adults in Fargo-Moorhead with no connection to a church? It's not a supply-side issue; there's simply no demand.”
- 4) [Our life together](#), by Christine D. Pohl.** “To build stronger communities, we need to get in the habit of recognizing what undergirds our relationships. We can't afford to take it for granted.”
- 5) [Family affair](#), interview with Rich Melheim.** “Parents are the most important faith guides, mentors and teachers a kid will ever have.”

- 6) [Wisdom and light](#), by Marilynne Robinson.** “Is John 1 a midrash on the creation story and the song of creative Wisdom? If so, its writer has infused it with profoundest joy.”
- 7) [Teen hero](#), by Ann Duncan and Andy Langford.** “While *The Hunger Games* does not have overt Christian themes, it does offer a social vision familiar to Christians.”
- 8) [Worship without walls](#), by Benjamin M. Stewart.** “Public ritual might be construed as a benign relic, as imperialism or as marketing. Or it might be seen as a form of pilgrimage.”
- 9) [How to follow the leader](#), by Anthony B. Robinson.** “Following doesn't command the interest that leading does. But following is crucial.”
- 10) [The power of poetic preaching](#), by Elizabeth Myer Boulton and Matthew Myer Boulton.** “People are surrounded by dehumanizing forces and discouraging lies. Preachers should name these—and replace them with wearable forms of truth.”
- 11) [Disagreeing in love](#), by Lee Hull Moses.** “I knew I had to talk to him. This longtime church elder would soon see my newsletter article, and he wasn't going to like it.”
- 12) [It looks like a wedding](#), by Charles Hefling.** “The new Episcopal liturgy makes no claim that couples of the same sex can, in the ecclesiastical sense, marry. What it does say is more interesting.”