

The most-read *Century* articles

December 29, 2014

Here are the *Century* magazine articles that got read the most online this year.

**1) [A time to split?](#) by Amy Frykholm.** A growing number of United Methodist clergy are performing same-sex weddings in open defiance of the Book of Discipline. What happens next?

**2) [What is marriage now?](#) by Gerald W. Schlabach.** "It is better to marry than to burn," says Paul. This strange, embarrassing passage may offer some ground for fresh discernment.

**3) [A parable and its baggage](#), by Amy-Jill Levine.** The Prodigal Son is often read to mean that God loves sinners, whereas the Jews thought God only loved the righteous. This makes no sense.

**4) [Astonishing assemblies](#), by Philip Jenkins.** Every Sunday, more people attend Assemblies of God churches in the Sao Paulo area than in all the U.S.

**5) [My church loyalties](#), by D. Stephen Long.** On two occasions I decided to become Catholic. Both times I had to wait because I had been asked to preach or preside as a Methodist.

**6) [What reaches children?](#) by Sharon Ely Pearson.** Churches need to take time to discern their particular Christian formation mission. Only then can they choose curricular resources to support this.

**7) [The war against rest](#), by Benjamin J. Dueholm.** Christian interest in the sabbath has focused on the family, the home, and the church. Our culture's assault on leisure, however, extends beyond Sunday.

**8) [Theology and misconduct](#), by David Cramer, Jenny Howell, Paul Martens, and Jonathan Tran.** John Howard Yoder defined violence in terms of violating someone's dignity. This sounds ready made as a description of his own abusive behavior.

**9) [Joyful to the end](#), by M. Craig Barnes.** It appears that my friend Steve Hayner doesn't have long to live. It is breathtaking to watch him prepare to die as he lived.

**10) [Why a church wedding?](#) by B. J. Hutto.** Some ask why a pastor would pass up a chance to draw a young couple into the church. But perhaps that's the wrong question.

**11) [Light without sight](#), by Barbara Brown Taylor.** Seeing has distracted me from learning how the light inside me works, fooled me into thinking I have a clear view of where the road leads.

**12) [Dressed for the moment](#), by Samuel Wells.** The collar says something to parishioner and stranger alike: while this doesn't have to be the most important conversation of your life, it can be.

**13) [Glory days?](#) by Ted A. Campbell.** For decades, the notion of mainline decline has dominated interpretation of church life. But just how mighty were the churches before?

**14) [Bisexual in the church](#), by Janet Edwards.** It wasn't same-sex attraction that worried my fellow pastors. They assumed that being bisexual meant I was being unfaithful to my husband.