

2020

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAM



Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2020 United Methodist Women Reading Program. The purpose of the Reading Program is to better understand and participate in God's mission today, to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to explore contemporary issues, and to enhance and act on self-knowledge. In particular, the Reading Program committee has worked to select books that will raise the consciousness of our social, economic and political realities, including the interconnectedness of race, class and gender in women's lives.

Participating in the Reading Program is a wonderful way to build community and form friendships around books. I hope you will share this guide with members of your local and district groups, as well as with members of your community. Use it to start discussions about issues addressed in books and to work together to take action.

Please take a look at the Overview (page 3) for information on how to use this guide as well as tips on how to get the most out of the Reading Program. If you've participated in the past, please also be sure to read "New for 2020" (page 4). In this section, you'll learn that ordering books will happen a little differently this year. I'd like to thank you for adjusting to this change and welcome you to reach out at ASalter@unitedmethodistwomen.org if you have any questions.

By participating in the Reading Program, you are strengthening your involvement in local and global Christian mission. I am so pleased that you will be joining us.

God Bless.

Andris Salter
Operations Officer



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OVERVIEW

The Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books.

To participate, select one of the four plans on page 6—and start reading! From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate change and mass incarceration, there's something for everyone.

Reading Program books are divided into one of five categories (Bonus Books count for two categories each): Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Books are available for people of all ages and reading levels. As you read, track your progress using the Reporting Form on page 28. When you submit Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition [see pg. 30] (more on that under “New for 2020” on next page).

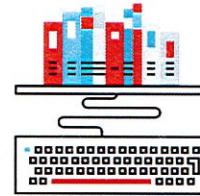
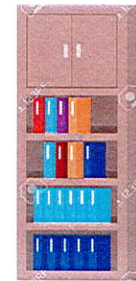
Earning your Certificate of Recognition is just one way to show what you've gained from the Reading Program. The Reading Program is not meant to be completed alone or in a vacuum. As you read, consider taking one or more of the following actions:

Track Your Progress

- **Share the program** with United Methodist Women members and members of the community.
- **Help people attain books.** Distribute this guide.
- **Connect with local and district groups.** Start a book club, download books onto an e-reader to pass around and share, present book reviews at group meetings.
- **Display a progress chart in your church** for all who wish to participate, and post displays to encourage book sales.
- **Pray.** Books often raise concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at group meetings.
- **Advocate for tangible change.** Many Reading Program books address issues such as climate change, mass incarceration, immigration and racism. Organize a task force to address these issues in your community.



God bless you as you pray, study, act and organize in Christ's name.



NEW FOR 2020

Where to Find Books

You might notice that books in this publication are not listed with stock numbers; nor will you find the usual order form and shipping information. For the first time, this year United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online. Think of this resource not as a catalog, as in past years, but as a guide.

By no longer offering books directly, United Methodist Women will make more efficient use of program resources. If you obtain materials locally, this change will also be good for the environment and will help you to become more connected with your community. Although Amazon is always a convenient option, please consider obtaining Reading Program books through:

- School and public libraries
- Local independent bookstores
- Franchises of larger bookstore chains

As always, most Reading Program books can also be found for reading electronically on your Kindle, tablet or other devices. For ebooks free of charge, check your local library, Google eBookstore, Project Gutenberg or Open Library. Searching for titles on Google might yield even more results.

If you do order books through Amazon, please remember to visit smile.amazon.com, Amazon's charitable giving page, and select “United Methodist Women” as your charitable organization. For all eligible purchases made on smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% to United Methodist Women.



Children and Youth Books

As in the past, this year's Reading Program includes books for readers of all ages. Books that would formerly have been listed under "Children" and "Youth" are now distributed among the remaining categories. Look for the line "Suitable for children" or "Suitable for youth" when selecting books to read.



Bonus Books

As always, Bonus Books count as two books. This year, Bonus Books are also the current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. To purchase United Methodist Women mission studies, go to: umwmissionresources.org.



Reporting Form Formulario de Información del Programa de Lectura 독서 프로그램독서 프로그램

After you select a Reading Program plan, easily track your progress using the Reading Program Reporting Form found in the back of this guide (page 29). Send the Report of Completion to your conference's secretary of program resources (or equivalent) to receive a signed Certificate of Recognition.



Certificate of Recognition

Your Certificate of Recognition is also conveniently located at the back of this guide.

Once you submit your Reporting Form, the certificate is ready to be signed and dated by your conference's secretary of program resources (or equivalent) and president.

READING PROGRAM PLANS

Choose and follow one of the four plans. When you have read the required number of books and magazine issues, report your completion to your local member in charge of program resources. Titles read from the 2015 list will be credited through December 31, 2020.

PLAN I: 5 books a year

- One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2015–2020 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of **response** magazine

PLAN II: 10 books a year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2015–2020 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN III: 15 books a year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Plus five additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2015–2020 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN IV: 20 books a year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Plus ten additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2015–2020 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

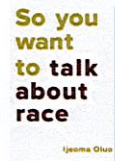
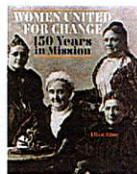
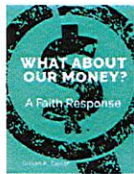


BONUS BOOKS

Bonus Books count as two books!

The 2020 Reading Program bonus books are the current United Methodist Women mission studies.

- *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* by Janet Wolf counts as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.
- *What About Our Money? A Faith Response* by Susan Taylor counts as two books in the category Education for Mission.
- *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission* by Ellen Blue counts as two books in the category Community.
- *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, studied by the United Methodist Women Program Advisory Group, counts as two books in Social Action category.



FAITH TALKS: A PODCAST JUST FOR YOU.....

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. Check out interviews with United Methodist Women mission studies' authors and more: @unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks

Mission studies are United Methodist Women curricula for Mission u, a transformative learning program offered around the country; to learn more, go to unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-u. To purchase mission studies, go to: umwmissionresources.org

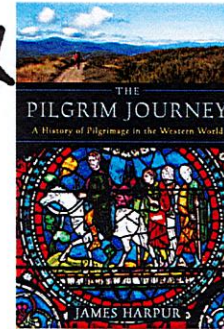


UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PURPOSE

"..United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."



EDUCATION FOR MISSION

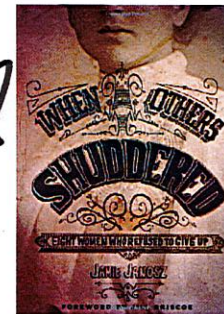


THE PILGRIM JOURNEY: A HISTORY OF PILGRIMAGE IN THE WESTERN WORLD

JAMES HARPUR
BLUEBRIDGE (2016)

Pilgrimage was born and grew, blossoming in the Middle Ages, and faltering in subsequent centuries—only to re-emerge stronger than before. In this book, learn about:

- Pilgrim routes and sacred destinations
- The people making the journey
- Challenges of travel
- Spiritual motivations and rewards
- Traditional stages of pilgrimage—preparation, departure, journey, arrival at the shrine, and return home



WHEN OTHERS SHUDDERED: EIGHT WOMEN WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP

JAMIE JANOSZ
MOODY PUBLISHERS (2014)

Learn about eight women (Fanny Crosby, Mary McLeod Bethune, Nettie McCormick, Sarah Dunn Clarke, Emma Dryer, Virginia Asher, Evangeline Booth and Amanda Berry Smith) who were called to serve God and change the world. Their stories inspire us to follow God's calling in our own lives and teach us that each individual person can make a difference.

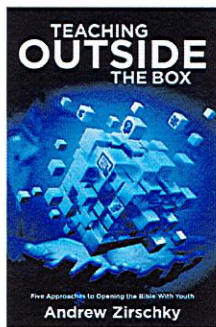


I have been a reader in the United Methodist Reading Program for more years than I can remember! I love the variety of books offered. In fact, the Reading Program has become a four-generation activity in my family. My 95-year-old mother, my 36-year-old daughter and I have all read and received certificates for completing various plan levels over the years. And several of the children's books have found their way into the home libraries of my grandchildren."

Kathy Lynn Koehn
Great Plains Conference



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

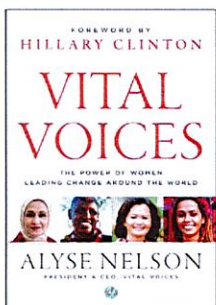


TEACHING OUTSIDE THE BOX: FIVE APPROACHES TO OPENING THE BIBLE WITH YOUTH

ANDREW ZIRSCHKY
ABINGDON PRESS (2017)

Rather than tweaking the ways youth ministers communicate the Gospel, this book explores five approaches to forming youth in faith and opening youth to experience the Gospel in new ways. It starts with a new take on the instructional approach and then introduces four additional approaches that are likely new to readers:

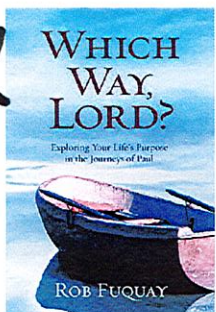
- Community of faith
- Interpretive
- Liberation
- Contemplative.



VITAL VOICES: THE POWER OF WOMEN LEADING CHANGE AROUND THE WORLD

ALYSE NELSON
JOSSEY-BASS (2012)

Since 1999, Vital Voices has brought together women who want to enable others to change their governments, advocate for social justice, and support democracy. This nonprofit equips women with business skills to expand their enterprises and create jobs in their communities. Their voices, stories, and hard-earned lessons are deeply authentic and truly vital.



WHICH WAY LORD? EXPLORING YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE IN THE JOURNEYS OF PAUL

ROB FUQUAY
UPPER ROOM BOOKS (2017)

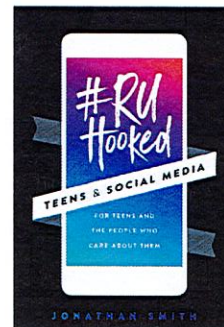
As Christians, we hunger to live out God's purpose for our lives. But how do we know we are moving in the right direction? This study will help you understand God's desire for your life by unpacking your experiences alongside those of the apostle Paul. Discover how to:

- Discern and follow God's lead
- Explore ways God can use your life experiences
- Respond to God's signals
- Endure hardships and doubts
- Persevere with hope and faith.

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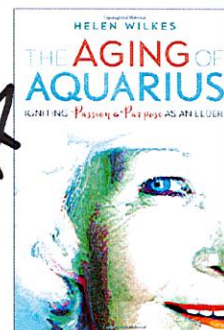
NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY



#RUHOOKED: TEENS & SOCIAL MEDIA: FOR TEENS AND THE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THEM

JONATHAN SMITH
TRISTAN PUBLISHING (2017)

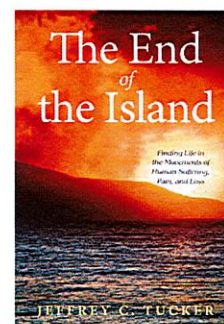
This faith-focused paperback booklet is about helping teens think (or think differently) about how they use social media. *#RUHooked* is a great resource for parents, teachers, pastors, youth group leaders, or anyone who cares about teens and social media. Suitable for youth.



THE AGING OF AQUARIUS: IGNITING PASSION AND PURPOSE AS AN ELDER

HELEN WILKES
NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS (2018)

Your career has wound down, the kids have moved out and your schedule is clear... for the next 30 years. Now, with the rest of your life ahead, you can make this next stage of your life the most powerful yet. But where to start? Helen Wilkes, a retired professor and activist, takes readers on an inspiring journey to find renewed purpose in retirement, helping readers as they transition to a post-work identity.



THE END OF THE ISLAND: FINDING LIFE IN THE MOVEMENTS OF HUMAN SUFFERING, PAIN, AND LOSS

JEFFREY C. TUCKER
WIPF AND STOCK PUBLISHERS (2016)

An old man on an island seeks answers to his pain and loss. The journey takes unexpected turns as he learns new ways to walk and to live in the midst of his pain. Fresh, creative, and provocative, this highly readable book offers thought-provoking and transforming ideas for people of every walk of life and faith.

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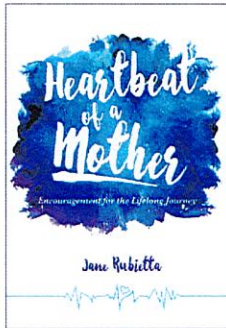
NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY



GLORY HAPPENING: FINDING THE DIVINE IN EVERYDAY PLACES

KAITLIN B. CURTICE
PARACLETE PRESS (2017)

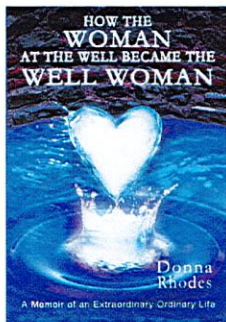
These stories and prayers will remind you to take a closer look, find the magical beauty in everyday experiences, and live deeply in every moment, expecting that something good will find you. Once you experience glory, you have words to speak, a prayer to pray, and a story to tell. And so glory grows from person to person and community is created in the reality that God is in our midst.



HEARTBEAT OF A MOTHER: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE LIFELONG JOURNEY

JANE RUBIETTA
WESLEYAN PUBLISHING HOUSE (2016)

Many mothers experience the joy, laughter and hope of parenting—and yet are riddled with shame, doubt, guilt and anxiety because of their past and fear of the future. Through discipleship and intimate fellowship, mothers of all ages will enjoy diving into this six-week group study that provides interactive vulnerability and truth.



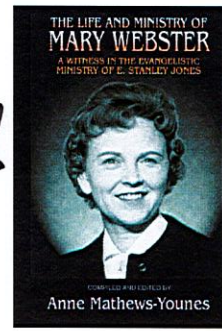
HOW THE WOMAN AT THE WELL BECAME THE WELL WOMAN

DONNA RHODES
AMAZON DIGITAL SERVICES (2016)

This is a poignant memoir of a woman's desperate journey to find love. Inspired by the biblical account of the woman at the well, this remarkable testament to God's faithfulness and the power of God's redemption is transformative for those who think their lives will never change and for those who are afraid to hope again.



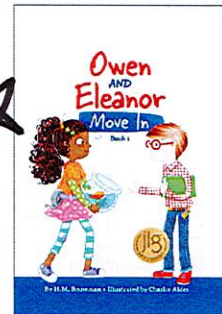
NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY



THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF MARY WEBSTER

ANNE MATHEWS-YOUNES
E. STANLEY JONES FOUNDATION (2017)

This is a short biography of Mary Webster, a witness in the evangelistic ministry of Dr. E. Stanley Jones. It prominently features six of Mary's selected sermons, Dr. Jones' sermon on Mary's life and ministry, and a "conversation" between the two.

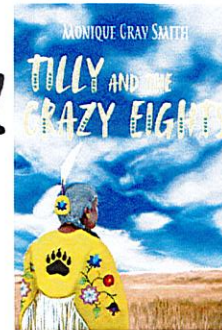


OWEN AND ELEANOR MOVE IN

H.M. BOUWMAN AND CHARLIE ALDER, ILLUSTRATOR
SPARKHOUSE FAMILY PUBLISHING (2018)

When eight-year-old Eleanor moves into a duplex with her family, she is not happy. Her old home was way better. In her old home, she didn't have to share a bedroom with her big sister. Owen, age seven, is excited when Eleanor moves in—finally, someone to play with who isn't his little brother! They become friends. But when Eleanor asks Owen to help her escape back to her old house, he's not sure what to do.

Suitable for children.



TILLY AND THE CRAZY EIGHTS

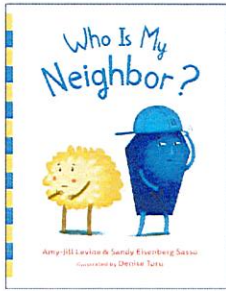
MONIQUE GRAY SMITH
SECOND STORY PRESS (2018)

Tilly impulsively agrees to drive eight elders on their ultimate bucket-list road trip. This adventure with "the Crazy Eights" will transform them all in ways they could not predict. The Crazy Eights each choose a stop on the way to their ultimate destination, the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque. The trip proves to be powerful medicine as they laugh, heal, argue and dream along the way.

Suitable for children.



NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

AMY-JILL LEVINE, SANDY EISENBERG SASSO AND
DENISE TURU, ILLUSTRATOR
FLYAWAY BOOKS (2019)

Blues and Yellows just don't mix, and that's how it's always been. No one remembers why. But then comes the day Midnight Blue takes a tumble along the road. His friends Navy and Powder Blue don't even stop to help! It's only when Yellow comes along that everything changes—forever.

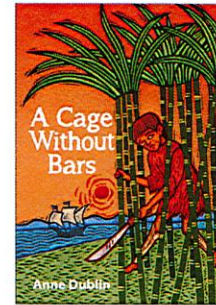
Suitable for children.

“The Reading Program is probably the main reason I am a member of United Methodist Women. A friend kept telling me that United Methodist Women are the best educated lay people there are. That got my attention because I like to think of myself as well educated and don't believe your education ends when you leave school. And, I have always loved reading. The Reading Program has caused me to read books that I never would have considered reading, and helped me find God in many places. I do feel like my education has continued all these years, thanks to the Reading Program.”

Linda Franke, Rio Texas Conference



SOCIAL ACTION

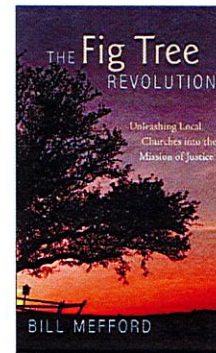


A CAGE WITHOUT BARS

ANNE DUBLIN
SECOND STORY PRESS (2018)

It is 1492 and Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain have signed the Edict of Expulsion, giving Jews three months to leave the country. After escaping to Portugal with their parents, 12-year-old Joseph and his sister Gracia, along with hundreds of other Jewish children, are kidnapped and enslaved on an island off the coast of West Africa, where they are forcibly baptized and made to work on a sugar plantation. Joseph holds to the hope that one day he will be free.

Suitable for youth.

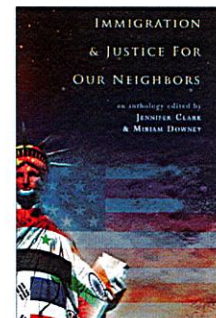


THE FIG TREE REVOLUTION: UNLEASHING LOCAL CHURCHES INTO THE MISSION OF JUSTICE

BILL MEFFORD
CASCADE BOOKS (2017)

This inspirational book has practical steps to mobilize believers in grassroots efforts and help local churches engage in the transformative work of justice. The locus of God's change is through believers immersed in relationships with those impacted by injustice. Based on the first four chapters of Esther and drawn from real stories of people creating change, this book is perfect for:

- Small groups
- Sunday school classes
- Student groups
- Mission teams.



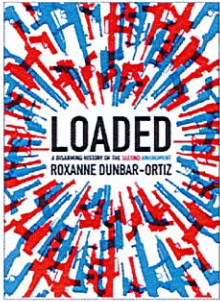
IMMIGRATION AND JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

JENNIFER CLARK AND MIRIAM DOWNEY, EDITORS
CELERY CITY BOOKS (2017)

This is an anthology of poems, essays, and short stories based on the immigrant experience.



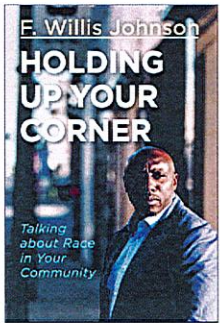
SOCIAL ACTION



LOADED: A DISARMING HISTORY OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT

ROXANNE DUNBAR-ORTIZ
CITY LIGHTS BOOKS (2018)

This is a deeply researched—and deeply disturbing—history of guns and gun laws in the United States. As historian and educator Dunbar-Ortiz explains, in order to understand the current obstacles to gun control, we must understand the history of U.S. guns, from their role in the “settling of America” to the present.

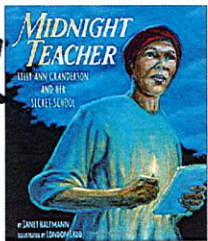


HOLDING UP YOUR CORNER: TALKING ABOUT RACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

F. WILLIS JOHNSON
ABINGDON PRESS (2017)

This book equips church leaders to respond to crises with confidence, lower their inhibitions about addressing race, and transform their communities by reclaiming their authority as prophetic witnesses and leaders. The practical, foundational guidance will prompt readers to observe, identify and name the complex causes of violence and hatred in their communities. Become part of God’s work in the world by learning to use:

- Testimony and other narrative devices
- Proclamation
- Guided group conversations
- And more.



MIDNIGHT TEACHER: LILLY ANN GRANDERSON AND HER SECRET SCHOOL

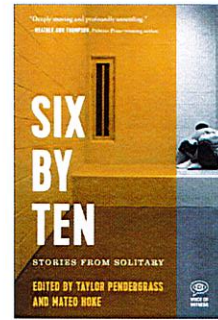
JANET HALFMANN AND LONDON LADD, ILLUSTRATOR
LEE & LOW BOOKS (2018)

In 19th century Mississippi, it was illegal for enslaved people to learn to read and write. But this did not stop Lilly Ann Granderson, an enslaved person who started a midnight school and taught hundreds of her peers to do so. Many shared their knowledge and others forged passes to escape to freedom. Based on a true story, *Midnight Teacher* is an inspiring testament to a little-known pioneer in education.

Suitable for children.



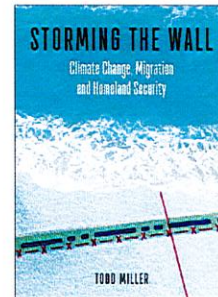
SOCIAL ACTION



SIX BY TEN: STORIES FROM SOLITARY

TAYLOR PENDERGRASS AND MATEO KOKE, EDITORS
HAYMARKET BOOKS (2018)

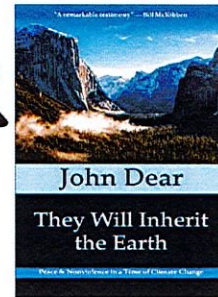
An estimated 80,000 Americans are held in solitary confinement across the country, often in cells no bigger than six by ten feet, with 24 hours per day of little or no meaningful human contact. This book shares first-person narratives of prisoners, family members, and corrections officers and explores the mental, physical and spiritual impacts of America’s widespread embrace of this punishment.



STORMING THE WALL: CLIMATE CHANGE, MIGRATION AND HOMELAND SECURITY

TODD MILLER
CITY LIGHTS BOOKS (2017)

This book connects the dots between climate-ravaged communities, the corporations cashing in on border militarization, and emerging movements for environmental justice and sustainability. Reporting from the flashpoints of climate clashes and from likely sites of future battles, Miller chronicles a growing system of militarized divisions. Stories of crisis, greed and violence are juxtaposed with powerful examples of solidarity and hope in this urgent and timely message.



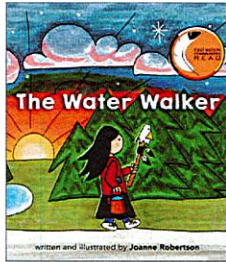
THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH: PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE

JOHN DEAR
ORBIS BOOKS (2018)

At his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes the connection between our practice of nonviolence and our unity with creation. From that, this book extrapolates that our rejection of nonviolence is inevitably linked to the catastrophic effects of climate change and environmental ruin. These personal stories of John Dear’s life and work invite us to return to nonviolence as a way of life and a living solidarity with earth and its creatures.



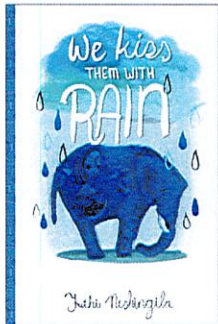
SOCIAL ACTION



THE WATER WALKER
JOANNE ROBERTSON
SECOND STORY PRESS (2017)

An Ojibwe grandmother (*nokomis*) loves *nibi* (water). No-komis walks to raise awareness of our need to protect *nibi* for future generations and for all life on the planet. She and others have walked around all the Great Lakes from the four salt waters, or oceans, to Lake Superior. The walks are full of challenges, and by her example she challenges us to take responsibility for protecting our water and to protect our planet for all generations.

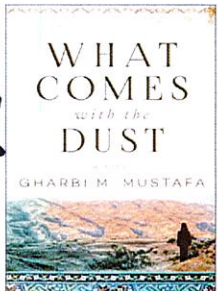
Suitable for children.



WE KISS THEM WITH RAIN
FUTHI NTSHINGILA
CATALYST PRESS (2018)

Life wasn't always this hard for 14-year-old Mvelo. There were good times living with her mother and her mother's boyfriend. Now her mother is dying of AIDS, and what happened to Mvelo is the elephant in the room. In this modern-day Shakespeare-style comedy set in a squatter camp outside Durban, South Africa, appearances are a façade and the things that are revealed provide Mvelo with a golden opportunity to change her fate.

Suitable for youth.

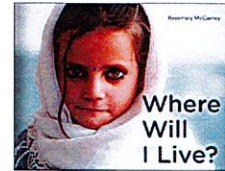


WHAT COMES WITH THE DUST
GHARBI M. MUSTAFA
ARCADE PUBLISHING (2018)

This slim, profound novel illuminates the plight of those living under the Islamic State as well as the spirit of the Yazidi people—similar to how *The Kite Runner* and *The Swallows of Kabul* shed light on the Taliban regime. It tells the story of Yazidi women Nazo and Soz as they fight to survive.



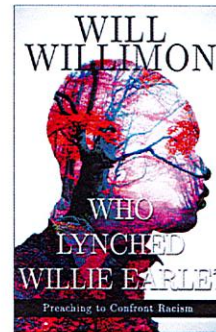
SOCIAL ACTION



WHERE WILL I LIVE?
ROSEMARY MCCARNEY
SECOND STORY PRESS (2017)

This stunning photo essay with images from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees examines the thousands of children around the world who have been forced to flee war, terror, hunger and natural disasters. The images will help unaffected children understand not only what this must feel like but also how very lucky they are. The final message is that children, even with uncertain futures, are resilient and can face uncertainty with optimism.

Suitable for children.



WHO LYNCHED WILLIE EARLE? PREACHING TO CONFRONT RACISM
WILLIAM H. WILLIMON
ABINGDON PRESS (2017)

How do white, Protestant pastors preach effectively on racial violence and disease? How do you address crucial contemporary social crises when it's simply not possible to relate to black pain? This true story of pastor Hawley Lynn's 1947 sermon, a response to the last lynching in Greenville, South Carolina, will help pastors preach on race and violence in America, inviting and challenging the church to respond.

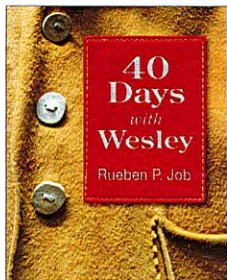


The United Methodist Women Reading Program opens minds and enlightens. These are a few reasons why I am a staunch supporter.”

Janet Mills
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference



SPIRITUAL GROWTH



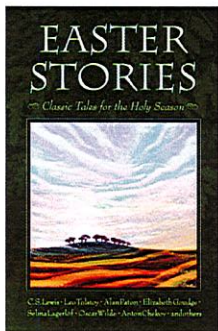
40 DAYS WITH WESLEY

RUEBEN P. JOB
ABINGDON PRESS (2017)

This 40-day Lenten devotional experience weaves inspirational readings on faith and prayer with quotes and excerpts from John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Each selection offers a simple daily pattern of:

- Reflection with a prayer
- Scripture
- Short reading
- Quotes from John Wesley
- A blessing to take with you through the day.

Even those new to Wesley or a daily prayer guide will find this book an easy read for reassurance and inspiration.

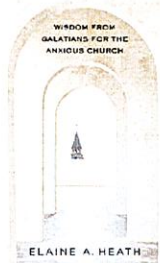


EASTER STORIES: CLASSIC TALES FOR THE HOLY SEASON

C.S. LEWIS, LEO TOLSTOY, SELMA LAGERLÖF, OSCAR WILDE AND OTHERS
PLOUGH PUBLISHING HOUSE (2015)

Everyone who believes Easter is about more than bunnies and eggs will be grateful for this new collection of short stories that shed light on its deeper meaning. Selected for their spiritual value and literary quality, these classic tales capture the spirit of Easter in a way that will captivate readers of all ages. Parents and grandparents will find that children love to hear these stories read aloud, year after year.

GOD UNBOUND



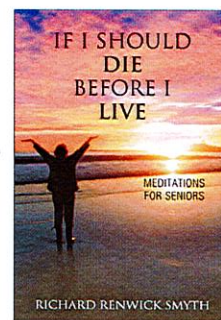
GOD UNBOUND: WISDOM FROM GALATIANS FOR THE ANXIOUS CHURCH

ELAINE A. HEATH
UPPER ROOM BOOKS (2016)

Just as Paul led the Galatians through a radical cultural change to expand their view of God, themselves and the church's mission, Christians are challenged to do the same today. Elaine Heath urges the church to boldly follow the Holy Spirit's leadership beyond buildings and programs and to join what Jesus is doing in the world.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

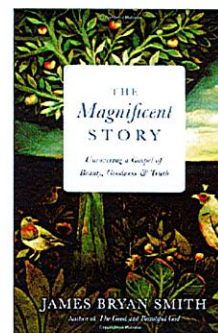


IF I SHOULD DIE BEFORE I LIVE: MEDITATIONS FOR SENIORS

RICHARD RENWICK SMYTH
LOGOS BOOKS (2017)

"What if I should die before I feel life is full?" This question is deeply personal and hauntingly spiritual—a challenge to revisit the dynamics of faith, love and hope. This book, especially for seniors, offers meditations that:

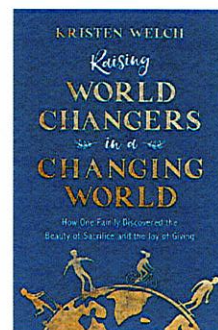
- Focus on spiritual vitality and energize faith
- Reach beyond a biological birth-death time frame
- Touch on continuity beyond earth-time
- Motivate people to act in love
- Foster perspective and wholesome relationships
- Offer healing for the heart-hungry.



THE MAGNIFICENT STORY: UNCOVERING A GOSPEL OF BEAUTY, GOODNESS AND TRUTH

JAMES BRYAN SMITH
IVP BOOKS (2017)

Any story worth giving the power to shape our lives must pass a simple test: Is it beautiful, good and true? If it is, then it is a magnificent story and that is where transformation takes place. This spiritual formation resource will help people understand the magnificent story of Christ with field-tested materials, including a group discussion guide. Uncover the true story of beauty, goodness and truth that will satisfy the ultimate longings of your heart.



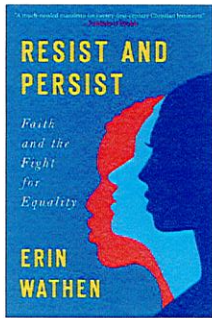
RAISING WORLD CHANGERS IN A CHANGING WORLD: HOW ONE FAMILY DISCOVERED THE BEAUTY OF SACRIFICE AND THE JOY OF GIVING

KRISTEN WELCH
BAKER BOOKS (2018)

This inspiring book shows parents how to discover and instill in their kids the profound joy of sharing our gifts—our time, our talents, and even our money—with those who have less. Through powerful personal stories as well as Scripture, Kristen Welch offers a tantalizing, powerful alternative to status-quo parenting. At the end of each chapter, Welch's kids offer their perspective on what it's like to be raised as a world changer.



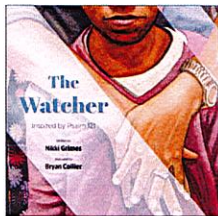
SPIRITUAL GROWTH



RESIST AND PERSIST: FAITH AND THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

ERIN WATHEN
WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX PRESS (2018)

“Jesus was a feminist,” writes senior pastor Erin Wathen in this frank book about the many ways patriarchal Christianity affects women’s lives. Looking at society and Christianity through a feminist and antiracist lens, Wathen mounts powerful arguments about why it’s essential to raise children as feminists and offers discussion questions. This trenchant book is a much-needed resource for 21st-century Christian feminism.

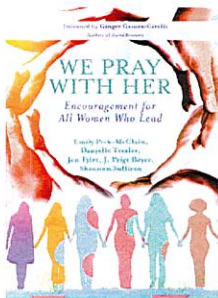


THE WATCHER

NIKKI GRIMES AND BRYAN COLLIER, ILLUSTRATOR
EERDMANS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2017)

Jordan lives in fear of Tanya, the class bully. But Tanya has worries of her own. It seems impossible that Jordan and Tanya could be anything other than enemies, but the Lord guides them along a path that might just help them to understand one another. Nikki Grimes masterfully transforms the words of a Psalm 121 into a poem of compassion, friendship and faith. Coupled with powerful artwork from Bryan Collier, this heart-felt story is one that readers will treasure.

Suitable for children.



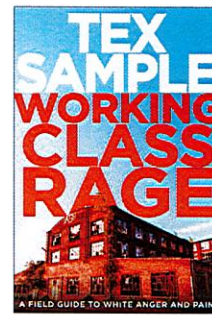
WE PRAY WITH HER: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ALL WOMEN WHO LEAD

EMILY PECK-MCCLAIN, DANYELLE TREXLER, JEN TYLER, J. PAIGE BOYER AND SHANNON SULLIVAN
ABINGDON PRESS (2018)

Leading while female can be incredibly life-giving and spiritually fulfilling—but also lonely and difficult. In a world of glass ceilings, harassment, and “boy’s clubs,” women—both established leaders and those just starting up the ladder—need support and encouragement. This inspiring devotional is a collection of 100 entries written by women faith leaders of a grassroots-movement-turned-online-collective. You’ll be emboldened to support one another as you strive to live God’s calling.



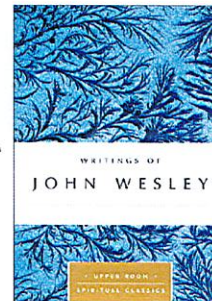
SPIRITUAL GROWTH



WORKING CLASS RAGE: A FIELD GUIDE TO WHITE ANGER AND PAIN

TEX SAMPLE
ABINGDON PRESS (2018)

Resisting white supremacy demands a richer understanding of white working-class pain and anger. When we believe the stereotypes about this demographic, we as pastors and church leaders cannot effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus. This reliable and reader-friendly guide reveals the realities of a group that feels their suffering and anger have been denied, ignored, and misunderstood while offering a way forward for partnerships that will enhance the lives of working-class Americans.



WRITINGS OF JOHN WESLEY

KEITH BEASLEY-TOPLIFF, EDITOR
UPPER ROOM BOOKS (2017)

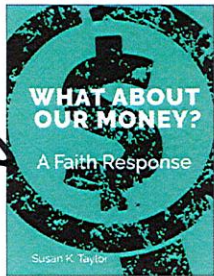
The Upper Room Spiritual Classics series is a collection of authoritative texts on Christian spirituality by mystics, martyrs and sages curated for the everyday reader. This volume presents excerpts from the hugely influential 18th-century preacher, writer and founder of Methodism. It includes selections from Wesley’s journals, sermons and books, offering a clear picture of the spiritual vitality that ignited a movement and continues to transform lives.



BONUS BOOKS



EDUCATION FOR MISSION



WHAT ABOUT OUR MONEY? A FAITH RESPONSE
SUSAN TAYLOR
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (2018)

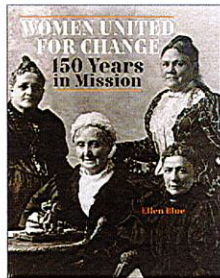
How do we relate to money within the context of our faith? What is the biblical foundation of abundance (sufficiency), which stands in opposition to the scarcity narrative our culture tells us from the time we are very young? Through exploring this connection, readers discover how to live closer to God and God's people, even in our capitalistic North American culture.

To purchase, go to:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/store

Available in English (M3310), Korean (M3317) and Spanish (M3309) \$10



NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY



WOMEN UNITED FOR CHANGE: 150 YEARS IN MISSION
ELLEN BLUE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (2019)

Explore and celebrate the history of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations. Despite serious resistance from churchmen, our foremothers formed foreign missionary societies and home missionary societies and helped establish the deaconess program. As United Methodist Women celebrates its 150th anniversary, members can step out with creative ministries because the women who came before them laid a strong foundation.

To purchase, go to:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/store

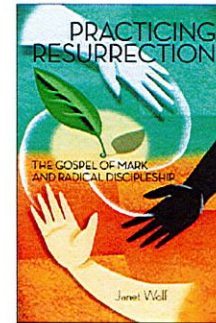
Available in English (M3326), Korean (M3328) and Spanish (M3327) \$10



BONUS BOOKS



SPIRITUAL GROWTH



PRACTICING RESURRECTION: THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP
JANET WOLF
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (2019)

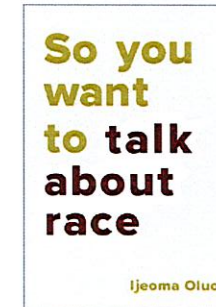
This well-known gospel is presented through voices and experiences that are often relegated to the margins. Where we stand, what we see, whom we listen to or dismiss shape the way we understand the world and the Bible. This study incorporates the stories of those on the margins to uncover how the gospel is alive and well today—how God is, and always has been, calling us to live out the Word in a radical way.

To purchase, go to:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/store

Available in English (M3331), Korean (M3333) and Spanish (M3332) \$10



SOCIAL ACTION



SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE
IJEOMA OLUO
SEAL PRESS (2018)

Widespread reporting on white supremacy has made it impossible to ignore the issue of race. Still, it is a difficult subject to talk about. Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism and how they infect almost every aspect of American life