

Updated February 2021

Answers to Your Questions about the Reading Program 2021-2022

Reading Program participants have contacted us asking for some clarifications about how a two-year Reading Program plan will work. Since many of you have raised the same questions and concerns, we've decided to share our answers with the entire membership at once in the following update letter from Operations Officer Andris Salter.

Dear Members,

This is an unusual year, as we find ourselves living through a pandemic of a virus that has impacted millions of people; many have lost jobs, family members, friends, homes. We are working remotely, worshiping online; we've postponed or canceled many events. Annual Meetings and Conferences are virtual. General and Jurisdictional Conferences have been delayed.

United Methodist Women has developed new ways to continue the work remotely while COVID-19 keeps all of us social-distanced and so many quarantined. Delayed elections meant naming committees were delayed, including the Assembly, Editorial and Reading Program Committees. With the National Office closed, potential Reading Program books could not be sent to evaluators in the usual manner. We determined that enlarging the 2021 list and combining the 2021 and 2022 Reading Lists would be a better way to handle the situation for now.

The 2020 Reading Program Committee selected new offerings to encourage more reading during these challenging times. We realize this is a lot of change, but changes are needed to continue the work remotely.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, more persons have participated in the Reading Program, many books have been recommended, and we are determining ways to involve evaluators differently. Publishers have also suggested books and ways to help send books to evaluators.

Many of you have asked how a two-year Reading Program plan will work. This is new for us as well so I would like to offer the following recommendations. But I also encourage you to be creative in your work: Think of new ways to enjoy the books, such as Zoom book clubs or by sharing book reports. Invite book authors to join you for discussions time, programs, etc.

- A. Reading Book List: The reading forms should be sent to your Conference or District Secretary of Program Resources, in alignment with their schedule.
- B. Participation: Anyone can participate in the Reading Program and all can receive a certificate for participating. See <u>unitedmethodistwomen.org/download-resources/reading-program-2021-reporting-form.</u>
- C. Recognitions: Be creative in recognizing persons who are not UMW/UM.

- D. Another list of books will be shared by April 2021 to serve as an addition to the books featured here in the 2021–2022 catalog.
 - Award certificates as you would yearly recognitions. Or you can add another award for books read in 2021 and 2022.
 - Mix it up by recognizing books in 2021 and the FaithTalks podcasts, movies and books in 2022. Think of other creative ways to promote the Reading Program—and share what works by posting about it on your personal social media accounts and tagging UMW's.
 - For 2021–2022, participants can read books from the 2015 through the 2022 reading lists
- E. Faith Talks: Faith Talk podcasts can now be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. You must participate or listen to two Faith Talks podcasts. If you participate/listen to three, it will be counted as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.
- F. Movies: Watching these movies and documentaries will also count toward the Reading Program:
 - 1. Just Mercy
 - 2. The Hate U Give
 - 3. Pushout
- G. Children and youth books can be found within each of the categories.
- H. Bonus books: These count as two books in different categories.
- I. The Mission u studies also count as Bonus Books.

We hope this information answers your most pressing questions about the Reading Program in this unique time. Most of the information provided here can also be found on the Reading Program website, but this update addresses some additional concerns that have been called to our attention.

God Bless.

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Andris Salter Operations Officer United Methodist Women



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For 2022 Reading Program titles, see page 52.

OVERVIEW

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

To participate, select one of the four plans on page 7—and start reading! From captivating mysteries and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues like immigration, racism and mental healthcare, there's something for everyone.

Reading Program books are divided into one of five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Books are available for people of all ages and reading levels. Books that are suitable for children or youth will be listed among the five categories; look for "Suitable for children" or "Suitable for youth" following book descriptions. As you read, track your progress using the reporting form on page 24. When you complete a plan, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition, available on page 26.

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, even when social distancing. As you read, consider taking one or more of the following actions:

Take Action

- Promote the Reading Program. Share the program with United Methodist Women members and members of the community on listservs, online message boards or on social media. Help people obtain books and distribute this guide.
- Connect with Local and District groups.
 Start a virtual book club over Zoom,
 Google Hangouts, or another videoconferencing platform. Download books and present book reviews at virtual meetings, share a spreadsheet tracking progress (through Google Docs, for example), and post information in online groups.
- Pray. Books often raise concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time.
- Advocate for tangible change. Many Reading Program books address important social issues. And many address racism. Take action with United Methodist Women's anti-racist guide: unitedmethodistwomen.org/ antiracistresourcelist
- If you're not able to engage in protest and other in-person activities, organize a remote task force to discuss ways to impact your community virtually.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Where to Find Books

As in the previous year, United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online. Even when libraries are closed and physical books are hard to come by, most of the books listed here can be found electronically. You can read them on a laptop, tablet, e-reader or other device. While Amazon's more popular than ever, please consider supporting small, local bookstores if they're open, as these businesses rely on community support now more than ever.



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.



Bonus Books

As always, Bonus Books count as two books. For 2021–2022, a few of the Bonus Books are also current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. Jump to the "Bonus Books" section on page 22 or, for more information, visit: unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies.



Children and Youth Books

This Reading Program includes books for readers of all ages. Look for the line "Suitable for children" or "Suitable for youth" when selecting books to read. You'll find it underneath the book's description.



Reporting Form

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 24). You will have two years to complete the reporting form this year instead of one. Send the completed form to your conference's secretary of program resources (or equivalent) to receive a signed Certificate of Recognition.



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.



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

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 2017 list will be credited through December 31, 2022.

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 2017 to the 2021–2022 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 2017 to the 2021–2022 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 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2017 to the 2021–2022 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 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2017 to the 2021–2022 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- · Regular reading of response magazine.



BONUS BOOKS

As always, Bonus Books count as two books. For 2021-2022, a few of the Bonus Books are also current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. Jump to the "Bonus Books" section on page 22 or visit unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies for more information.

- Risel: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou by Bethany Hegedus counts as two books in the category Leadership Development.
- Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools by Monigue W. Morris (as well as the Leader's Guide by Vanessa M. Wilson) counts as two books in the category
- Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission by Ellen Blue counts as two books in the category Nurturing for Community.
- Finding Peace in an Anxious World edited by Erin James-Brown counts as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.
- · Listen to three Faith Talks podcasts (see details below) and the trio will count as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.









FAITHTALKS: 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 at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks



Talks

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."

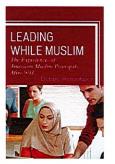


EDUCATION FOR MISSION (2021)



GUM MOON: A NOVEL OF SAN FRANCISCO CHINATOWN JEFFREY L. STALEY SELF-PUBLISHED (2018)

In 1898, three-year-old Chinese-American girl Mei Chun Lai is sold to a cruel brothel keeper, where a sympathetic prostitute befriends her. Two years later, at the height of a plague quarantine, a young Methodist woman rescues Chun and places her in a home for abused and trafficked girls. The home is destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. Chun (aka "Maud") and a group of seven other Chinese children embark on a cross-country singing tour to raise funds to rebuild. When their home matron suffers a breakdown, 13-year-old Maud must lead the band of children home. Based on a true story.

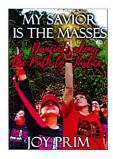


LEADING WHILE MUSLIM: THE EXPERIENCES OF AMERICAN MUSLIM PRINCIPALS AFTER 9/11

DEBBIE ALMONTASER

ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD (2018)

This book examines the lived experiences of American Muslim principals who serve in public schools in a post-9/11 world to determine whether global events, political discourse, and the media coverage of Islam and Muslims have affected their leadership and spirituality. Such a study is intended to help readers to gain an understanding of the adversities that American Muslim principals have experienced post-9/11 and how to address these adversities, particularly through decisions about educational policy and district leadership.



MY SAVIOR IS THE MASSES: DANCING ALONG THE PATH TO JUSTICE

BY JOY PRIM

SELF-PUBLISHED (2019)

Follow the story of Global Ministries mission intern Joy Prim, Joy first served in Hong Kong, working with an NGO serving migrant women domestic helpers from around Southeast Asia, and then in California, serving with an NGO friend from her international placement. After finishing her official missionary assignment, she staved on, working with the community to continue their collective organizing. Join her through her blog, which she initially began as a way to document her experiences as a missionary and has continued as she's followed Jesus to the community margins.



EDUCATION FOR MISSION (2021)



A ROAD CALLED DOWN ON BOTH SIDES: GROWING UP IN ETHIOPIA AND AMERICA

CAROLINE KURTZ

CATALYST PRESS (2019)

Growing up in the remote mountains of 1950s Ethiopia, Caroline enjoyed American missionary family life. Outside, her world was shaped by drums and the joy cry; treks into the countryside; ostriches on the airstrip; and the crackle of several languages she barely understood but longed to learn. She felt exiled to a foreign country when she went to Illinois for college and later returned to Ethiopia to teach. But rather than returning to her childhood home, maybe it would have been better just to treasure her memories.



THE UNSTOPPABLE GARRETT MORGAN

JOAN DICICCO

ILLUSTRATED BY EBONY GLENN

LEE & LOW BOOKS (2019)

"If a man puts something to block your way, the first time you go around it, the second time you go over it, and the third time you go through it." Living by these words made inventor and entrepreneur Garrett Morgan unstoppable. Growing up in Kentucky, the son of freed slaves, young and curious Garrett was eager for life beyond his family's farm. This compelling picture book tells the story of his ingenuity and tenacity that overcame racial barriers as he forged a career as a successful businessman and inventor.

Suitable for youth.

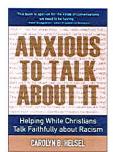


It cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will be a knowing people."

John Wesley



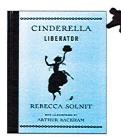
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (2021)



ANXIOUS TO TALK ABOUT IT: HELPING WHITE CHRISTIANS TALK FAITHFULLY ABOUT RACISM CAROLYN B. HELSEL

CHALICE PRESS (2017)

Talking about race can make us anxious. Professor and pastor Carolyn Helsel draws on her experiences with white congregations to offer tools and practices to explore the anxious feelings that can come up when talking about racism. Learn how to join the hard conversations and move forward with less fear, more compassion and more knowledge of self, others and the important issues at stake.



CINDERELLA LIBERATOR

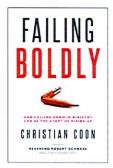
REBECCA SOLN

ILLUSTRATED BY ARTHUR RACKHAM

HAYMARKET BOOKS (2019)

In this modern, feminist twist on a classic fairytale, Ella meets her fairy godmother, goes to a ball, and makes friends with a prince. But that is where the familiar story ends. Instead of waiting to be rescued, Cinderella learns that she can save herself and those around her by being true to herself and standing up for what she believes.

Suitable for youth.



FAILING BOLDLY: HOW FALLING DOWN IN MINISTRY CAN BE THE START OF RISING UP

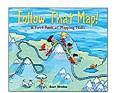
CHRISTIAN COON

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES (2017)

Few people would consider failure to be a gift from God. If you are trying to energize and grow a ministry, however, embracing the lessons and gifts of failure may be the best way to maintain an encouraging place for people to seek the heart of God, according to Christian Coon, who is also the author of a chapter in the 2020 Spiritual Growth Study, Finding Peace in an Anxious World. Personal stories of missteps and mistakes of those working to grow ministries show how failure is a springboard to new experiences and, hopefully, a deeper connection to God.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (2021)



FOLLOW THAT MAP! A FIRST BOOK OF MAPPING SKILLS

SCOT RITCHIE

LEE & LOW BOOKS (2019)

Pablo and his friends want to spend the last day of summer at Coney Island. They can ride bumper cars or play ring toss-there's so much to do! But first, they need to figure out how to get there from their neighborhood. It's a long trip, so it's a good thing Pablo has his trusty maps. This early chapter book is part of a series about five friends from diverse backgrounds navigating the world around them.

Suitable for youth.

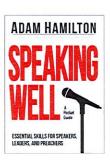


*NOTYOURPRINCESS: VOICES OF NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

EDITED BY LISA CHARLEYBOY AND MARY BETH LEATHERDALE ANNICK PRESS (2017)

Whether looking back to a troubled past or welcoming a hopeful future, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America resound in this eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews and art. Stories of abuse, humiliation and stereotyping are countered by the voices of passionate women making themselves heard and demanding change. Sometimes angry, often reflective, but always strong, the women in this book will give readers insight into the lives of women who, for so long, have been virtually invisible.

Suitable for youth.



SPEAKING WELL: ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR SPEAKERS. LEADERS, AND PREACHERS

ADAM HAMILTON

ABINGDON PRESS (2015)

The thought of speaking in public strikes fear in the hearts of many. But we are often called upon to speak, teach, preach or make presentations in our work and personal lives. This pocket quide offers nineteen powerful tips and tactics that lead to excellent speaking in any setting.



NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY (2021)



BABBIT AND JOAN, A RABBIT AND A PHONE

DENISE TURU

FLYAWAY BOOKS (2020)

Sometimes friends are best off with a little time apart. That's true for Babbit, a rabbit, and Joan, his phone. Yet Babbit has never left Joan at home before. Does he dare go out on a solo excursion? How will he know what to do? What if he gets lost? This charming, low-tech tale reveals that a small adventure can open up big possibilities.

Suitable for children.



BINKLE'S TIME TO FLY

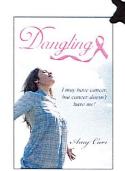
SHARMILA COLLINS

ILLUSTRATED BY CAROLINA RABEI

FLYAWAY BOOKS (2020)

Binkle can't wait until he turns from caterpillar to butterfly. He'll finally have strong, beautiful wings to take him high into the sky. But when the day comes, something is terribly wrong. Why are Binkle's wings so wispy and weak? How will he ever fly like the other butterflies if his wings are nothing like theirs? With some help and creativity, maybe there is a way to fly. . .

Suitable for children.



DANGLING: I MAY HAVE CANCER. BUT CANCER DOESN'T HAVE ME!

AMY CARR

WESTBOW PRESS (2016)

Are you or someone you love facing cancer? Perhaps you are coping with a chronic illness or facing one of the biggest disappointments of your life. Have you ever wondered how such a trial could change your life for the better? This is a personal story about how sometimes God teaches life-changing lessons that we otherwise would not have learned.

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NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY (2021)



THE HATE U GIVE

ANGIE THOMAS

BALZER + BRAY (2017)

Starr, 16, moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and her fancy suburban prep school. This uneasy balance is shattered when she witnesses the fatal police shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil. Soon after, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, a drug dealer or a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets. Cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What really went down that night? The only person who can answer that is Starr.

Suitable for youth.



INDIAN NO MORE

CHARLENE WILLING MCMANIS WITH TRACI SORELL TU BOOKS (2019)

Regina Petit's family has always been Umpqua, and living on the reservation is all 10-year-old Regina has ever known. But when the federal government enacts a law that says Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina becomes "Indian no more" overnight. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face-to-face with the viciousness of racism when her family moves to Los Angeles. In this moving middle-grade novel, Regina must find out: Who is Regina Petit? Is she Indian, American, or both? And will she and her family ever be okay?

Suitable for youth.



NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY (2021)



LET'S WORK!:

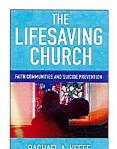
MEXICAN FOLK ART: TRABAJOS

CYNTHIA WEILL AND BRYANT BOUCHER

CINCO PUNTOS PRESS (2019)

This early-concept bilingual book brings every kind of job to life, including the work of the dedicated palm weavers of Flavio Gallardo's workshop, whose miniature palm weavings illustrate this playful book while teaching words for "work" in two languages. You can hold the woven illustrations in the palm of your hand—most pieces are no bigger than a dime! (Please use caution with children under three.)

Suitable for children.

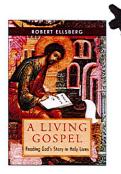


THE LIFESAVING CHURCH: FAITH COMMUNITIES AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

RACHAEL A. KEEFE

CHALICE PRESS (2018)

Is your church prepared to save lives? Pastor Rachael Keefe shares her own painful story of depression and suicidality to help churches recognize and respond to those who are suffering. Each chapter includes actions to become a lifesaving community; an additional study quide is available for download.



A LIVING GOSPEL: READING GOD'S STORY IN HOLY LIVES

ROBERT ELLSBERG

ORBIS BOOKS (2019)

These reflections on the lives of saints, prophets and spiritual masters draw particular attention to models of holiness that speak to the needs of our time. Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen and Flannery O'Connor are among those examined, as well as holy people who charted their own paths. In learning how to read the "living gospel" in their stories, we may learn to read our own lives in the same light.



NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY (2021)



SULWE

LUPITA NYONG'O ILLUSTRATED BY VASHTI HARRISON SIMON & SCHUSTER BOOKS (2019)

Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything.

Suitable for children

I've really enjoyed the books in the Reading Program and have learned a lot, which is the point! Our Reading Program involvement has about doubled this past year with the start of our book group. It also has helped to have all the usable Reading Program Books on one list and marked with which ones are in our own UMW library and what is available in our public library. Thanks for all the work you put in to making it all available to us."

Carol, Reading Program member



SOCIAL ACTION (2021)

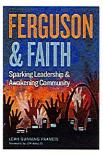


ROCODILE'S CROSSING: A SEARCH FOR HOME

FLYAWAY BOOKS (2020)

Crocodile is tired, scared and hopeful as he searches for his new home. "Everything will be better where I'm going!" he thinks. Featuring bright artwork, this thoughtful tale sensitively introduces children to the complex topic of immigration and portrays the challenges faced by refugees and other newcomers.

Suitable for children.



FERGUSON AND FAITH: SPARKING LEADERSHIP AND AWAKENING COMMUNITY

LEAH GUNNING FRANCIS

CHALICE PRESS (2015)

The shooting death of Michael Brown reignited a long-smoldering movement for justice, with many St. Louis-area clergy stepping up to support the young leaders of today's civil rights movement. Seminary professor Leah Gunning Francis was among the activists. Her interviews with more than two dozen faith leaders and organizers demonstrate that being called to lead a faithful life can take us to places we never expected to go.



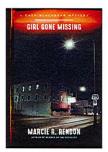
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: HOPE AND FORGIVENESS. AFTER THE CHARLESTON MASSACRE

REV. SHARON RISHER WITH SHERRI WOOD EMMONS CHALICE PRESS (2019)

Plunged into the depths of mourning, anger and shock, the Reverend Sharon Risher could have wallowed in the pain of losing her mother and two cousins at the hands of a white supremacist during the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church massacre. Instead, she chose the path of forgiveness and hope-eventually forgiving the convicted killer for his crime.



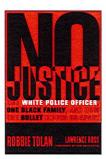
SOCIAL ACTION (2021)



GIRL GONE MISSING: A CASH BLACKBEAR MYSTERY MARCIE R. RENDON

CINCO PUNTOS PRESS (2019)

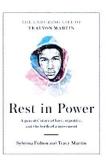
Nineteen-year-old Anishinabe woman Renee "Cash" Blackbear hears about a blonde girl in her English class who has gone missing. And then another. She begins to dream about blonde girls calling for help; they're in Minneapolis. She's never been far from the Red River and she's never heard of white slavery. Then, suddenly, she's locked inside a room with the lost girls. She needs to find a way out.



NO JUSTICE: ONE WHITE POLICE OFFICER, ONE BLACK FAMILY, AND HOW ONE BULLET RIPPED **US APART**

ROBBIE TOLAN AND LAWRENCE ROSS CENTER STREET (2018)

A white police officer shot a young black man named Robbie Tolan in the chest, right in his own driveway. It was a mistake, and yet no one was willing to take responsibility. How do you pick up the pieces of your life when society and the legal system let you down? In a journey that took nearly a decade, Robbie was held together by the strength of his parents, his faith in God, and an impenetrable belief that he deserved justice like any other American.



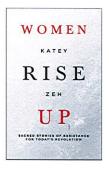
REST IN POWER: THE ENDURING LIFE OF TRAYVON MARTIN

SYBRINA FULTON AND TRACY MARTIN PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE (2017)

Trayvon Martin has become a symbol of social justice activism, as has his hauntingly familiar image: the photo of a child wearing a hoodie and gazing silently at the camera. But who was Trayyon before he became an icon? And how did one black child's death in a small Florida town become the match that lit a civil rights crusade? Trayvon's parents take readers beyond the news cycle with an account only they could give.



SOCIAL ACTION (2021)



WOMEN RISE UP: SACRED STORIES OF RESISTANCE FOR TODAY'S REVOLUTION

KATEY ZEH

THE FAR PRESS (2019)

Hannah struggled with depression over her infertility. Mary Magdalene witnessed the execution of her friend. Ruth was an undocumented migrant worker at risk of sexual violence. And yet, these women discovered powerful ways to resist by claiming the power of their innate sacred worth. What can we learn from these foremothers of our faith that will help guide us in our collective struggle for gender justice today?

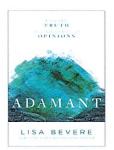


... for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her."

Proverbs 8:1-21 "The Gifts of Wisdom" Scriptural basis for the Reading Program



SPIRITUAL GROWTH (2021)

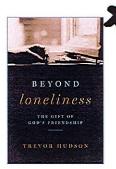


ADAMANT: FINDING TRUTH IN A UNIVERSE OF OPINIONS

LISA BEVERE

BAKER PUBLISHING GROUP (2018)

What is truth? This has become the defining question of our time. But while everyone has an opinion, truth, it seems, is getting harder to find. Theologically deep yet intimately accessible, this book will anchor your soul in a raging sea of opinions, giving you a clear sense of direction in a wandering world.



BEYOND LONELINESS: THE GIFT OF GOD'S FRIENDSHIP

TREVOR HUDSON

UPPER ROOM BOOKS (2016)

Loneliness touches everyone, and it can be one of the most painful experiences of life. People long for relationship with others, but what may surprise them is that God longs to be friends with them. This book provides guidance for building a close friendship with God and easing the ache of loneliness.



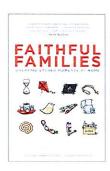
DINNER BY CANDLELIGHT: COMFORT AND JOY FOR ADVENT

KEVIN LOUISE SCHANER XULON PRESS (2017)

Christmas is coming! Feeling anxious? Expect hope, love, joy and peace this Advent. Rekindle your anticipation of Christ's birth with comforting conversation.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH (2021)



FAITHFUL FAMILIES: CREATING SACRED MOMENTS AT HOME

TRACI SMITH

CHALICE PRESS (2017)

Add family faith moments to your daily routine with little or no prep and share meaningful spiritual experiences with your children. The author, a pastor and mother of three, offers creative ways to discover and develop new spiritual practices as a family, whether you're a new seeker or a lifelong follower.



THE JOURNEY BETWEEN US: MY FAITH WAI K. OVERCOMING GRIEF TO FINDING JOY IN THE JOURNEY

LISA MCGRATH

WESTBOW PRESS (2018)

The JOurneY Between Us tells the inspiring story of how the author's faith guided her through several unthinkable events that shook her world to its core. That same faith allowed her to grow as she learned to trust God's plan and perfect timing. In their darkest hours, she and her family turned to God, and that has made all the difference on their path together.



ONE DAY I WROTE BACK: INTERACTING WITH SCRIPTURE THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING

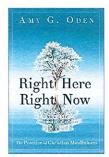
JANE HERRING

UPPER ROOM BOOKS (2015)

Do you struggle to relate the Bible to your daily life? This guide will help you talk back to those scripture passages you don't understand. Ask questions, explore your life, plead, praise and ponder-you'll find simple, practical tools for beginning and experienced writers. A perfect resource for individuals, small groups and retreats.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH (2021)



RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW: THE PRACTICE OF CHRISTIAN MINDFULNESS

AMY G. ODEN ABINGDON PRESS (2017)

Many Christians practice mindfulness outside of church and believe it does not belong to our faith tradition. However, Christians have always practiced mindfulness. This book reveals the Christian roots of mindfulness and the actual practices that, when reclaimed, deepen the life of faith and the power of our mission of love in the world.



SLEEP, PRAY, HEAL: A PATH TO WHOLENESS AND WELL-BEING (HEALING MEMOIR BOOK 1)

DONNA FADO IVERY

ADVENTURES IN HEALING (2019)

A 200-pound glass partition fell on Donna Fado Ivery's head, resulting in brain injury, disability and chronic pain. How would she care for her infant, her preschooler, her husband and herself? How would she continue to serve as pastor? With humor and humility, this inspirational memoir speaks to Donna's struggle and the abiding support of family and the Holy Spirit.

The audiobook of Sleep, Pray, Heal available on Audible July 10, 2021.



THEY CALL ME GÜERO: A BORDER KID'S POEMS

DAVID BOWLES

CINCO PUNTOS PRESS (2018)

Güero is Mexican American, at home on both sides of the river. He's starting seventh grade with a woke English teacher who knows how to make poetry cool. In Spanish, "Güero" is a nickname for guys with pale skin. But make no mistake: our red-headed, freckled hero is puro Mexicano. Güero is also a nerd—reader, gamer, musician. Trusting in his family's traditions, his accordion and his bookworm squad, he faces seventh grade with book smarts and a big heart.

Suitable for youth.





LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



RISE!: FROM CAGED BIRD TO POET OF THE PEOPLE, MAYA ANGELOU

BETHANY HEGEDUS

ILLUSTRATED BY TONYA ENGEL

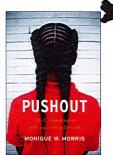
LEE & LOW BOOKS (2019)

Writer, activist, trolley car conductor, dancer, mother and humanitarian—Maya Angelou's life was marked by transformation and perseverance. This comprehensive and beautifully illustrated picture-book biography geared towards older readers traces Maya's life from her early days, through her work as a freedom fighter, and to her triumphant rise as a poet of the people.

Suitable for youth.



SOCIAL ACTION



PUSHOUT: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS

MONIQUE W. MORRIS THE NEW PRESS (2018)

Despite increased attention to the mass and over-incarceration of Black men, the plight of criminalized Black women and girls is overlooked, underreported and under-analyzed. Even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, Black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities and beyond, and challenge the rest of us to do the same.

Also included this year is the Leader's Guide for Mission u Study Leader's by Vanessa M. Wilson, which can be downloaded at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/pushout-the-criminalization-of-black-girls-in-schools

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2022 READING PROGRAM TITLES

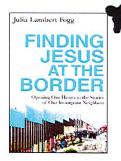
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EDUCATION FOR MISSION (2022)



FINDING JESUS AT THE BORDER: OPENING OUR HEARTS TO THE STORIES OF OUR IMMIGRANT **NEIGHBORS**

JULIA LAMBERT FOGG BRAZOS PRESS (2020)

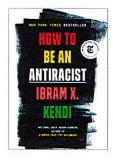
As Christians, how should we respond to the current immigration crisis? In this accessibly written book, Julia Lambert Fogg, a pastor and New Testament scholar who is actively serving immigrant families in Southern California, interprets well-known biblical stories in a fresh way and shares recent stories of immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border to put a human face on the immigration debate. She encourages readers to welcome Christ by embracing DREAMers, the undocumented, asylum seekers and immigrants, and advocate for immigrant justice in their communities.



FIRST & ONLY: A BLACK WOMAN'S GUIDE TO THRIVING AT WORK AND IN LIFE

JENNIFER R. FARMER BROADLEAF BOOKS (2021)

This is a guide that affirms every Black woman who has found herself closing the cover on other leadership books because they omit their true experiences and strengths. In these pages, trainer and activist Jennifer R. Farmer provides a roadmap to on-the-job success. challenging systemic racism, and seeking inner healing through the sustaining power of faith. She offers practical strategies for Black women to thrive in workplaces that can be ambivalent about their success, as well as tips and stories from psychologists, activists and organizational experts that equip Black women to lead others and heal past wounds.



HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST

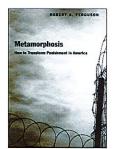
IBRAM X. KENDI

ONE WORLD (2019)

Some people will tell you that racism is all about hatred and ignorance. But in How to Be an Antiracist, Ibram X. Kendi explains that racism is ultimately structural. He draws from history, science, law and ethics to describe different manifestations of racism, and personalizes these discussions by weaving in stories of his own life. This book is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step; contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society.



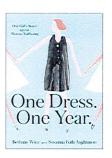
EDUCATION FOR MISSION (2022)



METAMORPHOSIS: HOW TO TRANSFORM PUNISHMENT IN AMERICA ROBERT A. FERGUSON

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS (2018)

The need for prison reform in America has reached the level of a consensus. We agree that many prison terms are too long, especially for nonviolent drug offenders; that long-term isolation is a bad idea; and that basic psychiatric and medical care in prisons is woefully inadequate. Bolstered by insights from hundreds of letters written by prisoners, scholar Robert A. Ferguson makes the case for an entirely new concept of prisons and their purpose that will provide better education for all involved, more imaginative and careful use of technology, and better accountability.

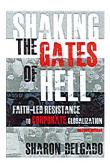


ONE DRESS. ONE YEAR.: ONE GIRL'S STAND AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BETHANY WINZ AND SUSANA FOTH AUGHTMON BAKER BOOKS (2016)

When sixteen-year-old Bethany Winz learned about the millions of men, women and children around the world trapped in slavery, she wondered: How can anyone do that to another human being? And why aren't we doing something? Journey with her as she wears the same black dress every day for a year to focus attention on the lack of choices people in modern-day slavery face and raises money to help end human trafficking.

Suitable for youth.



SHAKING THE GATES OF HELL: FAITH-LED RESISTANCE TO CORPORATE GLOBALIZATION

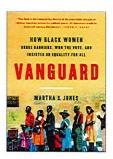
SHARON DELGADO

FORTRESS PRESS (SECOND EDITION; 2020)

Humanity is at a crossroads, notes minister and activist Sharon Delgado. We can accept a global economic system that is designed for the enrichment of a wealthy and powerful few at the expense of the majority of human beings, communities, and the earth itself. Or we can embrace faith and common sense and join with others to develop viable alternatives to this "economic insanity" and work toward building a peaceful, just and sustainable world for all.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (2022)



VANGUARD: HOW BLACK WOMEN BROKE BARRIERS, WON THE VOTE, AND INSISTED ON EQUALITY FOR ALL

MARTHA S. JONES

BASIC BOOKS (2020)

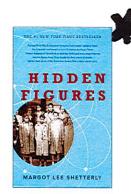
In the standard story, the suffrage crusade began in Seneca Falls in 1848 and ended with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. But this overwhelmingly white women's movement did not win the vote for most Black women. Here, Martha S. Jones offers a new history of how African American women—including trailblazers like Maria Stewart, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper and Fannie Lou Hamer—defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot, from the earliest days of the republic to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond.



BECOMING MICHELLE OBAMA

CROWN PUBLISHING (2018)

Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House, while establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls and standing with her husband as he led the nation. In her memoir, Michelle Obama chronicles the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing mother-hood and work to her time spent at the world's most famous address.



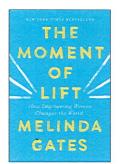
HIDDEN FIGURES: THE AMERICAN DREAM AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE BLACK WOMEN MATHEMATICIANS WHO HELPED WIN THE SPACE RACE

MARGOT LEE SHETTERLY WILLIAM COLLINS (2016)

Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of African-American female mathematicians were among those who served as NASA's "human computers," calculating flight paths and playing a crucial role in America's space program. Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age—touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War and the women's rights movement—this book interweaves a rich history of humankind's space explorations with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.



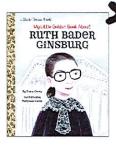
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (2022)



THE MOMENT OF LIFT: HOW EMPOWERING WOMEN CHANGES THE WORLD MELINDA GATES

FLATIRON BOOKS (APRIL 2019)

For the past twenty years, Melinda Gates has been on a mission to find solutions for people with the most urgent needs, wherever they live. One thing that's become increasingly clear to her: If you want to lift a society up, you need to stop keeping women down. Her unforgettable narrative about the inspiring people she's met during her travels around the world is backed by startling data on issues that need our attention-from child marriage to lack of access to contraceptives to gender equity in the workplace.



MY LITTLE GOLDEN BOOK ABOUT RUTH BADER GINSBURG

SHANA COREY

ILLUSTRATED BY MARGEAUX LUCAS LITTLE GOLDEN BOOKS (2020)

Help little ones dream big with this biography about the late Supreme Court Justice. From a young age, Ruth Bader Ginsburg knew that she wanted to fight for girls and women to have equal rights. She studied and worked very hard and became the second woman-and the first Jewish woman-to be a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. A terrific read for future trailblazers and their parents!

Suitable for children.



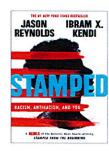
SACRED RESISTANCE: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CHRISTIAN WITNESS AND DISSENT

GINGER GAINES-CIRELLI ABINGDON PRESS (2018)

Author Ginger Gaines-Cirelli pastors a church in the heart of Washington, DC, adjacent to the White House, that actively works to bring justice and help for marginalized communities, refugees and immigrants, and the endangered earth. With pastoral warmth and compassion, she addresses questions that many of us are asking: When Christians see that something is wrong in our nation or community, how and when should we respond? How can pastors and other leaders faithfully take risks without violating relationships with the congregation or denomination? And, how can we best take care of ourselves and one another?



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (2022)



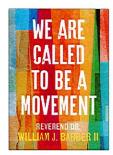
STAMPED: RACISM, ANTIRACISM, AND YOU

JASON REYNOLDS AND IBRAM X. KENDI

LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2020)

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This book is a reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's book Stamped from the Beginning for a young audience. It shines a light on the many insidious forms racist ideas have taken throughout America's history-and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

Suitable for youth.



WE ARE CALLED TO BE A MOVEMENT

REVEREND DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II WORKMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY (2020)

It's time for everyone who cares about the state of our nation to heed the call and join forces to redeem the soul of America. It's time to come together and renounce the politics of rejection, division and greed. It's time to lift up the common good, move up to higher ground and revive the heart of democracy. In a single rousing sermon, the celebrated reverend William J. Barber II of the Poor People's Campaign makes an impassioned argument whose message could not be clearer: It's time for change, and the time needs you.



NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY (2022)



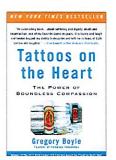
SHE CAME TO SLAY: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HARRIET TURMAN

ERICA ARMSTRONG DUNBAR

37 INK (2019)

Harriet Tubman is best known as one of the most famous conductors on the Underground Railroad. In this tribute, Erica Armstrong Dunbar blends traditional biography with artwork and sidebars to create a fresh and accessible take on one of the most exceptional women in American history. We learn that Tubman not only helped liberate hundreds of slaves, she was the first woman to lead an armed expedition during the Civil War, worked as a spy for the Union Army, and was a fierce suffragist as well as an advocate for the aged.

Suitable for youth.



TATTOOS ON THE HEART: THE POWER OF BOUNDLESS COMPASSION

GREGORY BOYLE

FREE PRESS (2010)

As a pastor working in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the nation, Gregory Boyle created an organization to provide jobs, job training and encouragement to the neighborhood's youth. Through a series of parables inspired by faith and distilled from the stories of the young people he's worked with over the past twenty years, Father Boyle shares lesson about kinship, redemption and the sacredness of life. This uplifting book reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.



GRIT IN JUAREZ: BEYOND THE WALL

MARION SURLES

LOVE AND LITERACY (2019)

How do the children live just across the wall at our southern border? Cristal and Fina struggle to find enough to eat as they raise themselves on the streets in Juarez, Mexico. Daniel worries about his little brother, Memo, who has serious respiratory attacks because of the pollution and desert climate. Life is hard on the border, but pastors Miguel and Pati want to lead a church that's responsive to the needs of their community. Can the local church help the families work together as Christ's family to ease each other's burdens?

Available in Spanish.





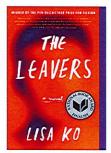
SOCIAL ACTION (2022)



THE GIRL WITH SEVEN NAMES: A NORTH KOREAN DEFECTOR'S STORY

HYEONSEO LEE WITH DAVID JOHN WILLIAM COLLINS (2015)

As a child growing up in North Korea, Hyeonseo Lee was one of millions trapped by a secretive and brutal communist regime. When the famine of the 1990s struck, she realized that surely her country could not be, as she'd been told, "the best on the planet." What follows is the story of her escape from North Korea at age 17, and her terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom.



THE LEAVERS (A NOVEL)

LISA KO

ALGONQUIN BOOKS (2017)

One morning, Deming Guo's mother, Polly, an undocumented Chinese immigrant, goes to her job at a nail salon—and never comes home. Set in New York and China, this moving story of how a boy comes into his own when everything he loves is taken away, and of a mother who is forced to make one heart-wrenching choice after another, is a vivid examination of borders and belonging.



NATIVE:

IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND REDISCOVERING GOD

KAITLIN B. CURTICE

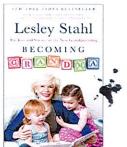
BRAVOS PRESS (2020)

This visionary book is about identity, soul-searching and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, the author, Kaitlin Curtis, offers a unique perspective on these topics. She shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her indigenous heritage, and encourages us to embrace our own origins and to share and listen to each other's stories so we can build a more inclusive and diverse future

2021-2022 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAM



NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY (2022)



Before We

Were Yours

BECOMING GRANDMA: THE JOYS AND SCIENCE OF THE NEW GRANDPARENTING

LESLEY STAHL

BLUE RIDER PRESS (2016)

After four decades as a reporter, Lesley Stahl's most vivid and transformative experience was not covering the White House, interviewing heads of state or researching stories at "60 Minutes". It was becoming a grandmother. She felt such an intense and unexpected jolt of joy she decided to "investigate" it. Through her own stories, personal accounts from friends, colleagues and the proverbial woman next door, as well as interviews with doctors, anthropologists and psychiatrists, Stahl unpacks how becoming a grandmother changes a woman's life.

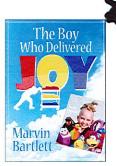


EFORE WE WERE YOURS (A NOVEL)

LISA WINGATE

BALLANTINE BOOKS (2017)

This riveting, wrenching and ultimately uplifting tale is based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann. director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country. The narrators are present-day attorney and heir apparent to her father's Senate seat, Avery Stafford, and Rill Foss, a young girl growing up with her siblings on her family's Mississippi River shanty boat in the 1930s.



Lisa Wingate

THE BOY WHO DELIVERED JOY

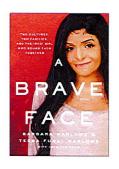
MARVIN BARTLETT

GATEKEEPER PRESS (2019)

A rare bone cancer robbed Jarrett Mynear of a normal childhood, but it didn't steal his spirit. Instead of feeling sorry for himself, this extraordinary boy got busy. By delivering thousands of toys to sick children, the pint-sized Santa Claus traveled a path that led to national television appearances, prestigious awards and a chance meeting with the President of the United States. This is the true story of a little boy's legacy and how, nearly two decades after his death, he continues to inspire small acts of kindness and huge acts of philanthropy.

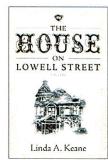


NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY (2022)



A BRAVE FACE: TWO CULTURES, TWO FAMILIES, AND THE IRAQI GIRL WHO BOUND THEM TOGETHER BARBARA MARLOWE AND TEEBA FURAT MARI OWE WITH JENNIEER KEIRN THOMAS NELSON (2019)

In this inspirational story of a woman who moved mountains to provide medical care for an Iraqi girl badly burned during a roadside bombing, Barbara Marlowe's determination to fight for her future daughter highlights the way love can reach across both cultures and continents.

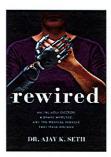


THE HOUSE ON LOWELL STREET (A NOVEL)

LINDA A. KEANE

DEEP RIVER BOOKS LLC (2019)

Rose Morrison's comfortable life as a banker's wife is upended when her husband dies and leaves her with formidable debt. To help support herself and her son, she takes in two seamstresses from the corset factory. But trouble is brewing at the factory, where a union contract is about to expire, and Rose finds herself confronted with confusing moral choices. Based on a true event: the strike of the Kalamazoo corset workers in 1921.



REWIRED: AN UNLIKELY DOCTOR, A BRAVE AMPUTEE. AND THE MEDICAL MIRACLE THAT MADE HISTORY

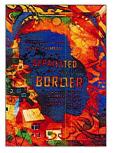
AJAY K. SETH

THOMAS NELSON (2019)

A raccoon bite on the arm doesn't seem that serious, but it soon becomes a life-or-death medical crisis for Melissa Loomis. After it becomes clear to everyone that there is no other option, Dr. Ajay Seth performs his first-ever amputation procedure. In the months that follow, divine intervention, combined with Melissa's determination and Dr. Seth's commitment and dedication to his patients, brings about an opportunity for a medical breakthrough that will potentially transform the lives of amputees around the world.



SOCIAL ACTION (2022)



SEPARATED BY THE BORDER: A BIRTH MOTHER. A FOSTER MOTHER, AND A MIGRANT CHILD'S 3.000-MILE JOURNEY

GENATHOMAS IVP BOOKS (2019)

In 2017 five-year-old Julia was separated from her mother, Guadalupe, during a harrowing journey from Honduras to the United States. Gina Thomas, a Spanish-speaking missionary who became Julia's foster mother, witnessed firsthand the ways migrant children experience trauma. Weaving together the stories of birth mother and foster mother, this book shows the human face of the immigrant and refugee, the challenges of the immigration and foster care systems, and the tenacious power of motherly love.



SHE PERSISTED: 13 AMERICAN WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

CHELSEA CLINTON

ILLUSTRATED BY ALEXANDRA BOIGER

PHILOMEL BOOKS (2017)

Throughout U.S. history, there have always been women who've spoken up for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard. Here, Chelsea Clinton celebrates thirteen inspirational women who've helped shape our country through their tenacity. With vivid, compelling art, this book shows young readers that no matter the obstacles, they shouldn't give up on their dreams.

Suitable for children.



SMALL GREAT THINGS (A NOVEL)

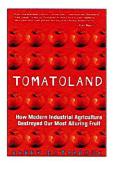
JODI PICOULT

BALLANTINE BOOKS (2016)

During a routine checkup on a newborn, labor and delivery nurse Ruth Jefferson is told that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. When the baby goes into cardiac distress the next day while Ruth is alone in the nursery, a gripping series of events unfold that will lead readers to question everything they know about privilege, power and race.



SOCIAL ACTION (2022)



TOMATOLAND: HOW MODERN INDUSTRIAL AGRICUL-TURE DESTROYED OUR MOST ALLURING FRUIT

BARRY ESTABROOK

ANDREWS MCMEEL PUBLISHING (2011)

Based on a James Beard award-winning article from a leading voice on the politics of agribusiness, this book combines history, legend, passion for taste, and investigative reporting on modern agribusiness and environmental issues into a revealing, controversial look at the tomato, the fruit we love so much that we eat \$4 billion-worth annually.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH (2022)



GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN: GOD'S GIFTS OF GRACE IN DAILY LIFE

ROELA VICTORIA RIVERA

GRACENOTES CREATIVE MINISTRY (2017)

In this treasure of a book, diaconal minister, mission worker, and woman of faith Roela Victoria Rivera shares devotions, prayers, and faith stories accompanied by her free-style watercolors, which she miraculously created after she became legally blind. Join in the joy and excitement of experiencing the amazing grace of God-that strengthens our sense of meaning and purpose in daily life!