

2026

Reading Program

Programa De Lectura

독서 프로그램



United
Women
in Faith



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Dear Readers,

Like so many of us, my attention is pulled in many different directions these days. The regular demands of work and family are ever-present, while the news headlines come so rapidly that it's hard to keep up. The cultural tendencies of this time invite us to flit quickly from one story to another, sampling information and taking in various soundbites, both social and spiritual, clicking quickly and never diving too deep. Amid the mental clutter of so many neon-bright attention-grabbers, the choice to read a book (or many books!) fully and carefully, as the Reading Program suggests, seems nearly countercultural—and maybe that's exactly what we need.

One of the greatest gifts of reading, in my opinion, is the invitation to think slowly and deliberately, to tend to just one idea at a time, to immerse myself in the author's world, and to be fully present. Sometimes I find myself nodding along with an eager internal agreement, practically sighing with relief that someone else has articulated what I feel like I've always known but never been able to put into words. Sometimes, I find myself challenged, puzzled, even irritated, and confounded by new ideas that rub up against my prior assumptions and create internal friction. Comfort is easier to embrace than agitation, but both are helpful on the path of personal growth.

The history of the Reading Program is long and laudable. Audrie E. Reber, in *Women United for Mission: A History of the Women's Society of World Service of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, 1946-1968*, describes at length "The Reading Course" of the women's organization of the EUB, one of the churches that united to form today's United Methodist Church. She writes, "The women had always been encouraged to read both that they might know more about the mission areas for which the church has responsibility and that they might understand and care for people" (46). The women then, like Reading Program participants today, were not just engaging in surface-level reading. The 1947 Reading Course list included *Dachau Sermons and Beyond Prejudice, A Story of the Church and Japanese Americans*, among many challenging and important texts. In 1968, titles included classics like Georgia Harkness' *Disciplines of the Christian Life* and then cutting-edge documents like *Church Women United for Peace* from the National Council of Churches. None of the 2026 Reading Program titles would be familiar to the 1947 or 1968 cadre of readers, of course—the Reading Program, then and now, is committed to uplifting contemporary work—but our purpose and posture would surely feel familiar.

The Reading Program, an inheritor of a powerful tradition, offers us a deep gift for the mid-2020s. In a time where we are increasingly encouraged to learn—and even to think—in short, high-tech, low-attention bursts, the practices encouraged by the Reading Program offer a welcome, necessary, antidote, a kind of spiritual solace. To read is both humbling and hopeful. It is to admit that we do not already know it all and still have much to learn from each other across our many differences. It is also to continually rediscover that there is an incredible vastness and depth to the world around us and the world inside us.

Read deeply, carefully, and with attention. Savor the message. Consider journaling or taking a prayer walk to reflect on what you read. Like Jacob and the angel, wrestle with the text, not just to agree or disagree, to “like” or “unlike,” but rather with the prayerful purpose of finding the blessing—the wisdom that God meant for you to receive.

If you are able, organize local gatherings to read with others. The insights we glean from one another’s perspectives can be just as valuable as the words on the page. Learning together and listening to each other can be a sacred encounter. You don’t need to be a United Women in Faith member to participate in the Reading Program, so consider opening “Read Together” opportunities to non-members and potential members. If meeting in your church is challenging, consider a non-traditional meeting location like a public library, community center, or coffee shop. If you’d like to stretch yourself further and build an intergenerational experience, consider partnering with a youth group, local college campus, senior center, or retirement community. Many women are hungering for sisterhood and a good book; United Women in Faith can offer both through your local leadership.

Thank you to the amazing team of 175+ volunteer evaluators and the wonderful Reading Program Committee (chaired by Kelly G. Loeb) whose faithful work made possible the 2026 Reading Program. May it be a blessing on your journey.

Peace,
Emily



Emily Jones
Executive for Racial Justice
United Women in Faith



Thanks to Maryann Verghese, Barbara Campbell, and Sandy Wilder for providing valuable information about the history of the Reading Program.

GENERAL FAQs



- **Where can I find the books?**

You can access books at your public library, from your local bookstore, or through an online retailer. You can also purchase most of the current Reading Program books at **bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith**. United Women in Faith receives 10% back on all purchases from our virtual shelves.



- **How can I receive recognition for participating in the Reading Program as an individual?**

Complete Reading Program Plans I, II, III, or IV. Fill out the reporting form available in the resources section at the end of this catalog. Submit the reporting form to the District or Conference Program Resources Coordinator or designee. Reach out to your district/conference leadership team for the relevant details, including the due date. All members and friends of United Women in Faith who complete a Plan and submit the form in a timely manner are eligible to receive the annual Certificate of Recognition.



- **How can I use the Reading Program resources in a group setting?**

The Reading Program provides excellent content for both regular unit meetings and new All-Access member gatherings. Whether your group is meeting in person or virtually, reading a book together can provide powerful common ground. The books in the Reading Program are specially selected to help women grow spiritually, strengthen their leadership skills, and equip themselves for more effective social action, community-building, and public service. Reading and discussing a shared book can also make for an easier start to meaningful conversation among women who do not yet know each other well. It can also be a way to connect with new women and invite them into our sisterhood. Consider opening your Reading Program book discussions to women who are not yet members of United Women in Faith. Explore hosting groups in non-traditional locations, like public libraries, coffee shops, or parks. Try meeting at times accessible to women in a variety of life situations, including women who are working full-time during the day or shouldering heavy care responsibilities. You can develop your own discussion questions for any book in the Reading Program or begin with the sample discussion questions for this year's Bonus Books, available in the resources section at the end of this catalog.



● What resources support intergenerational learning?

Adult, youth, and children's book selections are included in every category. We encourage you to read and reflect together across the generations. Books written for youth and children can be wonderful learning resources for adults, as well. In addition, the 2026 list includes one intergenerational book set of *Welcoming and Affirming: A Guide to Supporting and Working with LGBTQ+ Christian Youth* for adults and *Queerfully and Wonderfully Made: A Guide for LGBTQ+ Christian Teens* for youth.



● Which years of the Reading Program are eligible for reporting credit?

For 2026, books from the 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit. You can find a combined excel list of all these books at bit.ly/RPBookList. The annual Reading Programs are also available in a PDF format for each credit-eligible year at uwfaithresources.org



● Are there other ways to receive Reading Program reporting credit?

Yes. You can also receive Reading Program reporting credit for:

- Listening to the *Faith Talks* podcast: 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for 2+ episodes
- Listening to the *Voices From the Field* podcast: 1 credit in Education for Mission for 2+ episodes
- Reading **response** magazine: 1 credit in Nurturing for Community for reading one year (6 issues)
- Being part of a Mission u or *Keyhole Missiology* study:
 - 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for reading a Mission u study on your own
 - 2 credits in Spiritual Growth for joining a Mission u study together with others, as a leader or participant
- Movies and television programs based on current Reading Program books are also eligible for credit. In determining the category for credit, identify the category of the original book and apply credit for the film to the same category.



● How are books selected?

A large team of volunteer evaluators reads and evaluates potential Reading Program book selections throughout the year. Each book under consideration is independently evaluated by at least three people. The Reading Program Committee uses these evaluations as a basis for their recommendation, considering the overall balance of the list offerings as a whole. Their recommendation is then reviewed and approved by the Governance Committee of the Board of Directors.



- **How can I recommend a book?**

If you would like to suggest a book for consideration for a future Reading Program catalog, you can do so by using the “Suggest a book” link available at uwfaith.org/read.



- **Can I use audiobooks?**

You are always welcome to use audiobooks if that’s an easier and more accessible way for you to read the material.



- **Is there any troubling content in the Reading Program books? How do I know what to expect?**

The Reading Program is designed to be uplifting and spiritually nourishing while also wrestling honestly with the difficult experiences of our world today, including violence and other potentially triggering content. Where possible, we have added flags to the book descriptions to note any potentially disturbing content regarding: graphic violence (**V**), explicit sexual content (**S**) and/or profane language (**L**). This is not meant to steer you away from these books, but rather to prepare you to know what to expect so you can make informed choices. Unfortunately, we are not able to anticipate all the content that may be disturbing to every one of our readers, since each of us is unique and brings our own particular set of experiences. If you start to read a book and discover that it is too much for you at a given time, then, of course, we encourage you to practice good self-care and set the book aside.



- **How can I learn about upcoming events and keep connected to the community?**

- If you would like to receive Reading Program-related event invitations, volunteer opportunities, and more, please join our mailing list by visiting bit.ly/RPMailList.
- We also invite you to join us in the Reading Enthusiasts discussion group on UWFaith Digital where you can post, learn about upcoming events, and share with others about your favorite books.
 - For people who are new to United Women in Faith Digital: bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts-MN.
 - For people who are already on United Women in Faith Digital: bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts.



READING PROGRAM

PLANS



Eligible years: For 2026, books from the 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 Reading Program lists are eligible for Reading Program reporting credit, if you have not already read them.

PLAN I

- 5 books each year.
- 1 book from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

PLAN II

- 10 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

PLAN III

- 15 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

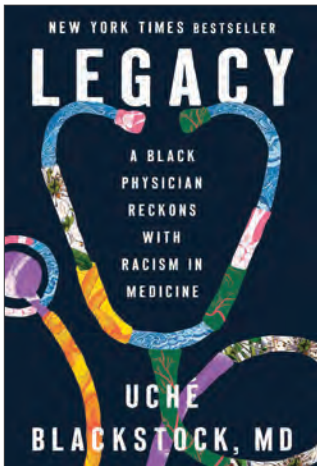
PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.



Books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice, from **bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith**, or borrowed from your local public library.

For books on previous reading lists go to:
uwfaith.org/read.



LEGACY: A BLACK PHYSICIAN RECKONS WITH RACISM IN MEDICINE

UCHÉ BLACKSTOCK

VIKING (2024)

In her bestselling memoir, Black physician Uché Blackstock offers a look at the profound and long-standing systemic inequities that exist in America's health care system, not only for Black patients but also for Black physicians, who comprise just two percent of all U.S. physicians today. From racist practices and policies to a deeply flawed system as a whole, Blackstock explores the critical intersection of racism and health care. Her book is a call to action for all to stand up as health equity advocates.

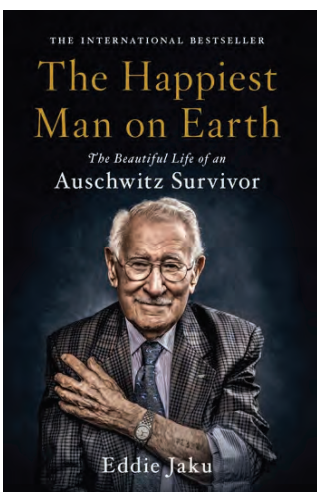


GRACE CAN LEAD US HOME: A CHRISTIAN CALL TO END HOMELESSNESS

KEVIN NYE

HERALD PRESS (2022)

Drawing on years of experience in homelessness services, minister and advocate Kevin Nye presents an intimate look at a people often on the margins of life. The book introduces readers to the Christ Nye has met in tents, shelters, and drop-in centers, demystifying homelessness by journeying into complex issues like affordable housing, mental illness, addiction, and more. Readers come to understand Nye's powerful theological vision that calls us to shelter all God's people through hope and faithful action.



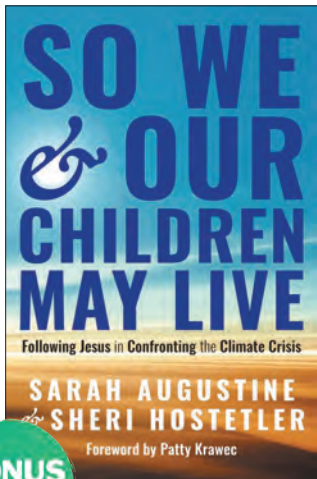
THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH: THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE OF AN AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR

EDDIE JAKU

HARPER PAPERBACKS (2022)

In this riveting *New York Times* bestseller, Eddie Jaku shares his powerful memoir as a Holocaust survivor, paying tribute to those lost as he offers inspiring wisdom on living one's best possible life despite the most horrible circumstances. Jaku was a teenager when Nazi soldiers sent him to a concentration camp with thousands of other Jews across Germany. He spent seven years in Buchenwald and then Auschwitz, finally enduring a forced death march during the Third Reich's final days. Somehow, he found the will to survive and made himself a promise to smile every day in gratitude and to honor the six million Jews murdered by Hitler. **(V)**

Book available in English & Spanish.

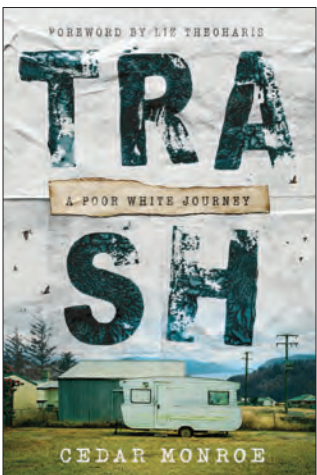


SO WE AND OUR CHILDREN MAY LIVE: FOLLOWING JESUS IN CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

SARAH AUGUSTINE & SHERI HOSTETLER

HERALD PRESS (2023)

In this impactful read, Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler challenge people to open their eyes to the signs that all is not right with our planet. From extreme weather patterns to the pollutants that sour our soils and waterways, they urge readers to understand our world is in the midst of a larger ecological crisis. If change is to occur, we must look beyond the same systems that created those problems. With a call to worldwide decolonization, Augustine and Hostetler offer solutions for a better future by joining with Indigenous peoples to protect life and negotiate with decision-makers for sustainable change that follows Jesus.



TRASH: A POOR WHITE JOURNEY

CEDAR MONROE

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2024)

Every day across the United States, 66 million poor white people pay the price for failing whiteness. In this sweeping debut, Monroe writes indelibly about and for poor white people: about unlearning the American dream, untangling from white supremacy, and working for liberation alongside other poor folks. With insight born of liberation theology, radical politics, and an even more radical hope, Monroe shares stories of a growing group of people who are rejecting the empty promises of white supremacy and embracing solidarity with other poor people, joining the resistance to the system killing us all. **(V)(L)**



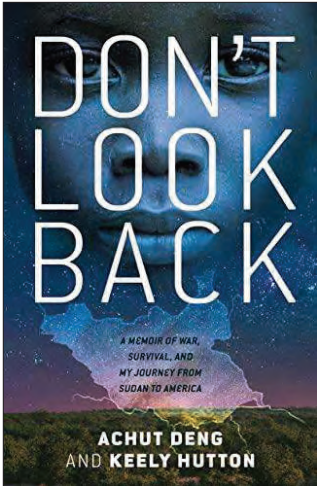
WHAT WE REMEMBER WILL BE SAVED:

A STORY OF REFUGEES AND THE THINGS THEY CARRY

STEPHANIE SALDAÑA

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2023)

Journalist and scholar Stephanie Saldaña, who lived in Syria before the war, sets out on a journey across nine countries to meet refugees and learn what they salvaged from the ruins when they escaped. In the narratives of six women and men, from Mt. Sinjar to Aleppo to Lesbos to Amsterdam, readers discover that the little things matter a great deal. Saldaña introduces us to a woman who saved her city in a dress, a musician who saved his stories in songs, and a couple who rebuilt their destroyed pharmacy even as the city around them fell apart. Together, they provide a window into a religiously diverse corner of the Middle East on the edge of unraveling, and the people keeping it alive with their stories. **(V)**



DON'T LOOK BACK: A MEMOIR OF WAR, SURVIVAL, AND MY JOURNEY FROM SUDAN TO AMERICA

ACHUT DENG & KEELY HUTTON

SQUARE FISH (2024)

After a deadly attack in South Sudan left six-year-old Achut Deng without a family, she lived in refugee camps for 10 years. Then a refugee relocation program gave her the opportunity to move to the United States. When asked why she should be given a chance to leave the camp, Achut simply told the interviewer: I want life. But starting a new life in a new country came with a different set of challenges, some of them equally deadly. Taught by the strong women in her life not to look back, Achut kept moving forward, overcoming one obstacle after another and facing each day with hope and faith in her future. **(V)**



SANCTUARY

PAOLA MENDOZA & ABBY SHER

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS (2021)

In this near-future dystopian novel set in 2032 America, a young girl and her brother must escape a xenophobic government to find sanctuary. Sixteen-year-old Vali and her family have carved out a stable, happy life in small-town Vermont. When Deportation Forces raid their town, they are forced to flee across the country to her Tía Luna in California, a sanctuary state that is currently being walled off from the rest of the country. But when Vali's mother is detained before their journey even begins, Vali must carry on with her younger brother across the country to make it to safety before it's too late. **(V)**



I've always been an avid reader but what a joy it is to share my passion with hundreds of other reading enthusiasts, changing the world one page at a time!

—Mikele Haskins-Delmore, Northeastern Jurisdiction President



THE LITTLE HOUSE OF HOPE

TERRY CATASÚS JENNINGS

NEAL PORTER BOOKS (2022)

Author Terry Catasús Jennings first came from Cuba to the United States in 1961, when she was 12 years old. In this award-winning children's book, she offers an inspiring, semi-autobiographical story of how immigrants can help each other find their footing in a new country. The book details how when Esperanza and her family arrive in the United States from Cuba, they rent a little house, *una casita*. It may be small, but they soon prove that there's room enough to share with a whole community. Together, they turn the house into a place where other new immigrants can help one another.

Book available in English & Spanish.

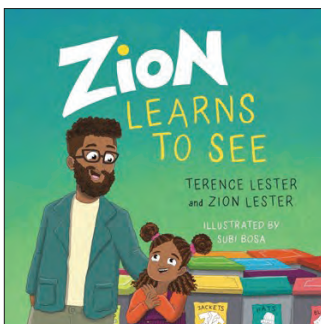


THESE OLIVE TREES: A PALESTINIAN FAMILY'S STORY

AYA GHANAMEH

VIKING BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2023)

In this debut from author-illustrator Aya Ghanameh, readers embrace a bold tale of bitterness, hope, and the power of believing in a free and thriving future. It's 1967 in Nablus, Palestine, and Oraib loves the olive trees that grow outside the refugee camp where she lives. Each harvest, she and her mama pick the small fruits and stomp on them to release their golden oil. Olives have always tied her family to the land. But when war forces them to flee, Oraib makes a solemn promise to her beloved olive trees—their legacy will live on for generations to come.

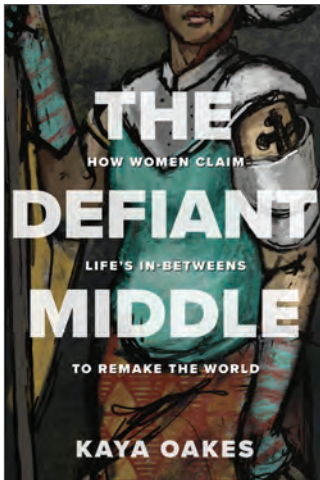


ZION LEARNS TO SEE

TERENCE LESTER & ZION LESTER

IVP KIDS (2024)

Join Zion and her dad on a life-changing Saturday in *Zion Learns to See*, by father-daughter duo Terence and Zion Lester. Based on a true story, this beautifully illustrated book teaches lessons of connection, compassion, and faith in action. For as Zion learns, every person matters to God. And that means every person should matter to us. Follow young Zion as she accompanies her father to a local community center serving people experiencing homelessness. What begins as an ordinary day soon becomes a powerful lesson that changes Zion's perspective.



THE DEFIANT MIDDLE: HOW WOMEN CLAIM LIFE'S IN-BETWEENS TO REMAKE THE WORLD

KAYA OAKES

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2021)

Women are expected to be young enough, but not too young; old enough, but not too old; creative, but not crazy; passionate, but not angry. In other words, they are caught between social expectations and a much more complicated reality. But many women are carving out new ways of being in and remaking the world. In *The Defiant Middle*, Kaya Oakes draws on the wisdom of women mystics and explores how transitional eras or living in marginalized female identities can be both spiritually challenging and wonderfully freeing, ultimately resulting in a reinvented way of seeing the world and changing it. **(L)**



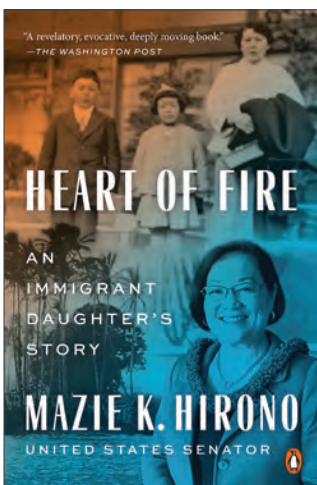
THE DEEPEST PLACE: SUFFERING AND THE FORMATION OF HOPE

CURT THOMPSON

ZONDERVAN (2023)

Psychiatrist, speaker, and award-winning author Curt Thompson explores how God can transform our grief into a lasting peace that surpasses all understanding. As Thompson maintains, suffering is a defining reality of life. Yet so many of us are so focused on avoiding discomfort that we've never learned how to actually suffer. But what if we could move from anxiety to durable hope? Here, Thompson invites readers to explore how the Apostle Paul's experience of love, secure attachment, and the deeply felt sense of God's abiding presence carried him through the challenges he faced—and how it can help us not just survive, but flourish in the presence of suffering.

Book available in English & Korean.



HEART OF FIRE: AN IMMIGRANT DAUGHTER'S STORY

MAZIE K. HIRONO

Viking (2021)

In this intimate and inspiring life story, Mazie Hirono shares her experience as the first Asian-American woman and the only immigrant serving in the U.S. Senate. Raised on a rice farm in rural Japan, Hirono was seven years old when her mother left her abusive husband and sailed with her two elder children to Hawaii, crossing the Pacific in steerage in search of a better life. Though Hirono did not speak or read English when she entered first grade, she would go on to serve as a state representative and as Hawaii's lieutenant governor before winning election to Congress in 2006.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

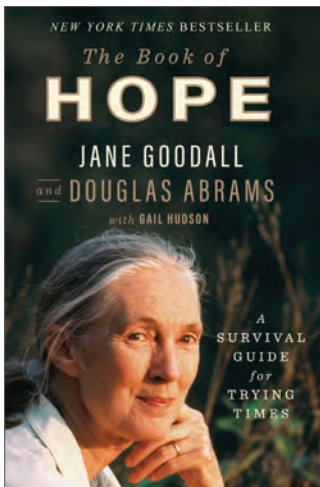


LEADING WELL: A BLACK WOMAN'S GUIDE TO WHOLISTIC, BARRIER-BREAKING LEADERSHIP

JEANNE PORTER KING

BAKER BOOKS (2023)

Black women in leadership positions often experience resistance, both from external forces and from within. In this book, author, consultant, and inspirational teacher and speaker Jeanne Porter King offers inspiration, encouragement, and practical tools to make leading well a reality. Drawing from the biblical account of the Samaritan woman at the well, King helps women learn to lead from a strong spiritual core rather than a set of expectations they had no part in setting.



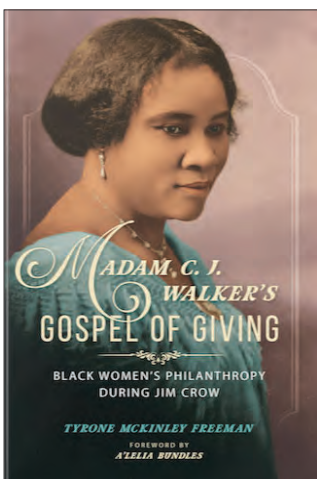
THE BOOK OF HOPE: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR TRYING TIMES

JANE GOODALL & DOUGLAS ABRAMS WITH GAIL HUDSON

CELADON BOOKS (2021)

Looking at the headlines—the worsening climate crisis, a global pandemic, loss of biodiversity, political upheaval—it can be hard to feel optimistic. And yet hope has never been more desperately needed. In this *New York Times* bestseller, Jane Goodall, the world's most famous living naturalist, and Douglas Abrams, the internationally bestselling co-author of *The Book of Joy*, explore one of the most sought-after and least understood elements of human nature: hope. Drawing on decades of work, *The Book of Hope* touches on vital questions, including: How do we stay hopeful when everything seems hopeless? How do we cultivate hope in our children? What is the relationship between hope and action?

Book available in English & Spanish.



MADAM C. J. WALKER'S GOSPEL OF GIVING: BLACK WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY DURING JIM CROW

TYRONE MCKINLEY FREEMAN

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS (2020)

In this illuminating and dramatic biography, Tyrone McKinley Freeman reveals how beauty empire founder Madam C. J. Walker was celebrated as America's first self-made female millionaire in the early 1900s. But she was also devoted to an activist philanthropy aimed at empowering African Americans and challenging the injustices inflicted by Jim Crow. Here, Freeman highlights how giving shaped Walker's life before and after she became wealthy. Poor and widowed when she arrived in St. Louis in her twenties, Walker found mentorship among Black churchgoers and working Black women. Her adoption of faith, racial uplift, education, and self-help soon informed her dedication to assisting Black women's entrepreneurship, financial independence, and activism, establishing Walker as a foremother of African American philanthropy.

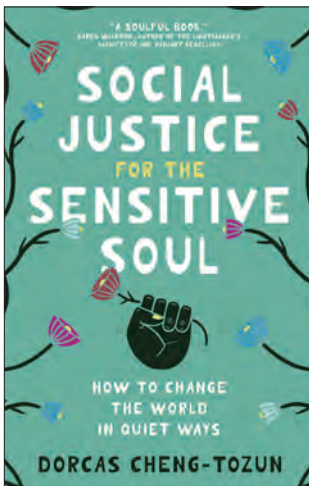


SEE NO STRANGER: A MEMOIR AND MANIFESTO OF REVOLUTIONARY LOVE

VALARIE KAUR

ONE WORLD (2020)

How do we love in a time of rage? How do we fix a broken world while not breaking ourselves? In this acclaimed work, Valarie Kaur—renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer—describes revolutionary love as a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. It enjoins us to see no stranger but instead, look at others and say: You are part of me I do not yet know. Starting from that place of wonder, the world begins to change. It is a practice that can transform a relationship, a community, a culture, and even a nation. A finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the book takes readers through Kaur's journey to illuminate the message. **(V)(S)**



SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR THE SENSITIVE SOUL: HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD IN QUIET WAYS

DORCAS CHENG-TOZUN

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2023)

Social justice work is often associated with raised voices and raised fists. But what does that work look like for the sensitive, who often don't feel comfortable battling in the trenches? Alongside inspiring, real-life examples of highly sensitive world-changers, author Dorcas Cheng-Tozun expands the possibilities of how to be a peacemaker and how to create a positive social impact, affirming the particular gifts and talents that sensitive souls offer to a hurting world. It also offers six possible pathways for sensitive types: connectors, creatives, record keepers, builders, equippers, and researchers.

“ I credit the Reading Program for opening my eyes to situations, perspectives, and events that I never had been aware of in the past. It has challenged me to read beyond my comfort level, explore my faith, and be aware of the world beyond my personal experience.

—Jana Jones, Reading Program Committee Chair



FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON

JANAE MARKS

QUILLTREE BOOKS (2021)

From debut author Janae Marks comes a captivating story full of heart, as one courageous girl questions assumptions, searches for the truth, and does what she believes is right—even in the face of great opposition. When Zoe Washington gets a letter from her father, Marcus, on her 12th birthday, she doesn't know how to react. After all, she's never met or heard from Marcus, and he's been in prison for a terrible crime all these years. But Marcus says it's a crime he never committed, and her grandmother agrees. Soon, Zoe begins to learn about inequality in the criminal justice system, and she sets out to find the alibi witness who can prove his innocence.



MICHI CHALLENGES HISTORY: FROM FARM GIRL TO COSTUME DESIGNER TO RELENTLESS SEEKER OF THE TRUTH: THE LIFE OF MICH NISHIURA WEGLYN

KEN MOCHIZUKI

NORTON YOUNG READERS (2023)

This powerful biography explores the life of Michi Weglyn, the Japanese-American fashion designer whose activism fueled a movement for recognition of and reparations for America's World War II concentration camps. The daughter of Japanese immigrants, Michi was confined in Arizona's Gila River concentration camp during World War II. She later became a costume designer for Broadway and worked as the wardrobe designer for some of the most popular television personalities. In 1968, after a televised statement by the U.S. Attorney General that concentration camps in America never existed, Michi embarked on an eight-year solo quest to expose and account for the existence of the World War II camps where she and other Japanese Americans were imprisoned. Her research became a major catalyst for the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.



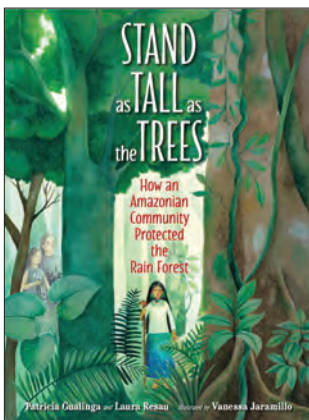
SOMETHING, SOMEDAY

AMANDA GORMAN

VIKING BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2023)

In this picture book by presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman and Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator Christian Robinson comes a timeless message of hope. Sometimes the world feels broken, and problems seem too big to fix. But somehow, we all have the power to make a difference. With a little faith, and maybe the help of a friend, we can find beauty and create change. With intimate and inspiring text and powerfully stunning illustrations, *Something, Someday* reveals how even the smallest gesture can have a lasting impact.

Book available in English & Spanish.



STAND AS TALL AS THE TREES: HOW AN AMAZONIAN COMMUNITY PROTECTED THE RAIN FOREST

PATRICIA GUALINGA & LAURA RESAU

CHARLESBRIDGE (2023)

This inspiring true story shares how an activist in the Amazon worked with other Indigenous communities to protect and preserve their sacred lands and forests. Patricia (Paty) Gualinga grew up in her Kichwa village in the Amazon of Ecuador, where mystical beings called Amazanga help protect the forest. Paty traveled away from home for school until she was called back, learning that companies were destroying her people's lands to look for oil. The Kichwa community worked with other Indigenous groups to bring the Ecuadorian government to the Court of Human Rights. This moving story reminds readers of the importance of nature conservation, perseverance, and standing up for one's community.

Book available in English & Spanish.

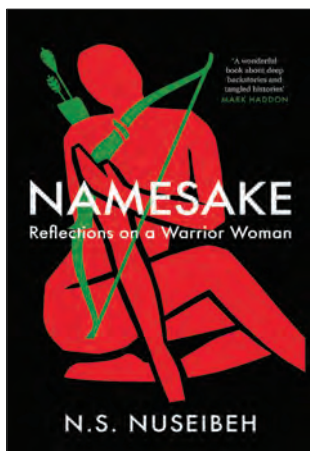


THE LIGHT SHE FEELS INSIDE

GWENDOLYN WALLACE

SOURCEBOOKS JABBERWOCKY (2023)

Maya feels a warm glow when she picks strawberries in the community garden, hears music in her neighborhood, or spends time with the people she loves. She feels a different kind of glow when she gets pushed down on the playground, overhears her family worrying about bills, and sees her favorite cousin stopped by police. Sometimes that glowing seems like too much to carry. But Maya is learning that others feel the same glowing light. Black women throughout history, like Ida B. Wells, Nina Simone, June Jordan, and Maya's ancestors, found ways to honor these glowing feelings. And Maya is learning to do the same.



NAMESAKE: REFLECTIONS ON A WARRIOR WOMAN

N. S. NUSEIBEH

OLIVE BRANCH PRESS (2024)

Nusayba bint Ka'ab al Khazrajia was a legendary warrior who fought alongside the Prophet Muhammad at the dawn of Islam and was the ancestor of author N.S. Nuseibeh. In *Namesake*, Nuseibeh draws on Nusayba's stories as she explores the experience of being an Arab woman today and in the distant past. Her exploration takes her from superheroes and the glorification of violence to the rise of Arab feminism, to what courage looks like in the context of interminable conflict. By seeking to understand her namesake in the context of her own 21st-century concerns, Nuseibeh links our current ideas of Muslims and Arabs with their origins, exploring myth-making, identity, religion, nationhood, feminism, and race.

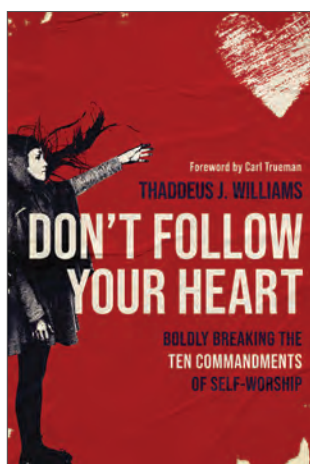


FINDING ME

VIOLA DAVIS

HARPERONE (2023)

In this powerful autobiography, acclaimed Academy Award-winning American actress and film producer Viola Davis shares her path to finding her purpose and voice in a world that didn't always see her. From a crumbling apartment in Central Falls, Rhode Island, to the stage in New York City and beyond, Davis details how she constantly ran from her past until she made a life-changing decision to stop running forever. In part a deep reflection, a promise, and a love letter of sorts to self, Davis hopes to inspire readers to light up their own lives with creative expression and rediscover who they were before the world imposed a label. **(V)(S)(L)**



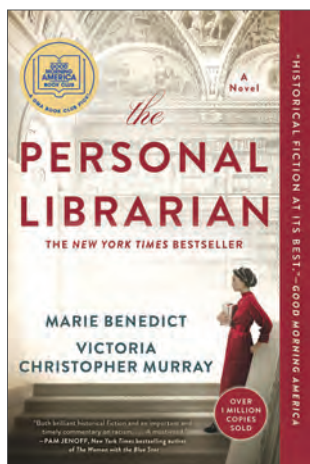
DON'T FOLLOW YOUR HEART: BOLDLY BREAKING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SELF-WORSHIP

THADDEUS J. WILLIAMS

ZONDERVAN (2023)

In *Don't Follow Your Heart*, Thaddeus Williams debunks what he calls the "ten commandments of self-worship," popular propaganda such as #liveyourbestlife (always act in accord with your chief end—to glorify and enjoy yourself forever), #followyourheart (obey your emotions at all costs), or #yolo (pursue the rush of boundary-free experience). This type of self-worship is neither authentic, satisfying, nor edgy, but rather rehashes what is humanity's oldest lie. With a blend of theology, philosophy, science, psychology, and pop culture, Williams points readers to a life beyond self-defeating dogmas to a more meaningful life centered on Someone infinitely more interesting, satisfying, and awesome than ourselves.

Book available in English & Korean.



THE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN

MARIE BENEDICT & VICTORIA CHRISTOPHER MURRAY

BERKLEY (2022)

Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR and a *Good Morning America* Book Club Pick, this historical novel explores the life of J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, a Black American forced to hide her true identity and pass as White. In her twenties, Belle was hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. She became a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world. But Belle has a secret—she is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality.

Book available in English & Spanish.

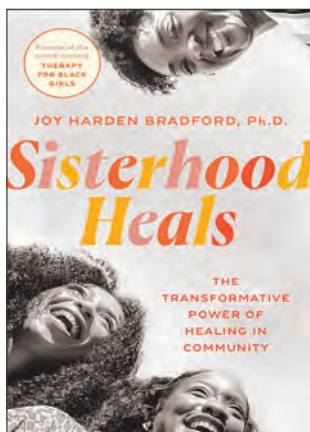


RAISING KIDS BEYOND THE BINARY: CELEBRATING GOD'S TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-DIVERSE CHILDREN

JAMIE BRUESEHOFF

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2023)

Drawing on the author's experience as a mother walking with and learning from her transgender child, as well as working with hundreds of families across the country doing the same, this book helps parents navigate the emotional, spiritual, and logistical landscape of raising a gender-diverse child. Grounded in the unequivocal truth of God's deep love and limitless creativity, and rich with personal stories, research, and practical steps, this book compels readers to move past "all are welcome" to loving and celebrating transgender and gender-diverse youth in the brilliance of their uniqueness.

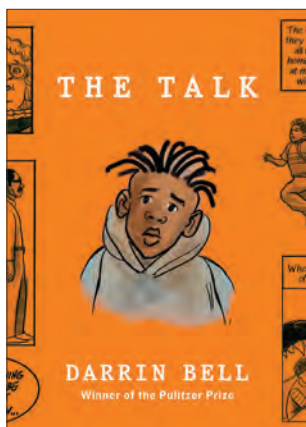


SISTERHOOD HEALS: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF HEALING IN COMMUNITY

JOY HARDEN BRADFORD

BALLANTINE BOOKS (2024)

For more than 20 years, Dr. Joy Harden Bradford has been working to help Black women heal together. In a sisterhood community with more than half a million members, she's the go-to therapist for Black women looking to prioritize their mental health and become the best possible versions of themselves. Now Bradford—the licensed clinical psychologist behind the award-winning podcast *Therapy for Black Girls*—is sharing all she's learned using the tenets of psychology and group therapy to help readers foster relationships that are not only positive, but transformative.

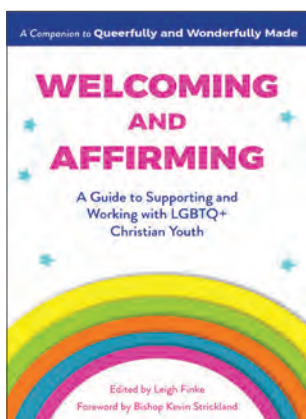


THE TALK

DARRIN BELL

HENRY HOLT AND CO. (2023)

When Darrin Bell was six years old, his mother had “The Talk” with him, telling him he couldn’t have a realistic water gun. She said she feared for his safety, explaining that police tend to think of little Black boys as older and less innocent than they really are. With poignant humor, this book examines how The Talk shapes intimate and public moments from childhood to adulthood. Drawing attention to the brutal murders of African Americans and showcasing revealing insights and cartoons along the way, Bell brings readers to the moment of reckoning when people took to the streets protesting the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. **(V)**



WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING: A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING AND WORKING WITH LGBTQ+ CHRISTIAN YOUTH

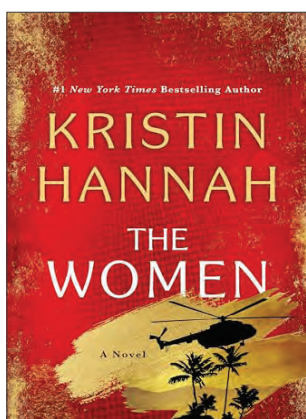
LEIGH FINKE

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2020)

A companion to the youth book *Queerfully and Wonderfully Made: A Guide for LGBTQ+ Christian Teens*, this book serves as a practical, concrete tool to help adult faith leaders navigate tough questions. These questions include: How should I respond when a teen comes out? Do I have to tell their parents? What does it mean to be transgender? How do I talk to a trans youth? A handbook for pastors, youth workers, church leaders, educators, and other adults in Christian settings, the book provides answers to the most pressing questions about sexuality, gender, mental health, safe sex, and more.



SET—Check out the youth version of this book on page 19 of this catalog.



THE WOMEN

KRISTIN HANNAH

ST. MARTIN’S PRESS (2024)

This celebrated novel is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm’s way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country have too often been forgotten. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, Frances “Frankie” McGrath joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. A #1 *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times* bestseller, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era. **(V)(L)**

Book available in English & Spanish.

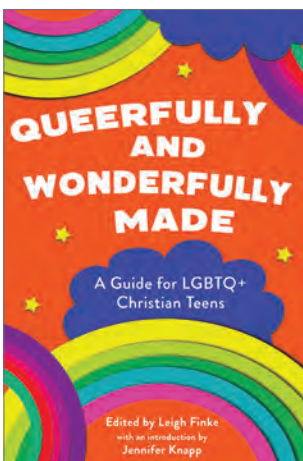


THE IN-BETWEEN

KATIE VAN HEIDRICH

ALADDIN (2024)

This middle-grade memoir details the experiences of a young girl and her family who must start over after losing their home. In the early 2000s, 13-year-old Katie Van Heidrich has moved more times than she can count. When Katie and her family come back from an out-of-town funeral, they discover their landlord has unceremoniously evicted them, forcing them to pack lightly and move quickly. They make their way to an Extended Stay America Motel, with Katie's mother promising it's temporary. There, they try to live a normal life amid the complexities of "the in-between," all while remaining hopeful for the future.



QUEERFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE: A GUIDE FOR LGBTQ+ CHRISTIAN TEENS

LEIGH FINKE

BEAMING BOOKS (2020)

This book for queer or questioning Christian teens offers loving and helpful answers to a host of questions during what can be a scary and confusing time: Is there something wrong with me? Will my friends accept me? When should I tell my family? What about church? *Queerfully and Wonderfully Made* offers insight and support from a group of LGBTQ+ professionals, as well as testimonies from young adult queer Christians who've recently been exactly where readers are. Not only does the book provide answers, but it offers the good news: God loves you exactly as you are. **(S)**



SET—Check out the adult version of this book on page 18 of this catalog.

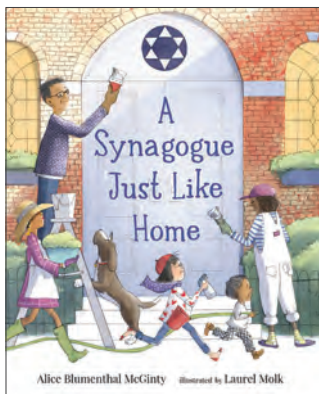


... for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

Proverbs 8:1–21

“The Gifts of Wisdom”

Scriptural basis for the Reading Program



A SYNAGOGUE JUST LIKE HOME

ALICE BLUMENTHAL MCGINTY

CANDLEWICK (2022)

Rabbi Ruben loves his synagogue, but he doesn't love the creaking floorboards, leaking sink, or drafty windows. He's certain he can fix it up so it feels cared for, like a happy home—only Rabbi Ruben doesn't know much about home repair, and his creative fixes make things humorously worse. This lighthearted tale shows how a community can come together—sharing, helping, and caring—teaching Rabbi Ruben what really makes a place feel like a happy home.

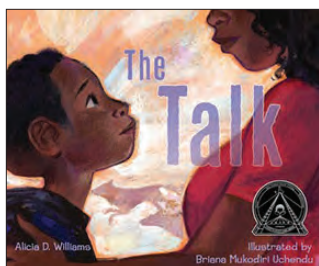


NELL PLANTS A TREE

ANNE WYNTER

CLARION BOOKS (2023)

This award-winning children's picture book celebrates the efforts of one little girl whose careful tending of a pecan tree creates the living center of a loving, intergenerational Black family. And just as Nell's tree grows and thrives with her love and care, so do generations of her close-knit family. Inspired by the pecan trees of the creators' childhoods, the book is an evocative and joyful homage to creation.



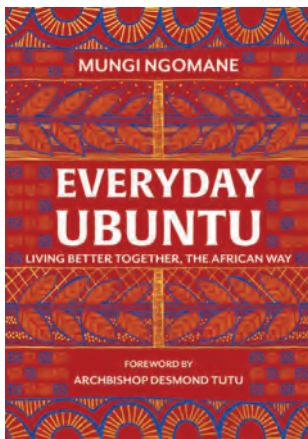
THE TALK

ALICIA D. WILLIAMS

ATHENEUM/CAITLYN DLOUHY BOOKS (2022)

This Coretta Scott King Book Award winner introduces young readers to "The Talk" while inviting readers of all ages to journey alongside Jay, a little boy growing quickly into a bigger boy, and his loving family. This story is told in an age-appropriate fashion and provides space for parents to insert their discussions with their children to accompany prompting illustrations. *The Talk* is a gently honest and sensitive starting point for this far-too-necessary conversation. While geared towards intergenerational reading with younger children, adult readers will also find it a powerful conversation starter for discussions about racism and the criminalization of children of color, especially Black children.

Book available in English & Spanish.



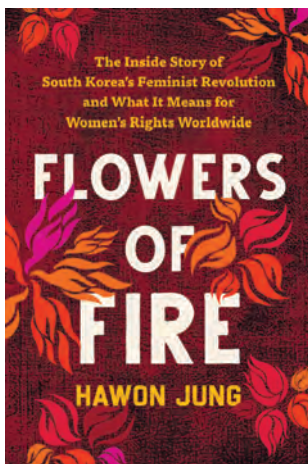
EVERYDAY UBUNTU: LIVING BETTER TOGETHER, THE AFRICAN WAY

MUNGI NGOMANE

MARINER BOOKS (2021)

In *Everyday Ubuntu*, Mungi Ngomane, granddaughter of Nobel Peace Prize-winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, helps readers understand ubuntu. Ubuntu is a Southern African philosophy that celebrates the universal human bond. A Xhosa word that encapsulates all our aspirations about how to live life well, together, ubuntu is the belief that “I am only because you are.” By embracing the philosophy of ubuntu and living it out in daily life, it’s possible to overcome division and be stronger together in a world where the wise build bridges, not walls. In stories that recognize our common humanity, connectedness, and interdependence, *Everyday Ubuntu* helps make sense of the world and our place in it.

Book available in English & Spanish.

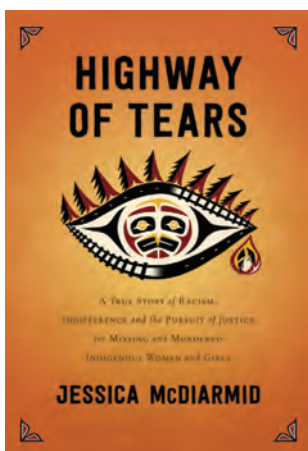


FLOWERS OF FIRE: THE INSIDE STORY OF SOUTH KOREA'S FEMINIST MOVEMENT AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS WORLDWIDE

HAWON JUNG

BENBELLA BOOKS (2023)

Since the beginning of the #MeToo movement, tens of thousands of people in South Korea have taken to the streets, and many more brave individuals took a stand to end a decades-long abortion ban and bring down powerful men accused of sexual misconduct—including a popular presidential contender. *Flowers of Fire* takes the reader into the trenches of this fight for equality, following along as South Korean activists march on the streets, navigate public and private spaces where spycam porn crimes are rampant, and share tips and tricks with each other as they learn how to protect themselves from harassment—and how to push authorities to act. **(V)(S)(L)**

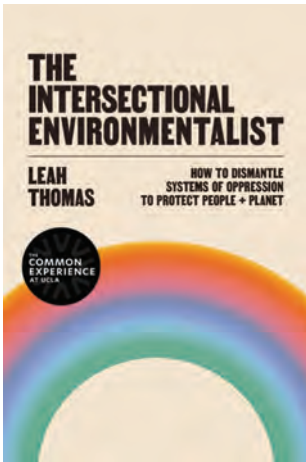


HIGHWAY OF TEARS: A TRUE STORY OF RACISM, INDIFFERENCE, AND THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

JESSICA MCDIARMID

ATRIA BOOKS (2019)

For decades, Indigenous women and girls have gone missing or been found murdered along an isolated stretch of highway in northwestern British Columbia. The corridor is known as the Highway of Tears, and it has come to symbolize a national crisis. In this book, journalist Jessica McDiarmid meticulously investigates the devastating effect these tragedies have had on the families of the victims and their communities, and how systemic racism and indifference have created a climate in which Indigenous women and girls are overpoliced yet under-protected. McDiarmid interviews those closest to the victims and provides an intimate firsthand account of their loss and unflagging fight for justice. **(V)**



THE INTERSECTIONAL ENVIRONMENTALIST: HOW TO DISMANTLE SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION TO PROTECT PEOPLE + PLANET

LEAH THOMAS

VORACIOUS (2022)

From the activist who coined the term “intersectional environmentalism” comes a book that is simultaneously a call to action, a guide to instigating change for all, and a pledge to work toward the empowerment of all people and the betterment of the planet. Leah Thomas examines the inextricable link between environmentalism, racism, and privilege and promotes awareness of the fundamental truth that we cannot save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people, especially those most often unheard. Thomas shows how not only are Black, Indigenous, and people of color unequally and unfairly impacted by environmental injustices, but she argues that the fight for the planet lies in tandem with the fight for civil rights—one cannot exist without the other.

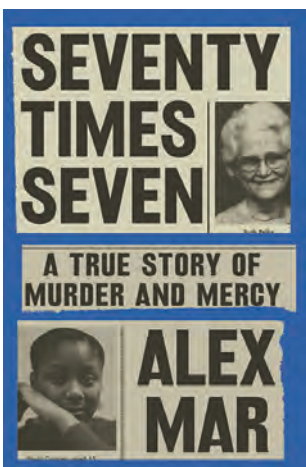
**BONUS
BOOK**



#SAYHERNAME: BLACK WOMEN'S STORIES OF POLICE VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC SILENCE

KIMBERLÉ CRENSHAW & THE AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICY FORUM
HAYMARKET BOOKS (2023)

In *#SayHerName*, Kimberlé Crenshaw and the African American Policy Forum share how girls and women as young as seven and as old as 93 have been killed by the police, though we rarely hear their names or learn their stories. *#SayHerName* provides an analytical framework for understanding Black women's susceptibility to police brutality and state-sanctioned violence, and it explains how—through Black feminist storytelling and ritual—we can effectively mobilize various communities and empower them to advocate for racial justice. This is a powerful story of Black feminist practice, community-building, and reckoning. **(V)**

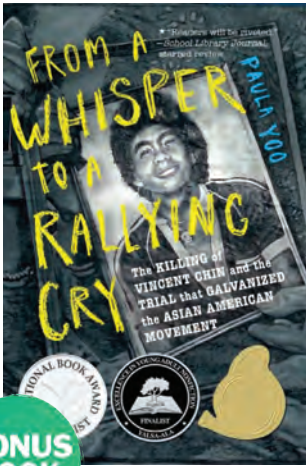


SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN: A TRUE STORY OF MURDER AND MERCY

ALEX MAR

PENGUIN PRESS

In *Seventy Times Seven*, Alex Mar weaves an unforgettable narrative about an act of violence and its aftermath. On a spring afternoon in 1985 in Gary, Indiana, a 15-year-old Black girl, Paula Cooper, kills an elderly White woman and beloved Bible teacher in a violent home invasion. Paula is sentenced to death. Then the victim's grandson Bill forgives the girl and campaigns to spare her life, beginning a friendship with Paula in the process. As Paula waits on death row, her fate sparks a debate that not only animates legal circles but raises vital questions about the value of human life: What are we demanding when we call for justice? Is forgiveness an act of desperation or profound bravery? **(V)**

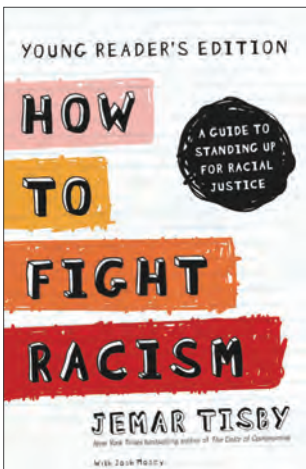


FROM A WHISPER TO A RALLYING CRY: THE KILLING OF VINCENT CHIN AND THE TRIAL THAT GALVANIZED THE ASIAN AMERICAN MOVEMENT

PAULA YOO

NORTON YOUNG READERS (2021)

This award-winning book examines the killing of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man beaten to death at the hands of two White men amid much anti-Asian American sentiment in their Detroit community. Chin's killers pled guilty to manslaughter and received only a \$3,000 fine and three years' probation. The lenient sentence sparked outrage. The protests that followed led to a federal civil rights trial—the first involving a crime against an Asian American person—and galvanized what came to be known as the Asian American movement. **(V)(L)**



HOW TO FIGHT RACISM: A GUIDE TO STANDING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (YOUNG READER'S EDITION)

JEMAR TISBY

ZONDERKIDZ (2022)

In this adaptation for young readers, *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. Jemar Tisby explains how everyday prejudice affects young people, what they can do to create social change, and how to maintain an anti-racist mindset and make a positive difference in the world. Tisby uses history to explore how racism has affected America since before its founding and how it's continued to grow, as well as examines how true social justice is rooted in the Christian faith. In a format that provides kids with a handbook for pursuing racial justice, readers discover hands-on suggestions and real-world examples of change they can put into action.



NO PLANET B: A TEEN VOGUE GUIDE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

EDITED BY LUCY DIAVOLO

HAYMARKET BOOKS (2021)

In *No Planet B*, editor Lucy Diavolo brings together a powerful collection of pieces originally written for *Teen Vogue*. Most of the pieces were written by activists and artists between the ages of 10 and 25, with a focus on reporting, activism, and intersectionality. Whether taken as a whole or piece-by-piece by article, *No Planet B* reads as an urgent call to action for climate justice and a meaningful testament to a new movement of young people rising to meet the challenge of climate catastrophe. This book is a guide, toolkit, warning, and cause for hope.



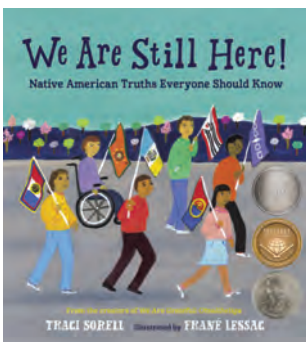
STILL DREAMING / SEGUIMOS SOÑANDO

CLAUDIA GUADALUPE MARTÍNEZ

LEE & LOW BOOKS (2022)

This award-winning children's picture book is the first of its kind to detail Mexican Repatriation, a long-forgotten chapter of U.S. history. Between 1930 and 1940, two million people living in the United States were forcibly removed and sent to live in Mexico. Faced with the prospect of being separated from each other, a young boy and his family make the difficult decision to leave their home and begin a journey filled with uncertainty. On the road, they meet other people like them—families with deep roots tied to the land, and others that helped build the railroads. Some were shop owners and some were factory workers, but all had similar hopes and dreams.

Bilingual book in English & Spanish.

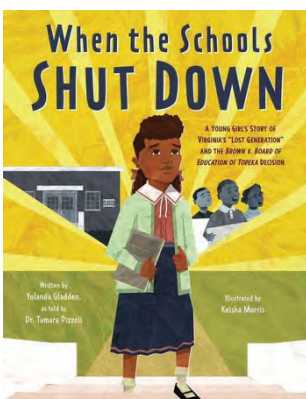


WE ARE STILL HERE! NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTHS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

TRACI SORELL

CHARLESBRIDGE (2021)

This nonfiction picture book by Cherokee author Traci Sorell features 12 Native American kids who present historical and contemporary laws, policies, struggles, and victories in Native life, each with a powerful refrain: We are still here. This book offers readers everything they never learned in school about Native American people's past, present, and future. Precise lyrical writing presents topics from assimilation and relocation to economic development and language revival.

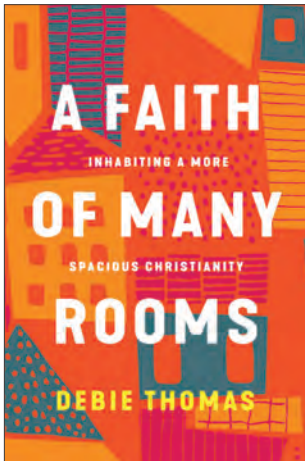


WHEN THE SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN: A YOUNG GIRL'S STORY OF VIRGINIA'S "LOST GENERATION" AND THE BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA DECISION

YOLANDA GLADDEN

HARPERCOLLINS (2022)

This autobiographical picture book shares the story of Yolanda, a young African American girl in Farmville, Virginia, whose public school district refused to integrate following the landmark civil rights case *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*, eventually closing every public school in Prince Edward County, Virginia, in an effort to avoid integration. The book is a true account of the unconstitutional effort by White lawmakers of this small Virginia town to circumvent racial justice by denying an entire generation of children an education—and of a community's persistence, resilience, and creativity in the face of a five-year school shutdown.

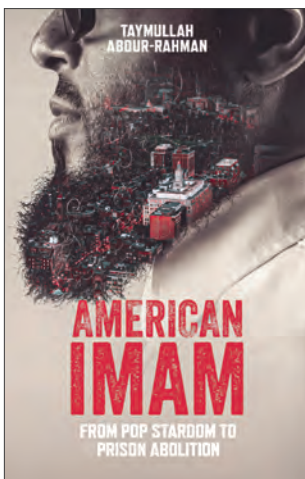


A FAITH OF MANY ROOMS: INHABITING A MORE SPACIOUS CHRISTIANITY

DEBIETHOMAS

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2024)

People are leaving Christianity in droves, disillusioned by narrow theologies, church dysfunction, and constricted readings of Scripture. But Jesus describes the reign of God as a house with many rooms, writes author Debie Thomas. Here, Thomas claims that wherever God dwells, there is expansiveness and belonging. As she asks, "What if the faith we inhabit is roomier than we'd thought? What if our collapsing faith is just a closet in a much larger dwelling?" From the diasporic church in which she grew up, to the disorientations of a deconstructing faith, to an ample, yet orthodox, Christianity that makes room for all her identities, Thomas takes readers on a deeply personal and profoundly theological odyssey.



AMERICAN IMAM: FROM POP STARDOM TO PRISON ABOLITION

TAYMULLAH ABDUR-RAHMAN

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2024)

Born Tyrone Sutton, Taymullah Abdur-Rahman was a rising pop star by the time he was 12, recruited as part of the R&B group Perfect Gentlemen. But after his music career peaked, he found himself back home, with little to show for his success. He converted to Islam and went on to work in a maximum-security prison as a Muslim chaplain, where he became zealously focused on saving souls instead of understanding the outside forces that lead men to prison. Later, he began to seek counsel outside of Islam, engaging with Jewish and Christian mentors who opened his eyes to the gifts of interreligious dialogue and helped lead him to what he was truly seeking: enlightenment. His story is an indelible rallying cry for understanding across race, religion, and cultural divides.

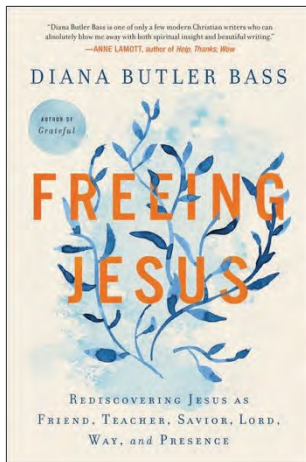


THE EVER-EXPANSIVE SPIRIT OF GOD FOR ALL WHO FEEL LEFT OUT

PEGGY A. JOHNSON

ACTA PUBLICATIONS (2023)

In this book, retired United Methodist Bishop Peggy A. Johnson shares her remarkable experiences in a lifetime of ministry. Committed to complete transparency, Bishop Johnson shares about her call to become a bishop, her marriage of 44 years to her best friend and fellow ordained minister, their life together with their two adult children, and the "precious secret" revealed to her in 2010. Bishop Johnson explores her deepest thoughts, fears, sorrows, triumphs, and mistakes. "The debates around same-gender marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and what it means to keep in a covenantal relationship with fellow United Methodists of differing opinions is at the center of this book," she writes. "But it is also a personal story full of reflections on my journey."

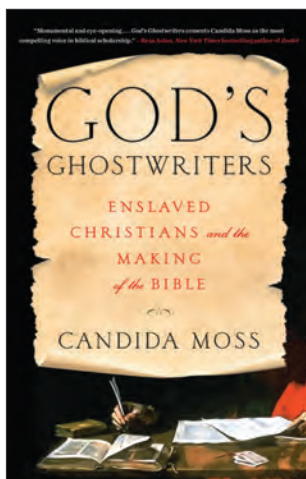


FREEING JESUS: REDISCOVERING JESUS AS FRIEND, TEACHER, SAVIOR, LORD, WAY, AND PRESENCE

DIANA BUTLER BASS

HARPERONE (2022)

Many believers today wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership. But while many Christians have left their churches, they cannot leave their faith behind. In *Freeing Jesus*, Diana Butler Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. It's a refreshing take on the comprehensive, multi-faceted nature of Jesus, keeping his teachings relevant and alive in our daily lives.

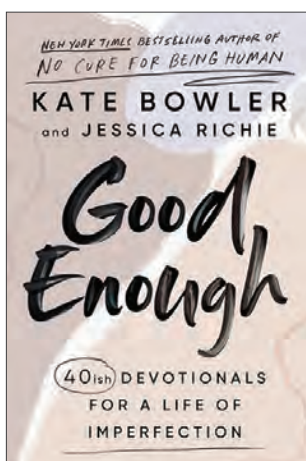


GOD'S GHOSTWRITERS: ENSLAVED CHRISTIANS AND THE MAKING OF THE BIBLE

CANDIDA MOSS

LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY (2024)

Christian tradition and scholarship have credited the authorship of the New Testament to a select group of men: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul. But hidden behind these men are a cluster of unnamed, enslaved coauthors and collaborators, essential workers responsible for producing the earliest manuscripts of the New Testament. These workers made the parchment on which the texts were written, took dictation, and refined the words of the apostles. And as the Christian message grew in influence, it was enslaved missionaries who undertook the arduous journey across the Mediterranean and along dusty roads to move Christianity to Rome, Spain, and North Africa—and into the pages of history. *God's Ghostwriters* is a rigorously researched book about how enslaved people shaped the Bible and with it all of Christianity.

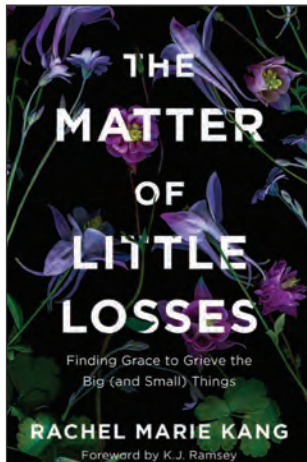


GOOD ENOUGH: 40ISH DEVOTIONALS FOR A LIFE OF IMPERFECTION

KATE BOWLER & JESSICA RICHIE

CONVERGENT BOOKS (2022)

These compassionate, intelligent, and wry Christian daily reflections help readers learn to live with imperfection in a culture of self-help that promotes endless progress. Intended as a companion for when you want to stop feeling guilty that you're not living your best life now, the short spiritual reflections share how we can make sense of life not as a pursuit of progress but as a chronic condition. Written gently and with humor, *Good Enough* is permission for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix—and some things you can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better.



THE MATTER OF LITTLE LOSSES: FINDING GRACE TO GRIEVE THE BIG (AND SMALL) THINGS

RACHEL MARIE KANG

REVELL (2024)

In this compassionate and deeply personal book, Rachel Marie Kang invites readers to see and be seen in the midst of sorrow and suffering. Through prose and poetry that gives voice to all the things we lose along the way, this gracious book helps readers ponder loss without judgment, remember what was, make meaning of memories, and reflect on what is yet to be to heal with hope. As Kang notes, you don't have to bury your pain, and you don't have to pretend you're over it just because the world thinks you should be.



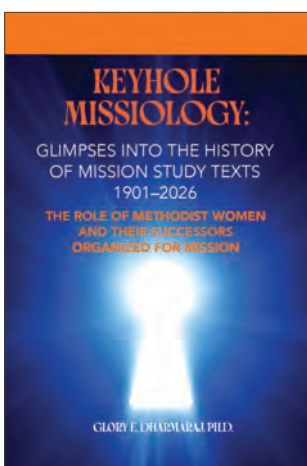
MISSION U: A DEEP KNOWING: EXPERIENCING EMMANUEL THROUGH EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES

LINDA FURTADO

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2026)

Though "Emmanuel" appears in the Bible only four times, its presence echoes through countless stories of faith, justice, and perseverance. *A Deep Knowing* encourages readers to explore where and how we see God's presence—in biblical narratives and in our personal and communal experiences. Each of the eight sessions offers cultural and contextual insights, inviting diverse voices and perspectives. Designed for group reflection and spiritual growth, this curriculum fosters connection, challenges assumptions, and helps uncover the many ways we experience Emmanuel—past, present, and future.

Book available in English, Korean, & Spanish. The Mission u curricula count for Bonus Book credit if completed as part of a curricula group (either leader or participant). If read independently, the Mission u studies count for a single credit.



KEYHOLE MISSIOLOGY: GLIMPSES INTO THE HISTORY OF MISSION STUDY TEXTS 1901–2026

GLORY E. DHARMARAJ

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2026)

Keyhole Missiology celebrates 125 years of mission study texts—a legacy shaped by generations of women committed to faithful learning and action. Honoring the work of United Women in Faith, their Methodist foremothers, and ecumenical sisters, this book traces the evolution of mission education from camp meetings to Mission u. Through rich narratives and historical insights, readers peer through "keyholes" into past mission texts, uncovering vibrant and evolving understandings of Christian mission.

This text counts for Bonus Book credit if completed as part of a study group (either leader or participant). If read independently, Keyhole Missiology counts as a single credit.

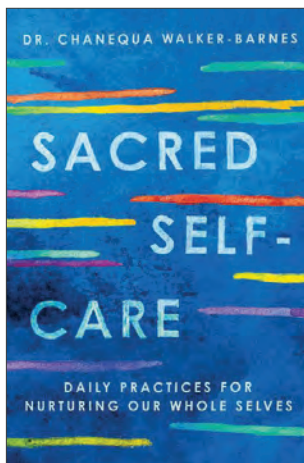


OUR UNFORMING: DE-WESTERNIZING SPIRITUAL FORMATION

CINDY S. LEE

FORTRESS PRESS (2022)

In *Our Unforming*, Taiwanese-American mystic and spiritual director Cindy S. Lee offers a more robust spirituality to hold the complexities of a multi-cultural God and the God-human relationship. Lee explores how Christian spiritual formation resources and teachings have primarily come from Western spiritual traditions, communicating that the white experience of God is the norm and authority. Instead, she proposes that the church needs a new way to engage in spiritual formation. To thrive in our increasingly diverse contexts, we need an unforming and reforming of our souls. As Lee argues, we need to unform the ways Western-dominated church leaders have understood formation, then reform—to imagine and create a more intricate spirituality that includes diverse experiences of God.



SACRED SELF-CARE: DAILY PRACTICES FOR NURTURING OUR WHOLE SELVES

DR. CHANEQUA WALKER-BARNES

HARPERONE (2023)

This seven-week guide aims to help readers shift behaviors and create life-long habits to care for the whole self—mind, body, and soul. After all, we are not just bodies but sacred beings, and our souls need just as much care and attention to be healthy. As a clinical psychologist, pastor, and activist, Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes has studied and worked with clients, clergy, seminary faculty, faith-based activists, and others to encourage them to think of self-care as both a divine right and a sacred obligation. Her guide offers activities, habits, disciplines, and practices that promote spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, and relational wholeness.

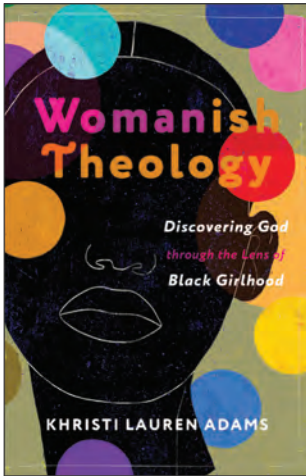


SURVIVING GOD: A NEW VISION OF GOD THROUGH THE EYES OF SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVORS

GRACE JI-SUN KIM & SUSAN M. SHAW

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2024)

Groundbreaking theologians Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Susan M. Shaw, each a survivor, demonstrate how traditional ways of thinking about God are highly problematic, contribute to the problems of sexual abuse, and are not reflective of the God of love and justice at the heart of the gospel. These long-held theologies often perpetuate the problem of sexual abuse and fail to promote healing for survivors. Drawing from their own experiences and the experiences of other survivors, and centering the ways gender intersects with race, sexuality, class, and religion, Kim and Shaw lead readers to deep healing and a transformed church that no longer contributes to the devastation of sexual abuse. **(V)(S)**



WOMANISH THEOLOGY: DISCOVERING GOD THROUGH THE LENS OF BLACK GIRLHOOD

KHRISTI LAUREN ADAMS

BRAZOS PRESS (2024)

In *Womanish Theology*, Khristi Lauren Adams reflects on her faith experiences over the years, inviting readers to learn from a new perspective and guiding them to a deeper understanding of their spirituality. This groundbreaking book introduces a new branch of theological thought Adams calls “womanish.” “Womanish,” remembers Adams, is a term Black mothers used for young girls as they grew more interested in doing grown-up things. Adams draws on her own life story as well as the life stories of other Black girls to explore theological concepts such as Scripture, theodicy, salvation, prayer, neighborly love, and the image of God.

Youth Books



MISSION U: GOD WITH US: EXPERIENCING GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

EMILY CARLE

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2026)

God With Us invites youth and their leaders to explore Scripture with curiosity and openness. Rather than viewing biblical figures as unreachable heroes, participants discover how God is present in both the extraordinary and the everyday. Each session offers fresh insights, challenges assumptions, and encourages honest reflection. Rooted in conversation and community, the curriculum emphasizes shared exploration over right answers. Youth are invited to listen for God's presence—in the stories of Scripture and in their own lives—fostering growth, connection, and meaningful dialogue in eight one-hour sessions that extend beyond the page and into daily experience.

The Mission u curricula count for Bonus Book credit if completed as part of a curricula group (either leader or participant). If read independently, the Mission u curricula count for a single credit.



RED, WHITE, AND WHOLE

RAJANI LAROCCA

QUILL TREE BOOKS (2023)

This Newbery Honor Book is a hopeful novel in verse about an Indian-American girl whose life is turned upside down when her mother is diagnosed with leukemia. Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian-American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, becomes determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the “perfect daughter” if it means saving Amma's life.



A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY: WORDS TO UNITE AND INSPIRE HOPE

BARRY BLACK

ZONDERKIDZ (2022)

Authored by U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black, this colorful children's book helps kids learn to thank God for America while also exploring the ways we can model God's love to support our country's citizens, heal hurts that divide us, and look to a stronger, united future. In this prayer for children based on wisdom from his almost two decades of daily praying over the U.S. Senate, Black offers needed and inspiring text to help the next generation grow stronger in faith and forward America's dream.



BROWN BABY JESUS

DORENA WILLIAMSON

WATERBROOK (2022)

This unique retelling of the Nativity story features Jesus as a darker-skinned baby in a story that's rich with Scripture and a multicultural weaving of love. In this beautiful picture book, Jesus' mother Mary spins wool into yarn and remembers the many people in Jesus' lineage. Like Moses, brown baby Jesus would be a deliverer. Like Rahab, brown baby Jesus would save his people from destruction. Like David, brown baby Jesus would rule as a great king. Like the colorful threads that make up a beautiful cloth, *Brown Baby Jesus* brings together the characters and stories leading to Jesus.



MISSION U: EXPERIENCING EMMANUEL

AMY BETH JONES

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2026)

Experiencing Emmanuel invites children to explore and name God's presence in their lives. Grounded in the belief that faith is a lifelong journey, the curriculum helps children discover how stories from Scripture shape identity and community. Guided by the Wesleyan quadrilateral—Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience—each of the eight one-hour sessions includes reflection journals, sacred story retellings, testimonies of faith, and shared hands-on activities. Through these experiences, children and mentors grow together in understanding, confidence, and spiritual awareness. This curriculum offers a thoughtful, engaging path for children to encounter God's grace in both familiar stories and everyday life.

The Mission u curricula count for Bonus Book credit if completed as part of a curricula group (either leader or participant). If read independently, the Mission u curricula count for a single credit.



PENNY PREACHES

AMY DIXON & ROB DIXON

IVP KIDS (2024)

Penny loves Sundays—especially the sermons. Captivated by the idea of speaking God's words, Penny becomes inspired to preach herself. But when preaching from the front porch to her friends doesn't turn out quite as she expected, Penny wonders if she was wrong to want to teach others about God. In this picture book, Penny receives a heartwarming reminder that God's gifts are for everyone, and she learns valuable lessons about sharing God's message—and what it means to use the gifts God has given her.

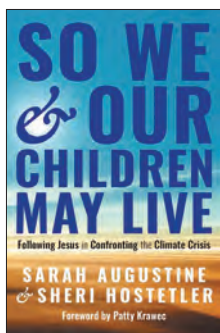
“The Reading Program was really one of the first things that captured my United Women in Faith imagination because back in the day when I was young my mother was a UMW Secretary of Program Resources and she would request my assistance in preparing for displays. I always loved to scan the books when I was “helping” and it made me think—How can an organization with this kind of reading list be anything but exciting and inviting! —Ellen Lipsey, Reading Program Committee Member and South Central Jurisdiction President



2026 Reading Program Bonus Book Discussion Guides

Each 2026 Bonus Book is eligible for double credit. We encourage you to read and discuss these books with others and to facilitate conversations that include both your United Women in Faith sisters and your broader community. To help foster those conversations, we are including discussion questions for *#SayHerName* and *From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry*, and a link to discussion questions for *So We & Our Children May Live* in the content that follows.

SO WE AND OUR CHILDREN MAY LIVE: FOLLOWING JESUS IN CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS SARAH AUGUSTINE & SHERI HOSTETLER



So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler connects to one of our core justice priorities: climate justice and justice energy for all.

For *So We and Our Children May Live*, we recommend using an existing study guide by Grant Showalter-Swanson offered directly through the publisher, Herald Press. This thorough discussion guide includes a chapter-by-chapter list of questions. You can access that study guide here: bit.ly/may-live-study-guide.



#SAYHERNAME: BLACK WOMEN'S STORIES OF POLICE VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC SILENCE

KIMBERLÉ CRENSHAW & THE AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICY FORUM



#SayHerName: Black Women's Stories of Police Violence and Public Silence connects to one of our core justice priorities: ending mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color.

Optional Preparation Activity: More Black women have been killed by police since this book was published in 2023. This includes Sonya Massey, who was killed in her own home and whose death briefly ignited national outrage. By the time you read this, the roll will likely be longer still. Some of the names may be familiar, but many are likely to have slipped by unnoticed, receiving minimal media attention. In preparation for this discussion, ask participants or group leaders to make a list of the names of any additional Black women killed by police since the time this book was published.

Discussion Questions

1. Throughout this book, we hear the stories of Black women who were killed at the hands of police, their stories told through the testimonies of their mothers and sisters—the women who knew them most intimately. Whose story struck you most? Why?
2. Fran Garrett, Michelle Cusseaux's mother, made the brave and striking decision to march her daughter's casket to Phoenix City Hall. Review the story (pages 6, 10, and 11) and picture (page 10) and discuss the meaning and impact of this decision.
3. Professor Crenshaw describes a stand-up/sit-down audience participation activity she uses to illustrate a broad social pattern (pages 11-13). Discuss what this activity and its outcome demonstrate. Do you think the same thing would happen at a United Women in Faith* meeting? Why or why not? If yes, what can we do as member-leaders of United Women in Faith to change this pattern?

*If you are not currently a member of United Women in Faith, substitute in the name of your church or community organization.

4. In what ways have Black women's experiences and needs been deprioritized in feminist movements? In antiracist movements? What role do organizations like the African American Policy Forum play in changing those harmful patterns? How does Crenshaw's intersectional work try to create more space for justice-seeking efforts that prioritize the needs of Black women and girls? Who benefits from demeaning or demonizing this intersectional work? Who benefits if intersectional organizing work is a success?
5. Did you know Fannie Lou Hamer was a victim of nonconsensual sterilization? Why does the author think this story is not more widely shared (pages 82-83)? How can we educate ourselves about silenced or stolen histories, especially as they relate to race- and gender-justice in the United States?



6. Gina Best's daughter, India Jasmine Kager, was murdered by a SWAT team while India's infant child was in the back of her car. Gina Best shares her story at the start of Chapter 3, "Disposable Lives." At the end of her story, she writes:

I envision that, when we say her name and we remember, we amplify our beautiful daughters and sisters and queens. I like to imagine India answering back. I like to imagine every last one of our babies, our loved ones, answering back. And I'll imagine a world where not only are we saying their names, but you all are doing it too, where we're not speaking against the silence. Tell someone. Speak their names. It emboldens us. It gives us strength and encouragement in those very lonely times, because there are no words to articulate the level of pain that we live with. It's off the spectrum. But we're here. We're here. We're gonna do something about this, sisters. It's starting with us. And we won't quit. (Page 100)

Read this passage together and reflect on its meaning. Where is the heartbreak in this passage? Where is the hope? What is the charge and call to action, for each of us?

7. The police officers who killed Breonna Taylor in her own home were doing so via a "no-knock" warrant—a judicial order that authorizes police to enter someone's home without warning and without identifying themselves" (page 103). No-knock warrants were also in use when Aiyana Stanley-Jones, Tarika Wilson, Kathryn Johnston, and Alberta Spruill were killed, each in her own home. Why are no-knock warrants so dangerous? Does your community still allow no-knock warrants?
8. The Attorney General of Kentucky announced his decision not to prosecute the police who killed Breonna Taylor on September 23, 2020. On September 23, 1955, an all-white jury acquitted the men who lynched Emmett Till, Mamie Till-Mobley's son. Why is this an important historical parallel? What are the similarities and differences? (See Chapter 3, "Disposable Lives," especially pages 107-111.) Crenshaw writes, "In the years following [Breonna Taylor's] death, the question is whether her death and the failure to hold anyone accountable for it will bring the same shift in public consciousness as Till's" (page 110). What do you think? Did Breonna Taylor's death shift public consciousness in the same way as Emmett Till's? Why or why not?
9. Rhanda Dormeus, mother of Korryn Gaines, reflects, "How will I ever be able to explain or show or teach my grandchildren how wonderful their mother was? Even with all the footage and pictures, they'll never be able to feel her embrace. Her hugs were different than my hugs, her kisses were different than my kisses" (pages 130-131). What are the intergenerational impacts of these women's tragic deaths? What is forever lost, to mothers and children, when a woman dies at the hands of police violence?
10. Several of the women whose stories are shared were killed by police sent in response to a mental health crisis call. How might these tragic stories have ended differently if there were differently trained first responders like social workers, nurses, EMTs, a crisis response team, or peer support mental health specialists?



ÄJ Chapter 4, “Building Community,” describes some of the #SayHerName gathering rituals in detail and expresses the belief that rituals are important to the work of #SayHerName. What do you think about this? How have you seen the practice of rituals—both inside and outside the church—to encourage social justice, remembrance, and healing? What additional rituals may be needed?

ÄJ In Chapter 6, “Art Activism,” the authors describe the use of different forms of art to remember and make social change in the #SayHerName movement. How does art connect with justice-seeking? If you’re an artist and/or an activist, how do you see the connections in your practice?

ÄJ In the epilogue, “Brokenhearted,” we learn about the negative impact these tragic losses have on the surviving mothers’ and sisters’ health and well-being. Did these impacts surprise you? Why or why not? What might we do, as individuals or as communities, to better support survivors? (Note: If you’re looking for practical ideas for how you can help the Mothers Network and/or the #SayHerName movement, check out this resource: aapf.org/shnadvocate.)

ÄJ Before her death, Vickie McAdory, auntie-momma of India Beatty, said this: “I refuse. I refuse as a woman, I refuse as a Black woman, I refuse as a human being, a citizen of this world, to shut up any longer. Especially when it comes to the senseless and vicious murders of our ba-bies” (pages 285–286). Discuss this quote. Why is this refusal an important spiritual practice? What do we learn from the Mothers Network’s refusal to be silent, the insistence that they will always #SayHerName? What silence(s) are we called to refuse?

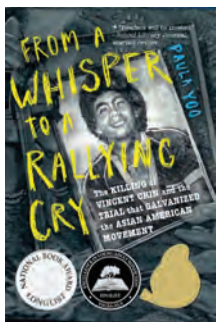
Optional Concluding Ritual: Consider closing your book discussion with a ritual of your own, a time for focused prayer and intentional remembrance. This ritual could be as simple as lighting a candle and reading aloud the names in the “In Memoriam” section, or as elaborate as you choose.

If you would like to host a book discussion on #SayHerName and need additional resources to get started, please contact Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice, at ejones@uwfaith.org.



FROM A WHISPER TO A RALLYING CRY: THE KILLING OF VINCENT CHIN AND THE TRIAL THAT GALVANIZED THE ASIAN AMERICAN MOVEMENT

PAULA YOO



This award-winning book examines the killing of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man beaten to death at the hands of two white men amid much anti-Asian American sentiment in their Detroit community. Chin's killers pled guilty to manslaughter and received only a \$3,000 fine and three years' probation. The lenient sentence sparked outrage. The protests that followed led to a federal civil rights trial—the first involving a crime against an Asian American person—and galvanized what came to be known as the Asian American movement.

From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement by Paula Yoo shares an important and often overlooked part of our racial justice history in the United States of America. It is a Norton Young Readers book, appropriate for both high school youth and adults. This is a very powerful text for intergenerational discussion, which, is a powerful tool in the work of understanding our history more fully and building a stronger future, together.

Please note: The book contains violence and graphic language, as it describes the horrific murder of Vincent Chin, the subsequent trial, and the aftermath of those historic events. This content is not gratuitous; it is necessary to explain the facts of what happened. As a matter of courtesy, you will want to make sure any participants know what to expect upfront. We also strongly encourage you to do your best to ensure that youth readers, especially, have adequate support to process the information they are learning and the feelings that it may bring up. Please check in with your participants, especially your youth participants.

Discussion Questions Appropriate for Intergenerational Conversation

1. Were you familiar with Vincent Chin's story before you read this book? If so, where did you first learn about his story? If not, why do you think you haven't heard it before now?
2. Review the timeline of events on pages 315–318. Identify when on the timeline you were born. Were you alive at the time of Vincent Chin's murder? If so, how old were you? (Note: This question may be specifically relevant for intergenerational groups.)
3. Why was Vincent Chin targeted? How did his murder connect to broader racial injustice targeting Asian Americans in the 1980s?
4. What do you think about the verdict(s) in the trials for the killing of Vincent Chin? Was this what you expected when you first began the book, or did you expect a different outcome?
5. The title, *From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry*, suggests a progression from silence to collective action. In what ways does Vincent Chin's story reflect this transformation, and how do you see this echoed in other justice movements?



6. Paula Yoo writes:

On the night of June 19, 1982, when Officer Morris Cotton was filling out his police report about the killing of Vincent Chin, the form contained only two boxes to mark the victim's race.

White.

Black.

Cotton had no choice but to check the "White" box.

In 1982 the topic of race in the United States centered on white and Black. Asian Americans and others were often not even considered part of the conversation. (Page 124)

Who is harmed when society thinks of race only in terms of "white" and "Black"? What role did American Citizens for Justice and Helen Zia play in changing the conversation about race in America? What work still needs to be done to ensure that Asian American perspectives are fully included in conversations about race?

7. Paula Yoo writes of Vincent Chin's mother, Lily Chin, "Lily's fury and willingness to speak bluntly about what happened to her son defied the racist stereotypes of Asian women as quiet and submissive" (page 146). How would you characterize Lily Chin's leadership? How did Lily Chin's leadership in the face of overwhelming loss touch or inspire you? What did you feel and think as you followed her story?
8. A powerful new Asian American Coalition came together to fight for justice for Vincent Chin with American Citizens for Justice. American Citizens for Justice, in turn, worked to educate others about Vincent Chin's murder and the broader context of racism targeting Asian Americans, successfully gaining the support of still more organizations, including African American, Arab American, Latinx, and Italian American groups, as well as various faith communities. Why was this work of coalition building so important? What do you think is easiest/hardest about building coalitions for justice, then and today?
9. Helen Zia was present at the Golden Star meeting on March 20, 1983, as a journalist documenting events. The gathered lawyers were not hopeful that change was possible. "The pen felt heavy in Zia's hands as she wrote the words, 'There's nothing we can do.'" Then, there are two turning point moments as two powerful leaders speak up: Lily Chin, and then Helen Zia. Find their words (page 82) and read them aloud. Ask yourselves: What do you think each of these women may have been thinking and feeling at this time? How did their words change the dynamic in the room—and, with it, the course of American history? Do you think each woman knew the impact her words would have at the time? What are you thinking and feeling as you hear their words today?
10. Have you ever had such a moment where you spoke up to say, like Helen Zia, "This is not okay," about racial injustice in your community? If so, what happened? Why is it important to talk about racism and racial justice, even when doing so is unpopular or difficult?



11. Jarod Lew's story is told in interstitial chapters throughout the book, offering a parallel personal journey. What struck you most from Jarod Lew's journey of discovering this history and its intimate connection points to his own life? Why do you think his family had kept this story from him? Does your family talk openly about experiences of racial violence or keep these histories unspoken? Do you like that, or do you wish it was different? Why?
12. Vincent Chin's story is full of powerful Asian American women leaders who stood up for justice, including Lily Chin, Helen Zia, and Liza Chan. What leadership lessons did you learn from each of these women? What unique gifts did each woman bring to the struggle for justice for Vincent Chin?
13. Paula Yoo writes:

When Vincent's mother Lily Chin said, "My son's soul will never rest," she was right.
But not for the reasons she thought. Today Vincent Chin lives on as a symbol against hatred and racism.

His soul is not yet ready to rest. (Page 302)

Do you think Vincent Chin's legacy lives on in contemporary antiracism work? If so, how?

14. Is the story of Vincent Chin's murder and other important events in Asian American history taught in your community's public schools? If not, why not? Are they uplifted from your church's pulpits, pews, Christian education settings, and Sunday schools? If not, why not?

Thank you to Donna Mosby for her contribution to this segment of the discussion guide.

REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

(Send completed form to your Secretary of Program Resources or equivalent according to your conference's schedules.)

NAME:		PLAN CHOSEN:	I	II	III	IV
CURRENT YEAR:						

MISSION EMPHASES	Education for Mission
	Leadership Development
	Nurturing for Community
	Social Action
	Spiritual Growth

I have completed the required reading for PLAN I. The books I have read are listed on this form.

LOCAL UNIT
DISTRICT
CONFERENCE
PRINT NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This certifies that

has completed plan _____ of
the Reading Program of United Women in Faith
and is hereby awarded this certificate by

Presented on the _____ day of _____, 20____



United
Women
in Faith

Program Resources Coordination/Management

President

Queridas lectoras de Mujeres Unidas en la Fe:

Como les sucede a muchos, en estos días mi atención se dirige hacia muchas direcciones diferentes. Las demandas comunes del trabajo y la familia están siempre presentes, mientras que los titulares de las noticias aparecen tan rápido que es difícil seguirles el ritmo. Las tendencias culturales de este tiempo nos invitan a pasar rápidamente de una historia a otra, a degustar la información y asimilar los diferentes extractos, tanto sociales como espirituales, dando un rápido clic sin profundizar demasiado. Ante tanto desorden mental causado por las propuestas de los medios sociales que atrapan nuestra atención, la elección de leer un libro (o muchos libros!) completa y cuidadosamente, como sugiere el Programa de Lectura, parece casi contracultural; y tal vez eso sea exactamente lo que necesitamos.

En mi opinión, uno de los grandes beneficios de la lectura es la invitación a pensar lenta y deliberadamente, a ocuparse de una idea a la vez, a sumergirse en el mundo del autor y a estar completamente presente. A veces me encuentro a mí misma asintiendo con entusiasmo, casi suspirando de alivio cuando alguien más expresa lo que siento que siempre he sabido, pero que nunca he podido expresar con palabras. A veces, me siento desafiada, perpleja, incluso irritada y confundida por las nuevas ideas que van en contra de mis suposiciones previas y crean fricción interna. Es más fácil aceptar la comodidad que la inquietud, pero ambas son útiles en el camino del crecimiento personal.

La historia del Programa de Lectura es larga y loable. Audrie E. Reber en *Women United for Mission: A History of the Women's Society of World Service of the Evangelical United Brethren Church* (Mujeres Unidas en Misión: Historia de la Sociedad de Mujeres de Servicio Mundial de la Iglesia Evangélica de los Hermanos Unidos), 1946-1968, describe en detalle “el Curso de Lectura” de la organización de mujeres de la EUB (por sus siglas en inglés), una de las iglesias que se unió para formar la actual Iglesia Metodista Unida. Ella escribe: “Las mujeres siempre fueron animadas a leer tanto para saber más acerca de las áreas de misión de las cuales la iglesia es responsable como para entender a las personas y preocuparse por ellas” (46). Las mujeres de entonces, al igual que las/los participantes del Programa de Lectura de hoy, no solo estaban involucradas en la lectura superficial. La lista del Curso de Lectura de 1947 incluía *Dachau Sermons* (Los sermones de Dachau) y *Beyond Prejudice: A Story of the Church and Japanese Americans* (Más allá del prejuicio: Una historia de la iglesia y de los japoneses-estadounidenses), entre muchos otros libros desafiantes e importantes. En 1968, los títulos incluían clásicos como *Disciplines of the Christian Life* (Disciplinas de la vida cristiana) de Georgia Harkness y también documentos innovadores como *Church Women United for Peace* (Mujeres de la Iglesia Unidas por la Paz) del Consejo Nacional de Iglesias. Por supuesto, ninguno de los títulos del Programa de Lectura 2026 sería conocido para el grupo de lectores de 1947 o 1968; el Programa de Lectura, de ese entonces y ahora, está comprometido con dar a conocer el trabajo contemporáneo, pero nuestro propósito y postura ciertamente les resultaría familiar.

El Programa de Lectura, heredero de una poderosa tradición, nos ofrece un regalo profundo para mediados de los 2020-2030. En una época en la que se nos anima cada vez más a aprender, e incluso a pensar en intervalos cortos dominados por la alta tecnología y la poca atención, las prácticas que promueve el Programa de Lectura ofrecen un antídoto bienvenido y necesario, una especie de consuelo espiritual. Leer es tanto aleccionador como esperanzador. Es reconocer que no lo sabemos todo y que todavía tenemos mucho que aprender unos de otros, a pesar de nuestras muchas diferencias. También es redescubrir de manera continua la increíble amplitud y profundidad del mundo que nos rodea y del mundo que hay en nuestro interior.

Lea con atención, profundidad y cuidado. Saboree el mensaje. Considere tomar notas o dar una caminata de oración para reflexionar sobre lo que lee. Como Jacob y el ángel, luche con el texto, no solo para estar de acuerdo o en desacuerdo, para saber si le “gusta” o no, sino con el propósito devoto de encontrar la bendición: la sabiduría que Dios quiere que reciba.

Si puede, organice reuniones locales para leer con otras personas. La comprensión que cosechamos de las perspectivas de los demás puede ser tan valiosa como las palabras en las páginas. Aprender juntos y escucharnos mutuamente puede ser un encuentro sagrado. No se necesita ser miembro de Mujeres Unidas en la Fe para participar en el Programa de Lectura; por lo tanto, considere presentar oportunidades para “Leer juntos” a quienes no son miembros y a quienes pueden llegar a serlo. Si reunirse en su iglesia resulta difícil, considere un lugar de reunión no convencional, como una biblioteca pública, un centro comunitario o una cafetería. Si desea desafiarse aún más y construir una experiencia intergeneracional, considere asociarse con un grupo de jóvenes, un campus de la universidad local, un centro para personas mayores o una comunidad de retiro. Muchas mujeres están hambrientas de hermandad y de un buen libro. Mujeres Unidas en la Fe puede ofrecer ambas cosas a través de su liderazgo local.

Gracias al increíble equipo de más de 175 evaluadores voluntarios y al maravilloso Comité del Programa de Lectura (presidido por Kelly G. Loeb), cuyo trabajo fiel hizo posible el Programa de Lectura 2026. Que sea una bendición para tu camino.

Paz,

Emily Jones



Emily Jones
Directora Ejecutiva de Justicia Racial
Mujeres Unidas en la Fe



Gracias a Maryann Verghese, Barbara Campbell y Sandy Wilder por proveer información valiosa acerca de la historia del Programa de Lectura.

PREGUNTAS FRECUENTES GENERALES



• ¿Dónde puedo encontrar los libros?

Puede acceder a los libros en su biblioteca pública local, en su librería comercial preferida o a través de un proveedor en línea. También puede comprar la mayoría de los libros de este Programa de Lectura en **bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith**. Mujeres Unidas en la Fe recibe el 10 por ciento de todas las compras realizadas en nuestras estanterías virtuales.



• ¿Cómo puedo recibir reconocimiento por participar en el Programa de Lectura de forma individual?

Complete los planes I, II, III o IV del Programa de Lectura. Complete el formulario de informe disponible en la sección de recursos al final de este catálogo. Envíe el formulario de informe al coordinador de Recurso del Programa de distrito o conferencia o a la persona designada. Póngase en contacto con el equipo de liderazgo de su distrito/conferencia para obtener los detalles relevantes, incluido el plazo de entrega. Todos los miembros y amigos de Mujeres Unidas en la Fe que completen un plan y envíen el formulario de manera oportuna son elegibles para recibir el Certificado Anual de Reconocimiento.



• ¿Cómo puedo utilizar los recursos del Programa de Lectura en un entorno grupal?

El Programa de Lectura proporciona un excelente contenido tanto para las reuniones regulares de las unidades como para las reuniones de nuevos miembros con acceso completo. Ya sea que su grupo se reúna de manera presencial o de manera virtual, leer juntas un libro puede proporcionar un poderoso terreno en común. Los libros del Programa de Lectura están especialmente seleccionados para ayudar a las mujeres a crecer espiritualmente, fortalecer sus habilidades de liderazgo y equiparlas para una acción social más efectiva, construcción de comunidad y servicio público. Leer y analizar un libro en común también puede facilitar el inicio de conversaciones significativas entre mujeres que todavía no se conocen bien. También puede ser una forma de conectar con nuevas mujeres e invitarlas a unirse a nuestra hermandad. Considere invitar a sus debates de libros del Programa de Lectura a mujeres que todavía no son miembros de Mujeres Unidas en la Fe. Explore la posibilidad de organizar grupos en lugares no tradicionales, como bibliotecas públicas, cafeterías o parques. Intente reunirse en horarios accesibles para mujeres en diversas situaciones de vida, incluidas aquellas que trabajan a tiempo completo durante el día o que están a cargo de grandes responsabilidades de cuidado. Puede desarrollar sus propias preguntas de discusión para cualquier libro del Programa de Lectura o comenzar con las preguntas de muestras para los Bonus Books de este año, disponibles en la sección de recursos al final de este catálogo.



• ¿Qué recursos sustentan el aprendizaje intergeneracional?

En cada categoría se incluyen selecciones de libros para adultos, jóvenes y niños. Le animamos a leer y a reflexionar junto con personas de otras generaciones. Los libros escritos para jóvenes y niños también pueden ser maravillosos recursos de aprendizaje para adultos. Además, la lista del 2026 incluye una colección de libros intergeneracionales de *Welcoming and Affirming: A Guide to Supporting and Working with LGBTQ+ Christian Youth* (Bienvenida y afirmación: Una guía para apoyar y trabajar con jóvenes cristianos LGBTQ+) para adultos y *Queerfully and Wonderfully Made: A Guide for LGBTQ+ Christian Teens* (Homosexual y maravillosamente hecho: Una guía para adolescentes cristianos LGBTQ+) para jóvenes.



• ¿Qué años del Programa de Lectura son elegibles para obtener crédito?

En el 2026, se pueden elegir los libros de las listas del Programa de Lectura del 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 y 2026 para la constancia de crédito del Programa de Lectura. Puede encontrar una lista combinada en Excel de todos estos libros en bit.ly/RPBookList. Los Programas de Lectura anuales también están disponibles en formato PDF para cada año, aptos para crédito en uwfaithresources.org.



• ¿Existen otras formas de recibir crédito por informes del Programa de Lectura?

Sí. También puede recibir una constancia de crédito del Programa de Lectura por:

- Escuchar las charlas del podcast *Faith Talks*: Un crédito en Crecimiento Espiritual por dos o más episodios
- Escuchar el podcast *Voices from the Field*: Un crédito en Educación para la Misión por dos o más episodios.
- Leer la revista **response**: Un crédito en Alimento para la Comunidad por la lectura de un año (seis números).
- Participar en un estudio de Misión u, o de Keyhole Missiology (Misión contextualizada):
 - Un crédito en Crecimiento Espiritual por leer un estudio de Misión u por cuenta propia.
 - Dos créditos en Crecimiento Espiritual por participar en un estudio de Misión u junto con otros, ya sea como líder o participante.
- También están disponibles varias películas y programas de televisión, basados en los libros actuales del Programa de Lectura, aptos para créditos. Para determinar la categoría del crédito, identifique la categoría del libro original y aplique el crédito para la película de la misma categoría.



• ¿Cómo se seleccionan los libros?

Un gran equipo de evaluadores voluntarios lee y evalúa las posibles selecciones de libros del Programa de Lectura durante todo el año. Cada libro considerado es evaluado de forma independiente por al menos tres personas. El Comité del Programa de Lectura utiliza estas evaluaciones como base para su recomendación, considerando el equilibrio general de la lista ofrecida en su conjunto. Luego, su recomendación es revisada y aprobada por el Comité de Gobernanza de la Junta Directiva.



- **¿Cómo puedo recomendar un libro?**

Si desea sugerir un libro para que sea recomendado en un futuro catálogo del Programa de Lectura, puede hacerlo usando el enlace “Suggest a book” (Recomiende un libro) disponible en uwfaith.org/read.



- **¿Puedo usar audiolibros?**

Si para usted es una forma más fácil y accesible de leer el material, siempre puede utilizar libros en audio.



- **¿Hay algún contenido incómodo en los libros del Programa de Lectura? ¿Cómo sé qué esperar?**

El Programa de Lectura está diseñado para ser inspirador y espiritualmente enriquecedor; al mismo tiempo, para tratar con honestidad las experiencias difíciles de nuestro mundo actual, incluida la violencia y otros contenidos potencialmente provocativos. Donde era posible, hemos agregado indicadores en las descripciones de los libros para señalar cualquier contenido potencialmente perturbador en relación con la violencia gráfica (**V**), contenido sexual explícito (**S**) y/o lenguaje grosero (**O**). Esto no pretende evitar que lea estos libros, sino prepararla para que sepa qué esperar, de modo que pueda hacer una elección consciente. Desafortunadamente, no podemos anticipar cuáles contenidos puedan resultar perturbadores para cada uno de nuestros lectores, ya que cada uno es único y traemos nuestro conjunto particular de experiencias. Si comienza a leer un libro y descubre que es demasiado para usted en algún momento determinado, entonces, por supuesto, le animamos a practicar el autocuidado y a dejar el libro de lado.



- **¿Cómo puedo informarme sobre los próximos eventos y mantenerme conectada con la comunidad?**

- Si le gustaría recibir invitaciones a eventos relacionados con el Programa de Lectura, oportunidades de voluntariado y más, por favor únase a nuestra lista de contactos en bit.ly/RPMailList.
- También la invitamos a unirse a nosotros en el grupo de debate de Reading Enthusiasts (Amantes de la lectura) en UW Faith Digital donde podrá hacer publicaciones, informarse sobre los próximos eventos y compartir con otros sobre sus libros favoritos.
 - Para las personas que son nuevas en Mujeres Unidas en la Fe Digital: bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts-MN.
 - Para las personas que ya son parte de Mujeres Unidas en la Fe Digital: bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts.



PROGRAMA DE LECTURA

PLANES



Para el 2026 los libros de las listas en Programa de Lectura de los años 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 y 2026 pueden ser elegidos para obtener créditos de informes del programa de lectura.

PLAN I

- 5 libros por año.
- 1 libro en cada categoría.
- Selecciones de la lista de lectura actual que no se hayan incluido en informes anteriores.

PLAN II

- 10 libros por año.
- 2 libros de cada categoría.
- Selecciones de la lista de lectura actual que no se hayan incluido en informes anteriores.

PLAN III

- 15 libros por año.
- 2 libros de cada categoría.
- Más 5 libros adicionales de cualquier categoría.
- Selecciones de la lista de lectura actual que no se hayan incluido en informes anteriores.

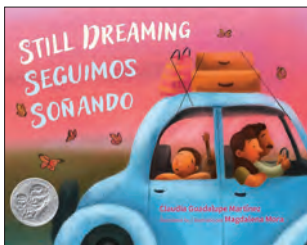
PLAN IV

- 20 libros por año.
- 2 libros de cada categoría.
- Más 10 libros adicionales de cualquier categoría.
- Selecciones de la lista de lectura actual que no se hayan incluido en informes anteriores.



Los libros se pueden comprar directamente del distribuidor de su elección, de bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith, o se pueden pedir prestados en su biblioteca pública local.

Para libros en listas anteriores vaya a: uwfaith.org/read.



SEGUIMOS SOÑANDO

STILL DREAMING

CLAUDIA GUADALUPE MARTINEZ

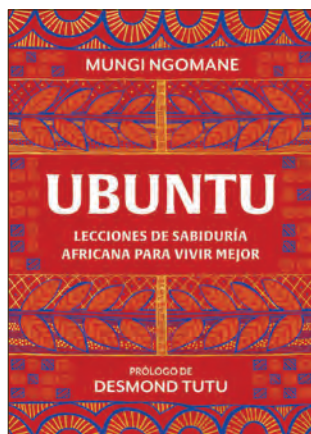
LEE & LOW BOOKS (2022)

Es el primer libro infantil que describe el capítulo olvidado de la historia de los Estados Unidos de América, conocido como la Repatriación Mexicana. Un niño y su familia dejan su amado hogar para evitar ser separados por el gobierno.

Ante la perspectiva de ser separados, un niño y su familia toman la difícil decisión de dejar su hogar y emprender un viaje lleno de incertidumbre. En el camino, se encuentran con otras personas como ellos: familias con raíces profundas atadas a la tierra, otros que ayudaron a construir los ferrocarriles, algunos eran dueños de tiendas y trabajadores de fábricas. Cada uno con esperanzas y sueños similares.

Los historiadores estiman que, entre 1930 y 1940, dos millones de personas que vivían en los Estados Unidos fueron sacadas a la fuerza y enviadas a vivir a México. Contando esta historia desde la perspectiva de un niño, la galardonada autora Claudia Guadalupe Martínez relata líricamente este período de la historia de los Estados Unidos a menudo pasado por alto: la Repatriación Mexicana. Las emotivas ilustraciones de Magdalena Mora transmiten esta conmovedora historia de añoranza por el hogar y la permanencia, que refleja muchos de los sueños y esperanzas de la gente de hoy.

Libro disponible en inglés y en español.



UBUNTU: LECCIONES DE SABIDURÍA AFRICANA PARA VIVIR MEJOR

EVERYDAY UBUNTU: LIVING BETTERTOGETHER, THE AFRICAN WAY

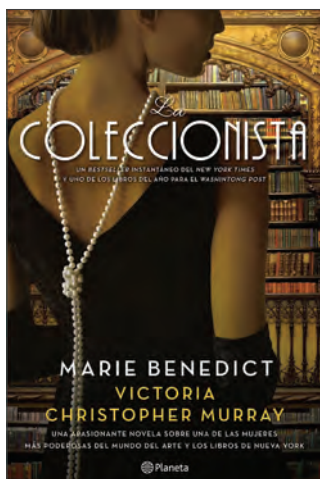
MUNGI NGOMANE

GRIJALBO (2020)

Ubuntu, palabra proveniente de la lengua xhosa, es la actitud sudafricana ante la vida. Se basa en la creencia de un vínculo humano universal y en la importancia del respeto y la atención hacia los demás, porque todos estamos conectados: «Existo porque tú existes».

Este libro inspirador y positivo contiene 14 lecciones y ejercicios sencillos para vivir mejor juntos y redescubrir valores como la bondad, el perdón, la tolerancia, el poder de la escucha y la esperanza. Con un tono cercano y acompañado de ilustraciones espectaculares, la autora comparte su sabiduría y nos ayuda a construir puentes en lugar de muros, a saber cuál es nuestro lugar en el mundo, a vivir una vida de conexión y a mejorar cada día nuestras relaciones con amigos, compañeros y familiares. Mungi Ngomane es nieta del Premio Nobel de la Paz, Desmond Tutu. Es una ferviente defensora de los derechos humanos y ha trabajado en la resolución de conflictos en el Medio Oriente y en la mejora de la situación de la mujer en varias ONGs.

Libro disponible en inglés y español.



LA COLECCIONISTA THE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN

MARIE BENEDICT Y VICTORIA CHRISTOPHER MURRAY
PLANETA (2023)

Gracias a su pasión por los libros y un gusto exquisito, Belle da Costa Green se ha vuelto, con tan solo veinte años, la bibliotecaria más joven de la prestigiosa universidad de Princeton. Sin embargo, un golpe de suerte mayor está por impulsar su carrera: el famoso millonario J. P. Morgan la elige para curar una colección de manuscritos raros, libros y obras de arte que compondrán el corazón de su biblioteca personal. Así, muy pronto, Belle se convierte en una de las mujeres más poderosas del Nueva York de inicios del siglo XX, conocida por su astucia en la negociación de obras críticas y la ambición implacable que mostraba con el objetivo de crear una colección privada de clase mundial. Pero Belle debe ocultar un secreto que, de ser descubierto, podría costarle todo por lo que ha luchado: no es descendiente de portugueses ni su verdadero apellido es "da Costa Green", como le ha hecho creer a todo el mundo, sino que es hija de Richard Greener, el primer afroamericano graduado de Harvard. La coleccionista cuenta la historia real de una mujer extraordinaria, famosa por su aguda inteligencia, estilo e ingenio, que se vio obligada a mentir para abrirse paso en un mundo que la relegaba por ser mujer y la condenaba por su origen.

Libro disponible en inglés y en español.

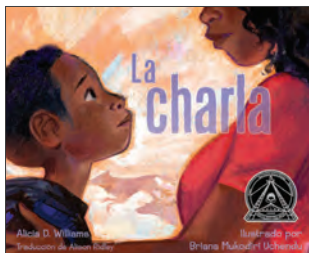


LAS MUJERES DE LA GUERRA THE WOMEN

KRISTIN HANNAH
SUMA (2024)

De la autora superventas de *El ruiseñor*, una historia de mujeres valientes decididas a arriesgar su vida por los demás en uno de los momentos más peligrosos de la historia. Inspiradas por el coraje. Ligadas por la amistad. Unidas por la esperanza. «Las mujeres pueden ser heroínas». Cuando Frankie McGrath, estudiante de enfermería de veinte años, oye por primera vez estas inesperadas palabras, siente una revelación. Criada en el idílico y soleado sur de California y protegida por sus conservadores padres, siempre se ha enorgullecido de hacer lo que se espera de ella, de ser una buena chica. Pero en 1966 el mundo está cambiando y, de repente, su vida parece abrirse a nuevas posibilidades. Cuando su hermano parte para combatir en Vietnam, ella se une de manera impulsiva al Cuerpo de Enfermeras del Ejército para seguirle. Allí, Frankie se siente tan inmadura e inexperta como los jóvenes enviados para luchar y se ve abrumada por el caos y la destrucción de la guerra. Además, un trauma inesperado la golpea al volver a casa, al encontrar un país cambiado y dividido, un país que quiere olvidar. Frankie descubrirá el verdadero valor de la amistad y el dolor que puede causar un corazón roto.

Libro disponible en papel (inglés) y digital (inglés, coreano y español).



LA CHARLA

THE TALK

ALICIA D. WILLIAMS

ATHENEUM/CAITLYN DLOUHY BOOKS (2025)

A medida que un pequeño niño crece y se convierte en uno más grande, listo para conquistar el mundo, llega el momento de tener una conversación difícil y demasiado familiar para tantos estadounidenses negros: cómo vivir en un mundo donde el racismo está siempre al acecho, listo para conquistarte a ti...

Jay, el protagonista, disfruta de todo lo que más le gusta: pasar tiempo con sus amigos, recibir los cariños de su abuela, pasear en el espectacular automóvil de su padre y medir su crecimiento con marcas de lápiz en la pared. Pero así como esas marcas van subiendo de a poco, también crece la preocupación de los adultos a su alrededor. El abuelo le advierte que no debe andar en grupos demasiado grandes con sus amigos; la abuela teme que ya no lo vean tan "lindo" ahora que es más grande; y su papá, con un peso en el alma, siente que ha llegado el momento de explicarle qué hacer si alguna vez lo detiene la policía.

Sin embargo, Jay sólo quiere seguir siendo un niño.

Todos los niños de color, en algún momento reciben La charla; esa que podría marcar la diferencia entre la vida y la muerte en un mundo atravesado por el racismo. Contado con ternura y sensibilidad, y con un tono apropiado para la edad, este libro ofrece una excelente oportunidad para que madres, padres y cuidadores inicien sus propias conversaciones con los más pequeños. Con ilustraciones directas y una narrativa empática, *La charla* es una herramienta esencial no solo para las familias de color, sino también para todas las familias que deseen criar niños conscientes, empáticos y preparados para el mundo que los rodea.

Porque no se puede cambiar lo que no se conoce. Todo cambio empieza con una conversación.

Libro disponible en papel (inglés) y digital (inglés, coreano y español).



MISIÓN U: UN CONOCIMIENTO PROFUNDO: EXPERIMENTANDO A EMANUEL EN CADA PARTE DE NUESTRA VIDA

MISSION U: A DEEP KNOWING: EXPERIENCING EMMANUEL THROUGH EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES

LINDA FURTADO

MUJERES UNIDAS EN LA FE (2026)

Aunque Emanuel aparece en la Biblia solo cuatro veces, su presencia hace eco en incontables historias de fe, justicia y perseverancia. Un conocimiento profundo anima a las lectoras a explorar dónde y cómo vemos la presencia de Dios: en las narrativas bíblicas y en nuestras experiencias comunales y personales. Cada una de las ocho sesiones ofrece panoramas contextuales y culturales, invitando a diversas voces y perspectivas. Diseñado para la reflexión grupal y el crecimiento espiritual, este currículo promueve la conexión, desafía las suposiciones y nos ayuda a descubrir las muchas formas en que experimentamos a Emanuel: pasadas, presentes y futuras.

Libro disponible en inglés, coreano y español. El currículo de Misión u cuenta como crédito para el Libro Bono si se completa como parte de un currículo de grupo (sea como líder o como participante). En caso de que se lean de manera independiente, los estudios de Misión u cuentan para un solo crédito.



ALGO, ALGÚN DÍA SOMETHING, SOMEDAY

AMANDA GORMAN, ILUSTRADO POR CHRISTIAN ROBINSON
VIKING BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2023)

*Te dicen que esto
no va a funcionar.
¿Pero cómo lo sabrás
si nunca lo intentas?*

Amanda Gorman, poeta inaugural presidencial y autora n.º 1 en superventas del *New York Times*, y Christian Robinson, ganador de la mención de honor *Caldecott* y del premio *Coretta Scott King*, han creado un mensaje de esperanza eterna. A veces, el mundo parece estar roto. Los problemas parecen demasiado grandes para solucionarlos. Pero, de alguna forma, tenemos el poder de cambiar las cosas. Con un poco de fe y con la ayuda de un amigo, juntos podemos encontrar la belleza y crear un cambio. Un texto íntimo e inspirador, con ilustraciones tan poderosas como atractivas, *Algo, algún día* nos enseña que hasta los gestos más pequeños pueden tener un gran impacto.

Libro disponible en papel (inglés) y digital (inglés, coreano y español).



CON LA CABEZA EN ALTO: CÓMO UNA COMUNIDAD AMAZÓNICA PROTEGIÓ LA SELVA STAND AS TALL AS THE TREES: HOW AN AMAZONIAN COMMUNITY PROTECTED THE RAIN FOREST

PATRICIA GUALINGA Y LAURA RESAU
CHARLESBRIDGE (2023)

Una inspiradora historia real sobre cómo una activista trabajó en la Amazonía con otras comunidades indígenas para proteger y preservar sus tierras y selvas sagradas. Patricia (Paty) Gualinga creció en su aldea kichwa, en la Amazonía ecuatoriana, donde seres míticos llamados Amazangas ayudan a proteger la selva. Debido a los estudios, Paty dejó su hogar hasta que se vio obligada a regresar. En la búsqueda de petróleo, compañías que afirmaban que el gobierno les había vendido propiedades estaban destruyendo las tierras del pueblo de Paty. La comunidad kichwa trabajó junto con otros grupos indígenas para llevar al gobierno ecuatoriano ante la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos.

Esta emotiva historia, de narrativa poética y bellas ilustraciones, recordará a los lectores la importancia de conservar la naturaleza, ser perseverantes y alzarse en defensa de uno mismo y de la comunidad.

Libro disponible en papel (inglés) y digital (inglés, coreano y español).



EL LIBRO DE LA ESPERANZA: UNA GUÍA DE SUPERVIVENCIA PARA TIEMPOS DIFÍCILES THE BOOK OF HOPE: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR TRYING TIMES

JANE GOODALL Y DOUGLAS ABRAMS CON GAIL HUDSON
OCÉANO (2021)

A la vez diario de viaje y diálogo profundo de exploración, *El libro de la esperanza* reúne la visión de dos autores que combinan historias personales emotivas, nuevos enfoques científicos y el recorrido de un camino espiritual para hallar la esperanza en sus vidas y en el mundo entero. Al combinar la sabiduría sobre la naturaleza y la comunicación con algunas de las personas más inspiradoras de la actualidad, Goodall y Abrams nos explican cómo la esperanza puede hallarse en el planeta que debemos cuidar, en el cerebro humano, en la espiritualidad y en las experiencias colectivas, y puede servirnos como una sólida estrategia de supervivencia y como el verdadero motor para sanar y mejorar el mundo.

Libro disponible en papel (inglés) y digital (inglés, coreano y español).



Libros para adultos



EL HOMBRE MÁS FELIZ DEL MUNDO THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH

EDDIE JAKU
PLANETA (2021)

Eddie Jaku se consideraba alemán antes que judío. Siempre sintió un gran orgullo por su país, hasta que en 1938 fue arrestado por los nazis y trasladado a uno de sus campos de concentración. Aunque su formación como ingeniero le concedió ciertos privilegios, primero en Buchenwald y después en Auschwitz, Eddie sufrió horrores indecibles. Perdió a su familia, a sus amigos, a su país. Durante todos esos años, lo que le mantuvo con vida fue su amigo Kurt y la bondad de la gente. Como superviviente del Holocausto y para honrar a todos aquellos que no pudieron hacerlo, Eddie se comprometió a sonreír todos los días y a vivir el resto de su vida con gratitud. A sus 100 años de edad, Eddie asegura que se siente el hombre más feliz del mundo. En estas memorias conmovedoras nos cuenta la historia de su supervivencia y de cómo, gracias a su optimismo, logró superar los mayores horrores y transformar el dolor en esperanza. Un relato exquisito y conmovedor de una vida extraordinaria.

Libro disponible en papel (inglés) y digital (inglés, coreano y español).

Libros para niños



LA CASITA DE ESPERANZA THE LITTLE HOUSE OF HOPE

TERRY CATASÚS JENNINGS, ILUSTRADO POR RAÚL COLÓN
NEAL PORTER BOOKS (2022)

Cuando Esperanza y su familia llegan a Estados Unidos de América desde Cuba, compran una casita. Puede que sea pequeña, pero pronto demuestran que hay espacio suficiente para compartir con toda una comunidad.

Era una casita...
Era pequeña.
Olía a calcetines viejos y mojados...
Pero aunque estaban lejos de casa,
la familia estaba unida.

Mientras Esperanza y su familia se instalan en su nueva casa, todos contribuyen a que sea un hogar, trabajando en varios empleos y haciendo tareas domésticas para ayudar. Cuando Conchita, la hermana de Mami, viene a quedarse con ellos, ayuda a otras familias cuidando a sus hijos durante el día. Juntos convierten la casa en un lugar donde otros inmigrantes pueden ayudarse mutuamente y sentirse aceptados. Esperanza siempre es la primera en darles la bienvenida, asegurándose de que la casita ofrezca un hogar a quienes no tienen dónde ir. Es un lugar seguro en una tierra nueva.

Libro disponible en papel (inglés) y digital (inglés, coreano y español).

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독서 프로그램의 독자 여러분께,

요즘 많은 사람들이 그러하듯이 제 시선도 다양한 관심사에 잇닿아 있습니다. 뉴스 헤드라인은 따라잡기 어려울 정도로 빠르게 변화하고 있으며, 일 그리고 가족과의 규칙적인 일상도 여전히 계속되고 있습니다. 현 시대의 문화적 흐름은 우리로 하여금 이 이야기에서 저 이야기로 빠르게 쫓아다니게 합니다. 우리는 사회적이고 영적 정보에 대해 선별된 기사나 자극적으로 선정된 주장을 탐색하는 일에 분주하여 깊은 생각을 못하고 있습니다. 많은 네온 불 빛들처럼 우리의 시선을 잡는 정신적 분주함 속에서, 독서 프로그램의 제안에 따라 꼼꼼하고 주의 깊게 책(또는 여러 권의 책들)을 읽으려는 선택은 요즘의 문화에 완전히 거스르려는 일처럼 보입니다. 이 일이야말로 바로 우리에게 꼭 필요한 일입니다.

제가 볼 때 독서가 주는 최고의 선물은 천천히 그리고 꼼꼼하게 생각하고, 한 번에 한 가지 생각에만 몰두하고, 저자의 세계 속에 내가 푹 빠져 완전하게 존재감을 가질 수 있게 한다는 점입니다. 내가 알고 있었지만 말로 풀어낼 수 없었던 것 같은 것을 다른 누군가가 군더더기 없이 글로 표현해 주었다는 사실에 이따금씩 안도의 숨을 내쉬면서, 내적 동의의 표시로 열렬히 고개를 끄덕이는 나를 발견하곤 합니다. 때로는 내가 이미 알고 있던 이해를 자극하는 새로운 아이디어에 의해 도전을 받기도 하고, 당혹스럽다 못해 초초하게 되기도 하며, 혼란을 느끼는 나를 발견하기도 합니다. 동요되기 보다 안정을 받아들이는 것이 훨씬 쉽지만, 이 두 가지는 개인의 성장 과정에 유익합니다.

독서 프로그램의 역사는 오래되었고 자랑할 만합니다. 오드리 레버(Audrie E. Reber)는 「선교를 위하여 하나된 여성들: 복음주의 연합 형제 교회의 세계 봉사를 위한 여성회, 1946-1968」라는 책에서 오늘날의 연합감리교회(UMC)와 연합했던 교단이었던 복음주의 연합 형제 교회(EUB)의 여성조직의 “독서 과정(The Reading Course)”에 대하여 자세히 소개합니다. 그녀는 “여성들은 교회가 책임을 지고 있는 선교지역에 대한 이해를 더 많이 하고, 그들이 선교지역 사람들에게 대한 이해와 돌봄을 더 잘 하기 위하여 항상 독서가 격려되었다.”(46쪽)고 기록하고 있습니다. 오늘날의 독서 프로그램에 참여하는 여성들과 마찬가지로, 그 당시 여성들도 수박 겉핥기식의 독서를 하지 않았습니다. 1947년 독서 과정 목록 중 매우 도전적이고 중요한 책들로는 「다카우 수용소에서의 설교(Dachau Sermons)」, 「편견을 넘어(Beyond Prejudice)」, 그리고 「교회와 일본계 미국인들의 이야기」가 포함되어 있습니다. 1968년 독서목록으로는 클래식인 조지아 하크니스(Georgia Harkness)의 「기독교 삶의 훈련」과 당시로서는 최신 문서였던 미국교회협의회(NCC)의 평화를 위한 교회 여성 연합(Church Women United for Peace)이 포함되어 있습니다. 물론, 2026년 독서 프로그램의 책 제목들은 1947년이나 1968년의 독자들에게는 낯설게 보일 수 있습니다. 그 때나 지금이나 독서 프로그램은 시대에 따른 사역들을 향상시키기 위해 애쓰고 있기 때문에, 우리의 목적이나 자세는 여전히 변함 없이 느껴질 것입니다.

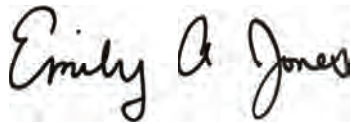
강력한 전통의 상속자인 독서 프로그램은 2020년대 중반을 살아가는 우리에게 뜻 깊은 선물을 안겨줍니다. 고도의 기술로 집중력이 위협을 받고 있는 시대, 달리 말하면, 배우는 일과 생각하는 일조차도 격려를 받는 시대 속에서 독서 프로그램의 실천은 환영할 만한 필수 해독제이자 영적 위로를 제공합니다. 독서는 겸손하게 되고 희망에 차오르게도 합니다. 우리는 아직 모든 것을 알지 못하지만, 서로의 다름을 통해 서로서로 더 많은 것을 배울 것이라는 점을 인정합니다. 또한 독서는 우리를 둘러싼 세계와 우리 안에 있는 세계에 대하여 믿을 수 없을 정도로 광대함과 깊이가 있다는 것을 계속해서 재발견하게 합니다.

책을 깊이 있고, 주의 깊게, 그리고 집중하면서 읽으십시오. 메시지를 맛보십시오. 여러분이 읽은 것에 대한 성찰을 저널로 쓰거나 기도의 산책을 해 보십시오. 야곱이 천사와 씨름했던 것처럼 책의 내용과 씨름해 보십시오. 이것은 동의인가 반대인가 또는 좋아하는가 싫어하는가에 대한 씨름이 아닙니다. 하나님께서 당신에게 주시기를 원하는 지혜 즉 축복을 기도하는 마음으로 발견하려는 목적으로 책과 씨름해 보십시오.

할 수 있다면 다른 사람들과 독서를 위한 지역 모임을 만들어 보십시오. 우리가 서로의 시선들을 통해 수확할 수 있는 통찰력들은 책에 있는 글만큼 귀합니다. 함께 배우고 서로를 경청하는 일은 거룩한 만남이 될 수 있습니다. 연합감리교회 여선교회 회원이 아니어도 독서 프로그램에 참여할 수 있습니다. 그러므로 연합감리교회 여선교회 회원이 아닌 여성들이나 앞으로 회원이 될 수 있는 여성들에게도 “함께 읽기”의 기회를 개방하는 것을 생각해 보십시오. 교회에서 모임이 여의치 않다면, 공공 도서관, 커뮤니티 센터, 또는 커피숍과 같이 기존에 모임을 갖지 않았던 장소들도 고려해 보십시오. 한걸음 더 나아가 여러분이 모든 세대들과 경험을 쌓고 싶다면 청소년 그룹, 대학 캠퍼스, 시니어 센터, 혹은 은퇴자 모임과 협력하는 것을 생각해 보십시오. 많은 여성들은 자매됨과 좋은 책에 대하여 간절히 원하고 있습니다. 연합감리교회 여선교회는 여러분의 지역교회 임원회를 통해 이 두 가지를 도울 수 있습니다.

2026년 독서 프로그램을 실행할 수 있도록 섬겨 준 175명 이상의 멋진 자원 평가자 팀과 켈리 로오프(Kelly G. Loeb) 위원장과 독서 프로그램 위원회의 놀라운 사역에 깊이 감사드립니다. 여러분의 독서 프로그램의 여정에 축복이 있기를 기원합니다.

주님의 평화가 함께 하시길,
에밀리



에밀리 존스
연합감리교회 여선교회
인종정의 위원회 위원장



독서 프로그램 역사에 대한 소중한 자료를 제공해 준 매리앤 버르기스, 바바라 캠벨, 그리고 샌디 와일더에게 감사드립니다.

질문과 대답을 통해 알아보는 독서 프로그램



● 책은 어디서 구할 수 있나요?

독서 프로그램의 책들은 공공 도서관이나, 동네 서점 또는 온라인 상점을 통해 구할 수 있습니다. 여러분은 올 해 독서 프로그램의 책을 여선교회 홈페이지 온라인 서점 bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith에서도 구매할 수 있습니다. 여선교회는 이렇게 구매하는 모든 도서 판매 수익금의 10%를 선교기금으로 사용합니다.



● 개인으로 독서 프로그램에 참여하면 수료증은 어떻게 받을 수 있나요?

독서 프로그램 계획 I, II, III, 또는 IV를 마치십시오. 이 도서목록 끝에 있는 독서 프로그램 보고서를 작성해 주십시오. 독서 프로그램 보고서를 작성한 후에 지방회나 연회 독서 프로그램 담당자에게 제출해 주십시오. 독서 보고 마감일을 포함한 자세한 문의 사항에 대하여 지방회나 연회 임원회에 연락하십시오. 독서 계획서를 작성하고 정해진 마감 기한에 독서 보고서를 제출한 모든 여선교회 회원들과 친구들은 독서 프로그램 수료증을 받을 수 있습니다.



● 어떻게 그룹으로 독서 프로그램을 진행할 수 있나요?

독서 프로그램은 여선교회 정규 모임이나 신입 회원을 위한 모임에 최고의 내용을 제공합니다. 직접 만나거나 온라인으로 함께 하는 책 읽기는 강력한 공통분모를 형성할 수 있게 합니다. 독서 프로그램의 책들은 여성 회원들이 영적으로 성장하고, 리더십 역량을 강화하고, 좀 더 효과적인 사회적 행동, 지역공동체 형성과 공공 서비스를 위한 능력을 갖추도록 특별히 선별되었습니다. 한 권의 책을 함께 읽고 토론하는 일은 서로 낯설어 하는 여선교회 회원들에게 의미 있는 대화를 쉽게 시작하게 합니다. 이 일은 신입 회원과 만나서 자매됨을 형성하기 위한 초대가 될 수도 있습니다. 아직 연합감리교회 여선교회 회원이 아닌 여성들과 독서 프로그램 토론의 개최를 고려해 보십시오. 교회가 아닌 공공 도서관이나 커피숍 또는 공원에서 모임을 갖는 독서 프로그램 모임을 찾아보세요. 하루 종일 풀타임으로 일하거나 힘든 돌봄의 책임을 지고 있는 여성들을 비롯해 다양한 삶의 상황에 처해 있는 여선교회 회원들과의 모임의 가능성을 시도해 보십시오. 여러분은 독서 프로그램의 책에 대한 자신의 토론 질문들을 만들 수도 있고, 도서 목록 끝에 있는 자료에서 사용 수 있는 올 해의 보너스 책들에 대한 토론 질문들의 예들로 시작할 수도 있습니다.



● 어떤 자료들이 모든 세대를 위한 배움을 지원하나요?

모든 주제 영역에는 성인, 청소년 그리고 어린이를 위한 도서가 선별되어 있습니다. 우리는 여러분이 모든 세대와 더불어 책을 읽고 함께 생각하기를 권합니다. 청소년과 어린이를 위한 도서는 성인에게도 훌륭한 배움을 제공하는 자료가 될 수 있습니다. 또한 2026년 도서 목록에는 모든 세대를 위한 도서 목록에 성인을 위한 도서, 「환영하고 인정하기: LGBTQ로서 그리스도를 믿는 청소년을 지지하고 함께 사역하기 위한 안내서」와 청소년을 위한 「퀴어지만 훌륭하게 지음 받은: LGBTQ로서 그리스도를 믿는 청소년을 위한 안내서」가 포함되어 있습니다.



- **독서 프로그램의 보고서에 대한 인정을 받는 연도는 어떤 해인가요?** 2026년에는 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 그리고 2026년 독서 프로그램 목록에 있는 책들에 대한 독서 보고서가 인정을 받을 수 있습니다. 여러분은 bit.ly/RPBookList에서 엑셀파일로 통합된 도서 목록을 구할 수 있습니다. 매해 독서 프로그램은 PDF 형태로 된 자료를 Uwfaithresources.org에서 이용할 수도 있습니다.



● 독서 프로그램 보고서가 인정을 받을 수 있는 다른 방법이 있나요?

네, 있습니다. 여러분은 독서 프로그램 인정을 다음과 같은 방법으로도 받을 수 있습니다.

- **페이스 토크(Faith Talks)** 팟캐스트 듣기: 영적 성장을 위한 두 개의 에피소드를 청취하면 1점(credit)
- **필드(Field)** 팟캐스트의 목소리들(Voices) 듣기: 선교 교육에 관한 두 개의 에피소드를 청취하면 1점
- **리스판스(response)** 잡지 읽기: 일 년 동안 공동체를 돌보기에 대한 6개 이슈를 읽으면 1점
- 선교학교 또는 핵심주제 선교학(Keyhole Missiology) 연구의 일원이 되기
 - 스스로 선교 학교 배움을 위한 영적 독서를 하면 1점
 - 지도자 혹은 참여자로서 선교 학교 배움을 위한 영적 독서를 함께 하면 2점
- 현재 독서 프로그램 책들에 기초한 영화나 텔레비전 프로그램들도 인정 점수를 받을 수 있습니다. 점수를 받기 위한 영역을 결정할 때, 인정을 받고자 하는 원래 책의 영역을 확인하고, 그 영역에 속한 영화일 경우에 인정 점수를 신청하십시오.



● 책들은 어떻게 선별되었나요?

한 해 동안 수많은 자원 봉사자들이 독서 프로그램을 위해 잠정적으로 선정된 도서를 읽고 평가하였습니다. 평가를 위해 검토 중인 각각의 책은 적어도 세 명에 의해 개별적으로 평가를 받았습니다. 독서 프로그램 위원회는 이 평가들을 기초로 활용하고, 전체 도서 목록과의 균형을 고려하여 추천 도서를 정하였습니다. 이렇게 선정된 도서들은 이사회 운영 위원회에 의해 평가와 승인을 받았습니다.



● 책 추천은 어떻게 할 수 있나요?

만일 여러분이 독서 프로그램 목록에 추천하고 싶은 책이 있다면, uwfaith.org/read 사이트에서 “추천 도서(Suggest a book)” 링크를 사용하여 추천할 수 있습니다.



● 오디오 북은 어떻게 사용할 수 있나요?

여러분이 오디오북을 사용하는 것이 독서를 하기에 좀 더 편하고 접근하기 쉽다면 얼마든지 그렇게 해도 됩니다.



● 독서 프로그램 책들 중에 문제가 있나요? 어떤 내용인지 어떻게 알 수 있나요?

독서 프로그램은 폭력과 잠재적으로 자극적인 내용을 포함하여 오늘 우리 사회의 어려운 경험들과 있는 그대로 씨름하고 고양시킴으로써 영적으로 자양분이 되도록 계획되었습니다. 표시가 가능한 곳에는, 책 내용에 대한 잠재적인 혼동 가능성에 대한 구별 표시를 위한 꼬리표(flag)를 붙였습니다. 예를 들어, 시각적 폭력은 **(V)**, 노골적인 성적 내용은 **(S)**, 그리고/또는 저속한 언어가 있는 경우는 **(L)**로 표기했습니다. 이것은 여러분이 이러한 책들을 읽지 못하게 하려는 것이 아니라, 여러분에게 폭력과 자극에 대한 예상을 준비하게 함으로서 정확한 정보를 알고 선택할 수 있도록 도우려는 것입니다. 아쉽게도 우리는 자신만의 개성과 고유한 경험을 가지고 있는 각각의 독자에게 불쾌감을 줄 수 있는 내용 전부를 예측할 수 없습니다. 여러분이 책을 읽기 시작했는데 정해진 기간 동안 너무나 양이 많다는 것을 알게 되었다면, 여러분은 스스로를 돌보기 위해 잠시 책 읽기를 미루어도 괜찮다는 것을 알려드립니다.



● 나는 어떻게 다가오는 행사들을 알고 공동체와 계속 소통을 할 수 있나요?

- 여러분이 독서 프로그램과 관련된 행사에 초대나 자원 봉사의 기회 등에 관한 연락을 받고 싶다면, bit.ly/RPMailList를 방문하여 메일링 목록에 가입하십시오.
- 여러분이 독서한 내용을 게시물로 올리고, 다가오는 행사를 알 수 있으며 여러분이 좋아하는 책에 대하여 다른 사람들과 의견을 나눌 수 있는 여선교회 디지털(UWFaith Digital)의 독서 애호가(Reading Enthusiasts) 토론 모임에 참여하십시오.
 - 여선교회 디지털의 신입 회원 가입 사이트는 bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts-MN 입니다.
 - 기존 여선교회 회원을 위한 가입 사이트는 bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts 입니다.

독서 프로그램

계획들



2026년 독서 프로그램 인증을 받을 수 있는 연도들: 2021-2022년, 2023년, 2024년, 2025년 그리고 2026년도의 도서 목록 중에서 여러분이 아직 읽지 않은 책인 경우, 독서 프로그램 보고서를 인증 받을 수 있습니다.

계획 I

- 일 년에 5권 읽기
- 5개 주제의 각 영역에서 한 권씩 읽기
- 이전의 독서 보고서를 제출하지 않은 책으로서 도서 목록에 있는 책들 읽기

계획 II

- 일 년에 10권 읽기
- 5개 주제의 각 영역에서 두 권씩 읽기
- 이전의 독서 보고서를 제출하지 않은 책으로서 도서 목록에 있는 책들 읽기

계획 III

- 일 년에 15권 읽기
- 5개 주제의 각 영역에서 두 권씩 읽기
- 각 주제 영역에 관한 책들 중 5권을 추가로 읽기
- 이전의 독서 보고서를 제출하지 않은 책으로서 도서 목록에 있는 책들 읽기

계획 IV

- 일 년에 20권 읽기
- 5개 주제 영역에서 두 권씩 읽기
- 각 주제 영역에 관한 책들 중 10권을 추가로 읽기
- 이전의 독서 보고서를 제출하지 않은 책으로서 도서 목록에 있는 책들 읽기



필요한 책은 여러분이 원하는 서점에서 직접 구매를 하거나, 연합감리교회 여선교회 사이트인 bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith에서 사거나, 거주하는 지역의 공공 도서관에서 빌릴 수도 있습니다.

이전의 독서 프로그램 목록을 보고 싶다면 다음의 웹 사이트를 방문하십시오. uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program



선교 교육



교회 속 그리스도인

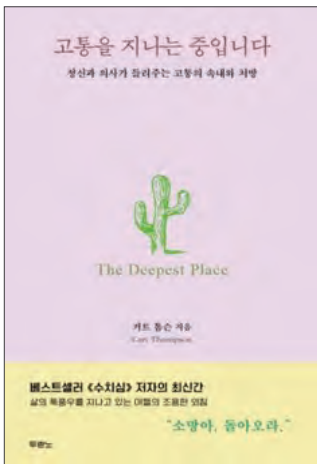
조정민 저자

두란노, 2024

저자 조정민 목사는 공공연하게 기독교에 대하여 비판을 하거나 적대적인 자들의 시선의 문제 보다, 교회 안에 속해 있으면서도 여전히 그리스도를 따르지 않는 사람들에 대한 문제의 심각성이 「교회 속 그리스도인」을 쓰게 된 동기라고 밝힌다. 그리스도인은 ‘날마다’ 자기를 부인하고 자기 십자가를 지고 그리스도를 따르는 자이다. 문제는 이렇게 살지 않으면서도 교회 안에 남아 있는 자들을 발견한 저자는 이들을 반(反)그리스도인이라고 부른다. 그는 교회 안에 있는 반그리스도인들의 특징을 다음과 같이 소개한다. 그러한 사람들은 이기적인 자, 믿음이 없이 낙심한 자, 음란에 빠진 자, 그리스도의 영광보다 자기 영광을 누리지 못해 섭섭해 하는 자, 감사 보다 불만을 쏟아내는 자, 이 세상의 소유에 집착하는 자, 주어진 시간과 환경 속에서 주를 위해 부지런히 살기 보다 게으른 자이다. 각 장의 마지막에 있는 ‘함께 읽고 나누기’는 독자들을 온전한 그리스도인으로 살아가는 지혜로 인도할 것이다.



지도력 개발



고통을 지나는 중입니다: 정신과 의사가 들려주는 고통의 속내와 처방

커트 톰슨 저자, 오현미 번역

두란노, 2024

그리스도인으로서 고통을 하나님의 시선으로 어떻게 이해할 수 있을까? 「고통을 지나는 중입니다」는 정신과 의사인 커트 톰슨이 인간 영혼의 가장 깊은 곳에 자리 잡고 있는 고통의 문제를 회피하기 보다 직면할 때 도달하게 될 정신적이고 영적인 유익에 대하여 소개한다. 저자는 “인간의 성장은 진보가 아니라 인간의 가장 깊은 곳에 자리잡고 있는 감정들이 더 편안해지고, 슬픔과 함께 하며, 역설적으로 그 곳에서 더 깊어지는 기쁨을 발견하는 것”으로 소개한다. 그는 심리학적으로 고통의 깊은 골짜기를 지나는 과정을 통해 하나님과의 애착 관계를 성서적 말씀을 기초로 풀어준다. 인간의 정신적 문제로서 고통이 아니라 하나님과의 애착의 과정으로서 고통은 비록 고통과 탄식의 어려운 여정이지만 궁극적으로 하나님의 산 소망에 이르게 하는 영적 성숙의 여정임을 말한다. 고통은 하나님을 붙잡을 수 있는 믿음으로 이끌며, 삶의 전쟁 속에서도 예수를 만남으로써 화평을 누리게 한다. 이 과정은 홀로 하는 것이 아니라 고통을 함께 품고 풀어나갈 공동체를 통해 주시는 은혜를 통해 하나님의 영광에 도달하도록 우리를 안내한다. 고통을 지나는 이 과정은 우리에게 인내를 통해 예수의 성품을 갖게 하고 아름다움에 가득 찬 하나님의 사람으로 성숙하게 한다. 커트 톰슨의 이 책을 다 읽고 나면 하나님의 마음을 닮은 영적 지혜자와의 동행에 감사를 말하게 된다. 이 책은 고통에 관한 관심을 가지고 있는 이들이 소그룹을 만들고, 로마서 5:1-5절을 모일 때 마다 함께 읽고, 각 장의 주제에 대한 나눔과 실천을 행한다면, 고통을 지나서 우리를 맞이하려고 기다리시는 산 소망의 하나님의 품에 안기는 기쁨을 맛볼 것이다.



공동체 양육



마음을 따르지 않을 용기: 이 시대를 집어삼킨 ‘나’라는 신에 맞서다

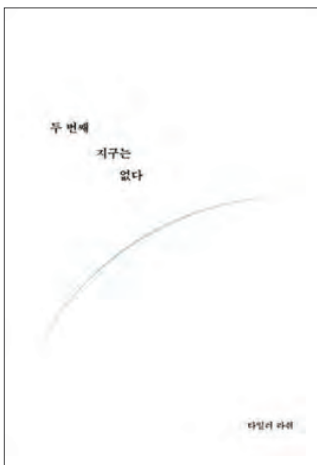
사디어스 윌리엄스 지음, 윤종석 번역

두란노, 2024

사디어스 윌리엄스는 오늘날 가장 급성장하는 전세계의 인기 종교의 자리에 “자기중심성”이 지위를 획득하고 있다고 말한다. 자아 숭배를 교리로 하는 이 종교는 이 시대를 집어삼킬 십계명을 전파하고 있다. 철저히 자기만을 사랑하고 숭배하는 일에 거침이 없게 만드는 이 종교는 삶의 목적이 자아를 영화롭게 하는 것이다. 날마다 발전을 거듭해가는 첨단 문화를 사용하여 자신의 감정에 충실히 살아가라는 가르침은 자아를 숭배하는 이들의 삶의 방식을 규정한다. 이들은 자아가 인생의 진리 기준이며 한 번 뿐인 인생이기에 타인을 고려하기 보다 주관적 자기표현을 진리의 진정성으로 삼으며 자기의 꿈을 추구하고자 한다. 자기중심성을 숭배하는 이들은 자신의 행보한 삶, 첨단 삶의 방식, 마음의 해방, 독창성, 관용, 모험, 내적 깨달음, 진정성 그리고 꿈의 실현과 같이 화려해 보이지만 이러한 삶은 혐오와 편견에 사로잡힌 사랑에 도달하게 할 뿐임을 저자는 경고한다. 윌리엄스는 이러한 자기중심성의 문제는 거대한 비사유(unthought)라고 본다. 그는 그리스도 안에 있는 진정한 삶의 목적이나 가치를 버리고 자아에 몰두하는 삶은 공허나 절망에 도달할 뿐임을 일깨운다. 그리스도를 사랑하면 할수록 더욱 자유로워지고 일상의 삶에서도 영원의 의미를 누릴 수 있는 구원과 자유의 삶은 각각의 장의 뒷부분에 10가지 자기중심성에 맞서는 기도문과 실천할 수 있는 깊이 있는 질문들을 통해 큰 도움을 받을 수 있다. 이 책은 자신의 마음, 감정, 만족을 추구하는 것에 맞서 예수 그리스도의 진리 안에 깨어 하나님께 영광을 돌리는 진리(Truth)와 자유를 누리는 시간을 선물 받을 것이다.



사회적 행동



두 번째 지구는 없다

타일러 라쉬 지음

알에치코리아, 2020

기후의 위기 문제는 더 이상 예언자들의 경고의 차원이 아니라, 우리의 일상 깊숙이 들어와 있다. 저자 타일러는 제작비가 더 들더라도 친환경적인 인쇄 방법과 인쇄 종으로 출판하려고 노력을 해왔다. 드디어 「두 번째 지구는 없다」가 우리 곁에 찾아왔다. 세계자연기금(WWF)의 홍보대사이기도 한 그가 이 책을 낸 이유는 ‘겨울 냄새’ 그리고 ‘계절의 냄새’를 모르고 잠들어 버린 슬픈 지구인에게 환경 위기를 모른 채, 자연을 경제적으로 허비하는 일에 취해 있는 인류를 일깨우고자 함이다. 타일러는 자연과 환경에 대하여 방송에서는 마음껏 들려줄 수 없던 그의 환경에 대한 이해와 실천을 촉구하기 위한 이야기를 이 책에서 소개한다. 그가 고향 버몬트의 밤길에서 만난 오로라를 통해 받았던 위로와 신비를 더 이상 경험하지 못한다는 것은 상상하고 싶지 않은 미래이다. 환경을 보존하고 지구를 지키는 선택은 비용이 매우 많이 드는 비경제적인 방법임에 틀림없다. 하지만 수많은 별빛이 눈으로 뒤덮인 땅을 비추고 나뭇가지가 은빛으로 빛나는 모습을 보면서 우리가 건강하게 숨을 쉴 수 있는 환경은 누구나 소망한다. 이 소망을 지키기 위해서는 기후 위기의 문제를 경제적인 비용의 잣대로만 볼 것인 아님을 우리의 호흡과 폐, 그리고 피부는 벌써 반응하고 있다. 이 책을 읽고 나면 지구의 환경 보존 특히 기후 위기 속에서 나는 무엇을 해야 할 것인가를 고민하는 자신을 발견하게 될 것이다.



고백의 언어들: 나의 인생 나의 하나님

김기석 지음

복있는 사람, 2024

‘하나님 안에서, 하나님과 함께, 하나님을 향하여’ 라는 김기석 목사님의 강연이 「고백의 언어들」로 출판되었다. 20대에 목회를 시작한 저자가 60대에 은퇴하기까지 하나님의 말씀과 씨름하면서 만난 그의 인생과 하나님에 대한 고백이 이 책에 담겨 있다. 신학은 위대하신 하나님에 대한 고백의 언어이기에 객관성이 제외된 모호함(ambiguity)을 특징으로 갖는다. 저자는 신학적 사유 방식의 모호함 앞에서 겸손하고 진지하게 하나님을 믿는 믿음으로 부지런히 씨름하면서 만난 하나님에 대한 그의 고백을 소개해 준다. 그는 성경은 ‘매끈한 언어’가 아니라 믿음의 사람들이 인식의 확장과 심화를 통해 해석해야 하는 ‘주름진 텍스트’라고 말한다. 그는 성경 말씀 속에 있는 무수한 이야기들을 자신의 고백의 언어로 풀어가면서 숨어 계신 것 같은 하나님을 만나고 그 하나님을 자신의 창조적 언어로 삶을 고백하도록 본을 보여준다. 이 책은 구약 성서에 나오는 가장 중요한 주제인 창조, 죄, 인간 그리고 하나님의 구원의 이야기의 주름진 텍스트 속에 숨겨져 있던 하나님의 마음과 섭리를 저자의 목소리를 들려준다. 신앙은 하나님 안에서 하나님과 함께 하나님을 향하여 가는 순례의 과정으로서 성경 말씀 속에 잠겨져 있던 하나님의 위대하심과 그 사랑의 빛장을 풀어가면서 하나님의 신비를 만나는 여정이다. 이 여정에서 김기석 목사의 신앙 고백의 언어는 모호성 뒤에 있는 하나님의 위대함에 손 내밀게 하는 마중물이 된다. 이 책을 읽는 나의 인생과 나의 하나님에 대한 고백을 질문함으로써 우리는 더 큰 신앙의 바다로 항해를 하게 될 것이다.



선교학교 교재: 깊이 알아가다: 우리 삶의 모든 부분에서 하나님이 함께 하시는 임마누엘 경험하기

린다 후르타도

연합감리교회 여선교회, 2026

“임마누엘”이란 단어는 성경에 네 번만 나옵니다. 하지만 하나님이 우리와 함께하신다는 뜻의 임마누엘은 믿음, 정의 그리고 인내의 셀 수 없는 이야기들 속에서 울림을 줍니다. 선교학교 교재인 『깊이 알아가다』라는 이 책은 독자들에게 성경 속의 이야기들과 개인과 공동의 경험들 속에서 우리와 함께하시는 하나님을 어디에서 그리고 어떻게 알 수 있는지 탐색하도록 격려합니다. 8번의 각각의 모임(session)은 다양한 목소리와 관점을 소개함으로써 문화와 상황에 관한 통찰력을 제공합니다. 그룹의 성찰과 영적 성장을 위하여 기획된 이 교육과정은 우리가 연관성을 형성하고, 가설들에 대해 도전하며, 임마누엘의 과거, 현재 그리고 미래를 경험할 수 있는 다양한 방법을 밝혀낼 수 있게 합니다.

영어, 한국어 그리고 스페인어로 된 교재가 준비되어 있습니다. 선교학교 교육과정은 교육과정 그룹의 지도자 혹은 구성원으로 참여하였다면, 보너스 북 1점(credit)을 인정받습니다. 개인적으로 이 책을 읽었다면, 선교학교 배움을 위한 영적 독서로 1점을 받습니다.

독서 프로그램 보고서

(이 보고서를 작성하여 프로그램 자료 담당자 혹은 연회의 담당자에게 보냅니다.)

이름	선택한 독서 계획			
	I	II	III	IV

현재 연도	
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정 의 년 간	선교 교육	
	지도력 개발	
	공동체 양육	
	사회적 행동	
	영적 성장	

나는 독서 계획 번의 필독 독서를 완료했습니다.
내가 읽은 책들을 보고합니다.

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연회
이름
주소
도시, 주, 우편번호

독서 프로그램 수료증

이 수료증은

님의

연합감리교회 여성교회 독서 프로그램 계획

을 마쳤기에

이 증서를 수여합니다.

20____년____월____일



연합감리교회
여성교회

프로그램 총무/담당자

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