

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.

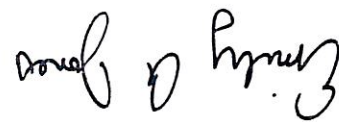
The Reading Program, an inheritor of a powerful tradition, offers us a deep gift for the mid-2020s. In a time where we are increasingly encouraged to learn—and even to think—in short, high-tech, low-attention bursts, the practices encouraged by the Reading Program offer a welcome, necessary, antidote, 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 Vergnese, 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.



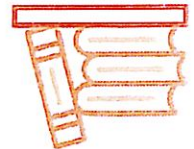
• How can I receive recognition for participating in the Reading Program as an individual?

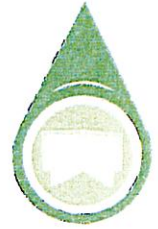
Complete Reading Program Plans I, II, III, or IV. Fill out the reporting form available in the resources section at the end of this catalog. Submit the reporting form to the District or Conference Program Resources Coordinator or designee. Reach out to your district/conference leadership team for the 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.

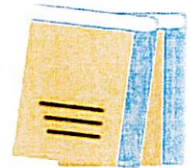




• How are books selected?

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.

- 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.
 - Being part of a Mission or *Keyhole Missiology* study:
 - 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for reading a Mission study on your own
 - 2 credits in Spiritual Growth for joining a Mission study together with others, as a leader or participant
 - Reading **response** magazine: 1 credit in Nurturing for Community for reading one year (6 issues)
 - 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
- Yes. You can also receive Reading Program reporting credit for:



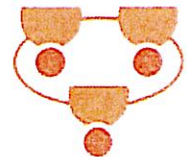
• Are there other ways to receive Reading Program reporting credit?

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 www.faithresources.org



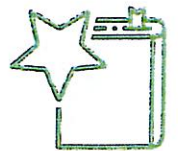
• Which years of the Reading Program are eligible for reporting credit?

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.



• What resources support intergenerational learning?

- 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 library.

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



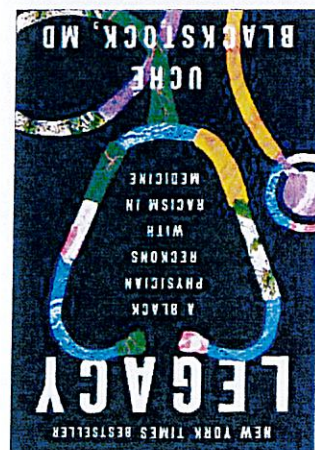


Adult Books

LEGACY: A BLACK PHYSICIAN RECKONS WITH RACISM IN MEDICINE

UCHE 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.

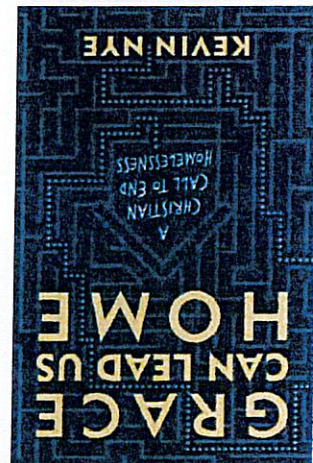


GRACE CAN LEAD US HOME:

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.



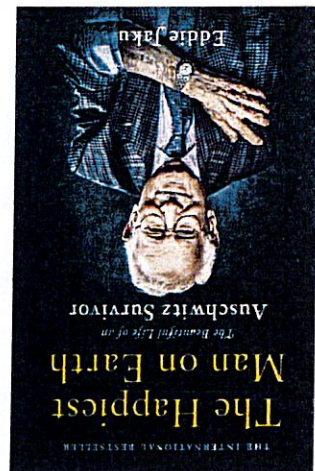
THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH:

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.



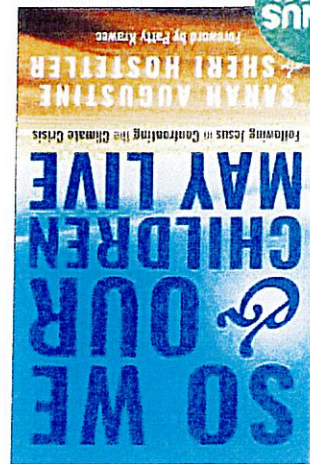


SO WE AND OUR CHILDREN MAY LIVE: FOLLOWING JESUS IN CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

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 SALDANA

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2023)

Journalist and scholar Stephanie Saldana, 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. Saldana 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 unravelling, and the people keeping it alive with their stories. (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

PAOLA MENDOZA & ABBY SHER



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 Vall 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 Tia Luna in California, a sanctuary state that is currently being walled off from the rest of the country. But when Vall's mother is detained before their journey even begins, Vall must carry on with her younger brother across the country to make it to safety before it's too late. (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)





Children's Books



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 Nabulus, Palestine, and Orab 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, Orab 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)

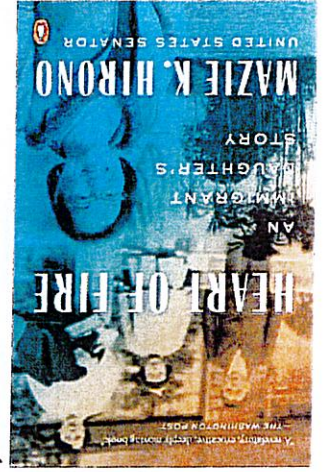
Join Zion and her dad on a life-changing Saturday in *Zion Learns to See*, by father-daughter duo Terence and Zion Lester. Based on a true story, this beautifully illustrated book teaches lessons of connection, compassion, and faith in action. For as Zion learns, every person matters to God. And that 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.

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.

Viking (2021)

MAZIE K. HIRONO

HEART OF FIRE: AN IMMIGRANT DAUGHTER'S STORY



Book available in English & Korean.

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.

ZONDERVAN (2023)

CURT THOMPSON

THE DEEPEST PLACE: SUFFERING AND THE FORMATION OF HOPE

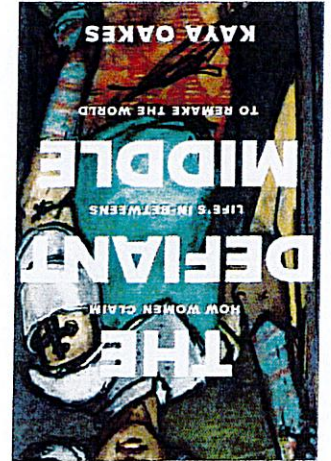


Women are expected to be young enough, but not too young; old enough, but not too old; creative, but not crazy; passionate, but not angry. In other words, they are caught between social expectations and a much more complicated reality. But many women are carving out new ways of being in and remaking 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)

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2021)

KAYA OAKES

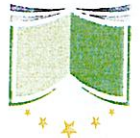
THE DEFIANT MIDDLE: HOW WOMEN CLAIM LIFE'S IN-BETWEENS TO REMAKE THE WORLD



Adult Books



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



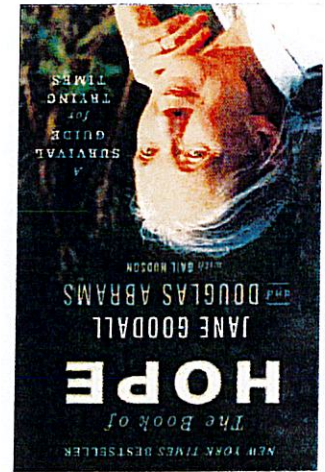
In this illuminating and dramatic biography, Tyrone McKinley Freeman reveals how beauty empire founder Madam C. J. Walker was celebrated as America's first self-made female millionaire in the early 1900s. But she was also devoted to an activist philanthropy aimed at empowering African Americans and challenging 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.

MADAM C. J. WALKER'S GOSPEL OF GIVING: BLACK WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY DURING JIM CROW
 TYRONE MCKINLEY FREEMAN
 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS (2020)



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?

THE BOOK OF HOPE: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR TRYING TIMES
 JANE GOODALL & DOUGLAS ABRAMS WITH GAIL HUDSON
 CELADON BOOKS (2021)



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.

LEADING WELL: A BLACK WOMAN'S GUIDE TO WHOLISTIC, BARRIER-BREAKING LEADERSHIP
 JEANNE PORTER KING
 BAKER BOOKS (2023)



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

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.

DORCAS CHENG-TOZUN
BROADLEAF BOOKS (2023)

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



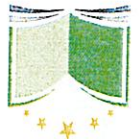
How do we love in a time of rage? How do we fix a broken world while not breaking ourselves? In this acclaimed work, Valarie Kaur—renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer—describes revolutionary love as a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, 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)

VALARIE KAUR
ONE WORLD (2020)

SEE NO STRANGER: A MEMOIR AND MANIFESTO OF REVOLUTIONARY LOVE



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



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.

NORTON YOUNG READERS (2023)

KEN MOCHIZUKI

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



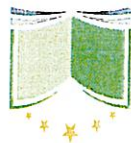
From debut author Janae Marks comes a captivating story full of heart, as one courageous girl questions assumptions, searches for the truth, and does what she believes is right—even in the face of great opposition. When Zoe Washington gets a letter from her father, Marcus, on her 12th birthday, she doesn't 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.

QUILL TREE BOOKS (2021)

JANAE MARKS

FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON





Children's Books

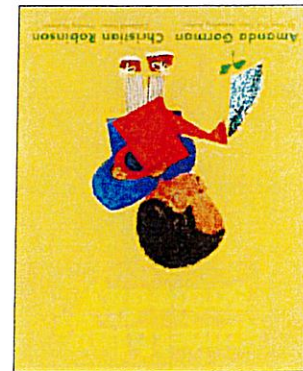
SOMETHING, SOMEDAY

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.



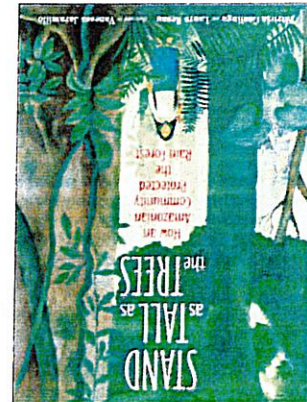
STAND AS TALL AS THE TREES: HOW AN AMAZONIAN

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 Amazona 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.





Adult Books

NAMESSAKE: REFLECTIONS ON A WARRIOR WOMAN

N. S. NUSEIBEH

OLIVE BRANCH PRESS (2024)

Nusayba bint Kab al Khazraja 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 Namessake, 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)



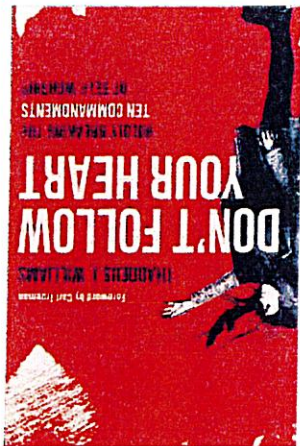
DON'T FOLLOW YOUR HEART: BOLDLY BREAKING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SELF-WORSHIP

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 human-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.



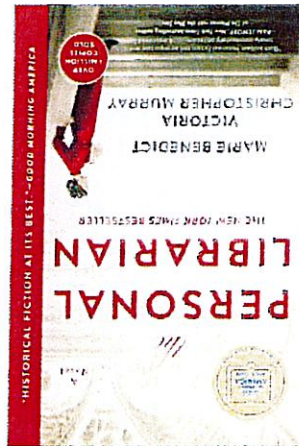


THE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN

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 Greene, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality.

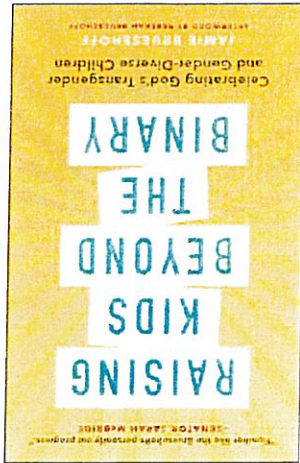
Book available in English & Spanish.



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

JAMIE BRUESEHOFF
BROADLEAF BOOKS (2023)

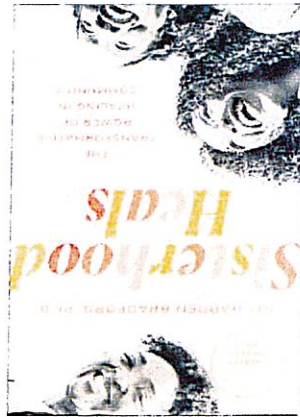
Drawing on the author's experience as a mother walking with and learning from her transgender child, as well as working with hundreds of families across the country doing the same, this book helps parents navigate the emotional, spiritual, and logistical landscape of raising a gender-diverse child. Grounded 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.



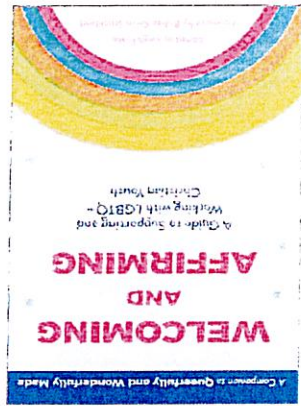


THE TALK

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 showcas-ing 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.

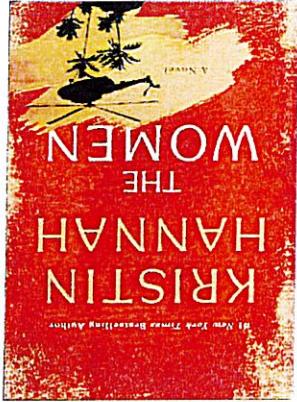
THE WOMEN

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.





Youth Books

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



Children's Books

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.





Adult Books

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

BENBELL BOOKS (2023)

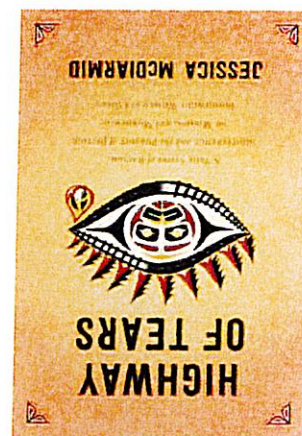
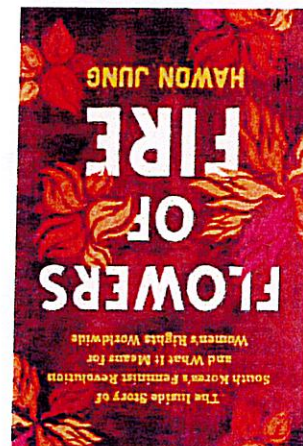
Since the beginning of the #MeToo movement, tens of thousands of people in South Korea have taken to the streets, and many more brave individuals took a stand to end a decades-long abortion ban and bring down powerful men accused of sexual misconduct—including a popular presidential contender. *Flowers 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 spyecam 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.

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

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

In *#SayHerName*, Kimberle 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 friend-ship 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)

THE
INTERSECTIONAL
ENVIRONMENTALIST
HOW TO DISMANTLE
SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION
TO PROTECT PEOPLE + PLANET
LEAH
THOMAS
COMMON
EXPERIENCES



BONUS
BOOK





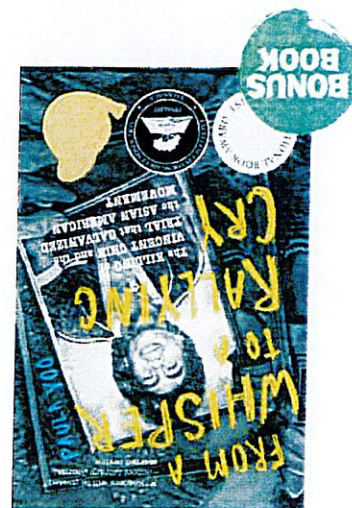
Youth Books

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

PAULAYOO

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)

JEMARTISBY

ZONDERKIDZ (2022)

In this adaptation for young readers, *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. Jemart 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.





Children's Books

STILL DREAMING / SEGUIMOS SONANDO

CLAUDIA GUADALUPE MARTINEZ

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 Sorrell 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 peoples past, present, and future. Precise lyrical writing presents topics from assimilation and relocation to economic development and language revival.

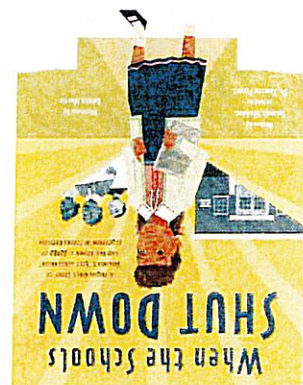


WHEN THE SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN: A YOUNG GIRLS
STORY OF VIRGINIA'S "LOST GENERATION" AND THE
BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA DECISION

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.





SPIRITUAL GROWTH



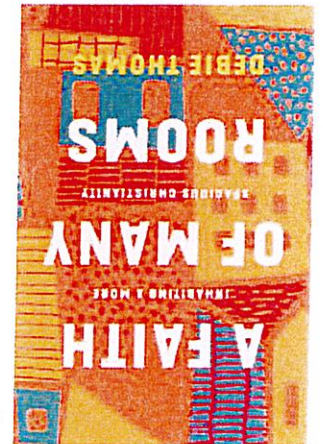
Adult Books

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.



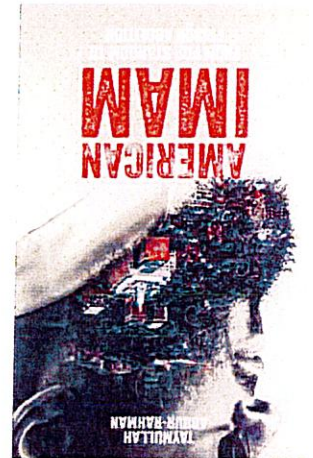
AMERICAN IMAM:

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.



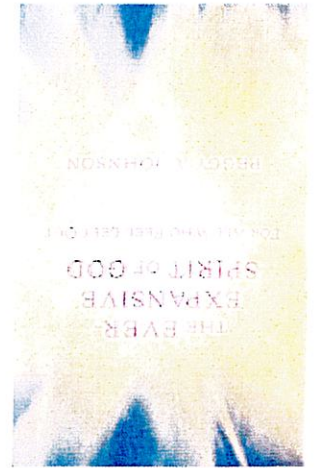
THE EVER-EXPANSIVE SPIRIT OF GOD FOR ALL WHO

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."





SPIRITUAL GROWTH



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

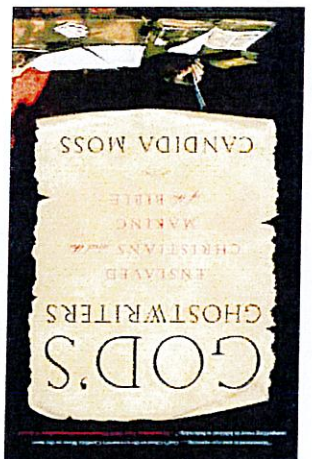
CANDIDA MOSS
LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY (2024)

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.

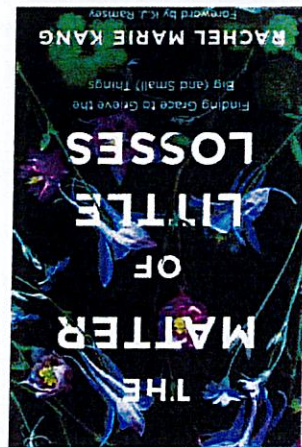




THE MATTER OF LITTLE LOSSES: FINDING GRACE TO GRIEVE THE BIG (AND SMALL) THINGS

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 healed 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.

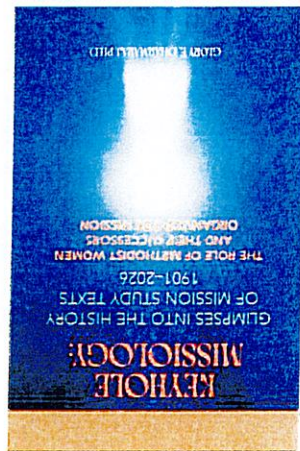


KEYHOLE MISSIOLOGY: GLIMPSES INTO THE HISTORY OF MISSION STUDY TEXTS 1901-2026

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 multicultural 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.

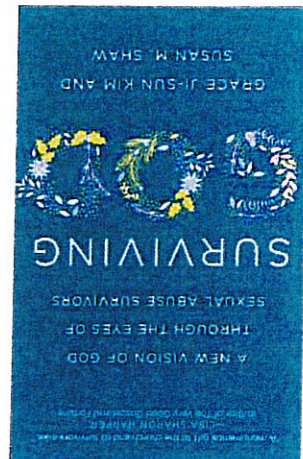
SACRED SELF-CARE: DAILY PRACTICES
FOR NURTURING OUR WHOLE SELVES
DR. CHANEQUA WALKER-BARNES
HARPERONE (2023)

This seven-week guide aims to help readers shift behaviors and create lifelong 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.



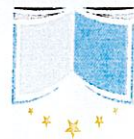
SURVIVING GOD: A NEW VISION OF GOD THROUGH
THE EYES OF SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVORS
GRACE JI-SUN KIM & SUSAN M. SHAW
BROADLEAF BOOKS (2024)

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)





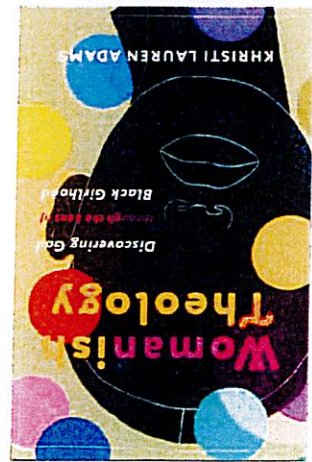
SPIRITUAL GROWTH



WOMANISHTHEOLOGY: DISCOVERING GOD THROUGH THE LENS OF BLACK GIRLHOOD

KHRISTI LAUREN ADAMS
BRAZOS PRESS (2024)

In *Womanish Theology*, Kristi 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.



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

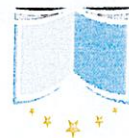
QUILL TREE BOOKS (2023)

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.





SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Children's Books

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 curriculum a 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

KIMBERLE 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. Rhonda Dormeus, mother of Korrin 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?





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?

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?

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: apf.org/shndvocate.)

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 babies" (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.



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.