

Nurturing for Community through 2024

Highlighted titles are Bonus Books and Count for Two Books

2019 *** Children

All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color

Katie Kissinger

Colorful photographs and engaging English/Spanish text showcase the beautiful diversity of skin color. This twentieth anniversary edition offers young children a simple, scientifically accurate explanation for how we get our skin color. Understanding melanin frees children from myths and stereotypes and helps celebrate one of the ways we are special and different from one another—our skin color.

2019

Better – Waking Up to Who We Could Be

Melvin Bray

What if we could actually change the world by telling better stories? What if the world we have—with its racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, religious hatred, ecological disregard—is exactly the world we have spun into existence through the stories we have told?

In his new book, Melvin Bray insists that a better world is possible if the stories around which we organize our lives begin to match the beauty we imagine is possible. Bray puts forth his own daring yet faithful reimaginings of classic faith stories that inspire more beautiful, more just, more virtue-filled ways of being in the world.

Better offers a spiritual path on which people—for whom life has called into question many of their assumptions about God and the world—can continue to hold onto their faith, while joining others of goodwill in seeking sustainable, cooperative, and courageous answers to the seemingly intractable problems of our time.

2019 *** Youth

Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A few years ago, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie received a letter from a childhood friend, a new mother who wanted to know how to raise her baby girl to be a feminist. *Dear Ijeawele* is Adichie's letter of response: fifteen invaluable suggestions—direct, wryly funny, and perceptive—for how to empower a daughter to become a strong, independent woman. Filled with compassionate guidance and advice, it

gets right to the heart of sexual politics in the twenty-first century, and starts a new and urgently needed conversation about what it really means to be a woman today.

2019

Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life

David Billings

Why is racism still with us, and what can the Civil Rights Movement tell us about today? David Billings, a self-described “son of the South,” tackles these questions in his well-researched, deeply personal and eminently readable new book, *Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life*.

Part I of *Deep Denial*, takes a broad historical view. Beginning in seventeenth century Virginia up through World War II, Billings looks at the origins of white supremacy as a structural feature of US society and describes its evolution over time.

Part II features the Civil Rights Movement, how it emerged in the post-WWII era, how the struggle was waged in the 1950s and ‘60s, and how it subsequently morphed from a community-led, issue-based movement to a government-sponsored, needs-based nonprofit industry that remains with us today.

Known to thousands as a master storyteller, Billings begins each chapter with an intimate and unsparingly personal account from his own life. After drawing the reader into his topic, he lays out the historical facts, while still retaining the storyteller’s sense of engagement with the reader.

This masterful nonfiction narrative is told by an admittedly white man who has spent half a century working for racial justice. Born and raised in McComb County, Mississippi, the site of some of the fiercest struggles of the Civil Rights Movement, Billings’ family rubbed shoulders with the KKK yet never succumbed to the hatred that surrounded them. Through a series of life experiences, Billings became one of a small number of founding members of the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, a New Orleans-based group led by people of color and the premier anti-racism training group in the country. Since then Billings has trained tens of thousands of people, of all races, on the very questions he writes about.

Often when doing a workshop, people would ask him about “his book.” Given the scope of his knowledge and experience, and his skill as a storyteller, people just assumed he had written one. He was always too busy. But now, semi-retired, he has. *Deep Denial* is the result so many have been waiting for.

2019

Hope for the Future: Answering God’s Call to Justice for Our Children

Shannon Daley-Harris

Whether a parent or pastor, child advocate or Christian educator, professional or volunteer working with children, we yearn for both comfort and challenge, vision and validation, hope and help as we seek

to make a difference in the lives of children.

In *Hope for the Future*, Shannon Daley-Harris draws from her twenty-four years of work with the Children's Defense Fund to offer twelve meditations for those working to create a better world for our children. Each meditation focuses on passages of Scripture and weaves together moving stories of children, startling statistics about the challenges facing children, and inspiring examples from other movements and faithful leaders that came before us. Questions for faithful response after each meditation will prompt further reflection and action.

This inspirational book can be used as a devotional, in Bible study discussion, or during a social action committee's discernment.

2019 *** Children

No One Else Like You

Siska Goeminne

There are more than seven billion people in the world, all represented in this book! We come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and colors. Some of us are happy, and some are grumpy. Some live in tall towers in the city, while others live in cottages in the field. Some like to read, and some like to sing. And, yet, even with so many people in this world, there is no one quite like you!

2019

The Hidden Life Awakened

Kitty Crenshaw and Cathy Snapp

When Betty Skinner was 42, her doctor told her, "You have a hole in your soul."

In the 50 years that followed, Betty, now in her 90s, clinging only to her faith and a glimmer of hope, journeyed from desperate clinical depression to wholeness and profound wisdom—well before anti-depressants and mindfulness were mainstream.

Emerging science now affirms that the organic path Betty traveled has the power to heal the broken body, mind, and spirit. By changing her thought patterns, she changed her life.

With utter vulnerability and the beautiful view of hindsight, she reaches back with joy to offer her spiritual friendship and powerful encouragement to those of us still struggling on our own journey to the higher places.

2019

The Same Sky: A Novel

Amanda Eyre Ward

Alice and her husband, Jake, own a barbecue restaurant in Austin, Texas. Hardworking and popular in their community, they have a loving marriage and thriving business, but Alice still feels that something is missing, lying just beyond reach.

Carla is a strong-willed young girl who's had to grow up fast, acting as caretaker to her six-year-old brother Junior. Years ago, her mother left the family behind in Honduras to make the arduous, illegal journey to Texas. But when Carla's grandmother dies and violence in the city escalates, Carla takes fate into her own hands—and with Junior, she joins the thousands of children making their way across Mexico to America, facing great peril for the chance at a better life.

In this elegant novel, the lives of Alice and Carla will intersect in a profound and surprising way. Poignant and arresting, *The Same Sky* is about finding courage through struggle, hope amid heartache, and summoning the strength—no matter what dangers await—to find the place where you belong.

2019

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old?

Jennifer Grant

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? is Jennifer Grant's unblinking, good-humored and hope-filled look at the transitions of middle age. Exploring the physical, spiritual and emotional changes unique to the middle years, this is a must-read for anyone facing the flux and flow of age 40 and beyond.

2020

#RU Hooked: Teens & Social Media, For Teens and the People Who Care About Them

Jonathan Smith

A faith focused paperback booklet written for teens to help them think (or think differently) about how they use social media. *#RU Hooked* is a great resource for parents, teachers, pastors, youth group leaders or anyone that cares about teens and social media.

2020

Glory Happening: Finding the Divine in Everyday Places

Kaitlin B. Curtice

When you have an experience and tell the story of that experience to someone, something sacred happens inside of you. That experience doesn't have to be an extravagant moment, but it can be beautiful, nonetheless. And as you store up all those stories and share them, you grow your world's boundaries. You build community and remind yourself that every moment of your life counts for something holy, good, and glorious.

The search for glory will bring freedom and a fresh perspective to whatever season you happen to find yourself in. *Glory Happening* is a book of stories and prayers that remind you to take a closer look at your everyday circumstances, to find the magical beauty in everyday experiences. It is an invitation to live deeply into every moment with the expectation that something good will find you at the end of the day. And once you experience glory, you have words to speak, a prayer to pray, and a story to tell. And so glory grows from person to person, and community is created around the reality that God is truly in our midst.

2020

Heartbeat of a Mother: Encouragement for the Lifelong Journey

Jane Rubietta

Many mothers experience the joy, laughter, and hope of parenting and yet are riddled with shame, doubt, guilt, and anxiety because of their past and fear of the future for their children. Through discipleship and intimate fellowship, mothers of all ages will enjoy diving into this six-week group study that provides interactive vulnerability and truth. This is for every woman who has lived through the rigors of having a mother and/or the labor of childbirth or the adoptive process.

Jane Rubietta speaks worldwide, inviting her audiences to find the love they've been looking for in the arms of Jesus. She is the author of several seasonal deeper devotions (WPH).

2020

How the Woman at the Well Became the Well Woman

Donna Rhodes

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

2020

The Aging of Aquarius: Igniting Passion and Purpose as an Elder

Helen Wilkes, Ph.D.

Your career has wound down, the kids have moved, and your schedule is clear...for the next 30 years.

In your youth, you cared about people and planet earth, and you had grand visions of changing the world. At some point, those passions and that sense of purpose got buried under diapers and the 9-5. Still, that old you remains alive. Now, with the rest of your life ahead, you can be the change and make this next stage of your life the most powerful yet.

Helen Wilkes, a retired professor and activist, takes readers on an inspiring journey to find renewed purpose in retirement. Along the way she helps readers navigate the transition to a post-work identity by fanning the ember of lost passions and developing new interests.

2020

The End of the Island

Jeffrey Tucker

What if you were to look at human suffering, pain, and loss with another lens? Not as something that you merely make it through but as something that you move around within.

In this fresh, creative, and provocative new book, Jeffrey Tucker explores suffering in new ways, challenging our existing beliefs and theologies while offering a healthier and more helpful approach to viewing ourselves, our faith, and others in the face of suffering.

Tucker addresses specific and practical questions that we often ask ourselves when we suffer-- attempting to locate our suffering, our identity, the persons of the Divine, our support, and our hope in the process. He also engages us along the way by wrapping wisdom within the framework of a story of an old man on an island who is seeking answers to his pain and loss. The journey takes unexpected turns as the old man learns new ways to walk and to live in the midst of his pain. As we join the old man in his walk, we learn new ways as well. This highly readable and accessible book offers thought-provoking and transforming ideas for persons of every walk of life and faith.

2020

The Life and Ministry of Mary Webster

Anne Matthews-Younes

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

2020

Tilly and the Crazy Eights

Monique Gray Smith

When Tilly receives an invitation to help drive eight elders on their ultimate bucket-list road trip, she impulsively says yes. Before she knows it, Tilly has said good-bye to her family and is on an adventure that will transform her in ways she could not predict, just as it will for the elders who soon dub themselves "the Crazy Eights."

The Crazy Eights each choose a stop—somewhere or something they've always wanted to experience—on the way to their ultimate goal, the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque. Their plan is to

travel to Las Vegas, Sedona, and the Redwood Forests, with each destination the inspiration for secrets and stories to be revealed. The trip proves to be powerful medicine as they laugh, heal, argue, and dream along the way. By the time their bus rolls to a stop in New Mexico, *Tilly and the Crazy Eights*, with friendships forged and hearts mended, feel ready for anything. But are they?

2021

A Living Gospel: Reading God's Story in Holy Lives

Robert Ellsberg

In his latest work, Robert Ellsberg, the author of many acclaimed works on the saints, looks on the “living gospel” that is written in human lives. From biographical reflections on traditional saints and spiritual masters (including Dorothy Day, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Flannery O’Connor, and Oscar Romero), he reflects on what it means to read the spiritual text that is written in such lives. From that, we learn to read our own lives in the same light.

2021 ***Children

Babbit and Joan, a Rabbit and a Phone

Denise Turu

Sometimes friends are best off with a little time apart. That’s true for Babbit, a rabbit, and Joan, his phone. Yet Babbit has never left Joan at home before. Does he dare go out on a solo excursion? How will he know what to do? What if he gets lost?

This charming, low-tech tale reveals that a small adventure can open up big possibilities—for seeing new places, meeting new friends, and coming home to share all about it.

2021 ***Children

Binkle's Time to Fly

Sharmila Collins

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

Yet with some help and creativity, maybe there’s more than one way to fly

2021

Dangling: I May Have Cancer, but Cancer Doesn't Have Me!

Amy Carr

Are you or someone you love facing a diagnosis of cancer? Perhaps you are coping with a chronic illness

or facing one of the biggest disappointments of your life. Have you ever wondered how such a trial could change your life for the better? Let Amy show you how God used her cancer journey to teach her life-changing lessons that she otherwise would not have learned. From the darkest of days leading up to her diagnosis through eighteen months of treatment and surgeries, she shares it all. You will be inspired by her resolve to walk by faith, not by sight. This book is filled with nourishment for your soul, hope for your heart, and encouragement to live life to the fullest, with true joy, regardless of your circumstances.

Full of truth, transparency, authenticity, and Scripture, *Dangling* is a must read for anyone going through life difficulties. I loved the book, but I loved watching Amy live out her faithfulness to Jesus more. The lessons she learned through her journey with cancer are real lessons for everyone to learn and live by. As Amy says, God wants what is best for us, not what is easiest.

2021 ***Youth

Indian No More - Novel

Charlene Willing McManis

Regina Petit's family has always been Umpqua, and living on the Grand Ronde reservation is all ten-year-old Regina has ever known. Her biggest worry is that Sasquatch may actually exist out in the forest. But when the federal government signs a bill into law that says Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina becomes "Indian no more" overnight--even though she was given a number by the Bureau of Indian Affairs that counted her as Indian, even though she lives with her tribe and practices tribal customs, and even though her ancestors were Indian for countless generations.

With no good jobs available in Oregon, Regina's father signs the family up for the Indian Relocation program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world in her neighborhood on 58th Place. She's never met kids of other races, and they've never met a real Indian. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face to face with the viciousness of racism, personally and toward her new friends.

Meanwhile, her father believes that if he works hard, their family will be treated just like white Americans. But it's not that easy. It's 1957 during the Civil Rights Era. The family struggles without their tribal community and land. At least Regina has her grandmother, Chich, and her stories. At least they are all together.

In this moving middle-grade novel drawing upon Umpqua author Charlene Willing McManis's own tribal history, Regina must find out: Who is Regina Petit? Is she Indian? Is she American? And will she and her family ever be okay?

2021 ***Children

Let's Work: Mexican Folk Art: Trabajos

Cynthia Weill and Bryant Boucher

This early-concept bilingual book brings every kind of job to life, including the work of the dedicated palm weavers of Flavio Gallardo's workshop, whose miniature palm weavings illustrate this playful book

while teaching words for “work” in two languages. You can hold the woven illustrations in the palm of your hand—most pieces are no bigger than a dime! (Please use caution with children under three.)

2021 ***Children

Sulwe

Lupita Nyong'o

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

In this stunning debut picture book, actress Lupita Nyong'o creates a whimsical and heartwarming story to inspire children to see their own unique beauty.

2021

The Bird Boys (A Delpha Wade and Tom Phelan Mystery)

Lisa Sandlin

Sometimes the truth is not the truth, but murder is always murder. Which of the brothers carries the bloody knife? After a serial killer almost murdered Delpha Wade (*The Do-Right*, 2015), the county hospital releases her into the handcuffs of the city police for questioning. The reason is she killed the man who trying to kill her, and she is, after all, an ex-con. It's still Beaumont, 1970s, and mindsets don't change along the Texas Gulf Coast. Her boss, the neophyte private detective Tom Phelan, awaits her, and soon they are once again in deep shit. It seems like an easy case—one Bird brother looking for the long- lost other—but turns out that one brother is a murderer. He likes to slit throats. But which one?

The new novel from award-winning author Lisa Sandlin catches up with the almost-murdered secretary Delpha Wade (*The Do-Right*, 2015, set in 1973) as she's released from a hospital in order to be tucked into the back seat of a police cruiser. Her boss, P. I. Tom Phelan, sets out to spring her. He needs her back in his investigation business, where he'll soon be chasing a skulking grand larcenist and plotting how to keep a ganjapreneur out of the grabby hands of a brand new agency, the D.E.A. Delpha digs through old records and knocks on strange doors to unravel the dangerous case of two brothers with beaucoup aliases—verifying that sometimes truth is not true, but murder is always murder.

2021

The Hate U Give

Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

2021

The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention

Rachael A. Keefe

"There's so much silence around suicide in the church that it is quite literally killing us." --Rachael Keefe

Would you know how to respond if the person sitting next to you in your pew was contemplating suicide? Every year, millions of people engage in suicidal activity, including those in our faith communities. Yet the Church remains largely silent around the topics of mental health, depression, and suicide prevention. How can you and your faith community be prepared to recognize and respond to those struggling for their very lives in your church?

In *The Lifesaving Church*, pastor Rachael Keefe shatters the taboo of suicide by sharing her own painful story of life-long depression and suicidal tendencies--and how her various faith communities responded, for better and for worse. Opening a window into her suicidal behaviors as a young person, Keefe helps us recognize the signs and struggles of those who suffer silently. Reminding us of the Church's call to be the Body of Christ for each other, Keefe empowers us to recognize the hurting in our communities and recover the lifesaving message of the Gospel-- forgiveness, acceptance and love--that helped her to heal.

With chapters on how to educate your church in suicide prevention, group study reflects around the common questions surrounding suicide. Specific resources, scriptures, and prayers for clergy, suicide loss survivors, and those struggling with suicidal tendencies, *The Lifesaving Church* is critical reading for faith communities seeking abundant life for all of its members.

2021

Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission (Mission Study Book 2019)

Ellen Blue

In *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission*, distinguished scholar of United Methodist Studies Ellen Blue invites us to explore and celebrate the history of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations. As Blue says, "Women have done some of the most important ministry the church has ever accomplished."

Here she shares the voices and stories of our foremothers, including the former denominations that now compose The United Methodist Church. Despite serious resistance from churchmen, these women formed foreign missionary societies to provide education and health care for women and girls

internationally, and home missionary societies that tackled racial justice and other pressing social issues at home. They also helped establish the deaconess program, the first opportunity in our tradition for large numbers of women to perform full-time ministries of service and justice, and opened the doors for women to take on leadership roles in many arenas.

As our 150th anniversary approaches, United Methodist Women's ability to address the needs of women, children, and youth has grown tremendously. We can step out with creative ministries because the women who came before us laid a strong foundation for us to build upon. As we work together on critical issues, we also grow in our own faith. We are a 150-year-old women's movement still saying yes to God's call to mission.

Ellen Blue is the Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies at Phillips Theological Seminary. In addition, she is an ordained elder in the Louisiana Annual Conference. Her books include *St. Mark's and the Social Gospel*, *Methodist Women* and *Civil Rights in New Orleans*.

2022

A Brave Face: Two Cultures, Two Families, and the Iraqi Girl Who Bound Them Together

Barbara Marlowe and Teeba Furat Marlowe with Jennifer Keirn

The inspirational story of an American woman who moved mountains to secure medical treatments—and eventually a home—for a young Iraqi girl severely burned in a roadside terror attack. This is a story of the astonishing power of self-sacrificial love.

On a typical Sunday morning in 2006, Barbara Marlowe saw a photo that changed her life: a photo of four-year-old Teeba Furat Fadhil, whose face, head, and hands had been severely burned during a roadside bombing in the Diyala Province of Iraq. Teeba's eyes captivated Barbara, and she yearned to help this child who had already endured more pain and suffering than anyone should bear.

Because surgeons were fleeing the war-torn country, Teeba would be unable to receive much-needed treatments if she stayed in Iraq. With powerful faith and determination, Barbara overcame obstacle after obstacle to bring Teeba from Iraq to the United States for medical treatments.

A Brave Face explores the connection forged between Barbara and Teeba's Iraqi mother Dunia over the past decade—a deep bond between two mothers that has flourished despite the distance, the strife of war, and the horrors of Al-Qaeda and ISIS. With chapters written by Teeba, now a young woman, and Dunia, the three women recount the story of courage and sacrifice that bound them together.

A Brave Face contains the messages that:

- ** Tremendous trust can cross borders and war zones
- ** Tragedies can turn into miracles
- ** Love can be found in the most unexpected of places.

In the end, this is a story of hope. A story of building bridges. A story of the always astonishing power of self-sacrificial love.

2022

Becoming Grandma: The Joys and Science of the New Grandparenting

Lesley Stahl

After four decades as a reporter, Lesley Stahl's most vivid and transformative experience of her life was not covering the White House, interviewing heads of state, or researching stories at 60 Minutes. It was becoming a grandmother. She was hit with a jolt of joy so intense and unexpected; she wanted to "investigate" it—as though it were a news flash. And so, using her 60 Minutes skills, she explored how grandmothing changes a woman's life, interviewing friends like Whoopi Goldberg, colleagues like Diane Sawyer (and grandfathers, including Tom Brokaw), as well as the proverbial woman next door.

Along with these personal accounts, Stahl speaks with scientists and doctors about physiological changes that occur in women when they have grandchildren; anthropologists about why there are grandmothers, in evolutionary terms; and psychiatrists about the therapeutic effects of grandchildren on both grandmothers and grandfathers.

Throughout *Becoming Grandma*, Stahl shares stories about her own life with granddaughters Jordan and Chloe, about how her relationship with her daughter, Taylor, has changed, and about how being a grandfather has affected her husband, Aaron.

In an era when baby boomers are becoming grandparents in droves and when young parents need all the help they can get raising their children, Stahl's book is a timely and affecting read that redefines a cherished relationship.

2022

Before We Were Yours - A Novel

Lisa Wingate

Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with

uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.

Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

2022

Girl in Juarez: Beyond the Wall

Marion Surles

How do children live just a few feet across the wall at our southern border? Cristal and Fina struggle to find enough to eat as they raise themselves on the streets of a poverty-level neighborhood in Juarez, Mexico. Daniel worries about his little brother Memo who has serious respiratory attacks from the pollution and desert climate. Pastors Miguel and Pati want to lead a different kind of church, one responsive to the needs of their community. Life is hard in this newly-formed neighborhood on the border. Can the local church help the families learn to work together as Christ's family to ease each other's burdens? Proceeds from this book support Love and Literacy, a mission encouraging children in Juarez to read and stay in school.

2022

Rewired: An Unlikely Doctor, A Brave Amputee, & the Medical Miracle That Made History

Dr. Ajay K. Seth

A raccoon bite on the arm doesn't seem that serious, but it soon becomes a life-or-death medical crisis for Melissa Loomis. After days of treatment for recurring infection, it becomes obvious that her arm must be amputated. Dr. Ajay Seth, the son of immigrant parents from India and a local orthopaedic surgeon in private practice, performs his first-ever amputation procedure. In the months that follow, divine intervention, combined with Melissa's determination and Dr. Seth's disciplined commitment and dedication to his patients, brings about the opportunity for a medical breakthrough that will potentially transform the lives of amputees around the world.

Rewired is the inspirational, miraculous story of Dr. Seth's revolutionary surgery that allows Melissa to not just move a prosthetic arm simply by thinking, but to actually feel with the prosthetic hand, just as she would with her natural arm. This resulted in what others have recognized as the world's most advanced amputee, all done from Dr. Seth's private practice in a community hospital, using a local staff, and with no special training or extensive research funding.

2022 ***Youth

She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman

Erica Armstrong Dunbar

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

2022

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion

Gregory Boyle

For twenty years, Father Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles—also known as the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, he has distilled his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JC Penney fresh out of prison, you learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Pipi you learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Lulu you come to understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the dark—as Father Boyle phrases it, we can only shine a flashlight on a light switch in a darkened room.

This is a motivating look at how to stay faithful in spite of failure, how to meet the world with a loving heart, and how to conquer shame with boundless, restorative love.

2022

The Boy Who Delivered Joy

Marvin Bartlett

A rare bone cancer robbed Jarrett Mynear of a normal childhood when he was two years old, but it didn't steal his spirit. This extraordinary boy captivated crowds with his courage, faith, and humor in the face of adversity. Instead of feeling sorry for himself, Jarrett got busy. By delivering thousands of toys to sick children, the pint-sized Santa Claus traveled a path that led to national television appearances, prestigious awards, and a chance meeting with the President of the United States. This is the true story of a little boy's legacy and how, nearly two decades after his death, he continues to inspire small acts of kindness and huge acts of philanthropy. About the Author Marvin Bartlett is an Emmy award-winning journalist with 30 years' experience. He holds degrees in journalism from Marshall University and Ohio University. Since 1995, the West Virginia native has anchored the news for WDKY-TV, the Fox affiliate in

Lexington, Kentucky. He is well-known for producing "The Spirit of the Bluegrass," a weekly segment featuring unique people and places in Kentucky.

2022

The House on Lowell Street - A Novel

Linda A. Keane

Based on a true event: the strike of the Kalamazoo corset workers in 1912.

Rose Morrison's comfortable life as a banker's wife is upended when her husband suddenly dies. His secret and formidable debts are now hers to somehow pay. To support herself and her son, Rose takes in boarders—but only women with impeccable references. Eventually, though, she reluctantly lowers her standards and boards two seamstresses from the corset factory, who help her clean.

Trouble is brewing at the factory, where a union contract is about to expire. A charismatic organizer arrives from New York to lead the talks and draws Rose into the conflict between the workers and a factory owner bent on killing the union. As Rose's affection and sympathy grow for her boarders, she is confronted with confusing moral choices. It is not enough to care; one must also act.

Anyone who has struggled to do the right thing, even when the cost was high, will be heartened by this story of perseverance against all odds. History buffs will enjoy an insider's look at a little-known strike that reveals the challenges faced by union workers before legislation protected them.

2023 ***Children

Eyes That Kiss in the Corners

Joanna Ho and Illustrated by Dung Ho

A celebration of diversity, this lyrical, stunning picture book tells a story about learning to love and celebrate your Asian-shaped eyes. A young Asian girl notices her eyes look different from those of her peers and realizes her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's eyes. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. Drawing from the strength of these powerful women in her life, she recognizes her own beauty and discovers a path to self-love and empowerment. This powerful, poetic picture book will resonate with readers of all ages.

2023

Firekeeper's Daughter – Novel

Angeline Boulley

Angeline Boulley's debut novel is a groundbreaking YA thriller about a Native teen who must root out the corruption in her community. When family tragedy strikes, 18-year-old Daunis Fontaine puts her

future on hold to look after her mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother's hockey team. Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug. Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars.

2023 ***Children

Magic Like That

Samara Cole Doyon and Illustrated by Geneva Bowers

In this celebratory book, a young Black girl finds confidence and excitement in the versatility of her natural hair and the way her different hairstyles reflect the natural world. Natural hair is magical, but magic isn't easy. As the girl patiently waits for her mother to finish her newest hairstyle, she wonders what stunning, majestic, awe-inspiring form her hair will take next. With radiant illustrations by Geneva Bowers and beautiful, poetic text by Samara Cole Doyon, *Magic Like That* will inspire young readers of all textures to believe in the beauty of their natural selves.

2023

Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights

Ashley Boggan Dreff

This book tells the story of American Methodist women's efforts to fight for women's rights, beginning with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and ending with the #MeToo movement. Each chapter documents particular Methodist women and provides the reader with a basic historic context of the time or situation as it shows how Methodist women engaged and fought for women's equality and women's rights in American society and American Methodism. These Methodist women addressed the causes of oppression, and by stepping out of "their place," they made a place for others.

2023 ***Children

Stay This Way Forever

Linsey Davis and Illustrated by Lucy Fleming

Celebrate the joy, wonder, and innocence of being a child with this love letter to the loved ones in your life, encouraging and affirming their own special qualities now and always. It is the third picture book authored by Emmy Award-winning ABC News correspondent and bestselling author Linsey Davis, beautifully and authentically celebrating diversity in its characters with whimsical, joy-filled illustrations from bestselling artist Lucy Fleming.

2023 ***Children

The Barber's Cutting Edge

Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert and Illustrated by Raymond Holbert

The Barber's Cutting Edge is a touching celebration of the close relationship between a young African American boy and his community mentor. Jam-packed with little boys, big boys, dads, and neighbors, Mr. Bigalow's barbershop is a familiar place to talk, play dominoes, read, and in Rashaad's case, get a little extra help with his schoolwork. For not only does Mr. Bigalow know all the latest styles, but he also knows all the words on Rashaad's vocabulary list. The text drawings capture the lively atmosphere and warm spirit of the barbershop.

2023

The Land is not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery

Sarah Augustine

In this prophetic book, author Sarah Augustine, a Pueblo woman, reframes the colonization of North America as she investigates ways that the Doctrine of Discovery continues to devastate Indigenous cultures, and even the planet itself, as it justifies exploitation of both natural resources and people. This is a powerful call to reckon with the root causes of a legacy that continues to have devastating effects on Indigenous Peoples around the globe and a call to recognize how all of our lives and our choices are interwoven.

2023

The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy

Timothy Keller

The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known but most misunderstood parables in the Bible. *In The Prodigal Prophet*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller reveals the hidden depths within the book of Jonah. Keller makes the case that Jonah was one of the worst prophets in the entire Bible. And yet there are unmistakably clear connections between Jonah, the prodigal son, and Jesus. Keller provides an answer to the extraordinary conclusion of this biblical parable—and shares the powerful Christian message at the heart of Jonah's story.

2023

Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World

Vivek H. Murthy

In this groundbreaking book, the 19th surgeon general of the United States Dr. Vivek Murthy makes a case for loneliness as a public health concern: a root cause and contributor to many of the epidemics sweeping the world today—from alcohol and drug addiction to violence to depression and anxiety.

Loneliness, he argues, is affecting not only our health, but also how our children experience school, how we perform in the workplace, and the sense of division and polarization in our society. His message underscores the importance of human connection, the hidden impact of loneliness on our health, and the social power of community.

Also available in Spanish.

2023 ***Children

Vail's Tales

Vail Johnson and Ed Payne and Illustrated by Britt Sekulic

Vail Johnson, a 9-year-old writer, died suddenly in her sleep before she could turn 10, but she left pages of profound insight for someone so young. These four stories by Vail, teamed with storytelling skills of veteran journalist and children's author Ed Payne, are memorable tales that will leave her imprint on your heart.

2023

White Fragility: Why it's so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism

Robin DiAngelo

This New York Times bestselling book by antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo explores the counterproductive reactions White people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality. Referring to the defensive moves White people make when challenged racially, White fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentativeness and silence. DiAngelo examines how White fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

Also available in Spanish.

2023 ***Children

World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments

Aimee Nezhukumatathil

From award-winning poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil comes a debut work of nonfiction—a collection of essays about the natural world and the way its inhabitants can teach, support, and inspire us. As a child, Nezhukumatathil called many places home. But no matter where she was transplanted—no matter how awkward the fit or forbidding the landscape—she was able to turn to our world's fierce and funny creatures for guidance. The axolotl teaches us to smile, even in the face of unkindness; the touch-me-not plant shows us how to shake off unwanted advances; the narwhal demonstrates how to survive in hostile environments. Even in the strange and the unlovely, Nezhukumatathil finds beauty and kinship.

2024

A Little Piece of Light: A Memoir of Hope, Prison and Life Unbound

Donna Hylton

Donna Hylton's early life was a nightmare of abuse. In 1986, she took part in a horrific act and was sentenced to 25 years to life for kidnapping and second-degree murder. This tells the tale of her journey back to life as she faced the truth about the crime that locked her away for 27 years, as well as the family she found inside prison that ultimately saved her. Alongside this generation's most infamous criminals, she learned to fight, then thrive. Since her release in 2012, she has emerged as a leading advocate for criminal justice reform and women's rights.

2024 *** Children

Alicia and the Hurricane: A Story of Puerto Rico

Leslea Newman

From bestselling author Lesléa Newman comes this poignant story of a Puerto Rican child facing a hurricane and her concern for the beloved coquíes of her home island. *Alicia and the Hurricane* is a tender look at the resilience of people, and native creatures, whose lives have been disrupted by a natural disaster. With love and support, family and friends come together to share, rebuild, and fill Alicia's heart with hope.

2024

Andale, Prieta!: A Love Letter to My Family

Yasmin Ramirez

This debut memoir by Mexican-American writer Yasmin Ramirez explores how tough lessons, and even tougher people, can teach us a great deal about love. Ramirez grew up profoundly influenced by the strong women in her life, particularly her grandmother Ita, as well as her great-grandmother, Lupe, and her mother, Leticia. In many ways, the book is also a reclamation of the sometimes-derogatory term prieta, which Grandma Ita used as a loving nickname for her but is often used in Spanish as a slur to describe people with dark skin.

2024

Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness with Children and Teens

Sarah Griffith Lund

Mental illness can be tremendously isolating. This book helps remove the barriers of stigma and shame associated with mental illness in children and teens, helping them understand they are worthy. In addition to a helpful collection of stories, the book includes practical resources such as prayers and a guide for age-appropriate talks about warning signs and how to get help for themselves and friends. The

author, the Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund, is an ordained minister who also serves on the national staff of the United Church of Christ as the Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice.

2024 *** Youth

Blessed Youth: Survival Guide

Darah Griffith Lund

This pocket-size companion guide for youth covers topics that today's youth often face, such as anxiety, sadness, depression, phobias, OCD, panic attacks, PTSD, trauma, and therapy. It also helps youth recognize when they are experiencing an issue and encourages them to tell a parent, doctor, or another adult who can help. Youth are encouraged to be proactive with their mental health by developing good overall health practices and taking a pledge to promise to identify three people who they can contact if they begin having thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

2024

Choosing Us: Marriage and Mutual Flourishing in a World of Difference

Gail Song Bantum and Brian Bantum

For years, people have asked the Bantums to reveal the secret to their marriage as a multiracial Christian couple, each with a high-profile ministry calling. The book tackles the mistakes, lessons, and principles that have helped the Bantums navigate 20-plus years of marriage, while inspiring readers to pursue mutual flourishing in their relationships. *Choosing Us* reflects the realities and demands of modern marriage and respects the callings and ambitions of both partners to build a relationship that thrives and reflects the kingdom of God.

2024

Crying in H Mart: A Memoir

Michelle Zauner

This memoir spent more than a year on the New York Times bestseller list. Penned by Michelle Zauner, the Korean American indie rockstar behind the solo musical act Japanese Breakfast, the book explores family, food, grief, love, and growing up Korean American. Particularly, it addresses mother-daughter relationships, as it was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer when Michelle was 25 that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her.

2024 *** Youth

Everything Comes Next: Collected and New Poems

Naomi Shihab Nye

Many are familiar with Naomi Shihab Nye, poet, essayist, and anthologist. Author of more than 20 volumes, Nye was the Poetry Foundation's Young People's Poet Laureate from 2019–2022. This collection offers an introduction to the poet's work for new readers, as well as a comprehensive edition for classroom and family sharing. It features favorites such as "Famous" and "A Valentine for Ernest Mann," as well as widely shared pieces such as "Kindness" and "Gate A-4." Writing prompts and tips by the award-winning poet make this an outstanding choice for aspiring poets of all ages.

2024 *** Youth

Home Is Not a Country

Safia Elhillo

Longlisted for the National Book Award, this poetic novel-in-verse centers on one girl, Nima, struggling with identity, loneliness, and acceptance in a culture far from her ancestral land. Caught between cultures and longing for what could be, Nima grasps for a new identity—that of a girl like her, a girl named Yasmeen, the name her parents meant to give her at birth. From acclaimed Sudanese American poet Safia Elhillo comes this reflection on family, home, and what it truly means to belong.

2024 *** Youth

House of Sticks: A Memoir

Ly Tran

This coming-of-age memoir addresses what it means to grow up a stranger in a strange land, clinging desperately to hope. After she immigrated with her family from a tiny town along the Mekong River in Vietnam to a two-bedroom railroad apartment in Queens, New York, Tran and her family struggle to survive. Her father spent nearly a decade as a prisoner of war, and all of them battled not only poverty and displacement but war trauma. As she grows up in this new land, Tran finds herself torn between two worlds, blending in while honoring her parents' Buddhist faith and working long hours in the family's nail salon.

2024

In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit

Yolanda Pierce

From Yolanda Pierce, dean of Howard University School of Divinity, comes this gripping and honest reflection of the genuine faith she experienced at the knee of her Black grandmother. Born on a former cotton plantation, Pierce's grandmother raised her in the deep, steadfast faith inherited from those once enslaved. Here, Pierce reflects on the Divine she encountered in the everyday womanist theology she grew up in—rooted in liberating scriptures, experiences in the Black church, and truths. Alongside this run the tensions of race, spirituality, trauma, freedom, resistance, and memory, all contributing to the deep wells of faith and wisdom that continue to drive her.

2024 *** Children

Josie Dances

Denise Lajimodiere

This rich and colorful tale brings to life the beauty of the powwow through the lens of one young girl, Josie. Josie dreams of dancing at next summer's powwow. But first she needs many special things: a dress, a shawl, a cape, leggings, moccasins, and, perhaps most important of all, her spirit name. To gather all these essential pieces, she calls on her mom, her aunty, her kookum, and Grandma Greatwalker. They have the skills to prepare Josie for her powwow debut, where she will dance to honor her ancestors.

2024 *** Children

Juna and Appa

Jane Park

From acclaimed children's book author and award-winning podcast and video producer Jane Park comes this magical story featuring young Juna and her greatest hero, her Appa. Juna loves Saturdays when she gets to help her father in their dry-cleaning shop. But one Saturday, she witnesses a customer yell at Appa because of a lost jacket. Juna sets off on a magical journey to help find the jacket, encountering remarkable animals that show her the different ways that fathers care for their young. A sweet and touching tale about the love between fathers and their children.

2024

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive

Stephanie Land

This raw and unflinching book explores the lives of the working poor through the perspective of one single mother, Stephanie Land, forced to work as a housekeeper and survive on food stamps to support herself and her young daughter. Desperate to fulfill her own dreams, Land worked days and took classes online to earn a college degree and began to write relentlessly, sharing the true stories that weren't being told: the stories of overworked and underpaid Americans. She wrote to remember the fight, to eventually cut through the deep-rooted stigmas of the working poor.

2024 *** Children

Milo Imagines the World

Matt De La Pena G.

This poignant book takes readers on a journey with Milo and his sister, who are both Black, who take a long subway ride together. While his sister is glued to her cell phone, curious Milo draws pictures of the lives he imagines for other passengers, from the whiskered man with the crossword puzzle to the wedding-dressed woman with a little dog peeking out of her handbag to a boy in a suit. When the boy in

the suit gets off on the same stop as Milo—walking the same path, going to the exact same place—Milo realizes that you can't really know anyone just by looking at them.

2024 *** Youth

Other Words for Home

Jasmine Warga

This New York Times bestseller and Newbery Honor Book centers on a young girl who moves from Syria to the United States. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. Her new label of “Middle Eastern,” an identity she’s never known before, is difficult to understand. But American life also brings unexpected surprises—new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

2024

Prey Tell: Why We Silence Women Who Tell the Truth and How Everyone Can Speak Up

Tiffany Bluhm

Addressing men and women in all work settings—within the church and beyond—popular author and podcast host Tiffany Bluhm addresses sexual harassment, sexual assault, and the complex dynamics of power and abuse in systems we all find ourselves in. Ultimately, *Prey Tell* seeks to expose the cultural and spiritual narratives that silence women and illuminate the devastating emotional, financial, and social impact of silence in the face of injustice. The book is hailed as a must-read, though a difficult read, for anyone who longs to see justice upheld in the world.

2024 *** Children

See You Soon

Mariame Kaba

How can children cope when people they love have to go to jail? Queenie loves living with Mama and Grandma Louise. Together, they go to the grocery store, eat ice cream, and play games in the park. But sometimes, when Mama is sick, she has to go away. One day, Queenie and Grandma ride the bus with Mama to the county jail. Queenie is worried and afraid to ask questions, overcome with worry and sadness. Yet soon Queenie opens a letter from Mama and savors every word. She knows Mama loves her and looks forward to their upcoming visit. Love is the star of this story.

2024

The ABC's of Diversity: Helping Kids (and Ourselves) Embrace Our Differences

Carolyn B. Helsel and Y. Joy Harris-Smith

How do we raise the next generation to respect and learn from people who look or believe differently than they do? From two educators who are also moms comes a guide to help parents and other teachers navigate conversations about all kinds of diversity. This practical resource includes activities to build compassion and empathy among differing religions, classes, races, genders, abilities, political affiliations, sexual orientations, nationalities, and more.

2024

The Loneliness Epidemic: Why So Many of Us Feel Alone--and How Leaders Can Respond

Susan Mettes

Why are so many people experiencing deep loneliness? And how can the church respond? That is the crux of this new book from behavioral scientist and researcher Susan Mettes, who delves into the profound toll of loneliness in the United States. Mettes reveals that it is not the oldest Americans but the youngest adults who are loneliest. Social media can play a positive role in alleviating loneliness, helping to cultivate belonging and friendship. She offers meaningful ways the church can minister to lonely people, going far beyond simplistic solutions to addressing their inner lives and the God who understands them.

2024

The Seed Keeper - A Novel

Diane Wilson

Rosalie Iron Wing has grown up in the woods with her father, who tells her stories of plants, of the stars, of the origins of the Dakhóta people. But one morning he doesn't return, and Rosalie is sent to live with a foster family. Years later, Rosalie returns to her childhood home and begins to confront the past on a search for family, identity, and community. In the process, she learns what it means to be descended from women with souls of iron—women who have protected so much through generations of hardship and loss.

2024

The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation

Anna Malaika Tubbs

Much has been written about Berdis Baldwin's son James, about Alberta King's son Martin Luther, and Louise Little's son Malcolm. But virtually nothing has been said about the extraordinary women who raised them. In her groundbreaking and essential debut, *The Three Mothers*, scholar Anna Malaika Tubbs celebrates Black motherhood by telling the story of the three women who raised and shaped some of America's most pivotal heroes. These women used their strength and motherhood to push their children toward greatness, all with a conviction that every human being deserves dignity and respect despite the rampant discrimination they faced.

2024

Truth's Table: Black Women's Musings on Life, Love, and Liberation

Ekemini Uwan, Christina Edmondson, and Michelle Higgins

In their literary debut, co-hosts Christina Edmondson, Michelle Higgins, and Ekemini Uwan offer stories by Black women and for Black women examining theology, politics, race, culture, and gender matters through a Christian lens. These essays deliver a compelling theological re-education and pair the spiritual formation and political education necessary for Black women of faith. A finalist for the NAACP Image Award, this book is for anyone seeking to explore the spiritual dimensions of hot-button issues within the church, or anyone thirsty to deepen their faith.