

Spiritual Growth through 2020

Highlighted titles are Bonus Books and Count for Two

2015

Eat with Joy: Redeeming God's Gift of Food

Rachel Marie Stone

The 2014 Christianity Today Book Award Winner (Christian Living) *Food* is the source of endless angst and anxiety. We struggle with obesity and eating disorders. Reports of agricultural horror stories give us worries about whether our food is healthy, nutritious or justly produced. It's hard to know if our food is really good for us or for society. Our relationship with food is complicated to say the least. But God intended for us to delight in our food. Rachel Stone calls us to rediscover joyful eating by receiving food as God's good gift of provision and care for us. She shows us how God intends for us to relate to him and each other through food, and how our meals can become expressions of generosity, community and love of neighbor. Eating together can bring healing to those with eating disorders, and we can make wise choices for sustainable agriculture. Ultimately, redemptive eating is a sacramental act of culture making through which we gratefully herald the feast of the kingdom of God. Filled with practical insights and some tasty recipes, this book provides a Christian journey into the delight of eating. Come to the table, partake of the Bread of Life—and eat with joy.

2015

Finding God In A bag of Groceries

Laura Lapins Willis

If your pantry was empty, your children hungry, your electricity cut off for nonpayment, and you saw no prospect of support, what would you do? For a decade in a rural Tennessee community, you went to a shabby building behind a church and found Laura Willis.

Running a program to help the needy, Laura discovered a world of people she never knew: the lonely and unemployed, chronically poor families and middle-class folks surprised to be struggling in a great recession. And to each, she offered a bag of groceries, a compassionate ear, and a heart of love.

Taking a tiny food pantry and watching it grow to feed hundreds, Laura learned about her own hunger for God and began to discern her own spiritual directions, learning how her calling card—a bag of groceries—could be a gift to others and to herself of abundance and grace.

2015

Help, Thanks, Wow

Anne Lamott

Author Anne Lamott writes about the three simple prayers essential to coming through tough times, difficult days and the hardships of daily life.

Readers of all ages have followed and cherished Anne Lamott's funny and perceptive writing about her own faith through decades of trial and error. And in her new book, *Help, Thanks, Wow*, she has coalesced everything she knows about prayer to these fundamentals.

It is these three prayers – asking for assistance from a higher power, appreciating what we have that is good, and feeling awe at the world around us – that can get us through the day and can show us the way forward. In *Help, Thanks, Wow*, Lamott recounts how she came to these insights, explains what they mean to her and how they have helped, and explores how others have embraced these same ideas.

Insightful and honest as only Anne Lamott can be, *Help, Thanks, Wow* is the everyday faith book that new Lamott readers will love and longtime Lamott fans will treasure.

2015

No Longer Silent

Susan D. Matthews

The story of Jesus of Nazareth has been called "the greatest story ever told," but what role do women play in that story? In *No Longer Silent*, author Susan Dehn Matthews attempts to highlight the women in the Gospels and provide the background behind those important women.

Matthews starts by noting that women in the Gospels were deliberately disempowered in order to maintain their presumed dependence, both in Scripture and in society. She then gives a voice to the minds and hearts of the women of the gospels who have been marginalized or ignored altogether. As she writes, "Each women whose story is recounted here is remarkable precisely because, through the power of an encounter with Jesus, she discovered within herself the Divine energy that allowed her to offer her unique gift to the world."

2015

Praying to Change Your Life

Suzette T. Caldwell

What do you say when you pray? It is a question that I have been asked over and over again during the past 14 years that I have pursued the calling to study and teach prayer. The question does not solely

come from beginning prayers, but from Christians in all stages of their prayer lives and walks with the Lord. The purpose of this book is to answer the question; to take the mystery out of prayer; and to empower prayers with the information they need to pray effectively. By the end of this book, readers will understand why we are called to pray and will have the tools to more than adequately answer the call. Ultimately, they will know how to pray prayers that produce God's plans for themselves, their businesses, their community, and their world.

2015

Seven Paths, The

Anasazi Foundation

People have moved away from Mother Earth, bringing heartache, pain, and other maladies of the modern age. The "self-help" movement claims to offer peace and fulfillment to individuals, but this solitary approach takes us only so far. Ultimately, it is in communion with our fellow beings and the natural world that we are made whole. We need to leave the path of Me and follow the path of We.

This poetic, evocative story presents the meditations of an ancient Anasazi tribesman who rejects his family and sets off on a journey through the desert. He walks seven paths, each teaching a lesson symbolized by an element of the natural world: light, wind, water, stone, plants, animals, and, finally, the unity of all beings with the Creator. *The Seven Paths* reveals a source of wisdom, restoration, and renewal familiar to native people but lost to the rest of us, seven elements among nature that combine to mend human hearts.

2015

Shopping: Christian Explorations of Daily Living

Michelle Gonzalez

What could be more mundane or less religious than shopping? Yet shopping asks us to choose our values and weigh the good in everyday terms. It also brings us instantly in contact with the myriad relationships and labor of people all over the world who have grown, harvested, or crafted the food, clothes, and other items with which we sustain and adorn our lives. Michelle Gonzalez, whose work on spirituality has lifted up the life practices of Latina women, explores the rich material on economic activity and relationships in the Christian tradition and the larger pertinence of our actions in an era of globalized economic interconnection.

Shopping focuses on the practice of shopping and its relationship to Christian spirituality and asks: How do Christian justice and solidarity play a role in how we value and spend our money? Can shopping be a Christian act? Can it be a sinful one?

2015

Six by Ten

Taylor Pendergrass and Mateo Hoke, Editors

Six by ten feet. That's the average size of the cells in which tens of thousands of people incarcerated in the United States linger for weeks, months, and even decades in solitary confinement. With little stimulation and no meaningful human contact, these individuals struggle to preserve their identity, sanity, and even their lives. In thirteen intimate narratives, *Six by Ten* explores the mental, physical, and spiritual impacts of America's widespread embrace of solitary confinement. Through stories from those subjected to solitary confinement, family members on the outside, and corrections officers, *Six by Ten* examines the darkest hidden corners of America's mass incarceration culture and illustrates how solitary confinement inflicts lasting consequences on families and communities far beyond prison walls. Stories include those of Brian, who was shuttled from prison to prison across Illinois as part of an unofficial program that came to be known as "the circuit"; Heather, a mother fighting for the life of her son, Nikko, who was diagnosed as bipolar at a young age and sent to solitary as a teenager; and Sonya, a trans woman sent to solitary in a men's jail in Texas, supposedly for her own protection.

2015

Well Women, The

Ladine Housholder

The Samaritan Woman Comes to Life----The Samaritan woman at the well has gotten a bad rap. For two thousand years she's been known as the loose woman with long affairs and the "five-time loser" of short marriages—a slut and a victim. But what is her truth?

Former members of an international Bible study group in Rome are reunited on a tour of the West Bank city of Nablus, the historical site of Jacob's well where Jesus encountered the Samaritan "woman at the well." Beneath their stylish veneer of accomplishment and comfortable affluence, each woman has been deeply hurt and nearly broken by their lives. At the well, with a modern Samaritan woman as their guide, each woman shares her journey of recovery through the healing power of "living water" from Jesus Christ. Through the love and support of the study group's members, they truly meet each other. Throughout this tour of life, healing, and history, the reader is treated to a rich tapestry of details about the people and culture of the Middle East.

In this inspiring story of triumph, redemption, and healing, nine modern women discover what it is like to walk in the Samaritan woman's sandals, each on her own path to becoming a Well Woman. With accompanying discussion questions, *The Well Women* is an excellent choice for Bible study groups and retreats. It makes a unique gift for anyone, especially those who are going through a difficult marriage, the loss of a child or spouse, or any of life's other challenges. Dr. John Pilch, scripture scholar, says, "Whether selected for serious study or spiritual enrichment, this book provides fresh insights into a familiar story that will prove its enduring power to challenge and inspire readers, women and men alike."

2016

Before We Eat – From Farm to Table, for Children

Pat Brisson and Mary Azarian

Before We Eat has been adopted by the USDA's Agriculture in the Classroom program.

Before we eat, many people work very hard—planting grain, catching fish, tending farm animals, and filling crates of vegetables. With vibrant illustrations by Caldecott Medalist Mary Azarian, this book reminds us what must happen before food gets to our tables to nourish our bodies and spirits.

This expanded edition of *Before We Eat* includes back-of-book features about school gardens and the national farm-to-school movement.

2016 *** Youth

Coaltown Jesus

Ron Koertge

Walker shouldn't have been so surprised to find Jesus standing in the middle of his bedroom. After all, he'd prayed for whoever was up there to help him, and to help his mom, who hadn't stopped crying since Noah died two months ago. But since when have prayers actually been answered? And since when has Jesus been so . . . irreverent? But as astounding as Jesus' sudden appearance is, it's going to take more than divine intervention for Walker to come to terms with his brother's sudden death. Why would God take seventeen-year-old Noah when half of the residents in his mom's nursing home were waiting to die? And why would he send Jesus to Coaltown, Illinois, to pick up the pieces? In a spare and often humorous text, renowned poet Ron Koertge tackles some of life's biggest questions — and humanizes the divine savior in a way that highlights the divinity in all of us.

2016

Cured but not Healed

Kymerley Clemons-Jones, Editor

Can you be cured, but still not be healed? Can you find cures for your ailments and your fears through medicine, self-help disciplines, or even through gained knowledge, and still be in need of a more powerful and long-lasting spiritual healing? The answer is, overwhelmingly, yes!

Just like a plant that grows a beautiful green bud may reflect that growth is happening, if the roots of the plant are not deep enough the plant is in constant risk of succumbing to its elements. Likewise, we are at risk of relapsing and disease if we are not planted deep in our faith.

In *Cured but not Healed* you will find instructions on how to develop a deeper relationship with God. You will sometimes find my words challenging and at times comforting. You will find encouragement to keep

seeking the Lord with all your body, mind, and spirit, and you will find restoration in your newly engaged relationship with God.

Cured but not Healed is an individual or group study book with helpful coaching tips that will take you on a journey of faith by delving into the heart and spirit of what it takes to gain true healing.

It is time, today, for you to grow your relationship and faith and finally be rooted in your healing! Will you be rooted in your faith? Will you be truly healed? Take the first step now. Read on and blessings on the journey!

2016

Key United Methodist Beliefs

William J. Abraham and David F. Watson

John Wesley distinguished between essential doctrines on which agreement or consensus is critical and opinions about theology or church practices on which disagreement must be allowed. Though today few people join churches based on doctrinal commitments, once a person has joined a church it becomes important to know the historic teachings of that church's tradition.

In *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*, Ted Campbell outlines historical doctrinal consensus in American Episcopal Methodist Churches in a comparative and ecumenical dialogue with the doctrinal inheritance of other major families of Christian tradition. In this way, the book shows both what Methodist churches historically teach in common with ecumenical Christianity and what is distinctive about the Methodist tradition in its various contemporary forms. Documents examined include The Twenty-Five Articles of Religion, The General Rules, Wesley's Standard Sermons and Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament, The Methodist Social Creed, and the Apostles' Creed.

2016

My Life and Lesser Catastrophes - A Memoir

Christina Schofield

Just after her thirteenth wedding anniversary, Christina Schofield woke up groggy and disoriented, surrounded by nurses in a hospital. She and her husband had hit a gravel patch while on their motorcycle and crashed into a ditch. With the exception of a concussion, she was fine. But Allen had broken his neck. He was now a quadriplegic.

With her entire life flipped upside down, she began an astonishing journey of tenacious faith amid increasing doubt. Full of dark, silent hours and a woman's honest questioning of the God she thought she knew, this is also a story full of miraculous answers to prayer and head-scratching, awe-inspiring encounters with her loving Lord.

With candid warmth and transparency, Christina shows readers that even in their darkest hours, God's goodness shines through.

2016

On God's Side – What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned

Jim Wallis

Lincoln led America through one of the most tumultuous times in our nation's history. Listening to his words today, it is clear we still have much to learn concerning what it means to be on God's side.

Bestselling author, public theologian, and leading Christian activist Jim Wallis speaks directly into our current context, revealing the spiritual compass we need to effect lasting change in our society. He explains how the good news of Jesus transforms not only our individual lives but also our public lives.

Jesus' gospel of the kingdom of God helps us recover a personal and social commitment to the common good and shows us - in concrete ways - how to be both personally responsible and socially just. Working together, we can reshape our churches, society, politics, and economy. This audiobook seeks to move beyond the current media and political warfare and bring together a divided country. Wallis explores how Jesus' agenda can serve the common good, what it takes to sustain a lifelong commitment to social justice, and how reading the Bible as well as the culture can shape our lives for genuine transformation.

2016

Things Your Mother Never Told You – A Woman's Guide to Sexuality

Kim Gaines Eckert

"Sexuality offers important lessons about God, about ourselves, about the life that he is calling us to now, as well as a vision of the life that he has ultimately created us for—one of constant love and physical union with him in eternity."

Sexuality is core to our personhood. Conversations about sex and sexuality matter, because they are really about our identity as people created in the image of God. So why aren't Christians talking about it?

In this frank exploration of all aspects of what it means to be a sexual being created by God, psychologist Kim Gaines Eckert explores common myths that we have absorbed from popular culture and distorted religious teaching. As women, in particular, we are flooded with images of disconnecting, degrading sexuality. It is easy to develop distorted views, but our sexuality as women is a reflection of how we have been created in God's image. Some myths that Eckert debunks include:

- Sex is good or sex is evil
- Sexuality should not be talked about
- You must experience erotic sexual satisfaction to be fulfilled

Neither our identity as sexual beings nor the gift of sexual pleasure is the thing itself. God has created us for union with Himself, and sex and sexuality are signs that point us toward that ultimate good. Allow this book to be your companion into a journey to deeper self-understanding as you explore things you may never have discussed with anyone else.

2016

Tilly – A Story of Hope and Resilience

Monique Gray Smith

Tilly has always known she's part Lakota on her dad's side. She's grown up with the traditional teachings of her grandma, relishing the life lessons of her beloved mentor. But it isn't until an angry man shouts something on the street that Tilly realizes her mom is Aboriginal, too—a Cree woman taken from her own parents as a baby.

Tilly feels her mother's pain deeply. She's always had trouble fitting in at school, and when her grandma dies unexpectedly, her anchor is gone. Then Abby, a grade seven classmate, invites her home for lunch and offers her "something special" to drink. Nothing has prepared Tilly for the tingling in her legs, the buzz in her head and the awesome feeling that she can do anything. From then on, partying seems to offer an escape from her insecurities. But after one dangerously drunken evening, Tilly knows she has to change. Summoning her courage, she begins the long journey to finding pride in herself and her heritage. Just when she needs it most, a mysterious stranger offers some wise counsel: "Never question who you are or who your people are. It's in your eyes. I know it's in your heart."

Loosely based on author Monique Gray Smith's own life, this revealing, important work of creative non-fiction tells the story of a young Indigenous woman coming of age in Canada in the 1980s. With compassion, insight and humour, Gray Smith illuminates the 20th-century history of Canada's First Peoples—forced displacement, residential schools, tuberculosis hospitals, the Sixties Scoop. In a spirit of hope, this unique story captures the irrepressible resilience of *Tilly*, and of Indigenous peoples everywhere.

2017

Blessings & Bling, The

Sheron C. Patterson

The Blessings and Bling is one woman's account of how a strong sense of faith and a love of fashion helped bridge the gap between despair and hope.

2017

Extraordinary Grace

Gary Chapman and Chris Fabry

God's extraordinary grace is hard to grasp—but made easier to understand through stories of God's people.

Gary Chapman and Chris Fabry search the Scriptures for examples of God's grace in the lives of those named in Jesus' lineage, but what they find are people with faults, foibles, and sins, just like the rest of us. So obviously, grace is not about doing everything exactly right. It is a gift . . . an astonishing gift given by God.

In *Extraordinary Grace*, you will hear the call of grace; laugh because of grace; apply grace; be overtaken by grace; and know the extraordinary grace that comes from loving Jesus.

Chapter studies, for individuals or groups, will help you to find examples of extraordinary grace reflected in the lineage of Jesus.

2017

Femmevangelical

Rev. Jennifer Crumpton

Damaging social contradictions, pervasive patriarchal structure, and oppressive gender biases - no wonder women are abandoning formal religions! But our faith is still important to us, leaving many conflicted and frustrated in the quest to cultivate and practice our authentic female spirituality and authority. Rev. Jennifer Crumpton, author of the popular blog *Femmevangelical*, takes us on a journey to find the good news in the gospel of Jesus that encourages us to seek a different reality of equality, freedom, and wholeness.

These stories and meditations - mixed with theological exploration and a closer look at church history - are dedicated to those who have searched for themselves in the Greater Story and been forced to take on an ill-fitting and soul-killing role to be included. It is a companion for anyone who seeks a Christian devotional book not written to prove a religious ideology or uphold an institution, but to prove and uphold our unique experiences, potential, and worth. *Femmevangelical* supports the risks, hope, and faith it takes to follow our instincts, create change, and find the God we know exists beyond what we've been taught; and to commit our lives to creating the world in which we were truly made to live.

2017

Fully Awake and Truly Alive

Reverend Jane Vennard

In a culture enthralled with technology, striving and speed, people of many faith traditions and no faith tradition long to slow down, pay attention and wake up to the present moment. They want help in realizing their hope that they can become more truly alive.

This engaging and highly readable book offers you guidance for the journey. Sharing stories from her personal life as a spiritual seeker and from her professional career as a retreat leader, spiritual director and teacher, Reverend Jane Vennard illustrates the joys and frustrations of spiritual practice, offers insights from various religious traditions, and provides step-by-step exercises and meditations to practice:

Caring for the body • Rest • Silence Solitude • Letting go
Community • Hospitality • Service • Living gratefully

2017

If Eve Only Knew

Kendra Weddle Irons and Melanie Springer Mock

"She is a godly woman." "True love waits." Are these phrases and many others about gender truly based in scripture, or based on dusty, outdated stereotypes? And how do these perceptions repress people, especially women, from fully expressing their faith? *If Eve Only Knew: Freeing Yourself from Biblical Womanhood and Becoming All God Means for You to Be* offers a fresh perspective on gender and the Bible, destroying trumped-up, captive-creating messages with the freeing proclamation grounded in Jesus' ministry and found everywhere in scripture: that we are all created in God's image, and by relying on our gifts and skills - rather than on gender-designed roles - we become all God means for us to be.

2017 *** Children

Just for Today

Saint John XXIII

Known fondly as "The Good Pope," John XXIII was recently canonized as a saint, and his daily Decalogue continues to be a source of inspiration for people the world over. In this picture book, graceful illustrations connect the text to everyday life, showing how the statements apply to school, family, and friendships.

The pairing of Saint John XXIII's cherished words and Bimba Landmann's symbolic artwork instills readers of all ages with a sense of peace while they savor each page. This lovely book provides the perfect reminder of how to make the most of every day.

2017

Living into Hope

Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell

"Joan Brown Campbell's career can be regarded as prophetic. For Joan, faith has meant engagement with the world and its pain. Her words remind us that at its best, religion should not narrow our horizons, but enable us to live more fully; should not cause us to withdraw from the world, but to do our utmost to make it a better place."
—from the Foreword by Karen Armstrong

Drawing on her amazing life experiences, Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell speaks out on the pressing issues that face us today: love, justice, reconciliation, forgiveness and community. With a bold, distinctive voice, this visionary minister asserts that we have the capacity to transcend the barriers that separate us from one another. She poses that "Who is my neighbor?" may be the most crucial question in our world where so many are hungry and hurting and weary of war. She calls us to live life fully—not carefully or cautiously, but wholly engaged with the world and with the messiness of humanity. She dares us to act as the people we are called and created to be—to claim our freedom to care, to risk and to step out into the unknown.

Capturing the essence of her wisdom gained from years of world travel and experience, Campbell offers inspiration and challenge for all who would claim their lives as people of hope.

2017 *** Youth

Reason—How I Discovered a Life Worth Living, The

Lacey Sturm

The day Lacey Sturm planned to kill herself was the day her grandmother forced her to go to church, a place Lacey thought was filled with hypocrites, fakers, and simpletons. The screaming match she had with her grandmother was the reason she went to church. What she found there was the *Reason* she is alive today.

With raw vulnerability, this hard rock princess tells her own story of physical abuse, drug use, suicide attempts, and more--and her ultimate salvation. She asks the hard questions so many young people are asking--Why am I here? Why am I empty? Why should I go on living?--showing readers that beyond the temporary highs and the soul-crushing lows there is a reason they exist and a purpose for their lives. She not only gives readers a peek down the rocky path that led her to become a vocalist in a popular hardcore band, but she shows them that the same God is guiding their steps today.

2017

Soul Repair

Rita Nakashima Brock and Gabriella Lettini

Although veterans make up only 7 percent of the U.S. population, they account for an alarming 20 percent of all suicides. And though treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder has undoubtedly alleviated suffering and allowed many service members returning from combat to transition to civilian life, the suicide rate for veterans under thirty has been increasing. Research by Veterans Administration health professionals and veterans' own experiences now suggest an ancient but unaddressed wound of war may be a factor: moral injury. This deep-seated sense of transgression includes feelings of shame, grief, meaninglessness, and remorse from having violated core moral beliefs.

Rita Nakashima Brock and Gabriella Lettini, who both grew up in families deeply affected by war, have been working closely with vets on what moral injury looks like, how vets cope with it, and what can be done to heal the damage inflicted on soldiers' consciences. In *Soul Repair*, the authors tell the stories of four veterans of wars from Vietnam to our current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan—Camillo “Mac” Bica, Herman Keizer Jr., Pamela Lightsey, and Camilo Mejía—who reveal their experiences of moral injury from war and how they have learned to live with it. Brock and Lettini also explore its effect on families and communities, and the community processes that have gradually helped soldiers with their moral injuries.

Soul Repair will help veterans, their families, members of their communities, and clergy understand the impact of war on the consciences of healthy people, support the recovery of moral conscience in society, and restore veterans to civilian life. When a society sends people off to war, it must accept responsibility for returning them home to peace.

2017

Wild in the Hollow—On Chasing Desire and Finding the Broken Way Home

Amber C. Haines

Loving the world like God does involves extreme sacrifice. Living the passionate, courageous life Jesus challenged us all to live also has radical effects, demonstrated in these 366 true accounts of fellow believers from around the world:

- A Christian claims the names of God at knifepoint— and lives to tell about it . . .
- Prayer revives a coma victim, in defiance of village witch doctors . . .
- A former Muslim finds forgiveness in the Jesus she denied . . .
- Prayerwalking college students lay a foundation for spiritual revival in West Africa . . .

If you're bored with your comfort-fit Christianity, if you're ready for God to shake you awake, then take the challenge. Find out in these pages what on earth God is doing in your generation . . .and discover your role in making a difference in the world.

2017

Worry Less So You Can Live More

Jane Rubietta

Weary of worry and its tagalongs: anxiety, discouragement, and exhaustion? Jane Rubietta invites you to leave behind your heavy heart and learn to truly live again. To experience joy and rest in the moment-by-moment pleasure of a God who delights in you--and has all your tomorrows under his control. Jane's picturesque prose offers enduring encouragement and practical tools for change. Discussion questions and journaling prompts make this the perfect book to read on your own or share with your small group and discover how to worry less and live more.

2018

Adventure of Ascent

Luci Shaw

In this book, writer-poet Luci Shaw has given us a lifetime of exquisite reflections on nature, love, death, suffering, loss, faith, doubt, creativity, curiosity, lifelong learning—all of it drawn from the breadth of her own experience, harvested in penetrating and lyrical insights. Still active in her eighties, Luci now turns her attention to the season of edging toward the borders. Her spirit of adventure, her brave transparency, and her openness to all that life offers (as well as inflicts) makes her a captivating and hope-inspiring mentor.

For most of us, growing older is a reality we put off as long as possible—until we realize with a shock that it is happening to us. We immediately look around to see how others on the path just ahead of us are dealing with it. So here is the intrepid Luci Shaw, taking readers on a virtual hike with her, with steps more deliberate and slow but also with surprising vistas that fill us with gratitude.

In this book Luci serves as a fearless and eloquent scout. As she traverses new territory, she records her experiences lovingly, honestly, sorrowfully, joyfully—here's what it's like, and here's what to be ready for. These field notes will inform your own journey, no matter what your age.

2018

Bus to Corinth

Ladine Housholder

Luci Shaw, finalist in Foreword's "Indiefab Book of the Year" awards for her book, *The Well Women*, has done it again. Her sequel, *Bus to Corinth*, has hit the road! Five of the original "Well Women" journey through Greece to honor the memory of a friend and retrace the footsteps of Paul the Apostle during his ministry in Athens and Corinth. The idea was simple enough: see the sights, sample some great food,

and kick back together. Suddenly, the Bus takes unexpected turns and negotiates sharp curves. Why is travel professional Ruth so reluctant to lead the group? What still haunts Alicia? Nurse Beth's knees are healed but not her marriage. If modern Samaritan Najila manages her own business, why does she hesitate about a simple proposal. And how can Vicky, a church historian, create stellar guides to Paul's Corinthian letters but not finish her own novel? As they study I and II Corinthians, the friends discover how the Apostle Paul loved and labored as God's change agent for quarrelsome Judeans in Corinth. They realize they, too, are changed. Like Paul's vision of Jesus, their experience explodes into their lives, empowering and transforming them forever.

2018 *** Youth

Christ Walk with Kids

Anna Courie

- Builds on success of Christ Walk (for adults) -- an ecumenical audience
- Promotes healthy, Christian exercise for tweens and teens
- Provides a pathway for youth to healthy, biblically based practices

Developed as a companion to Christ Walk: A 40-Day Spiritual Fitness Program, new *Christ Walk with Kids* is an exciting 40-day journey for youth (ages 11 and up) to explore mind, body, and spiritual health while setting physical goals by committing to walk different routes based on routes in the Bible. Each chapter explores a topic that everyone thinks about, but not everyone knows how to address.

Anna Courie opens up a discussion with youth about health topics they think and talk about among themselves, but puts the dialogue in the perspective of spiritual development. Key to the success of this outline is that each day there are topics for youth and parents and/or youth leaders to use as they explore health in a safe environment. Youth are encouraged to participate fully in the Christ Walk program by physical challenges (walking, running, or biking "biblical" routes); mental challenges (deep discussion and thoughtfulness of youth health risks); and spiritual challenges (biblical references and spiritually grounded self-development). Youth and parents are urged to participate together in the Christ Walk program so that the church can address the health of the entire family holistically: mind, body, and spirit.

2018

Pilgrim Messiah, The

Dr. Richard C. Cheatham

The author blends Biblical scholarship with his warm imagination to transform the Gospel of Mark into Jesus' story. Christian creeds proclaim "Jesus Christ: Fully Human, Fully Divine," but his humanity tends to be overlooked in actual practice. The readers of this novel will experience The Man of Galilee in all his

rich humanity. They will see the tender parting with his family when he leaves for the Jordan River. They will hear his thoughts as he struggles with Satan in the wilderness. They will meet his followers, Simon Peter, James, John, Mary Magdala. Thomas and Judas – yes – even Judas as understandable, likeable people. The readers see his growth in the understanding of the peril and enormity of his messianic ministry. They will share his struggles and be with him on the cross. In short, the readers of this novel will never again think of Jesus as less than fully human.

**Available on Kindle Unlimited

2018

Pray and Color

Sybil MacBeth

This is not just another coloring book. It is a guide to prayer for anyone who wants to connect with God by creating something visual and concrete.

Since 2007, thousands have enjoyed learning a new prayer practice called Praying in Color from Sybil MacBeth. This new coloring book and guide includes an introduction to fourteen types of prayer, along with 32 pages to color. Sybil teaches how to use these types of prayer while you color:

Prayers for Others, Prayers for Yourself, Disgruntled Prayers, Gratitude Prayers, Praise Prayers, Regret Prayers, Spending-Time-With-God Prayers, Blessing Prayers, Praying for Enemies, Praying with Scripture, Praying Your To-Do List, Daily Inventory Prayers, Hodgepodge Prayers, Prayer Calendars.

Slowing down isn't easy in our culture where stimulation and constant virtual connection are the norm. If you find the transition from busyness to stillness difficult, follow Sybil to a slower, more contemplative pace through coloring as prayer and as spiritual practice.

2018

Tattered and Mended

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2019 *** Children

All Around Us

Xelena Gonzalez

Grandpa says circles are all around us. He points to the rainbow that rises high in the sky after a thundercloud has come. "Can you see? That's only half of the circle. That rest of it is down below, in the earth." He and his granddaughter meditate on gardens and seeds, on circles seen and unseen, inside and outside us, on where our bodies come from and where they return to. They share and create family traditions in this stunning exploration of the cycles of life and nature.

2019

Be Still: Departure from Collective Madness

Gordon C. Stewart

Be Still: Departure from Collective Madness echoes the call of the Navajo sage and the psalmist who invited their hearers to stop--"If we keep going this way, we're going to get where we're going"--and be still--"Be still, and know. . . ." Like pictures in a photo album taken from a unique lens, these essays zoom in on singular moments of time where the world is making headlines, drawing attention to the sin of exceptionalism in its national, racial, religious, cultural, and species manifestations. Informed by Japanese Christian theologian Kosuke Koyama, Elie Wiesel, Wendell Berry, and others, the author invites the reader to slow down, be still, and depart from "collective madness" before the Navajo sage is right. Told in the voice familiar to listeners of All Things Considered and Minnesota Public Radio, these poetic essays sometimes feel as familiar as an old family photo album, but the pictures themselves are taken from a thought-provoking angle.

2019

Lessons to Nourish the Soul

Rev. Marjorie Eva Palmer

The sermons found in this volume, Favorites edition of the *Lessons to Nourish the Soul* series, are my personal favorite sermons that I wrote and presented as a United Methodist pastor.

These sermons began initially as lectionary items that I hoped would be challenging and might yield some good thoughts for my community. I am particularly interested in helping people come to faith, grow in faith, and understand their faith, using it as a foundation for their living.

Like the King's servants who were sent to offer invitations to the wedding banquet for any who would hear and accept, these sermons offer that invitation: the invitation to come unto Him and become part of God's Kingdom.

2019

Soulmaking Room, The

Dee Dee Risher

In this personal story, Dee Dee Risher weaves experiences from her life with the biblical story of the prophet Elisha and the Shunammite woman. Risher is captivated by this spiritually attuned, generous, hospitable, honest, and bold woman. The woman from Shunem extends radical hospitality to the prophet, expecting no reward. But when disaster strikes, she does not hesitate to hold Elisha accountable or talk back.

"Every human being goes through so much," Risher reflects, "and there is some heartbreakingly beautiful fruit we are to shape from that. That is our own unique, authentic gift to the world." Her book encourages each of us to find a holy room in which we are in community with others and where we can shape our souls into their unique dimensions. We each need a space for this work—a *Soulmaking Room*.

"If we cannot deal with failure, if we do not know how to put our deepest losses in our holy room, and if we do not know who our people are, we can never fully join the joy and power of God's story," Dee Dee Risher asserts. Embark with her on the adventure of creating and discovering the joys of *The Soulmaking Room*.

2019

Spoken Into Being: Divine Encounters through Story

Michael Williams, Sr.

"Tell me a story." Countless parents and grandparents have heard that request from children. People of all ages are captivated by a good story.

Storytelling helps us make sense of the events of our lives, the world around us, and God. When we tell stories, we speak a world into being—just as God did in the creation accounts in the book of Genesis.

In this book on storytelling as spiritual exploration, master storyteller Michael Williams shares stories from his life, guides us to reflect on our lives, and helps us tell our stories. He reminds us that we have

been spoken into being as part of a much larger story. Using poetry, personal narrative, and retellings of biblical stories, Williams leads us to a deeper knowledge of the power of narrative.

The stories that capture our attention shape us into who we are now and the persons we will become. Not all stories serve us well, however. Stories of fear stop us in our tracks and become roadblocks on the journey, while stories of fantasy, no matter how alluring, are dead-end streets.

Spoken into Being points to a path beyond fear and fantasy, a way toward encounters with the Holy where all things are being made new.

2019

Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith, The

Chris Folmsbee

How can we introduce younger lay people to the practical and accessible Wesley? In *The Wesley Challenge Participant Book* small groups or whole churches will spend three weeks working through 21 questions that will engage their physical, spiritual and emotional lives and their relationship with God and others.

With fast-paced emphasis on graphics and short content bits, the challenge will inspire us to a new kind of commitment—one that is more authentic, vulnerable and soul shaping resulting in thousands of people who have a renewed passion to discover deeper levels of commitment to God and others.

Additional components for a three-week study include a comprehensive leader guide and a DVD featuring author Chris Folmsbee, and a youth study guide.

2019

What We Need is Here: Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality

Roger Owens

For those searching for an authentic faith, Roger Owens shows that in Jesus, God has already given us all we need to live and flourish. He calls readers to return to basic Christian practices that build and sustain their relationship with God.

Owens explores 7 fundamentals of Christian spirituality: reading the Gospels, praying the Psalms, befriending silence, finding Jesus in church, meeting Jesus through Holy Communion, embodying our spirituality, and being with the poor. His book is a thoughtful, engaging treatment of practices essential to growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Ideal for individual or small-group study.

2019 *** Youth

What's Your Story? Seeing Your Life Through God's Eyes

Sarah Heath

Envision your life as an adventure co-created by God. This study explores Joseph's story. He accomplished great things in Egypt, but he didn't really understand his story's significance until he recognized what God was doing through him. Sarah Heath helps you explore your own life story in the same way. By doing so, you'll discover how to co-create with God the kind of life that will be a page-turner.

This four-session small-group study features opportunities and space for creative journaling, complemented by art from the author. A DVD and Leader Guide are available to spark further reflection and discussion for small groups.

2020

40 Days with Wesley

Rueben P. Job

This engaging daily devotional weaves quotes and excerpts from John Wesley, the father of Methodism, with inspirational readings on faith and prayer from Rueben P. Job, well-known leader in spiritual formation. Each selection offers a simple daily pattern of reflection with a prayer, Scripture, and short readings that make this daily devotional an easy read. You'll also find that this book makes a wonderful gift or award for anyone who needs reassurance and inspiration.

2020

God Unbound

Elaine Heath

The apostle Paul led the Galatians through a massive cultural shift in which they had to radically expand their ideas of who God is, who they were, and God's mission for the church. He was able to lead them through this time of great change because of his encounter with the risen Christ on the Damascus road, an experience in which his view of God was completely upended.

Today Christianity is undergoing a cultural shift just as challenging as the situation confronting Paul and the Galatians. As many churches decline, congregations and pastors feel uncertain and anxious about how to continue their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Elaine Heath extends an invitation to broaden our view of God by moving beyond the walls of buildings and programs to become a more diverse church than we have ever imagined. While deeply honoring tradition, she calls the church to boldly follow the Holy Spirit's leadership into the future.

2020

If I should Die Before I Live

Richard R. Smyth

A disquieting question persists: “What if I should die before I feel life is full?” It is deeply personal, hauntingly spiritual. It’s a challenge to re-visit beliefs and the dynamics of faith, love, hope. Exploration brings a fresh encounter: the human and spiritual elements of “self.” These are not contending identities; each supplies unique initiatives for life’s fullness. Both need nurturing; either can be ignored. Spiritual experience makes promise and mystery real; this enhances earthly achievements.

These Meditations focus on spiritual vitality—especially for seniors. They reach beyond a biological birth-death time-frame. They touch on continuity beyond earth-time. God’s initiatives enrich the spiritual self—grace energizes faith. This generates and motivates people to offer acts of love. Love fosters grander character and perspective, wholesome relationships, healing for the heart-hungry/heart-broken. The outcome: a healthier self experiencing joy and peace—wholeness for life beyond death.

2020

Magnificent Story, The

James Bryan Smith

We are story-making people. We love reading stories--and we love hearing the personal stories of others. We need stories, or narratives, to make sense of our world. And those stories shape our lives. What is the story you have been told about God? About the gospel? About the Christian life? About Jesus? About the cross? About yourself? About heaven?

Your answers to these questions will form a story that will determine how your life will go. The answers reveal your ability to trust, to love, to hope--and even your capacity for joy. Any story worth giving the power to shape our lives must pass a simple test: is it beautiful, good, and true? If it is, then it is a *Magnificent Story*--and that is where transformation takes place.

From James Bryan Smith, author of the bestselling book *Good and Beautiful God*, comes this spiritual formation resource meant to help both individuals and groups understand the *Magnificent Story* of Christ in their lives. Soon to be followed by *The Magnificent Journey: Living Deep in the Kingdom* (Fall 2018) and *The Magnificent Mission: Called and Sent by the Storyteller* (Fall 2019), the field-tested material within includes spiritual practices at the end of each chapter and a group discussion guide. Uncover the true story of beauty, goodness, and truth that will satisfy the ultimate longings of your heart.

2020

Raising World Changers in a Changing World

Kristen Welch

Almost any parent you asked would tell you that they want their children to be happy, successful adults. But many of us forget (or never knew to begin with) that lasting personal joy is not necessarily found the way the world says it is--through reaching a certain socioeconomic status, having a certain job, buying a certain house, or having a certain amount in one's bank account. In fact, says Kristen Welch, popular blogger and author of *Raising Grateful Kids in an Entitled World*, personal satisfaction comes not from grabbing onto things but from holding them with an open hand and, very often, giving them away.

In this inspiring book, Welch shows parents how to discover for themselves and instill in their kids the profound joy that comes from sharing what we have been given--our time, our talents, and even what's in our wallets--with those who have less. Through powerful personal stories as well as stories from Scripture, Welch offers a tantalizing alternative to status quo parenting that has the power to impact not only our own families but the entire world. At the end of each chapter, one of the author's kids offers their perspective on what it's like to be raised as a world changer.

2020

Resist and Persist: Faith and the Fight for Equality

Erin Wathen

Named one of the Best Books of 2018 by *Publishers Weekly* (Religion)

Gold Winner for Religion for the 2018 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards

Over the past few decades, the roles women play in public life have evolved significantly, as have the pressures that come with needing to do it all, have it all, and be all things to all people. And with this progress, misogyny has evolved as well. Today's discrimination is more subtle and indirect, expressed in double standards, micro aggressions, and impossible expectations. In other ways, sexism has gotten more brash and repulsive as women have gained power and voice in the mainstream culture.

Patriarchy is still sanctioned by every institution: capitalism, government, and even--maybe especially--the church itself. This is perhaps the ultimate irony--that a religion based on the radical justice and liberation of Jesus' teachings has been the most complicit part of the narrative against women's equality. If we are going to dial back the harmful rhetoric against women and their bodies, the community of faith is going to have to be a big part of the solution.

Erin Wathen navigates the complex layers of what it means to be a woman in our time and place--from the language we use to the clothes that we wear to the unseen and unspoken assumptions that challenge our full personhood at every turn. *Resist and Persist* reframes the challenges to women's equality in light of our current culture and political climate, providing a new language of resistance that can free women and men from the pernicious power of patriarchy.

2020

We Pray with Her

Emily Peck-McClain, Danyelle Trexler, et al.

As female leaders, our journeys are littered with obstacles and pitfalls unique to our gender. But we do not need to walk through life alone; we need to support and encourage our fellow women as we forge ahead in our work to leave a positive mark on the world. *We Pray with Her* is a collection of 100 inspiring devotionals written by the women who formed the grassroots movement of the same name. Whether you're a woman leader or an aspiring leader looking for personal inspiration, in a supportive role to a leader, or a woman who wants to support her sisters in Christ, you'll find a home within these pages.

2020

Working Class Rage: A Field Guide to White Anger and Pain

Tex Sample

They are identified as the voting block that decided the 2016 presidential election: white, working-class people. Tex Sample, author of *Working Class Rage*, says that when we fail to look past the stereotypes of this demographic as unintelligent, self-destructive, and all things racist, we neglect to understand the nuances of this group, which means we, as pastors and church leaders, cannot be effective when communicating the Good News of Jesus. Sample provides a reliable and reader-friendly guide that drills deeper into the realities of a group of people who feel their suffering and anger has been denied, ignored, and misunderstood, and offers a way forward for partnerships that will enhance the lives of white (and black) working-class America.

2020

Writings of John Wesley

Keith Beasley-Topliffe, Editor

John Wesley was an eighteenth-century preacher, writer, and one of the founders of the Methodist movement. This book includes selections from Wesley's journals, sermons, and books, giving a clear picture not only of Wesley but also of the spiritual vitality that ignited a movement and continues to transform lives today.

More than ever, people want to grow spiritually. Many want to explore the rich spiritual writings of influential leaders in the history of Christianity. But trying to read classics written centuries ago can be daunting. The Upper Room Spiritual Classics are designed to help by offering readable translations in an accessible format.

Each book provides at least 14 excerpts that cover the range of the writer's spiritual concerns. An insightful, expertly written introduction helps readers understand the writer and his or her world. The Upper Room Spiritual Classics will help both individuals and groups grow in their faith by seeing God through the eyes of remarkable spiritual leaders.