

United Methodist Women Reading Program 2018: Book Descriptions

Education for Mission

FIRST WHITE FROST – *Native Americans and United Methodism*

Homer Noley
Abingdon Press, 2000, \$17.99

The history of the Methodist's attempt to evangelize Native Americans is riddled with spectacular failures and dramatic successes. In this account, Homer Noley helps you gain new insights and a richer understanding of Methodist missionary activities with Native Americans from the 1600s.

HIDING IN THE LIGHT – *Why I Risked Everything to Leave Islam and Follow Jesus*

Rifqa Bary
Penguin Random House, 2015, \$16.00

Growing up in a devout Muslim home, Rifqa Bary obediently followed the rituals of Islam. *Hiding in the Light* is her story of her remarkable spiritual journey from Islam to Christianity. It is also the story of a young girl who, hearing Jesus' call, made life-changing sacrifices to follow – and who inspires us to do the same.

A HOUSE IN THE SKY – *A Memoir of a Kidnapping That Changed Everything*

Amanda Lindhout & Sara Corbett
Simon & Schuster, 2013, \$16.95

At nineteen, Amanda Lindhout began saving her waitressing tips so she could travel the globe. Aspiring to understand the world and live a significant life, she backpacked through Latin America, Laos, and India. She went on to Sudan, Syria and war-torn Afghanistan and Iraq, carving out a fledgling career as a television reporter. In August 2008, she traveled to Somalia, "the most dangerous place on earth" and on her fourth day she was abducted by a group of masked men and held hostage for 460 days. She survived on memory, strategy, fortitude and hope, and by reaching for a house in the sky when she became most desperate.

MASSACRE AT SAND CREEK – *How Methodists Were Involved in an American Tragedy* – **BONUS BOOK** Gary

L. Roberts
Abingdon Press, 2016, \$19.99

November 29, 1864. Colonel John Milton Chivington, a Methodist minister, gave the command that led to the slaughter of 230 peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho, primarily women, children and elderly, who were camped under the protection of the U.S. government along Sand Creek in Colorado Territory and flying both an American and white flags. The Sand Creek Massacre seized attention in the winter of 1864–1865 and generated a controversy that still excites heated debate more than 150 years later.

WITHOUT YOU, THERE IS NO US – *Undercover Among the Sons of North Korea's Elite*

Suki Kim
Penguin Random House, 2014, \$15.00

In 2011, all universities in North Korea were shut down for an entire year, and except for the 270 students at the all-male Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, all students were sent to construction fields. Suki Kim accepted a job teaching English at Pyongyang, and over the next six months she ate three meals a day with her young charges struggling to teach them to write, and carefully telling them about the world beyond their borders, always aware that the more they knew, the more they risked.

Leadership Development

50 WOMEN EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW – *Learning from Heroines of the Faith*

Michelle DeRusha
Baker Books, 2014, \$17.99

Throughout history, countless women have boldly stepped out in faith and courage, leaving their indelible mark on those around them and on the Kingdom of God. Michelle DeRusha brings into focus 50 incredible women of faith — from Catherine of Siena to Susanna Wesley; Harriet Tubman and Corrie ten Boom, bringing the lives of these admirable women to life with engaging narrative as a reminder that we are not alone, the battles we face today are not new and God is always with us during the struggle.

HOLLOW FAITH – *How Andy Griffith, Facebook and the American Dream Diluted the Gospel*

Stephen Ingram
Abingdon Press, 2016, \$15.99

This book takes a deep look into the mirrors of pop and church culture and asks the difficult question: "are the things we produce and consume defining us?" Author Stephen Ingram explores the themes of moralism, deism, me-ism, consumerism and therapeutic religion of pop culture. *Hollow Faith* separates the values of the Gospel from the cultural norms that have domesticated them.

INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP – *A Primer*

Eboo Patel
Beacon Press, 2016, \$18.00

This book offers a clear, detailed and practical guide to interfaith leadership. With compelling examples, Patel explains what interfaith leadership is and explores its core competencies and skills. Interfaith leaders seek points of connection and commonality in their neighborhoods, schools, college campuses, companies and organizations where people of different faiths interact with one another.

THE SACRED SECULAR – *How God is Using the World to Shape the Church*

Dottie Escobedo-Frank & Rob Rynders
Abingdon Press, 2016, \$16.99

This book examines the cultural spaces where people are experiencing something sacred, places that are not in the church. Dottie Escobedo-Frank and Rob Rynders see lessons for the church in these places. They see new ways we can convey to people that the church is uniquely sacred and significant and that Jesus is for them. These glimpses into the sacred-secular will inspire creative church leaders to set aside assumptions about what church looks like and nurture empowerment, creativity, spiritual movement and the courage to embody the sacredness and substance of faith.

SHE – *Five Keys to Unlock the Power of Women in Ministry*

Karoline M. Lewis
Abingdon Press, 2016¹

SHE is a comprehensive look at the challenges women in ministry face. Author Karoline M. Lewis covers everything from biblical arguments for and against women in the church to what not to wear. She reveals the underpinnings of sexism and examines issues of identity, authority, sexuality, authenticity, boundaries, and self-care for women church leaders.

¹ Books without prices are available on Kindle through www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram.

Nurturing For Community

DETAINED AND DEPORTED – *Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire*

Margaret Regan

Beacon Press, 2015, \$18.00

Drawing on years of reporting in the Arizona-Mexico borderlands, journalist Margaret Regan tells the poignant stories of the people caught up in the immigration dragnet. Undocumented immigrants who are detained languishing in detention centers for months or years or deported and returned to violent nations.

AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Beacon Press, 2014, \$16.00

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against indigenous peoples was designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. This centuries-long genocidal program of the U.S. settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans actively resisted, and continue to resist, expansion of the U.S. empire.

ON PLUTO – *Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's*

Greg O'Brien

Codfish Press, 2014

Alzheimer's has been called "a death in slow motion." For close to 10 years, writer Greg O'Brien, diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's, has chronicled the progression of this monster of a disease that is akin to having a sliver of your brain shaved off every day. O'Brien offers an illuminating blueprint of strategies, faith and humor needed to fight this disease, a day-to-day focus on living with Alzheimer's — not dying with it — and a hope that all is not lost when it appears to be. Contains strong language.

PASSING IT ON – *How to Nurture Your Children's Faith Season by Season*

Kara Lassen Oliver

Upper Room Books, 2015, \$9.99

We often give much thought to shaping children's bodies and minds, but we may be puzzled or unsure about shaping them spiritually. In *Passing It On*, Kara Lassen Oliver provides a practical resource to encourage us in nurturing our children's faith. In this guide, she offers easy-to-follow suggestions for the seasons of Advent, Lent, summer and back-to-school for families who want to create space for nurturing faith.

TROUBLE I'VE SEEN – *Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*

Drew G.I. Hart

Herald Press, 2016, \$16.99

What if all Christians listened to the stories of those on the racialized margins? How might Church be changed by the trouble they've seen? In this provocative book, theologian and blogger Drew G.I. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, anti-black stereotype, poverty and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. Leading readers toward Jesus, Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and committed to racial justice.

Social Action

13 STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY

United Methodist Women, 2016

DOWNLOAD AT: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability

You are part of creating an exciting new chapter! United Methodist Women has a proud history. Since 1869, we've been putting faith, hope and love into action for the sake of women, children and youth. In the 21st century, we know that our planet is threatened by an unsustainable, unjust and wasteful economic system in which we're all a part. Some people and cultures have benefitted from the past 150 years of this system. Others have not. But one thing is for sure: we can't continue business as usual. **How we're living is unsustainable.** Sustainable practices are a key to today's women, children and youth's needs and a way to put faith, hope and love in action.

We believe one way to help us move in this direction is by systematically and full-heartedly paying attention to such "minor" details as the food for an event or our transportation arrangements or who is on the planning team. Through our choices as we plan and implement our United Methodist Women meetings, and model these very important practices, we begin to shift our and others' consciousness — across the church — to more concretely build a sustainable economy, develop right relationships and help repair and preserve the ecological wonder of this world.

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN – *Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America*

Jim Wallis

Baker Publishing Group, 2016, \$21.99

Jim Wallis has grasped with amazing clarity and insight the persistent pain and sin of racism in America. In *America's Original Sin*, we have not only a recounting of the pain of racism and xenophobia but also a hope-filled map for a new, reconciled reality. In this powerful book, he calls for a new conversation in our homes, churches, sports arenas and schools — conversations our nation desperately needs right now, especially parents and grandparents raising our next generation of children — and action on the ground.

BORN ON THIRD BASE – *A One Percenter makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good*

Chuck Collins

Chelsea Green Publishing, 2016, \$17.95

With the soul of a storyteller and the heart of an agitator, inequality expert Chuck Collins upends our assumptions about America's deep wealth divide — a divide that, for the first time in recent history, locks the nation's youth into a future defined by their class and wealth at birth, limits our ability to address crises like climate change, and creates a world that no one, not even the rich, will ultimately want to live in. In *Born on Third Base*, Collins calls for an end to class war, busts the myths that define our views of rich and poor and offers bold new solutions for bridging the economic divide and reengaging the wealthy in rebuilding communities for a resilient future.

HOSPITABLE PLANET – *Faith, Action, and Climate Change* – **BONUS BOOK**

Stephen A Jurovics

Church Publishing, 2016. \$18.00

Stephen Jurovics' book is an important work of witness and states that faith and connection to God should lead us to save and heal our planet from a looming environmental catastrophe. Based primarily on the Five Books of Moses, this book speaks to people of faith, offering a handbook on the Bible's greatest mandate for mortal existence — to choose life for the earth and all its inhabitants. Churches can massively reduce their impact on God's good earth if they understand the Bible's mandate and develop practical skills to decrease their energy use.

PUSHOUT – *The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* – **BONUS BOOK**

Monique W. Morris

The New Press, 2018, \$18.95

Available January 2018

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

Spiritual Growth

ADVENTURE OF ASCENT – *Field Notes from a Lifelong Journey*

Luci Shaw

Intervarsity Press, 2014, \$15.00

For most of us, growing older is a reality we try to put off, but then we realize — shockingly — that it happens anyway. We immediately look around to see how others on the path just ahead of us are dealing with it. Here is the intrepid Luci Shaw, taking you on a virtual hike with steps more deliberate and slow but also with surprising vistas that fill us with gratitude. In this book, Shaw serves as a fearless and eloquent scout. As she traverses new territory, she records her experiences lovingly, honestly, sorrowfully and 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.

BUS TO CORINTH

Ladine Housholder

Copper Teapot Publishing, 2016

Ladine Housholder, author of *The Well Women*, has done it again. In this sequel, 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 great food and enjoy each other's company. However, the bus takes unexpected turns and negotiates sharp curves and as they study 1 and 2 Corinthians, the friends realize they are changed. Like Paul's vision of Jesus, their experience explodes into their lives empowering and transforming them forever.

THE PILGRIM MESSIAH – *A Novel Drawn from the Gospel of Mark*

Dr. Richard C. Cheatham

Richard Cheatham, a United Methodist clergyman and gifted storyteller, draws from Scripture to reveal living, understandable people. You will follow the 12 disciples and Mary Magdalene as they grow to understand the man they called Master. You will come to know and love the person anointed by God as Christ and will find understandings lost in translation of Mark's Gospel.

PRAY AND COLOR – *A Coloring Book and Guide to Prayer*

Sybil MacBeth,

Paraclete Press, 2016, \$14.99

Thousands are enjoying a new prayer practice called *Pray and Color*. This new coloring book and guide helps anyone quiet the mind and pray while creating something visual and inspired. 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 MacBeth to a slower, more contemplative pace through coloring as prayer and as spiritual practice.

TATTERED AND MENDED – *The Art of Healing the Wounded Soul*

Cynthia Ruchti

Abingdon Press 2015, \$15.99

In *Tattered and Mended*, author Cynthia Ruchti offers an invitation to think about soul-mending as a divine art form, like artisans who reclaim beauty from the broken, frayed and hopelessly shattered, to show us that God doesn't just heal wounded souls, God heals artfully. With a gentle touch and personable wisdom, she opens the door to a gallery of the reclaimed and restored, reflecting on stories not unlike your own and helps you discover that even the most threadbare soul can once again find healing and hope.

Children

Education for Mission

GROWING PEACE – *A Story of Farming, Music and Religious Harmony*

Richard Sobol

Lee and Low Books, Inc., 2016, \$18.95

On the morning of September 11, 2001, J.J. Keki, a Ugandan musician and coffee farmer, was in New York about to visit the World Trade Center, but instead witnessed the attack on the Twin Towers. He came away with strong emotions about religious conflict and a vision. Back home in his village, Keki was determined to find a way for people who held different beliefs to work together. Here is a rare and timely story of hope, economic cooperation and religious harmony in an often-struggling part of the world. Because of Keki's vision, his community has achieved what many people strive for: a growing peace.

Leadership Development

THE AMAZING AGE OF JOHN ROY LYNCH

Chris Barton

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2015, \$17.00

This picture book biography of John Roy Lynch follows him from his boyhood as a slave through adulthood as one of the first African-Americans to be elected into the United States Congress.

STICK UP FOR YOURSELF! – *Every Kid's Guide to Personal Power and Positive Self-Esteem*

Gershen Kaufman, Ph.D., Lev Raphael, and Pamela Espeland

Free Spirit Publishing, 1999, \$12.99

In simple words and real-life examples, this book shows kids how to stick up for themselves with other kids, big sisters and brothers and even parents and teachers. It gives examples of things you can say without putting people down and things you can do without getting into trouble. You'll also learn about yourself and what's important to you, as well as positive ways to deal with strong feelings like anger, fear, jealousy and shame. And you'll discover simple ways to "store" happiness and pride for times when you need them most.

Nurturing for Community

I AM A BEAR

Jean Francoise Dumont

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2015, \$16.00

A homeless bear living in a city has a hard time getting by, but when a little girl makes friends with him, his life becomes brighter.

Social Action

ONE WELL – *The Story of Water on Earth*

Rochelle Strauss

Kids Can Press, 2016, \$18.95

One Well is a richly illustrated and timely book about our water and its source. Its call to action shows how every one of us has the power to conserve and protect the global well.

Youth

Leadership Development

FEATHERED

Deborah Kerbel
Kids Can Press, 2016, \$15.95

Finch feels like her life is falling apart and just wants to fly away. One day she lets out her frustration with a graffiti message in a school bathroom stall. She is surprised the next day to find her message has been answered. Suddenly she doesn't feel so alone anymore and a friendship begins. But her new friend is secretive in ways Finch doesn't understand and when those secrets lead to trouble, Finch knows that flying away is not the answer.

Nurturing for Community

THREE FEATHERS Richard Van Camp

Highwater Press, 2015, \$16.95

When three young men, Flinch, Bryce and Rupert, vandalize and disrespect their community, they are sent by its Elders to live nine months on the land as part of the circle sentencing process. Once there, the young men learn to take responsibility for their actions and acquire the humility required to return home, but will they be forgiven for what they've done? This illustrated story explores the power and grace of restorative justice in one Northern community and the cultural legacy that can empower future generations.

Social Action

WORKER JUSTICE ILLUSTRATED #2

Jeffrey Odell Korgen, 2016, \$2.99

This illustrated book tells the stories of several workers seeking economic justice in their workplaces.

Spiritual Growth

CHRIST WALK KIDS – *A 40-Day Spiritual Journey for Tweens and Teens*

Anna Fitch Courie
Church Publishing, 2016, \$12.00

We know that it is important to start early with teaching our children the importance of exercise and healthy eating. *Christ Walk Kids* offers tweens and teens a process to grow in faith, grow in fitness and grow into the full stature of Christ. Jump up from the couch and start your own Christ Walk!

Spanish Language

Crecimiento Comunitario / Nurturing For Community

BUENA VIDA, BUENA SALUD – *Doce Claves para Disfrutar de Bienestar Físico y Espiritual*

Joyce Meyer

FaithWords, 2014, \$12.99

El cuerpo que Dios creó es el instrumento para que los seres humanos experimenten una vida plena, hagan buenas obras y desarrollen su vida espiritual. En este libro, la autora presenta su plan de doce claves para hacer frente a la “sequía de autoestima” que perpetúa los hábitos que causan la mala salud y ofrece métodos con recursos útiles para mejorar nuestro bienestar físico y espiritual.

EL BUEN DOCTOR – *Una Emotiva Crónica sobre la Vida, la Muerte, la Enfermedad y el Verdadero Valor de la Existencia*

Paul Kalanithi

Editorial Océano, 2016

Paul Kalanithi, joven y prometedor neurocirujano, recibió a los 35 años un devastador diagnóstico de cáncer de pulmón. Esta noticia lo motivó a escribir este libro, en el que cuenta, por un lado, qué lo llevó a dejar sus estudios literarios para dedicarse a la medicina y en particular a la investigación sobre el cerebro humano, y cómo tuvo que llegar a un acuerdo consigo mismo para dar cierre a su vida y afrontar la muerte con valentía.

Crecimiento Espiritual / Spiritual Growth

CINCO MARCAS DE UN METODISTA – *El Fruto de una Fe Viva*

Steve Harper

Abingdon Press, 2016, \$6.99

Cinco marcas de un metodista confirman nuestra identidad como seguidores genuinos y fructíferos de Cristo: un metodista ama a Dios, se regocija en Dios, da gracias, ora sin cesar y ama a su prójimo. Este libro ofrece una meditación sobre cada una de estas características. Si usted es parte de la familia metodista o wesleyana de todo el mundo, estas cinco marcas le otorgaran un mayor conocimiento y aprecio de por qué y cómo seguir a Jesús.

EL LIBRO DE LA ALEGRÍA – *Alcanza la Felicidad Duradera en un Mundo en Cambio Constante*

Dalai Lama y Desmond Tutu con Douglas Abrams

Editorial Grijalbo, 2017, \$17.95

Dos Premios Nobel de la Paz, el Dalai Lama, y Desmond Tutu han sobrevivido a más de cincuenta años de exilio, persecuciones y situaciones de violencia. A pesar de sus sufrimientos o como ellos dirían, «gracias a ellos» son dos de las personas más alegres. En 2015, Tutu viajó a India para acompañar al Dalai Lama en la celebración de sus ochenta años. Aprovechando la ocasión, escribieron un libro que responde a una única pregunta: ¿Cómo podemos encontrar la alegría mientras afrontamos el inevitable sufrimiento de la vida?

Educación Misional / Education for Mission

UNA CASA EN EL CIELO – *El Extraordinario Testimonio de un Secuestro en Somalia*

Amanda Lindout & Sara Corbett

Editorial Plataforma, 2016

Emocionante e inspirador relato de una periodista secuestrada en Somalia durante 460 días. Su curiosidad la condujo a los lugares más bellos y a los países más peligrosos. En agosto de 2008, viajó a Somalia y al cuarto día de llegar fue secuestrada. En los momentos de mayor desesperación, visitaba una casa en el cielo, una imagen de esperanza situada muy lejos de esa mujer encadenada, retenida en la oscuridad y sometida a toda clase de torturas.

Large Print

Nurturing for Community

THE BOOK OF JOY – *Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*

His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Penguin Random House, 2016, \$28.00

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than 50 years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships, or as they would say, because of them, they are two of the most joyful people on the planet. Celebrating together His Holiness's 80th birthday they created what they hoped would be a gift for others and answer a question: How do we find joy in the face of suffering? By the end of a week filled with laughter and punctuated with tears, these two global heroes had stared into the abyss and despair of our times and revealed how to live a life brimming with joy. We listen in as they explore the Nature of True Joy, and then offer us the Eight Pillars of Joy that provide the foundation for lasting happiness.

GOOD HEALTH, GOOD LIFE – *12 Keys to Enjoying Physical and Spiritual Wellness*

Joyce Meyer
Faith Words, 2014, \$12.00

Meeting the demands of your busy life may leave little time for you to focus on maintaining your personal well-being. But it is important to remember that each part of you – mind, body and emotions – serves a purpose in God's exciting plan for your future. Embracing a healthier lifestyle will help you fully experience your life.

Recommended Reading

Education for Mission

Unspoken Farewell

Jonna-Lynn K. Mandelbum
Dog Ear Publishing, 2008

Nurturing for Community

When Breath Becomes Air – *What Makes Life Worth Living in the Face of Death*

Paul Kalanithi
Random House, 2016

Social Action

Exoneree Diaries – *The Fight for Innocence, Independence, and Identity*

Alison Flowers

Haymarket Books, 2016

Stakes Is High – *Race, Faith, and Hope for America*

Michael W. Waters

Chalice Press, 2017

Children

Leadership Development

Rainbow Weaver

Linda Elovitz Marshall

Children's Book Press, 2016

Nurturing for Community

It's Okay to Ask

Illustrated by Nancy Carlson

Gillette Children's Specialty House, 2015

For information regarding the Reading Program, please check out the website:
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram.