

2026 – 2021 Leadership Development

Selections may be from the 2026-2021 Reading lists if not included in previous reports, children and youth titles may be read for credit in all plans of the Reading Program.

2026 Leadership Development

The Defiant Middle: How Women Claim Life's In-Betweens to Remake the World.

Kaya Oakes. BroadLeaf Books 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Libby eBook. Kindle. Hoopla eAudiobook. 1 Print copy.

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

2026 Leadership Development

The Deepest Place: Suffering, and the Formation of Hope.

Curt Thompson. Zondervan 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Hoopla eAudiobook. Hoopla eBook. Libby eAudiobook. 1 Print copy.

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

2026 Leadership Development

Heart of Fire: An Immigrant Daughter's Story.

Mazie K. Hirono. Viking 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 10 Print copies. 2 Large Print copies.

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

2026 Leadership Development

Leading Well: A Black Woman's Guide to Wholistic, Barrier-Breaking Leadership.

Jeanne Porter King. Baker Books 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Hoopla. eBook Hoopla. eBook Libby. Kindle. 3 Print copies. Black women in leadership positions often experience resistance, both from external forces and from within. In this book, author, consultant, and inspirational teacher and speaker Jeanne Porter King offers inspiration, encouragement, and practical tools to make leading well a reality. Drawing from the biblical account of the Samaritan woman at the well, King helps women learn to lead from a strong spiritual core rather than a set of expectations they had no part in setting.

2026 Leadership Development

The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times.

Jane Goodall & Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson. Cleadon Books 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Audiobook CD on shelf. Hoopla eAudiobook. Libby eAudiobook. Libby eBook. Kindle. 19 Large Print copies. Playaway. 50 print copies.

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

2026 Leadership Development

Madam C.J. Walker's Gospel of Giving: Black Women's Philanthropy During Jim Crow.

Tyrone McKinley Freeman. University of Illinois Press 2020.

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

2026 Leadership Development

See no Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love.

Valarie Kaur. One World 2020.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Libby. eBook Libby. Kindle. 13 Print copies.

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

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2026 Leadership Development

Social Justice for the Sensitive Soul: How to Change the World in Quiet Ways.

Dorcas Cheng-Tozun. Broadleaf Books 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Libby. eBook Libby. Kindle. 17 print copies.

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

2026 Leadership Development Youth

From the Desk of Zoe Washington.

Janae Marks. Quill Tree Books 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Audiobook CD available from another library. eAudiobook Libby. eBook Libby. eBook Hoopla. Kindle. 45 Print copies.

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

2026 Leadership Development Youth

Michi Challenges History: From Farm Girl to Costume Designer to Relentless Seeker of the Truth: The Life of Michi Kishiura Weglyn.

Ken Mochizuki. Norton Young Readers 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Hoopla. 2 print copies.

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

2026 Leadership Development Children

Something, someday.

Amanda Gorman. Viking Books for Young Readers 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 88 Print copies.

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

2026 Leadership Development Children

Stand as Tall as the Trees: How an Amazonian Community Protected the Rain Forest.

Patricia Gualinga & Laura Resau. Charlesbridge 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet. eBook Hoopla. 12 Print copies.

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

2026 Leadership Development Children

The Light She Feels Inside.

Gwendolyn Wallace. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eBook Hoopla. 32 Print copies.

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

2025 Leadership Development

A Brown Girl's Epiphany: Reclaim Your Intuition and Step Into Your Power

Aurelia Davila Pratt. Broadleaf Books. 2022

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Hoopla Audio Book. Unlimited Hoopla E Book.

In this book, Texas pastor, writer, and podcaster Aurelia Dávila Pratt invites people to step out of the harmful belief systems informed by white supremacy and scarcity and into healthy paradigms of abundance, liberation, and power. Pratt, a woman of color who finds joy in helping people live into the fullness of their God-given divine image, urges people to embrace the truth of imago Dei as our catalyst for healing so we can set down the burdens of traumas, triggers, and painful experiences that have shaped our existence in this world. (Profane language)

2025 Leadership Development

A Right Worthy Woman: A Novel

Ruth P. Watson, Atria Books, 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 Electronic Audiobook MP3. 28 print copies. 10 Audiobook disc copies. 8 Large print copies.

Based on the inspiring true story of Virginia's Black Wall Street, A Right Worthy Woman tells the story of the indomitable Maggie Lena Walker, the daughter of a formerly enslaved woman who became the first Black woman to establish and preside over a bank in the United States. She went from schoolteacher to secretary-treasurer of the Independent Order of St. Luke, founder of a newspaper, a bank, and a department store where Black customers were treated with respect. Bestselling novelist Patti Callahan Henry calls this a "remarkable and stirring" work.

2025 Leadership Development

The Girls in the Wild Fig Tree: How I fought to Save Myself, My Sister, and Thousands of Girls Worldwide.

Nice Leng'ete. Little Brown and Company. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 10 print copies.

This memoir from Kenyan human rights activist Nice Leng'ete shares how she went from “heartbroken child and community outcast, to leader of the Maasai.” As an orphaned young girl taken in by her uncle, Nice defied cultural convention and fled from female genital cutting. She ultimately became the first in her family to attend college and, supported by Amref Health Africa, works to end female genital mutilation and replace it with alternative rites of passage. Through her work with Amref, she has helped save an estimated 15,000 girls from the cut and forced childhood marriages. (Violence)

2025 Leadership Development

I Won't Shut Up: Finding Your Voice When the World Tries to Silence You

Ally Henny. Baker Books. 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book. 1 Electronic Kindle, Libby EBook. 4 print copies.

White cultural norms. White beauty standards. White noise. To all of this and more, Ally Henny is here to say, “No. I am a loud Black woman, and I won't shut up.” A writer, speaker, advocate-minister, and vice president of The Witness: A Black Christian Collective, Henry tells her own story of finding her voice, pushing back against oppression, and embracing her unique perspective. And she invites readers to find their voice in a world that tries to silence so many.

2025 Leadership Development

The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth

Beth Allison Barr, Brazos Press, 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book. 1 Electronic Kindle, Libby EBook. 2 Electronic Libby Audiobook. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book. 11 print copies.

This USA Today bestseller moves the conversation about biblical womanhood beyond Greek grammar and into the realm of church history—ancient, medieval, and modern—to show that this belief is not divinely ordained but a product of human civilization that continues to creep into the church. Interweaving her story as a Baptist pastor's wife, Barr sheds light on the #ChurchToo movement and abuse scandals in Southern Baptist circles and the broader evangelical world, helping readers understand why biblical womanhood is more about human power structures than the message of Christ.

2025 Leadership Development

My Body is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church.

Amy Kenny. Brazos Press. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book. 6 print copies.

Offering a unique blend of personal storytelling, fresh and compelling writing, biblical exegesis, and practical application, this book from disabled scholar Amy Kenny invites readers to create a more inclusive community in the church. Kenny reflects on her experiences inside the church to expose unintentional ableism and cast a new vision for Christian communities to engage in disability justice. Winner of the 2023 Silver Book Award. Sojourners calls it “a book the church desperately needs.”

2025 Leadership Development

The Power of Together: Discover the Christian Life You've Been Missing.

Jim Putman. Baker Books. 2016.

Dive into The Power of Together as pastor and author Jim Putman uncovers the core of true discipleship: relationship. Putman offers an in-depth, biblical look at how Jesus always invited people into relationship with himself. He loved them with God's perfect love and, in the process, showed everyone around him that the act of following God is the act of extending and receiving love that endures all things. Book available in English & Korean.

2025 Leadership Development

Raise Your Voice: Why We Stay Silent and How to Speak Up

Kathy Khang, Intervarsity Press, 2018. 174p.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book. 1 print copy.

This powerful book from author, speaker, and podcaster Kathy Khang addresses what it looks like to raise our voice in a culture that often encourages silence—particularly when race, ethnicity, and gender are factors. Khang argues that our voice and identity are rooted in the image of God. Because God created us in our ethnicity and gender, our voice is uniquely expressed through the totality of who we are. Khang offers insights on when and how to speak, how to hear God's invitation to steward our authentic voice, and how to communicate the good news in a messed-up world.

2025 Leadership Development

Unbossed: How Black Girls are Leading the Way

Khristi Lauren Adams. Broadleaf Books. 2022. 176p.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book. 1 Electronic Libby Audiobook, MP3. 1 Electronic Kindle, Libby EBook. 4 print copies. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book.

Unbossed is a hopeful and riveting inquiry into the lives of eight young Black women who are agitating for change and imagining a better world. Offering practical lessons in leadership, resilience, empathy, and tenacity from a group of young leaders of color who are often neglected, Unbossed includes profiles of Jaychele Nicole Schenck, Ssanyu Lukoma, Tyah-Amoy Roberts, Grace Callwood, Hannah Lucas, Amara Ifeji, Stephanie Younger, and Kynneddy Smith. Adams is a speaker, advocate, ordained Baptist minister, and award-winning author of Parable of the Brown Girl. She is the founder and director of The Becoming Conference, designed to empower, educate, and inspire teenage girls.

2025 Leadership Development – Bonus two books in Leadership Development

We Are Not Here to be Bystanders: A Memoir of Love and Resistance

Linda Sarsour. 27 Ink, 2021. 253p. s

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book. 29 print copies.

This powerful memoir from the co-organizer of the Women's March shares how growing up Palestinian Muslim American, feminist, and empowered moved her to become a globally recognized activist on behalf of marginalized communities across the country. From the Brooklyn bodega her father owned, where Linda learned the real meaning of intersectionality, to protests in the streets of Washington, D.C., her experience is a moving portrayal of what it means to find one's voice and use it for the good of others.

2025 Leadership Development – Youth

Black Girls Unbossed: Young World Changers Leading the Way.

Khristi Lauren Adams. Beaming Books 2022. 88p.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book. 10 print copies.

This middle grade version of Khristi Lauren Adams' *Unbossed* takes a look at eight powerful young Black women who are agitating for change and imagining a better world. Like their foremothers in earlier freedom movements, these Black girls are transformational leaders. They are pacesetters, strategic thinkers, visionaries, mobilizers, activists, and more. Their stories may often be overlooked. But Black girls are leading the way. Readers explore profiles of Jaychele Nicole Schenck, Ssanyu Lukoma, Tyah-Amoy Roberts, Grace Callwood, Hannah Lucas, Amara Ifeji, Stephanie Younger, and Kynneddy Smith.

2025 Leadership Development – Youth

Pauli Murray: The Life of a Pioneering Feminist & Civil Rights Activist

Rosita Stevens-Holsey & Terry Catusus Jennings. Yellow Jacket. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 3 print copies.

Pauli Murray was a queer civil rights and women's rights activist before any movement advocated for either. In 1944, she conceptualized the arguments that would win *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, and in 1964, the arguments that won women equality in the workplace. Throughout her life, she fought for the oppressed, not only through changing laws but by using her prose to influence those who could affect change. Her goal was human rights and dignity for all. This biography of Pauli Murray is a groundbreaking new nonfiction book intended for the middle-grade audience written in verse. Suitable for youth & children.

2025 Leadership Development – Youth

We're in This Together: A Young Reader's Edition of We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders.

Linda Sarsour. Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2022. 229p.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 13 print copies.

This empowering young readers' edition tells the story of Women's March co-organizer and activist Linda Sarsour. Here, Sarsour shares the memories that shaped her into the activist she is today, and how pivotal moments in her life led her to become an organizer in one of the largest single-day protests in United States history. The book is a moving portrayal of what it means to find your voice in your youth and use it for the good of others as an adult.

2025 Leadership Development – Children

Love is Loud: How Diane Nash Led the Civil Rights Movement

Sandra Neil Wallace. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books. 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 29 print copies.

This nonfiction picture book shares the life of Diane Nash, a civil rights leader who worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis. Diane grew up in the South Side of Chicago in the 1940s. As a university student, she visited the Tennessee State Fair in 1959. Shocked to see a bathroom sign that read "For Colored Women," Diane learned that segregation in the South went beyond schools—it was part of daily life. She decided to fight back, not with anger or violence, but with strong words of truth and action.

2025 Leadership Development – Children

Until Someone Listens: A Story About Borders, Family and One Girl’s Mission

Estela Juarez. Roaring Brook Press. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 8 print copies. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book.

When Estela Juarez was eight, her mother was deported to Mexico. This heart-wrenching, autobiographical story shares how, in Estela’s own words, Estela learns to find her voice and use it to make change. She wrote letters to local newspapers, Congress, the president, and anyone else who could help. She wrote and wrote and wrote until, finally, someone listened. A Bookstagang Best Picture Book of 2022.

2024 Leadership Development

Beautiful Country: A Memoir.

Quian Julie Wang. Double day. 2021.

Wayne Co. library clevnet: 1 MP3 Overdrive Listen 2021. 66 print copies.

Seven-year-old Qian arrives in New York full of curiosity—and overwhelmed by fear and scarcity. While in Chinese, the word for America translates to “beautiful country,” her new life is anything but beautiful. Formerly professors, now Qian’s parents labor in sweatshops and fight constantly, desperate to survive in poverty in the richest country in the world. Shunned by her classmates for her limited English, Qian turns to books—and small joys that keep her going. This New York Times bestseller reveals a family fracturing under the weight of invisibility, and a girl coming of age in the shadows, who never stops seeking the light.

2024 Leadership Development

Becoming Brave: Finding Courage to Pursue Racial Justice Now.

Brenda Salter McNeil. Brazos Press. 2020.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 2 print copies.

Are you brave enough to break the silence and work with others to dismantle systems of injustice and inequality? Speaker, author, professor, and thought leader Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil offers a distinctly Christian framework for addressing systemic injustice, challenging Christians to be everyday activists. Through the lens of the biblical narrative of Esther, McNeil challenges Christian reconcilers to recognize the particular pain in our world and work together to repair what is broken while maintaining a deep hope in God’s ongoing work for justice. This book provides education and prophetic inspiration for every person who wants to take reconciliation seriously.

2024 Leadership Development

Carved in Ebony: Lessons from the Black Women Who Shape Us.

Jasmine Holmes. Bethany House Publishers. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 3 print copies.

These names may not be familiar, but they worked to change laws, built schools, spoke to thousands, shared the gospel, and modeled much about what it means to be modern women of faith. Carved in Ebony takes a look at the lives and impact of Elizabeth Freeman, Nannie Helen Burroughs, Maria Fearing, Charlotte Forten Grimké, Sarah Mapps Douglass, Sara Griffith Stanley, Amanda Berry Smith, Lucy Craft Laney, Maria Stewart, and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, discovering how Black women have helped define the landscape of American history and faith.

2024 Leadership Development

Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal The World.

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis. Harmony. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 27 print copies.

In this book, Lewis addresses how embracing the tenets of ubuntu can help bring about the change we seek in a world divided. Race and ethnicity, caste and color, gender and sexuality, class and education, and religion and political party have become demographic labels that reduce differences to simplistic categories in which “we” are vehemently against “them.” But Lewis’s own experience—of being the first female and first Black minister in her church’s history, of being in an interracial marriage, and of making peace with childhood abuse—illustrates how empathy and forgiveness are the key to reversing these ugly trends.

2024 Leadership Development

For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts: A Love Letter to Women of Color.

Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez. Seal Press. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 16 print copies. 1 Audio disc.

In what she calls a “love letter to women of color,” author Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez—the founder of Latina Rebels—shares the challenges Brown girls face, from imposter syndrome to colorism. In this book, she empowers women to decolonize their worldview and defy “universal” White narratives by telling their own stories. She guides women of color toward a sense of pride and sisterhood and offers essential tools to energize a movement with the knowledge they need to find success on their own terms. The result is a liberating path forward for all women of color.

2024 Leadership Development

High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We get Out.

Amanda Ripley. Simon and Schuster. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 20 print copies. 1 Audio disc. 2 HTML, Adobe, EPub, Kindle.

Bestselling author and award-winning journalist Amanda Ripley investigates how good people get captured by emotionally unhealthy, over-the-top conflict—and how they break free. Ripley begins by exploring real-world examples of such conflict, from political feuds to gang warfare and personal vendettas, then dissects how those involved dismantled the stakes and transformed high conflict into something good. As the book asserts, people can and do escape high conflict. Individuals, and entire communities, can short-circuit the feedback loops of outrage and blame—if they want to.

2024 Leadership Development

How Women Transform Preaching.

Leonora Tubbs Tisdale. Abingdon Press. 2021.

Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, Clement-Muehl Professor Emerita of Divinity at Yale Divinity School, explores how the presence of women preachers and scholars has transformed the practice of homiletics in this country—from the reclamation of women’s “herstory” in preaching, to the topics addressed, to the way in which hermeneutics and theologizing are undertaken, to the imagery and embodiment of the sermons themselves. Tisdale shares untold stories of women preachers throughout history who are largely unknown but who serve as examples of both the struggle and power of women’s preaching. She also tells the stories of contemporary women preachers.

2024 Leadership Development

I Am A Girl from Africa: A Memoir of Power, Community and Hope.

Aelizabeth Nyamayaro. Scribner. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 19 print copies.

When she was eight years old, a severe drought hit Nyamayaro's village in Zimbabwe. Unable to move from hunger and malnourishment, she encountered a United Nations aid worker who gave her a bowl of warm porridge and saved her life—a transformative moment that inspired her to dedicate herself to giving back to her community, continent, and world. Nyamayaro's incredible memoir takes readers from the near-death experience of an African girl to a lifelong dedication to real change. It is a story of persevering through great odds and finding one's true calling while delivering an important message of hope, empowerment, and interdependence.

2024 Leadership Development

Invisible: Theology and the Experience of Asian American Women.

Grace Ji-Sun Kim. Fortress Press. 2021.

In *Invisible*, Grace Ji-Sun Kim examines encounters with racism, sexism, and xenophobia as she works toward ending Asian American women's invisibility. Kim explores how invisibility is not only a racial and cultural issue, but also a profound spiritual issue. The Western church—and its theology—has historically obscured the concerns of Asian Americans. The Asian American church relegates women to domestic, supportive roles meant to uplift male leaders. Kim deploys biblical, sociological, and theological narratives to empower the voices of Asian American women.

2024 Leadership Development

Lead From the Outside: How to Build Your Future and Make Real Change.

Stacey Abrams. Picador. 2019.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 6 MP3 Overdrive Listen. 14 print copies. 4 Audio disc.

Stacey Abrams, one of the most prominent Black female politicians in the U.S., offers this necessary handbook for harnessing the strengths of being an outsider when it comes to leadership.

Abrams argues that knowing your own passion is the key to success, and she draws from her experience and hard-won insights to break down how ambition, fear, money, and failure function in leadership, while offering personal stories that illuminate practical strategies. Differences in race, gender, and class are surmountable, she asserts. The trick is to proactively use this "otherness" while recognizing internal fears.

2024 Leadership Development

The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart.

Alicia Garza. One World. 2020.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 25 print copies.

The Purpose of Power is a call to action and an essential guide to building transformative movements to address the challenges of our time. Authored by Alicia Garza, the co-creator of #BlackLivesMatter and the Black Lives Matter Global Network, the book offers new lessons for today's generation of activists—including how making room amongst the woke for those who are still awakening can inspire and activate more people to fight for the world we all deserve. This is the story of one woman's lessons through years of bringing people together to create change.

**2024 Leadership Development – Bonus Book – [two books in Leadership Development]
Our Strangely Warmed Hearts: Coming Out Into God’s Call.**

Karen Oliveto. Abingdon Press. 2018.

Karen Oliveto is bishop of the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area for The United Methodist Church and the first openly lesbian bishop in the denomination. Here, Oliveto discloses how, just like Methodism founder John Wesley experienced a strangely warmed heart when he discovered his true spiritual identity, so too do spiritual renewal and a personal call to ministry emerge in the strangely warmed hearts of lesbian and gay Christians. The book includes first-person narratives of LGBTQ persons faithfully serving in the UMC, as well as how the coming-out process is deeply spiritual as one grows into an authentic, God-created and graced self.

**2024 Leadership Development
Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart.**

Gordon Livingston. Da Capo Lifelong Books. 2008.

Wayne Co. library clevnet: 7 print copies. 1 MP3, Overdrive Listen.

This bestselling collection of common-sense wisdom from celebrated psychologist and veteran Gordon Livingston proves it’s never too late to move beyond the deepest of losses. Out of a lifetime of experience, Livingston has extracted 30 bedrock truths, including that we are what we do; any relationship is under the control of the person who cares the least; the perfect is the enemy of the good; and only bad things happen quickly. Livingston illuminates these in a series of essays, many of which focus on our closest relationships and the things that we do to impede or, less frequently, enhance them.

**2024 Leadership Development
You’ve Been Chosen: Thriving Through the Unexpected.**

Cynt Marshall. Ballantine Books. 2022.

Wayne Co. library clevnet: 20 print copies.

This relentlessly optimistic memoir by one of the most influential Black business leaders in America offers hope and guidance for navigating life’s most difficult challenges. Marshall has spent her life beating personal and professional odds while helping everyone she meets see how they are uniquely equipped to thrive. She grew up in a housing project with a violent father, but also a strong, devoted mother. She excelled at school and her professional life, overcoming overt and subtle racism to become, at 40, one of the first Black woman officers at AT&T. At 51, she was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer. Overnight, her life changed, but her commitment to serve others did not.

**2024 Leadership Development
Carved In Ebony: Young Reader’s Edition.**

Jasmine L. Holmes. Bethany House Publishers. 2022

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 print copy.

In this companion book aimed toward young readers, Holmes shares 10 short biographies of Black Christian women who were instrumental in American history between the 18th and 20th centuries. While these names may not be familiar, these women lived faithful and influential lives in a world filled with injustice. They worked to change laws, built schools, spoke to thousands, and shared the gospel all around the world. And while history books may have forgotten them, their stories can teach so much about how we can live today.

2024 leadership Development

Notable Native People: 50 Indigenous Leaders, Dreamers, and Changemakers from Past and Present.

Adrienne Keene. Ten Speed Press. 2021. Youth.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 27 print copies.

An American Indian Library Association Youth Literature Award Young Adult Honor Book, Notable Native People celebrates the lives, stories, and contributions of Indigenous artists, activists, scientists, athletes, and other changemakers. Keene, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and assistant professor of American studies and ethnic studies at Brown University, highlights the vital impact Indigenous dreamers and leaders have made on the world. Featured are 50 notable American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian people, from NBA star Kyrie Irving to 19th-century sculptor Edmonia Lewis to linguist Jessie Little Doe Baird, who revived the Wampanoag language.

2024 Leadership Development

I Am Golden.

Eva Chen. Feiwel and Friends. 2022. Children.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 HTML, Kindle. 48 print copies.

Described as both joyful and lyrical, this children's picture book by Eva Chen, illustrated by Sophie Diao, was an instant New York Times bestseller. I Am Golden tells the story of Mei, the daughter of Chinese immigrants to New York, who is shown to be a bridge connecting her parents to their new home. Not only is it a moving ode to the immigrant experience, but it is also a manifesto of self-love for Chinese American children.

2024 Leadership Development

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 51 print copies.

Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2019.

Written by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad and Morris Award finalist S.K. Ali, The Proudest Blue is a powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school—and two sisters on one's first day of hijab. For while many see hijab as beautiful, others do not. Uplifting and universal, the story lifts up the importance of new experiences, the unbreakable bond between siblings, and why being proud of who you are matters so much.

2024 Leadership Development

Who is Florence Price?

Students of the Special Music School, Kaufman Music Center. Schirmer Trade Books. 2021. Children.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 print copy.

A group of New York City middle school students at Special Music School, Kaufman Music Center, had the opportunity to write this history of composer Florence Price, the first Black woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer and be performed by a major American orchestra in 1933. When Price was just four years old, she played her first piano concert. As she grew up, she studied and wrote music, hoping one day to hear her music performed by an orchestra. This is the story of a brilliant musician who prevailed against race and gender prejudices to achieve significant acclaim.

2023 Leadership Development – Bonus book – counts 2 books Leadership Development *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*. Ayana Elizabeth Hohnson and Katherine K. Wilkinson. One World. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 9 print copies. 3 MP3, Overdrive Listen.

Named one of the best books of the year by Smithsonian magazine, *All We Can Save* illuminates the expertise and insights of dozens of diverse women leading on climate in the United States—scientists, journalists, farmers, lawyers, teachers, activists, innovators, wonks, and designers, across generations, geographies, and race—and aims to advance a more representative, nuanced, and solution-oriented public conversation on the climate crisis. These women offer a spectrum of ideas and insights for how we can rapidly, radically reshape society. Intermixing essays with poetry and art, this book is both a balm and a guide for knowing and holding what has been done to the world, while bolstering our resolve never to give up on one another or our collective future.

2023 Leadership Development

Change Sings: A Children’s Anthem. Amanda Gorman and Illustrated by Loren Long. Viking Books For Young Readers. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 95 print copies. 4 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 8 HTML, Kindle.

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and, most importantly, in themselves. *Change Sings* is a triumphant call to action for everyone to use their abilities to make a difference. Suitable for children.

2023 Leadership Development

Ida B. The Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells. Michelle Duster. Atria/One Signal Publishers 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 1 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 2 HTML Adobe, EPUB, Kindle. 5 Audio discs. 40 print copies.

Journalist. Suffragist. Antilynching crusader. In 1862, Ida B. Wells was born enslaved in Holly Springs, Mississippi. In 2020, she awarded a Pulitzer Prize. *Ida B. the Queen* tells the awe-inspiring story of a pioneering woman who was often overlooked and underestimated—a woman who refused to exit a train car meant for white passengers; a woman who brought to light the horrors of lynching in America; and a woman who cofounded the NAACP. Written by Wells’ great-granddaughter Michelle Duster, it is a unique visual celebration of Wells’ life, and of the Black experience.

2023 Leadership Development

A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice and Freedom. Brittany K Barnett. Crown. 2021. Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 37 print copies. 2 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 1 HTML, Adobe, EPUB, Kindle.

Brittany K. Barnett was a law student when she came across the case that would change her life forever—that of Sharanda Jones, single mother, business Spiritual owner, and, like her, Black daughter of the rural South. A victim of America’s war on drugs, Sharanda had been separated from her young daughter and was serving a life sentence without parole for a first-time drug offense. As Barnett studied this case, a system came into focus with widespread racial injustice at the core of America’s addiction to incarceration. Moved, Barnett set to work to gain Sharanda’s freedom. The memoir is at once Barnett’s coming-of-age story and a powerful evocation of what it takes to bring hope and justice to a system built to resist them.

2023 Leadership Development

Miosotis Flores Never Forgets – Novel. Hilda Eunice Burgos. TU Books. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 1 HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle. 14 print copies.

Miosotis Flores is excited about three things: fostering rescue dogs, goofy horror movies, and her sister Amarilis’ upcoming wedding. But her papi wants her to care about school most, so they strike a deal—if Miosotis improves her grades in two classes, she can adopt a dog this summer. But when she notices her sister behaving strangely and discovers her secret, she faces some difficult choices. What do you do if someone is in danger, but doesn’t want your help? What ultimately matters most—what Miosotis wants, or what’s right for the ones she loves? Suitable for children.

2023 Leadership Development

On The Come Up – Novel. Angie Thomas. Balzer + Bray. 2019.

In this follow up to *The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas dives into the story of 16-year-old Bri, who wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time—or at least win her first battle. As the daughter of an underground hip-hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri’s got massive shoes to fill. But it’s hard to get your come up when you’re labeled a hoodlum and your fridge is empty after your mom loses her job. Bri pours her anger and frustration into her first song, which goes viral for all the wrong reasons, and soon finds herself at the center of a controversy. But with an eviction notice looming, Bri doesn’t just want to make it—she has to. Suitable for youth.

2023 Leadership Development

Pioneer Black Clergywomen: Stories of Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church 1974-2016. Rev. Dr. Josephine Whitely-Fields Westbow Press. 2021.

Authored by Dr. Josephine Whitely-Fields, who retired after 40 years of ministry and nonprofit leadership, this book features stories about Black clergywomen as pioneers of The United Methodist Church who overcame challenges and injustices in a predominately White male vocation to fulfill God’s work in the world today. The book delves into the individual, institutional, and systemic acts of racism, sexism, and ageism they have endured while being subjected to economic discrimination. Among the many featured Black clergywomen are bishops Linda Lee, Tracy Malone, Sharma Lewis, and Cynthia Moore-Koikoi.

2023 Leadership Development

Spiritual Leadership. J. Oswald Sanders. Moody Publishers. (Reissue 2017).

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 1 HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle.

In this long-standing faith-based classic, J. Oswald Sanders, a Christian leader for nearly 70 years and author of more than 40 books, presents the key principles of leadership in both the temporal and spiritual realms. He illustrates his points with examples from Scripture and biographies of eminent men of God, such as Moses, Nehemiah, the apostle Paul, David Livingstone, Charles Spurgeon, and others. Featured topics include the costs, responsibility, tests, qualities, and requirements of leadership, as well as the art of developing effective leaders today. Sanders holds that even natural leadership qualities are God-given, and their true effectiveness can only be reached when they are employed in the glory of God.

2022 Leadership Development

Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All.

Martha S. Jones. Basic Books. 2020.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 24 print copies. 2 Electronic Format: HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle.

A history of African American women's political lives in America, recounting how they fought for, won, and used the right to the ballot and how they fought against both racism and sexism. From 1830s Boston to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and beyond to Shirley Chisholm, Stacey Abrams, and Kamala Harris, Jones excavates the lives and work of Black women who, although in many cases suffragists, were never single-issue activists.

2022 Leadership Development

Becoming. Michelle Obama. Crown Publishing 2018.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 76 Electronic Format: MP3, Overdrive Listen. 4 Electric Format: HTML Adobe EPUB, Kindle. 11 print copies.

With unerring honesty and lively wit, Michelle Obama describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it--in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations--and whose story inspires us to do the same.

2022 Leadership Development

Hidden Figures: The Untold Story of the African American Women Who Helped Win the Space.

Margot Lee Shetterly. William Collins. 2016.

The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space--a powerful, revelatory history essential to our understanding of race, discrimination, and achievement in modern America.

Wayne Co Library clevnet – 180 print copies. 23 Largeprint. 32 Audiobook CD. 74 Electronic Format: HTML, Adobe, EPUB, Kindle.

2022 Leadership Development

Moment of Lift, the: How Empowering Women Changes the World. Melinda Gates. Flatiron Books 2019. .

In this moving and compelling book, Melinda shares lessons she's learned from the inspiring people she's met during her work and travels around the world. As she writes in the introduction, "That is why I had to write this book--to share the stories of people who have given focus and urgency to my life. I want all of us to see ways we can lift women up where we live."

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 67 print copies. 17 Audiobook CD. 5 Pre-loaded Audiobook.

4 Electronic Format: HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle. 11 Electronic Format: MP3, Overdrive Listen.

2022 Leadership Development

Sacred Resistance: A Practical Guide to Christian Witness and Dissent. Ginger Gaines-Cerilli. Abingdon Press. 2018.

2022 Leadership Development

We Are Called to Be a Movement: Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II. Workman Publishing. 2020.

The text of a sermon given by Dr. William J. Barber II, on June 3, 2018, at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., asking people to come together to renounce the politics of rejection, division, and greed.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 6 print copies.

2022 Leadership Development

My Little Golden Book About Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Shana Corey; Illustrated by Margeaux Lucas. Little Golden Books. 2020.

This Little Golden Book is a compelling introduction to an inspiring woman, written for the youngest readers. From a young age, Ruth Bader Ginsburg knew that she wanted to fight for girls and women to have equal rights. She studied and worked very hard and became just the second woman-and the first Jewish woman-to be a United States Supreme Court Justice.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 7 print copies. 1 Electronic Format: HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle.

2022 Leadership Development

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You. Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2020.

"The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. Racist ideas are woven into the fabric of this country, and the first step to building an antiracist America is acknowledging America's racist past and present. This book takes you on that journey, showing how racist ideas started and were spread, and how they can be discredited"

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 123 print copies. 10 Audiobook CD. Electronic Format: HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle. 17 Electronic Format: MP3 Overdrive Listen. 5 Largeprint.

2021 Leadership Development

Anxious to Talk About it: helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism. Carolyn B Helsel. Chalice Press. 2017.

Talking about race can make us anxious. Professor and pastor Carolyn Helsel draws on her experiences with white congregations to offer tools and practices to explore the anxious feelings that can come up when talking about racism. Learn how to join the hard conversations and move forward with less fear, more compassion and more knowledge of self, others and the important issues at stake.

Wayne County library Clevnet – 1 ebook [Adobe EPUB HTML Kindle]. 6 print copies

2021 Leadership Development

Cinderella Liberator. Rebecca Solnit. Illustrator Aruthur Rackham. Haymarket Books. 2019.

In this modern, feminist twist on a classic fairytale, Ella meets her fairy godmother, goes to a ball, and makes friends with a prince. But that is where the familiar story ends. Instead of waiting to be rescued, Cinderella learns that she can save herself and those around her by being true to herself and standing up for what she believes.

Suitable for youth. Wayne County Library Clevnet – 4 print copies. 1ebook: HTML, Adobe EPub, Kindle

2021 Leadership Development

Failing Boldly: How Falling Down in Ministry Can Be the Start of Rising UP. Christian Coon. Discipleship Resources. 2017.

Few people would consider failure to be a gift from God. If you are trying to energize and grow a ministry, however, embracing the lessons and gifts of failure may be the best way to maintain an encouraging place for people to seek the heart of God, according to Christian Coon, who is also the author of a chapter in the 2020 Spiritual Growth Study, Finding Peace in an Anxious World.

Personal stories of missteps and mistakes of those working to grow ministries show how failure is a springboard to new experiences and, hopefully, a deeper connection to God

2021 Leadership Development

Follow That Map: A First Book of Mapping Skills. Scot Ritchie. Lee & Low Books. 2019.

Pablo and his friends want to spend the last day of summer at Coney Island. They can ride bumper cars or play ring toss—there's so much to do! But first, they need to figure out how to get there from their neighborhood. It's a long trip, so it's a good thing Pablo has his trusty maps. This early chapter book is part of a series about five friends from diverse backgrounds navigating the world around them.

Suitable for youth. Wayne County Library Clevnet – 16 print copies.

2021 Leadership Development

#Notyourprincess: Voices of Native American Women. Edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale. Annick Press. 2017.

Whether looking back to a troubled past or welcoming a hopeful future, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America resound in this eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews and art. Stories of abuse, humiliation and stereotyping are countered by the voices of passionate women making themselves heard and demanding change. Sometimes angry, often reflective, but always strong, the women in this book will give readers insight into the lives of women who, for so long, have been virtually invisible.

Suitable for youth. Wayne County library Clevnet – 1 ebook [PDF HTML Kindle.] 26 print copies

2021 Leadership Development – Bonus Book (counts as two books in Leadership Development)

Rise!: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou. Bethany Hegedus . Tonya Engle, Illus.

Lee & Low Books. 2019.

Writer, activist, trolley car conductor, dancer, mother and humanitarian— Maya Angelou's life was marked by transformation and perseverance. This comprehensive and beautifully illustrated picture-book biography geared towards older readers traces Maya's life from her early days, through her work as a freedom fighter, and to her triumphant rise as a poet of the people.

Elementary – Adult Reading – Wayne County Library Clevnet – 36 print copies.

2021 Leadership Development

Speaking Well: Essential Skills for Speakers, Leaders and Preachers. Adam Hamilton.

Abingdon Press. 2015.

The thought of speaking in public strikes fear in the hearts of many. But we are often called upon to speak, teach, preach or make presentations in our work and personal lives. This pocket guide offers nineteen powerful tips and tactics that lead to excellent speaking in any setting. Wayne County Library clevnet – 1 print