

2026 – 2021 Spiritual Growth

Selections may be from the 2026-2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 Reading lists if not included in previous reports, children and youth titles can be read for credit in all plans of the Reading Program.

2026 Spiritual Growth

Faith of Many rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity.

Debie Thomas. Broadleaf Books 2024.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Hoopla. 4 Print copies.

People are leaving Christianity in droves, disillusioned by narrow theologies, church dysfunction, and constricted readings of Scripture. But Jesus describes the reign of God as a house with many rooms, writes author Debie Thomas. Here, Thomas claims that wherever God dwells, there is expansiveness and belonging. As she asks, “What if the faith we inhabit is roomier than we’d thought? What if our collapsing faith is just a closet in a much larger dwelling?” From the diasporic church in which she grew up, to the disorientations of a deconstructing faith, to an ample, yet orthodox, Christianity that makes room for all her identities, Thomas takes readers on a deeply personal and profoundly theological odyssey.

2026 Spiritual Growth

American Imam: From Pot Stardom to Prison Abolition.

Taymullah Abdur-Rahman. Broadleaf Books 2024.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Hoopla. eBook Libby. Kindle. 3 Print copies.

Born Tyrone Sutton, Taymullah Abdur-Rahman was a rising pop star by the time he was 12, recruited as part of the R&B group Perfect Gentlemen. But after his music career peaked, he found himself back home, with little to show for his success. He converted to Islam and went on to work in a maximum-security prison as a Muslim chaplain, where he became zealously focused on saving souls instead of understanding the outside forces that lead men to prison. Later, he began to seek counsel outside of Islam, engaging with Jewish and Christian mentors who opened his eyes to the gifts of interreligious dialogue and helped lead him to what he was truly seeking: enlightenment. His story is an indelible rallying cry for understanding across race, religion, and cultural divides.

2026 Spiritual Growth

The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God for All Who Feel, Left Out.

Peggy A. Johnson. ACTA Publications 2023.

In this book, retired United Methodist Bishop Peggy A. Johnson shares her remarkable experiences in a lifetime of ministry. Committed to complete transparency, Bishop Johnson shares about her call to become a bishop, her marriage of 44 years to her best friend and fellow ordained minister, their life together with their two adult children, and the “precious secret” revealed to her in 2010. Bishop Johnson explores her deepest thoughts, fears, sorrows, triumphs, and mistakes. “The debates around same-gender marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and what it means to keep in a covenantal relationship with fellow United Methodists of differing opinions is at the center of this book,” she writes. “But it is also a personal story full of reflections on my journey.”

2026 Spiritual Growth

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

Diana Butler Bass. HarperOne 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Libby, eBook Hoopla, 10 Print Copies.

Many believers today wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership. But while many Christians have left their churches, they cannot leave their faith behind. In *Freeing Jesus*, Diana Butler Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. It's a refreshing take on the comprehensive, multi-faceted nature of Jesus, keeping his teachings relevant and alive in our daily lives.

2026 Spiritual Growth

God's Ghostwriters: Enslaved Christians and the Making of the Bible.

Candida Moss. Little, Brown and Company 2024.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Libby. eBook Libby. Kindle.

Christian tradition and scholarship have credited the authorship of the New Testament to a select group of men: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul. But hidden behind these men are a cluster of unnamed, enslaved coauthors and collaborators, essential workers responsible for producing the earliest manuscripts of the New Testament. These workers made the parchment on which the texts were written, took dictation, and refined the words of the apostles. And as the Christian message grew in influence, it was enslaved missionaries who undertook the arduous journey across the Mediterranean and along dusty roads to move Christianity to Rome, Spain, and North Africa—and into the pages of history. *God's Ghostwriters* is a rigorously researched book about how enslaved people shaped the Bible and with it all of Christianity.

2026 Spiritual Growth

Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection.

Kate Bowler & Jessica Richie. Convergent Books 2022

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Libby, 22 Print copies.

These compassionate, intelligent, and wry Christian daily reflections help readers learn to live with imperfection in a culture of self-help that promotes endless progress. Intended as a companion for when you want to stop feeling guilty that you're not living your best life now, the short spiritual reflections share how we can make sense of life not as a pursuit of progress but as a chronic condition. Written gently and with humor, *Good Enough* is permission for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix—and some things you can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better.

2026 Spiritual Growth

The Matter of Little Losses: Finding Grace to Grieve the Big (and Small) Things.

Rachel Marie Kang. Revell 2024

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Libby. 22 Print copies.

In this compassionate and deeply personal book, Rachel Marie Kang invites readers to see and be seen in the midst of sorrow and suffering. Through prose and poetry that gives voice to all the things we lose along the way, this gracious book helps readers ponder loss without judgment, remember what was, make meaning of memories, and reflect on what is yet to be to heal with hope. As Kang notes, you don't have to bury your pain, and you don't have to pretend you're over it just because the world thinks you should be.

2026 Spiritual Growth

Mission U: A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives.

Linda Furtado. United Women in Faith 2026.

Though “Emmanuel” appears in the Bible only four times, its presence echoes through countless stories of faith, justice, and perseverance. A Deep Knowing encourages readers to explore where and how we see God’s presence—in biblical narratives and in our personal and communal experiences. Each of the eight sessions offers cultural and contextual insights, inviting diverse voices and perspectives. Designed for group reflection and spiritual growth, this curriculum fosters connection, challenges assumptions, and helps uncover the many ways we experience Emmanuel—past, present, and future.

Book available in English, Korean, & Spanish. The Mission u curricula count for Bonus Book credit if completed as part of a curricula group (either leader or participant). If read independently, the Mission u studies count for a single credit.

2026 Spiritual Growth

Keyhole Missiology: Glimpses Into the History of Mission Study Texts 1901-2026.

Gloria E. Dharmaraj. United Women in Faith 2026.

Keyhole Missiology celebrates 125 years of mission study texts—a legacy shaped by generations of women committed to faithful learning and action. Honoring the work of United Women in Faith, their Methodist foremothers, and ecumenical sisters, this book traces the evolution of mission education from camp meetings to Mission u. Through rich narratives and historical insights, readers peer through “keyholes” into past mission texts, uncovering vibrant and evolving understandings of Christian mission.

This text counts for Bonus Book credit if completed as part of a study group (either leader or participant). If read independently, Keyhole Missiology counts as a single credit.

2026 Spiritual Growth

Our Unforming: De-Westernizing Spiritual Formation.

Cindy S. Lee. Fortress Press 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eBook Hoopla.

In *Our Unforming*, Taiwanese-American mystic and spiritual director Cindy S. Lee offers a more robust spirituality to hold the complexities of a multi-cultural God and the God-human relationship. Lee explores how Christian spiritual formation resources and teachings have primarily come from Western spiritual traditions, communicating that the white experience of God is the norm and authority. Instead, she proposes that the church needs a new way to engage in spiritual formation. To thrive in our increasingly diverse contexts, we need an unforming and reforming of our souls. As Lee argues, we need to unform the ways Western-dominated church leaders have understood formation, then reform—to imagine and create a more intricate spirituality that includes diverse experiences of God.

2026 Spiritual Growth

Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves.

Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes. HarperOne 2023.

Wayne County Library Co. clevnet: 5 Print copies.

This seven-week guide aims to help readers shift behaviors and create life-long habits to care for the whole self—mind, body, and soul. After all, we are not just bodies but sacred beings, and our souls need just as much care and attention to be healthy. As a clinical psychologist, pastor, and activist, Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes has studied and worked with clients, clergy, seminary faculty, faith-based activists, and others to encourage them to think of self-care as both a divine right and a sacred obligation. Her guide offers activities, habits, disciplines, and practices that promote spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, and relational wholeness.

2026 Spiritual Growth

Surviving God: A New Vision of God Through the Eyes of Sexual Abuse Survivors.

Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Susan M. Shaw. Broadleaf Books 2024.

Wayne County Library clevnet: eBook Libby. Kindle. eAudiobook Hoopla. 2 Print copies.

Groundbreaking theologians Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Susan M. Shaw, each a survivor, demonstrate how traditional ways of thinking about God are highly problematic, contribute to the problems of sexual abuse, and are not reflective of the God of love and justice at the heart of the gospel. These long-held theologies often perpetuate the problem of sexual abuse and fail to promote healing for survivors. Drawing from their own experiences and the experiences of other survivors, and centering the ways gender intersects with race, sexuality, class, and religion, Kim and Shaw lead readers to deep healing and a transformed church that no longer contributes to the devastation of sexual abuse. (V) (S)

2026 Spiritual Growth

Womanish Theology: Discovering God Through the Lens of Black Girlhood.

Khristi Lauren Adams. Brazos Press 2024.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Hoopla. eBook Libby. Kindle. 3 Print copies.

In Womanish Theology, Khristi Lauren Adams reflects on her faith experiences over the years, inviting readers to learn from a new perspective and guiding them to a deeper understanding of their spirituality. This groundbreaking book introduces a new branch of theological thought Adams calls “womanish.” “Womanish,” remembers Adams, is a term Black mothers used for young girls as they grew more interested in doing grown-up things.

Adams draws on her own life story as well as the life stories of other Black girls to explore theological concepts such as Scripture, theodicy, salvation, prayer, neighborly love, and the image of God.

2026 Spiritual Growth Youth

Mission U: God With Us: Experiencing God's Presence in Our Lives.

Emily Carle. United Women in Faith 2026.

God With Us invites youth and their leaders to explore Scripture with curiosity and openness. Rather than viewing biblical figures as unreachable heroes, participants discover how God is present in both the extraordinary and the everyday.

Each session offers fresh insights, challenges assumptions, and encourages honest reflection. Rooted in conversation and community, the curriculum emphasizes shared exploration over right answers. Youth are invited to listen for God's presence—in the stories of Scripture and in their own lives—fostering growth, connection, and meaningful dialogue in eight one-hour sessions that extend beyond the page and into daily experience.

The Mission u curricula count for Bonus Book credit if completed as part of a curricula group (either leader or participant). If read independently, the Mission u curricula count for a single credit.

2026 Spiritual Growth Youth

Red, White and Whole.

Rajani Larocca. Quill Tree Books 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: eAudiobook Libby. eBook Hoopla. 1 Large print. 33 Print copies.

This Newbery Honor Book is a hopeful novel in verse about an Indian-American girl whose life is turned upside down when her mother is diagnosed with leukemia. Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian-American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, becomes determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the "perfect daughter" if it means saving Amma's life.

2026 Spiritual Growth Children

A Prayer for Our Country: Words to Unite and Inspire Hope.

Barry Black. Zonderkidz 2022.

Wayne Co, Library clevnet: eBook Hoopla. 11 Print copies.

Authored by U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black, this colorful children's book helps kids learn to thank God for America while also exploring the ways we can model God's love to support our country's citizens, heal hurts that divide us, and look to a stronger, united future. In this prayer for children based on wisdom from his almost two decades of daily praying over the U.S. Senate, Black offers needed and inspiring text to help the next generation grow stronger in faith and forward America's dream.

2026 Spiritual Growth Children
Brown Baby Jesus.

Dorena Williamson. Waterbrook 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 3 Print copies.

This unique retelling of the Nativity story features Jesus as a darker-skinned baby in a story that's rich with Scripture and a multicultural weaving of love. In this beautiful picture book, Jesus' mother Mary spins wool into yarn and remembers the many people in Jesus' lineage. Like Moses, brown baby Jesus would be a deliverer. Like Rahab, brown baby Jesus would save his people from destruction. Like David, brown baby Jesus would rule as a great king. Like the colorful threads that make up a beautiful cloth, Brown Baby Jesus brings together the characters and stories leading to Jesus.

2026 Spiritual Growth Children
Mission U: Experiencing Emmanuel.

Amy Beth Jones. United Women in Faith 2026.

Experiencing Emmanuel invites children to explore and name God's presence in their lives. Grounded in the belief that faith is a lifelong journey, the curriculum helps children discover how stories from Scripture shape identity and community. Guided by the Wesleyan quadrilateral—Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience—each of the eight one-hour sessions includes reflection journals, sacred story retellings, testimonies of faith, and shared hands-on activities. Through these experiences, children and mentors grow together in understanding, confidence, and spiritual awareness. This curriculum offers a thoughtful, engaging path for children to encounter God's grace in both familiar stories and everyday life.

The Mission u curricula count for Bonus Book credit if completed as part of a curricula group (either leader or participant). If read independently, the Mission u curricula count for a single credit.

2026 Spiritual Growth Children
Penny Preaches.

Amy Dixon & Rob Dixon. IVP Kids 2024.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 2 print copies.

Penny loves Sundays—especially the sermons. Captivated by the idea of speaking God's words, Penny becomes inspired to preach herself. But when preaching from the front porch to her friends doesn't turn out quite as she expected, Penny wonders if she was wrong to want to teach others about God. In this picture book, Penny receives a heartwarming reminder that God's gifts are for everyone, and she learns valuable lessons about sharing God's message—and what it means to use the gifts God has given her.

2025 Spiritual Growth

The Enneagram for Black Liberation: Return to Who You Are Beneath the Armor You Carry

Chichi Agorom. Broadleaf Books 2024.

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

From certified Enneagram teacher, writer, and psychotherapist Chichi Agorom comes this exploration of how the Enneagram can be a powerful tool for Black women to rediscover wholeness and worth that existed long before systems of supremacy said they weren't enough. Breaking down each Enneagram type as a form of armor, this book offers practices to help Black women, and all who live on the margins, begin to build a sense of self separate from our mechanisms of self-protection, while working to dismantle the systems that require us to stay constantly armored up.

2025 Spiritual Growth

Forgiving What You Can't Forget

Lysa Terkeurst. Thomas Nelson. 2020.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book. 3 Electronic Libby Audiobook. 7 audio disc copies. 26 print copies. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book.

Have you ever felt stuck in a cycle of unresolved pain, playing offenses over and over in your mind? In this book, author and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries Lysa TerKeurst shares how to let go of bound-up resentment and overcome the resistance to forgiving people who aren't willing to make things right. With rich Bible teaching coming out of more than 1,000 hours of theological study, Terkeurst will help readers learn how to move on when the other person refuses to change and never says they're sorry, achieve freedom from the past, discover what the Bible really says about forgiveness, and more.

2025 Spiritual Growth

The Gift of the Unexpected: Discovering Who You Were Meant to be When Life Goes Off Plan

Jillian Benfield. Bethany House Publishers. 2023.

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

What if the unexpected is the beginning of becoming your truest self? In this book, former journalist and news anchor Jillian Benfield addresses how receiving a life-altering diagnosis for her unborn son changed her in ways she couldn't have imagined. Overcoming this unexpected circumstance wasn't an option. She would have to undergo it instead. In doing so, she discovered who she was and who God wanted her to become.

2025 Spiritual Growth

Hope in Disarray: Piecing Our Lives Together in Faith

Grace Ji-Sun Kim. Pilgrim Press. 2020.

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

Scholar and theologian Grace Ji-Sun Kim reflects on the practice of sustaining hope during turbulence and injustice through this illuminating collection of essays that invite a conversation on culture, faith, creation, and identity. Hope in Disarray takes the world's pain seriously to ignite intentional, revolutionary, and integrated living. The Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. called it an "urgent call for solace in a world caught in the crux of disorder and chaos."

2025 Spiritual Growth

Jesus and the Disinherited

Howard Thurman. Beacon Press. 1996. 102p.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 5 Electronic Format: Kindle, Libby EBook. 4 print copies.

Howard Thurman (1899–1981) was hailed by LIFE as one of the great preachers of the twentieth century. He served as spiritual advisor to Martin Luther King Jr., Sherwood Eddy, James Farmer, A. J. Musty, and Pauli Murray, and he was the first Black dean at a White university and cofounder of an interracial pastored, intercultural church in the United States. Originally published in 1949 and now republished with a new forward by Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas Beacon Press brings readers the text that Martin Luther King Jr. sought inspiration from in the days leading up to the Montgomery bus boycott. Thurman's Jesus and the Disinherited helped shape the civil rights movement and changed our nation's history forever. As he maintains, hatred does not empower—it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

2025 Spiritual Growth

Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day

Kaitlin Curtice. Brazos Press. 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book. 13 print copies.

Award-winning author, poet-storyteller, public speaker, and enrolled citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, Kaitlin Curtice offers a reclaiming of the term "resistance." Curtice shows that we can learn to practice embodied ways of belonging and connection to ourselves and one another through everyday practices,

such as getting more in touch with our bodies, resting, and remembering our ancestors. She explores four "realms of resistance"—the personal, communal, ancestral, and integral—and shows how these realms overlap and why all are needed for liberation and wholeness.

2025 Spiritual Growth

Miracles and Other Reasonable Things: A Story of Unlearning and Relearning God

Sarah Bessey. Howard Books. 2019.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 7 print copies.

In this poignant book, Canadian Christian author and blogger Sarah Bessey shares how a serious car accident unexpectedly shook her deeply rooted faith, upending everything she thought she knew and held so dearly. Weaving together theology and memoir in her trademark narrative style, she tells us the story of the moment that changed her body and how it ultimately changed her life. The road of healing leads to Rome where she met the Pope and encountered the Holy Spirit in the last place she expected.

**2025 Spiritual Growth – Bonus: two books in Spiritual Growth
Spiritual Practices for Soul Care: 40 Ways to Deepen Your Faith**

Barbara L. Peacock. Baker Books 2023.

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

In this world of frantic activity and constant entertainment, it can be hard to identify and embrace the rhythms that lead to true flourishing. Here, author and spiritual director Barbara L. Peacock offers a way to integrate inner growth into the realities of your outer life through 40 ways to help put spiritual disciplines into action each day. From prayer and meditation to serving and socializing to resting and healing, these simple, restorative practices will help readers develop the kind of Christian walk they desire.

2025 Spiritual Growth

We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People’s Campaign

Edited by Liz Theoharis. Broadleaf Books. 2021.

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

In this powerful and much-needed book, Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival with the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, is joined by pastors, community organizers, scholars, low-wage workers, lay leaders, and people in poverty to interpret sacred stories about the poor seeking healing, equity, and freedom. In a world roiled by poverty and injustice, Scripture still speaks. Organized into 52 chapters, each focusing on a key Scripture passage, **2025**

Spiritual Growth

What Makes You Come Alive: A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman

Lerita Coleman Brown. Broadleaf Books. 2023.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 Electronic Kindle, Libby EBook. 2 print copies.

Unlimited Electronic Hoopla E Book. Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book.

Known as the godfather of the civil rights movement, Howard Thurman championed silence, contemplation, common unity, and nonviolence as powerful dimensions of social change. However, Dr. Lerita Coleman Brown didn’t learn about him during her years of spiritual direction training. It was only when a friend heard of her longing to encounter the work of Black contemplatives did she finally learn about Thurman, his mystical spirituality, and his liberating ethic. Here, she beckons readers into their own apprenticeship with Thurman, walking through his inimitable life and commitments as he summons us into centering down, encountering the natural world, paying attention to sacred synchronicity, unleashing inner authority, and recognizing the genius of the religion of Jesus.

2025 Spiritual Growth

The Wild Land Within Cultivating Wholeness Through Spiritual Practice

Lisa Colon Delay. Broadleaf Books 2021.

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

In this innovative book, well-known podcaster Lisa Colón DeLay introduces readers to the landscape of the interior world and ways we can heal from trauma and grow in intimacy with God through prayer, devotional practices, and an intimate form of spirituality using insights from the desert elders of Christianity from the first centuries, and the oft-marginalized voices of Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous people. She uses theology and neuroscience to help us work through buried fear or pain and find embodied spiritual healing from trauma.

2025 Spiritual Growth

The Women of the Bible Speak: The Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lesson for Today

Shannon Bream. Broadside Books. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Electronic Hoopla Audio Book, 5 Electronic Kindle, Libby EBook. 2 Electronic Libby Audiobook. Unlimited Hoopla E Book. 47 print copies. 2 audio disc.

American journalist and attorney Shannon Bream enables readers to walk closely with 16 women of the Bible, many of whom were central figures in numerous Biblical tales, for example, Queen Esther's bravery at a vital point in history which saved her entire people. The Bible contains warriors like Jael, judges like Deborah, and prophets like Miriam. The first person to witness Jesus' resurrection was Mary Magdalene, who promptly became the first Christian evangelist, eager to share the news that would change the world forever. Bream offers a deeper understanding of each, and wisdom and insights that can transform readers' lives today.

2025 Spiritual Growth

Words of Love: A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments

Eugena Anne Gamble. Westminster John Knox Press. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: Unlimited Hoopla E Book.

In this book, retired Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor, award-winning author, retreat leader, congregational consultant, and preaching coach Eugenia Anne Gamble dives into each of the Ten Commandments and examines their application for modern-day Christians, going beyond the letter of the law to a spiritual truth pointing us toward wholeness and well-being. Each chapter includes a spiritual practice and questions for reflection and discussion to help readers engage deeply with the message of each commandment, whether individually or in a group.

2025 Spiritual Growth – Youth

Whistlestop Tales: Around the World in 10 Bible Stories.

Krish Kandiah & Miriam Kandiah. Navpress. 2022.

Whistlestop Tales features 10 Bible stories that illustrate how God uses people from all over the world to accomplish God's purposes. Each story begins with a closer look at the modern-day country where it took place to help anchor the characters in their original context and cultures, providing a new perspective on the lives of these brave men and women. These action-packed stories will encourage children to live out their own unique adventures with God. Suitable for youth & children.

2025 Spiritual Growth – Children

The Little Book of Joy

His Holiness the Dalai Lama & Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Crown Books for Young Readers. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 22 print copies.

In this picture book adaptation of the international bestseller *The Book of Joy*, Nobel Peace Prize winners His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu share their childhood struggles to show young readers how they can thrive and find joy even during the most challenging times. The two spiritual masters tell a simple story, vibrantly brought to life by bestselling illustrator Rafael López, of how every child has joy inside them, even when it sometimes hides, and how we can find it, keep it close, and grow it by sharing it with the world.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Abuelita Faith: What Women on the Margins Teach Us About Wisdom, Persistence, and Strength.

Kat Armas. Brazos Press. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 4 print copies.

Kat Armas, a second-generation Cuban American, grew up on the outskirts of Miami's famed Little Havana neighborhood. Her earliest theological formation came from her grandmother, her abuelita, who fled Cuba during the height of political unrest and raised three children alone after her husband passed away. Combining personal storytelling with biblical reflection, Armas shows us how voices on the margins—those often dismissed, isolated, and oppressed because of their gender, socioeconomic status, or lack of education—have more to teach us about following God than we realize. This book is a Christianity Today 2022 Book Award finalist.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Bipolar Faith: A Black Woman's Journey with Depression and Faith.

Monica Coleman. Fortress Press. 2016.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 2 HTML, Adobe EPub. 4 print copies.

Coleman examines the ways the legacies of slavery, war, sharecropping, poverty, and alcoholism mask a family history of mental illness. Those same forces accompanied her into the Black religious traditions and Christian ministry. All the while, she wrestled with her own bipolar disorder. *Bipolar Faith* is both a spiritual autobiography and a memoir of mental illness. Citing serendipitous encounters with Black intellectuals like Henry Louis Gates Jr., Angela Davis, and Renita Weems, Coleman offers a rare account of how the modulated highs of Bipolar II can lead to professional success, while hiding a depression that even her doctors rarely believed.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us Into the Sacred.

Victoria Loorz. Broadleaf Books 2021. Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 print copy.

Whether disillusioned by the church or unfulfilled by traditional expressions of faith, many of us long for a deeper spirituality. Coping with an unraveling vocation, identity, and planet, Loorz turned to the wanderings of spiritual leaders and the sanctuary of the natural world, eventually co-founding the Wild Church Network and Seminary of the Wild. With an ecospiritual lens on biblical narratives and a fresh look at a community larger than our own species, *Church of the Wild* uncovers the roots of faith and helps us deepen our commitment to a suffering earth by falling in love with it.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Colors of Hope: A Devotional Journal from LGBTQIA + Christians.

Melissa G. Loy, Editor, Chalice Press. 2022.

From the Rev. Melissa Lynn Guthrie, director and minister with AllianceQ, comes this much-needed faith-based resource for the LGBTQ+ community. *Colors of Hope* uses the iconic Pride Flag as the core of a nine-week-long reflection and devotional journal. The flag's eight colors are each tied to a specific symbolic theme, inspiring the book's contributors to craft a short essay and a set of several common themes that carry over to each week and invite readers to reflect on the week's theme in different ways.

2024 Spiritual Growth

The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief.

Jan Richardson. Wanton Gospeller Press. 2016.

When Jan Richardson unexpectedly lost her husband and creative partner, she did what she had long known how to do: She wrote blessings. These were no sugar-coated blessings. They minimized none of the pain and bewilderment that came in the wake of a wrenching death. With these blessings, she entered into the depths of the shock, anger, and sorrow. From those depths, she has brought forth words that, with heartbreaking honesty, offer surprising comfort and stunning grace. Those who know loss will find kinship among these pages.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week.

Amy-Jill Levine. Abingdon Press. 2018.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 2 HTML, Adobe EPub, Kindle. 1 print copy.

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. The book is part of a larger six-week study that is perfect for Lent.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Glory in the Margins: Sunday Poems.

Nikki Grimes. Iron Pen. 2021. Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 8 print copies.

This collection of poetry from New York Times bestselling author and poet Nikki Grimes explores the many hours Jesus spent with people in the margins. In the book of Job, a suffering man pours out his anguish to his Maker. From the depths of his pain, he reveals a trust in God's goodness stronger than his despair, giving humanity some of the most beautiful and poetic verses of all time. Grimes' poetry reflects a spirit of unvarnished honesty and tenacious hope. Her collection is a gentle, beautiful and provocative collection that opens up Scripture in a fresh and welcome way.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Land of Silence.

Tessa Afshar. Tyndale House Publishers. 2016.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 HTML, Adobe EPub, Kindle. 1 MP3 Overdrive Listen. 14 print copies. 1 Large print copy.

Before she stole healing by touching the hem of his garment, Elianna was a young girl crushed by guilt. After her only brother is killed in her care, Elianna tries to earn forgiveness by working for her father's textile trade and caring for her family. When another tragedy places Elianna in sole charge of the business, her talent for design brings enormous success, but never absolution. Then illness strikes, isolating Elianna from everyone and stripping everything she has left. No physician can cure her—until she hears whispers of a man whose mere touch can heal.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Red Lip Theology: For Church Girls Who've Considered Tithing to the Beauty Supply Store When Sunday Morning Isn't Enough.

Candace Marie Benbow. Convergent Books. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 8 print copies.

Benbow's essays explore universal themes like heartache, loss, forgiveness, and sexuality, and she unflinchingly empowers women who struggle with feeling loved and nurtured by church culture. Honoring her single mother's love and triumphs—and mourning her unexpected passing—she finds herself forced to shed restrictions she'd been taught to place on her faith practice. And by embracing alternative spirituality and womanist theology, and confronting staid attitudes on body positivity and LGBTQ+ rights, Benbow challenges religious institutions, faith leaders, and communities to reimagine how faith can be a tool of liberation and transformation.

2024 Spiritual Growth

The Seeker and The Monk: Everyday Conversations with Thomas Merton.

Sophronia Scott. Broadleaf Books, 2021. Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 4 print copies.

What if we truly belong to each other? What if we are all walking around shining like the sun? Mystic, monk, and activist Thomas Merton asked those questions in the 20th century. Writer Sophronia Scott asks them today. Here, Scott mines the extensive private journals of one of the most influential contemplative thinkers of the past for guidance on how to live in these fraught times. As a Black woman who is not Catholic, Scott holds spirited, and intimate conversations on race, ambition, faith, activism, nature, prayer, friendship, and love.

2024 Spiritual Growth

This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories That Make Us.

Cole Arthur Riley. Convergent Books. 2022.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 9 print copies.

In her stunning debut, the creator of Black Liturgies weaves stories from three generations of her family alongside reflections to discover necessary rituals that connect us with belonging, dignity, and liberation. Here, Arthur Riley reflects on stories of her grandmother and father and how they revealed an embodied, dignity-affirming spirituality, not only in what they believed but in the act of living itself. Writing of her own childhood and coming to self, she boldly explores some of the most urgent questions of life and faith. This Here Flesh speaks to anyone who suspects our stories might have something to say to us.

2024 Spiritual Growth

We Go On: Finding Purpose in All of Life's Sorrows and Joys.

John Onwuchekwa. Zondervan. 2022. Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 2 print copies.

Rich with black-and-white photography, powerful stories, and life-changing reflections from the book of Ecclesiastes, *We Go On* calls you to find the true answer to the question: Why am I here? This hope-filled exploration of this biblical book of wisdom turns our attention to what our true purpose is and how to let that purpose shape our relationships, career, and life choices. Along with biblical insights, Onwuchekwa weaves together meaningful challenges that, even from difficult beginnings, we can continue to trust God's path.

2024 Spiritual Growth

The Wisdom of Your Body: Embodiment as the Road to Healing, Wholeness, and Connection

Hillary L McBride. Brazos Press. 2021.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 1 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 1 HTML, Adobe EPub, Kindle. 1 print copy.
Psychologist and award-winning researcher Hillary McBride explores the broken and unhealthy ideas we have inherited about our body. Embodiment is the way we are in the world, and our embodiment is heavily influenced by who we have been allowed to be. McBride shows that many of us feel disembodied due to colonization, racism, sexism, and patriarchy—destructive systems that rank certain bodies as less valuable, beautiful, or human than others. Embracing our embodiment can liberate us from these systems. The Wisdom of Your Body offers a compassionate, healthy, and holistic perspective on embodied living.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of Torah and the Throne.

Wilda C Gafney. Westminster John Knox Press. 2017.

From Hebrew biblical scholar, professor, and Episcopal priest Wilda Gafney comes this in-depth and creative exploration of the well- and lesser-known women of the Hebrew Scriptures. Using her own translations, Gafney offers a midrashic interpretation of the biblical text that is rooted in the African-American preaching tradition to tell the stories of a variety of female characters, many of whom are often overlooked and nameless. Gafney employs a solid understanding of womanist and feminist approaches to biblical interpretation and the sociohistorical culture of the ancient Near East.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Worth It: Overcome Your Fears and Embrace the Life You Were Made For,

Britt Baron. Broadleaf Books. 2020.

Growing up in an evangelical megachurch, trying to fit neatly inside the boundaries of her faith, and wrestling with her true self caused Barron to feel boxed in by her fears and unable to realize her full potential. All that changed when she met a girl named Sami, fell in love, and chose to break free from the judgement of others in favor of a full and vibrant life. In Worth It, Barron tells her story to inspire readers, encouraging us all to consider other perspectives surrounding race, religion, and sexuality, including fears that keep us from evolving toward acceptance.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Why Do I Feel Like This? Understand Your Difficult Emotions and Find Grace to Move Through.

Peace Amadi. Intervarsity Press. 2021. Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 6 print copies.

Sometimes life is a mess and we get overwhelmed by all sorts of conflicting, difficult emotions. In this book, psychology professor and personal development coach Dr. Peace Amadi helps readers navigate the complexity of their emotions, from discouragement and hurt to trauma and depression. She explains the dynamics underlying what they feel and gives practical resources for living through their emotions in healthy ways. With insights from both psychology and Scripture, this book offers a clear plan to get peace and freedom back and find joy again.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults.

Robin Wall Kimmerer. Zest Books. 2022.

Wayne County Library clevnet: 1 HTML, Adobe EPub. 1 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 28 print copies.

In this companion book for youth, botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer draws from her experiences as an Indigenous scientist to demonstrate how all living things—from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen—provide us with gifts and lessons every day. Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, this new edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth's oldest teachers: the plants around us. With informative sidebars, reflection questions, and art from illustrator Nicole Neidhardt, *Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults* brings Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the lessons of plant life to a new generation.

2024 Spiritual Growth

All Will Be Well: Learning to Trust God's Love.

Lacy Finn Borgo. Illustrations by Rebecca Evans. IVP Kids 202. Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 3 print
Mima is very sick, and just thinking about it makes Julian sad and angry. Julian is worried about Mima and wonders if God can hear her or if God cares. Mima explains to Julian that God loves us and God can be trusted— even when we are sad or angry. This gentle story of a grandmother's love for her granddaughter incorporates the timeless wisdom of Julian of Norwich: Because of God's great love for us, all will be well. *All Will Be Well* tackles the sensitive subjects of death and grief in a way understood by children when adults read thoughtfully with them.

2024 Spiritual Growth

The Good for Nothing Tree.

Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. Flyaway Books. 2022. Children.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 5 print copies.

A tiny fig tree needs time to grow. But how much time? Is the fig tree good for nothing? Inspired by the parable of the barren fig tree, *The Good for Nothing Tree* reminds us readers that the sweetest figs, like many other things, are worth waiting for. Not every tree—and not every child—grows at the same pace. Yet patience, care, and love can change everything, making what may appear “good for nothing” very good. A note about the parable's New Testament origins and a recipe are included.

2024 Spiritual Growth

I Am You: A Book About Ubuntu.

Refiloe Moahioli. Amazon Crossing Kids. 2022. Children. Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 34 print copies

In southern Africa, there is a belief called ubuntu—the idea that all are connected. No matter where we're from or who we are, a person is a person through their connections to other people. With simple, lyrical text and charming artwork, this lively picture book, first published in South Africa, is the perfect introduction to the concept of ubuntu for young kids. A celebration of friendship and kindness, the book shows children the many ways that we are all one. Previously published as *We Are One*, this edition of *I Am You* includes editorial revisions.

2024 Spiritual Growth

Wonder Awaits!

Caroline Hamilton-Arnold. Chalice Press. 2022. Children.

Have you ever noticed that children are always listening, seeing, touching, smelling, tasting—and thinking? *Wonder Awaits!* Encourages children of all ages to use those senses and everyday activities to see the miracles of creation. Kids are encouraged to get close, get dirty, look carefully, look up, make art, make friends, be brave, be curious, be present, and be amazed, all activities adults should do too. Accompanying the words are dozens of photos portraying children from two to six years of age representing the practices encouraged by the text.

2023 Spiritual Growth

The Big Deal of Taking Small Steps to Move Closer to God. Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie.

Faithwords. 2017.

This book by Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, uncovers how to develop a stronger relationship with God and more effective spiritual lifestyle by taking small steps that lead to big changes. McKenzie prescribes small changes that lead to radical closeness to God, and the “big deal” result is a greater ability to biblically address life challenges

2023 Spiritual Growth – Bonus Book - If you read the study but do not lead/participate in a group, it counts as only one book.

Community in the Midst of Challenging Times: A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13. Kenya Cummings. (Mission U Youth Study) United Women in Faith (2022).

In this Mission u Youth Study, organizer and minister Kenya Cummings brings participants on a journey through stories that have anchored Christian communities for millennia, through times of stability and times of turmoil and tragedy. Using study, prayer, reflection, and sharing, participants examine the meanings of the kingdom of God, also exploring the dynamics of power and empire in light of the gospel. Suitable for youth.

2023 Spiritual Growth

Daughter of Cana (Jerusalem Road, Book 1). Angela Hunt. Bethany House Publishers. 2020.

Thomas and Tasmin, twin siblings hired to oversee a wedding feast in Cana, worry when the host runs out of wine—until a guest tells Tasmin to have the servants fill the pitchers by the gate with water from the cistern. Reluctantly, she obeys and is amazed when rainwater turns into the finest wine ever tasted in Cana. When Thomas impulsively decides to follow the teacher from Nazareth, he and Tasmin argue. Tasmin can't accept losing her brother to some magician-prophet. She decides to follow the Nazarene's group, do whatever she must to mend the fractured relationship with her brother, and bring him home.

Wayne Co. Library Clevnet – 1 HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle. 16 print copies.

2023 Spiritual Growth

Freedom, We Sing. Amyra Leon and Illustrated by Molly Mendoza. Flying Eye Books. 2020.

As powerful as it is beautiful, *Freedom, We Sing* is a lyrical picture book designed to inspire and give hope to readers around the world. Molly Mendoza's immersive, lush illustrations invite kids to ponder singer-songwriter Amyra León's poem about what it means to be free.

Suitable for children.

Wayne Co. Library Clevnet – 6 print copies.

2023 Spiritual Growth

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made For Whiteness. Austin Channing Brown. Convergent Books. 2018.

Austin Channing Brown's first encounter with a racialized America came at age seven, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a White man. Growing up in majority-White schools and churches, Austin writes, "I had to learn what it means to love blackness," a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America's racial divide as a writer, speaker, and expert helping organizations practice genuine inclusion. She writes in incisive detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice. Her stories bear witness to the complexity of America's social fabric—from Black neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to boardrooms at majority-White organizations.

Wayne Co. Library Clevnet – 1 HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle. 12 MP3 Overdrive Listen.

2023 Spiritual Growth

Isaiah & The Worry Pack: Learning to Trust God With All Our Fears. Ruth Goring and Illustrated by Pamela C. Rice IVP Kids. 2021.

It's bedtime again, but Isaiah can't sleep. It seems he's got too many things on his mind—things he's worried about. So Mom helps Isaiah imagine what it would be like if each of his worries were a block that he could stash in his backpack. As Isaiah imagines hiking through the woods carrying his worry pack, he discovers the joy and relief of trusting Jesus with everything, especially those worries. This tender story written by poet, visual artist, and children's author Ruth Goring is paired with Pamela C. Rice's warm illustrations. Suitable for children.

Wayne Co Library Clevnet – 1 print copy.

2023 Spiritual Growth - Bonus book – If you read the study but do not lead/participate in a group, it counts as only one book.

Our Growing Tree- From Self-Love to the Beloved Community And All of God's Creation: A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13. Ilka Vega. (Mission u Children's Study) United Woman in Faith. 2022.

In this Mission u Children's Study by social justice advocate and educator Ilka Vega, participants take a journey of spiritual growth and community building that helps children recognize the diversity of their capacities, spiritual gifts, and talents as well as their responsibilities to care for one another and for all of God's creation. Through Bible study and reflection, transformative activities, and spiritual practices, participants focus on growing their spiritual gifts and talents and find support in their journeys of self-love, community building, and stewardship of God's creation.

Suitable for children.

2023 Spiritual Growth

Until Unity. Rev. Francis Chan. David C. Cook. 2021.

If unity is so important to the heart of God, why is the church one of the most divided groups on earth? New York Times bestselling author Francis Chan calls for believers and churches everywhere to align hearts with God and start taking seriously God's numerous commands to unify. While many believe doctrine is at the root of the problem, Chan argues that the real problem is the shallowness or non-existence of our love for each other—rooted in a shallowness in our understanding of the gospel. This is what desperately needs to change.

Wayne Co. Library Clevnet – 1 MP3, Overdrive Listen. 1 HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle. 2 print copies.

2023 Spiritual Growth

What is God Like? Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner, Illustrated by Ying Hui Tan. Convergent Books. 2021.

This picture book by the late Rachel Held Evans and her friend, Matthew Paul Turner, answers what is for many children their first question about God: What is God like? Through pictures from the Bible, children see God is like a shepherd, like a star, like a gardener, like the wind, and more. God is a comforter and support. And whenever a child is unsure, *What Is God Like?* encourages young hearts to “think about what makes you feel safe, what makes you feel loved, and what makes you feel brave. That’s what God is like.” Suitable for children.

Wayne Co. Library Clevnet – 1 HTML, Kindle. 14 print copies.

2023 Spiritual Growth - Bonus Book - If you read the study but do not lead/participate in a group, it counts as only one book.

Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13. Candace Simpson (Mission u Adult Study). United Women in Faith. 2022.

In this Mission u Adult Study, Candace Simpson brings participants deeper into Jesus’ teachings in Luke 13 to explore what it means to be in community. As Simpson notes, “For followers of Christ 2,000 years later, it’s important for us to sit with the range of emotions we have in response to these words. It’s not easy to build and sustain communities, especially when there are forces that drain us, exhaust us, and even push us to act uncharacteristically. And yet, we are called to act on the most ethical principles of our faith so we can witness the kingdom of God on earth.”

2022 Spiritual Growth

Glimpses of Heaven: God's Gifts of Grace in Daily Life. Roela Victoria Rivera. Creative. 2017.

Life is amazingly full of God’s grace both as a mystery and a miracle! The Scripture timelessly reveals that God’s abiding grace is infinite and sufficient for all His creation from the beginning to the end of time! God’s grace is present often in the most unexpected times and places through people and events in simple and spectacular ways!

2022 Spiritual Growth

Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times. Bishop Michael Curry with Sara Grace. Avery Publishing. 2020.

The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 25 Print copies. Electronic Format: HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle.

2022 Spiritual Growth

The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage. Joan Chittister. Convergent Books. 2019.

Beloved nun and social activist Joan Chittister offers a soul-stirring and inspiring guide that speaks to all who feel disillusioned and dissatisfied with the power-hungry institutions and systems of this world. Pairing scriptural insights with stirring narratives of the truth-tellers that came before us, Sister Joan offers a compelling vision for readers to combat complacency and to propel ourselves toward creating a world of justice, freedom, peace, and empowerment.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 12 Print copies. 1 Electronic Format: MP3, Overdrive Listen.

2022 Spiritual Growth

When God Made the World. Matthew Paul Turner; Illustrated by Gillian Gamble. Convergent Books. 2020.

For spiritual parents who are looking for a different kind of creation book, Matthew Paul Turner's *When God Made the World* focuses on the complex way that God created our vast and scientifically operating universe, including the biodiversity of life on our planet and the intricacies of a vast solar system.

Wayne Co. Library Clevnet – 6 Print copies. 1 Electronic Format: HTML, Adobe EPUB, Kindle.

2021 Spiritual Growth

Adamant: Finding Truth in a Universe of Opinions. Lisa Bevere. Baker Publishing Group. 2018.

What is truth? This has become the defining question of our time. But while everyone has an opinion, truth, it seems, is getting harder to find. Theologically deep yet intimately accessible, this book will anchor your soul in a raging sea of opinions, giving you a clear sense of direction in a wandering world.

Wayne County Library Clevnet – 6 print copies. 1 ebook [HTML, Adobe EPub, Kindle.

2021 Spiritual Growth

Beyond Loneliness: The Gift of God's Friendship. Trevor Hudson. Upper Room Books.. 2016.

Loneliness touches everyone, and it can be one of the most painful experiences of life. People long for relationship with others, but what may surprise them is that God longs to be friends with them. This book provides guidance for building a close friendship with God and easing the ache of loneliness.

2021 Spiritual Growth

Dinner By Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent. Kevin Louise Schaner. Xulon Press. 2017.

Christmas is coming! Feeling anxious? Expect hope, love, joy and peace this Advent. Rekindle your anticipation of Christ's birth with comforting conversation.

Wayne County Library Clevnet – 2 print copies

2021 Spiritual Growth

Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home. Traci Smith. Chalice Press. 2017.

Add family faith moments to your daily routine with little or no prep and share meaningful spiritual experiences with your children. The author, a pastor and mother of three, offers creative ways to discover and develop new spiritual practices as a family, whether you're a new seeker or a lifelong follower.

2021 Spiritual Growth – Bonus Book (counts at two books in Spiritual Growth)

Finding Peace in an Anxious World. Edited by Erin James-Brown. United Methodist Women. 2020.

This mission study uses the book of Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer" as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry and fear and move towards God's peace, which surpasses all understanding

2021 Spiritual Growth

The Journey Between Us: My Faith Walk: Overcoming Grief to Finding Joy in the Journey.

Lisa McGrath. Westbow Press 2018.

The Journey Between Us tells the inspiring story of how the author's faith guided her through several unthinkable events that shook her world to its core. That same faith allowed her to grow as she learned to trust God's plan and perfect timing. In their darkest hours, she and her family turned to God, and that has made all the difference on their path together.

2021 Spiritual Growth

One Day I Wrote Back: interacting with Scripture Through Creative Writing. Jane Herring. Upper Room Books. 2015.

Do you struggle to relate the Bible to your daily life? This guide will help you talk back to those scripture passages you don't understand. Ask questions, explore your life, plead, praise and ponder—you'll find simple, practical tools for beginning and experienced writers. A perfect resource for individuals, small groups and retreats.

2021 Spiritual Growth

Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness. Amy G. Oden. Abingdon Press. 2017.

Many Christians practice mindfulness outside of church and believe it does not belong to our faith tradition. However, Christians have always practiced mindfulness. This book reveals the Christian roots of mindfulness and the actual practices that, when reclaimed, deepen the life of faith and the power of our mission of love in the world.

2021 Spiritual Growth

Sleep, Pray, Heal: A Path to Wholeness and Well-being (Healing Memoir Book 1)

Donna Fado Ivery. Adventures in Healing. 2019.

A 200-pound glass partition fell on Donna Fado Ivery's head, resulting in brain injury, disability and chronic pain. How would she care for her infant, her preschooler, her husband and herself? How would she continue to serve as pastor? With humor and humility, this inspirational memoir speaks to Donna's struggle and the abiding support of family and the Holy Spirit.

2021 Spiritual Growth

They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems. David Bowles. Cinco Puntos Press. 2018.

Güero is Mexican American, at home on both sides of the river. He's starting seventh grade with a woke English teacher who knows how to make poetry cool. In Spanish, "Güero" is a nickname for guys with pale skin. But make no mistake: our red-headed, freckled hero is puro Mexicano. Güero is also a nerd—reader, gamer, musician. Trusting in his family's traditions, his accordion and his bookworm squad, he faces seventh grade with book smarts and a big heart.

Boys – Juvenile poetry. Wayne County Library Clevnet – 18 print copies.

2021 Spiritual Growth

Note: Listen to three Faith Talks podcasts and the trio will count as two books in the Spiritual Growth category.

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women.

Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. Check out interviews with United Methodist Women mission studies' authors and more at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks