

Books Connected to WUMC Sermons August 2025

Education for Mission

Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky.

Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 2022. Children
Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 33 print copies.

This riveting exploration of culture and history traces the journey of the color through time and across the globe. The color blue has been long sought-after, from the mass quantities of sapphire rocks ground by ancient Afghan painters, to the snails harvested in Eurasia for the tiny bits of blue contained in their bodies, to the indigo grown as a cash crop on the backs of African slaves. In this beautifully rendered children's book, discover a history of the color as deep as the sea and as wide as the sky.

How to Be an Antiracist. Ibram X. Kendi. One World. 2019.

Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with an engaging personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism. How to Be an Antiracist is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society."

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 5 Audiobook CD. 11 Largeprint. 76 Print copies. 22 eAudiobook online, 1 eBook Libby, 1 Kindle.

They Called Us Enemy

George Takei. Top Shelf Productions. 2019. Youth.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 2020. 12 eBook Libby, 12 Kindle online, eComic online Hoopla, 51 print copies.

This New York Times bestselling graphic novel is a memoir detailing the childhood of George Takei, actor, author, and activist. Takei spent his childhood imprisoned with his family within American concentration camps during World War II. They Called Us Enemy is his firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the experience of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

Susan Angeline Collins: With a Hallelujah Heart. Janis Bennington Van Buren. Westbow Press 2021.

Wayne Co, Library clevnet: 2 print copies.

Years before Mary Jane McLeod Bethune started her school for girls in Florida, one Midwestern woman was steadily doing her part for girls in the northern Angolan high plateau. For more than three decades, African American missionary Susan Angeline Collins made a tremendous difference in the lives of countless African women and children, some orphaned and homeless and others escaping early marriage and subservience. Authored by retired professor Janis Bennington Van Buren, this book explores the remarkable service-oriented life of Collins from her 1851 birth in Illinois until her 1940 death in Iowa. Collins overcame economic, education, gender, race, religious, and other obstacles surrounding Africa's colonization to serve as a stalwart missionary, leader, teacher, nurse, construction manager, and surrogate mother to "her girls."

Leadership Development

Becoming Brave: Finding Courage to Pursue Racial Justice Now.

Brenda Salter McNeil. Brazos Press. 2020.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 2 print copies. 1 eAudiobook Hoopla, 1 eBook Hoopla

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.

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

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 80 print copies, 2 eAudiobook Libby. 1 eBook Libby, 1 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.

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: 12 print copies. 1 eBook Libby, 1 Kindle.

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.

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 eAudiobook Hoopla, 1 Audiobook CD. 27 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.

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.

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 – 95 print copies. 2 eAudiobook Libby, 4 Large print, 4 Audiobook CD

Nurturing for Community

She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman. Erica Armstrong Dunbar. 37 ink. 2019.

"She Came to Slay reveals the many complexities and varied accomplishments of one of our nation's true heroes and offers an accessible and modern interpretation of Tubman's life that is both informative and engaging."

Wayne Co. Library clevnet – 2 Audiobook CD. 32 Print copies, 1 eAudiobook Libby.

White Fragility: Why it's so hard For White People to Talk About Racism. Robin DiAngelo. Beacon Press. 2018.

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

Wayne Co. Library Clevnet – 81 print copies. 62 eAudiobook, 171 eBook copies Libby, 171 Kindle.

Social Action

Black Was the Ink – Novel. Michelle Coles with illustrations by Justin Johnson. TU Books. 2021.

After escalating violence in his D.C. neighborhood, 16-year-old Malcolm is shipped off by his mother to his father's family farm in Mississippi. Malcolm is anything but pleased. Then he encounters the ghost of his ancestor, Cedric Johnson, and journeys to 1866. As Cedric, Malcolm meets the real-life Black statesmen who fought for change during the Reconstruction era and made American history. But even after witnessing their bravery, Malcolm's faith in his own future

remains shaky, particularly since he knows the gains these statesmen made were almost immediately stripped away. Malcolm must decide which path to take. Can Cedric's experiences help him construct a better future? Or will Malcolm resign himself to resentments and defeat? Suitable for youth.

Wayne Co. Library Clevnet – 13 print copies, 1 eAudiobook Hoopla, 3 eBook Libby, 3 Kindle.

The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism.

Jemar Tisby. Zondervan. 2019.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet:. 17 print copies, 4 eAudiobook, 5 eBook Libby, 5 Kindle.

The Color of Compromise is not a call to shame or a platform to blame White evangelical Christians. Rather, it is a call from a place of love and desire to fight for a more racially unified church that no longer compromises what the Bible teaches about human dignity and equality, and a call that challenges Black and White Christians alike to stand up now and begin implementing change. Here, Tisby outlines concrete ways to bring about a more equitable and inclusive environment among God's people—starting today.

Social Action

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor.

Layla Saad. Sourcebooks. 2020.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 30 print copies. 4 Large print, 1 Audiobook CD, 19 eAudiobook Libby, 63 copies eBook Libby, 63 Kindle.

Awareness leads to action, and action leads to change. This eye-opening book challenges readers to do the essential work of unpacking biases, and helps White people take action and dismantle the privilege within themselves to stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on people of color, and in turn, help other White people do better, too. Based on the viral Instagram challenge that captivated participants worldwide, Me and White Supremacy takes readers on a 28-day journey, complete with journal prompts, to do the necessary and vital work that can ultimately lead to improving race relations.

No Justice: One White Police Officer, One Black Family, and How one Bullet Ripped Us Apart.

Robbie Tolan and Lawrence Ross. Center Street. 2018.

A white police officer shot a young black man named Robbie Tolan in the chest, right in his own driveway. It was a mistake, and yet no one was willing to take responsibility. How do you pick up the pieces of your life when society and the legal system let you down? In a journey that took nearly a decade, Robbie was held together by the strength of his parents, his faith in God, and an impenetrable belief that he deserved justice like any other American.

Wayne County Library Clevnet – 2 print copies, 1 eAudiobook, 1 eBook Libby, 1 Kindle Libby.

So You Want to Talk About Race. Ijeoma Oluo. Seal Press. 2018.

Widespread reporting on white supremacy has made it impossible to ignore the issue of race. Still, it is a difficult subject to talk about. Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects

ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to “model minorities” in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism and how they infect almost every aspect of American life. Intercultural communication.

Wayne County Library Clevnet – 46 print copies, 1 Audiobook CD, 7 eAudiobook Libby, 6 eBook Libby, 6 Kindle.

You Have a Voice.

Vera Ahiyya. Hightree Publishing. 2022. Children.

Wayne Co. Library clevnet: 3 print copies.

Inspired by Ahiyya’s viral video that has been viewed by millions comes her powerful debut children’s book, You Have a Voice. The book celebrates the power every child naturally holds in using their voice to make change for good—and empowers both children and grown-ups to use their voice in the world.

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: 3 print copies, 1 eAudiobook Hoopla, 1 eBook Libby, 1 Kindle.

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 The Enneagram for Black Liberation