

New Resources March 2018

Date: 2018-04-03

ADULTS Spoelstra, Melissa. ***Numbers: Learning Contentment in a Culture of***
222.14 ***More***. Nashville, Abingdon Women, 2017.
SPOELSTRA

Summary: Imagine being on the verge of realizing all your dreams, but all you can focus on is how long it took to get where you are. It's hard to relate to the story in the Book of Numbers about a group of people who wandered in the desert for forty years, unable to enter the Promised Land because of their grumbling and complaining...until we take a closer look at ourselves. In this six-week women's Bible study, you'll learn how God can fill the ache inside of you and help you focus on faith in the midst of life's joys and pains. Available components for this study include a Participant Workbook with five days of lessons per week, Leader Guide, DVD, and boxed Leader Kit containing one of each component. The Leader Kit is an all-inclusive box containing one copy of each of the Bible study's components: Participant Workbook, Leader Guide, and a DVD. -- Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- Introductory Video (16:08) -- 1. Content in Deliverance (28:23) -- 2. Content in Preparation (24:09) -- 3. Content in Uncertainty (27:17) -- 4. Content in Obedience (28:28) -- 5. Content in Opposition (27:18) -- 6. Content in Blessings (26:42)

ADULTS McAllister-Wilson, David. ***A New Church and a New Seminary:***
230.07376 ***Theological Education Is the Solution***. Nashville, Abingdon Press,
MCALLISTER 2018.

Summary: Many churches are "mule churches"—strong for a generation but unable to reproduce themselves. As a mule comes from a horse and a donkey, these churches were the product of demographics and cultural conditions conducive for a generation of strength but did not produce many offspring in new church starts or strong candidates for ministry. Mule churches create a generation or more of pastors, superintendents, and bishops who think they knew what made for strong church, who think their approach to ministry is the key reason for their success. And it produces churches with a nostalgia for the way things used to be. This makes it hard for churches to adapt to change. We've been declining for a long time due to changes in secular and consumer culture, demographics radically adjusting normative family structure, and a theology based in consumer marketing rather than mission-driven vitality. Now we realize that the church is free to not just make the gospel relevant to life but to make life relevant to the gospel. Conservative evangelical Christianity was able to focus on relevance prior to its ascendancy on the national stage. Methodism requires a similar period of confessional self-definition. We are going through these confessions now in the debate about our stance toward homosexuality. Most students and most professors go to the seminary "to fix the church," because they realize that the future of the church and its seminaries are inseparable. Seminaries provide scholars for the church, who learn how to think, who learn how to take the long view, who shape identity, who foster a "culture of calling." A new kind of Methodist progressive evangelicalism is regenerating, which lives the great commandment (love) and the great commission (reproducing disciples) on a global

scale. Before, seminaries prepared pastors to maintain healthy churches in stable neighborhoods. Now, every neighborhood is changing and many churches are losing their members and their confidence. They long for a recovery of their sense of mission and a new kind of leadership. A new kind of seminary is regenerating to foster hope, wisdom, creativity, and engagement with the great issues of our day. --Cokesbury

ADULTS Bluhm, Tiffany. ***Never Alone: 6 Encounters with Jesus to Heal Your
232.95 Deepest Hurts***. Nashville, Abingdon Women, 2018.

BLUHM

Summary: From the time we're little girls, we long for love and acceptance. Even as grown women, we often feel compelled continue to prove we're lovable...to avoid being left alone. But it's inevitable—life is going to hit us, leaving us with the pain and loneliness of betrayal, shame guilt, loss, judgment, or rejection. Our wounds shape what we think about ourselves, others, and even God. We question our worth and wonder if anyone cares. *Never Alone*, a six-week women's Bible study based on the book, *Never Alone: Exchanging Your Tender Hurts for God's Healing Grace*, reveals the power of Jesus' unconditional love. Through encounters with six hurting women in the Gospels—the woman caught in adultery; the hemorrhaging woman; the woman at the well; the woman who anointed Him; Mary Magdalene; and Mary, the mother of Jesus—it helps us to recognize the grace-giving love and unfailing companionship of Jesus. A Participant Workbook, a Leader Guide, and a six-part DVD are available separately or as part of a boxed Leader Kit. The Leader Kit is an all-inclusive box containing one copy of each of the Bible study's components: a Participant Workbook, Leader Guide, and a DVD with six 20–25 minute sessions (with closed captioning). --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- Introductory Video (4:29) -- 1. Unashamed and Free: Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery (28:02) -- 2. Desperate and Hopeful: Jesus and The Hemorrhaging Woman (26:20) -- 3. Dignified and Entrusted (Jesus and the Woman at the Well (27:41) -- 4. Grateful and Audacious: Jesus and the Woman Who Anointed Him (28:56) -- 5. Rescued and Redeemed: Jesus and Mary Magdalene (23:59) -- 6. Chosen and Courageous : Jesus and His Mother, Mary (31:34)

ADULTS Cowart, Jim. ***Living the Five DVD: A Community Group Resource***.
232.954 Nashville, Tenn, Abingdon Press, 2016.

COWART

Summary: This is the resource for any church looking to expand through community groups—an alternative type of small group that reaches smaller settings. With less overhead and more mobility, community groups harness a combination of evangelism and ethics reminiscent of John Wesley's class meetings. In *Living the Five*, authors Jim and Jennifer Cowart show you how successful community groups are called to live out five principles and share how they applied these principles when creating community groups in their own church. Includes a five-session DVD, which is packaged in bundles of 10 for churches to give to their community group hosts. Also available is a combination Participant/Leader Guide. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- 1. You can't do life alone. -- 2. Growing people change. -- 3. Saved people serve people. -- 4. Found people find people. -- 5. Worship is a lifestyle.

ADULTS Cowart, Jim. ***Living the Five Participant and Leader Book: A Community***
232.954 ***Group Resource***. Nashville, Tenn, Abingdon Press, 2016.
COWART

Summary: This is the resource for any church looking to expand through community groups—an alternative type of small group that reaches smaller settings. With less overhead and more mobility, community groups harness a combination of evangelism and ethics reminiscent of John Wesley’s class meetings. In *Living the Five*, authors Jim and Jennifer Cowart show you how successful community groups are called to live out five principles and share how they applied these principles when creating community groups in their own church. Includes a combination Participant/Leader Guide. Also available is a five-session DVD. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- 1. You can’t do life alone. -- 2. Growing people change. -- 3. Saved people serve people. -- 4. Found people find people. -- 5. Worship is a lifestyle.

ADULTS LaGrone, Jessica. ***The Miracles of Jesus: Finding God in Desperate***
232.955 ***Moments***. Nashville, Abingdon Women, 2017.
LAGRONE

Summary: The stories about Jesus raising the dead and calming the storm are incredibly astounding. It’s natural to focus on the divine power, but these stories have something else in common: the human desperation that prompted the miracles. In this six-week Bible study, Jessica LaGrone leads us on a captivating exploration of the miracles of Jesus, helping us to see that our weakness is an invitation for God to work powerfully in our lives and reminding us that we need God on our best days just as much as we do on our worst. The six-week study includes a Participant Workbook, Leader Guide, DVD, and Leader Kit. The Leader Kit is an all-inclusive box containing one copy of each of the Bible study’s components: Participant Workbook, Leader Guide, and DVD with six approximately 20–25 minute sessions (with closed captioning). --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- 1. The Gift of Desperation: What Happens When We Run Out (27:58) -- 2. The Miracle of Abundance: From our Little, Jesus Makes Much (27:21) -- 3. Miracles on the Water: Even the Wind and Waves Obey Him (28:39) -- 4. Jesus Our Healer: Our Broken Places in His Healing Hands (25:41) -- 5. A Two-for-One Miracle Story: The Power of True Love (28:27) -- 6. The Grand Miracle: Jesus Himself (29:06) -- Promo (1:44) -- Behind the Scenes (1:06)

ADULTS Cramer, Phillip F. ***The Fight for Marriage: Church Conflicts and***
241.83584 ***Courtroom Contests***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2018.
CRAMER

Summary: For leaders in governments and in churches, marriage equality is the most contentious civil-rights dispute in the 21st century. During an era where nearly half of all marriages end in divorce, same-gender couples now have the federal civil right to marry, too. At a time when 62 percent of Americans approve of same-gender marriage, according to June 2017 Pew Research, churches are having to come to terms with whether to recognize and affirm these faithful partnerships as sacred covenants. Attorneys Harbison and Cramer, faithful and active members of a United Methodist congregation, brought one of the cases to the US Supreme Court, which resulted in the

2015 landmark decision that permits persons of the same gender to marry. They bring a unique legal and cultural perspective to the controversy. For the three couples Harbison and Cramer represented, marriage is not an "issue" to be resolved. Marriage is rather a sign for these couples of their faithful promise to love each other until they depart this life. "Each couple married for several reasons, including their commitment to love and support one another, to demonstrate their mutual commitment to their family, friends, and colleagues, and to show others that they should be treated as a family. They also married to make a legally binding mutual commitment, to join their resources together in a legal unit, and to be treated by others as a legal family unit, rather than as legally unrelated individuals. Finally, each couple married so that they could access the legal responsibilities of marriage to protect themselves and their families, just as heterosexual couples do." Aleta A. Trauger, Federal Judge With a first-hand account of the respectful courtroom drama concerning marriage in American communities and states, Harbison and Cramer show why states care about marriage, why the church got involved in marriage more than a thousand years after Jesus's earthly ministry, and how the church and the state function in partnership to foster the purposes and social benefits of marriage. --Cokesbury

ADULTS Feinberg, Margaret. ***The Sacred Echo: Why is Prayer So Mysterious?***
248.32 Richardson, TX, Bluefish TV, 2009.

FEINBERG

Summary: When God really wants to get your attention, he doesn't just say something once, he echoes. He speaks through a Sunday sermon, a chance conversation with a friend the next day, and even a random email. The same theme, idea, impression, or lesson will repeat itself in surprising and unexpected ways until you realize that maybe, just maybe, God is at work. As God's voice echoes to us, we are invited to echo back to him in prayer. We are invited to be persistent and tenacious not only in the things we ask but also in our desire for a relationship with him. In each of the six video sessions of The Sacred Echo, Margaret Feinberg provides Biblical and practical teaching that will offer a fresh perspective on our interactions with God through prayer. Each session also includes interviews with people who share their personal times when God was silent and times when God was at work. --Right Now Media

Content Notes:

- 1 – Echoes (21 minutes) -- 2 – I Love You (18 minutes) -- 3 – How Long? (17 minutes) -- 4 – You Follow Me (18 minutes) -- 5 – Surrender (15 minutes) -- 6 – Bring Them to Me (19 minutes)

ADULTS Allen, Jennie. ***Stuck: The Places We Get Stuck & the God Who Sets Us***
248.4 ALLEN **Free.** Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 2011.

Summary: So many of us live stuck. Stuck in trying to seem perfect. Stuck in sadness. Stuck feeling numb. Stuck pursuing more stuff to make us happy. Stuck in something we can't even name. These stuck places often go unattended inside of us and they are shaping our lives more than we would like to think. We've been trying to fix this feeling with everything but...God. He has a plan for these spaces inside of us, the places we feel broken, but we have to go to Him. Stuck is a journey to take an honest look at the fight going on inside, leading us to the God who has a plan to restore it, to restore us. Because as we realize that our stuck places are the very places that make us ache for God, we find Him waiting there for us with hope and freedom. Study Kit Tools: Study. The study guide uses projects, stories, and Bible study to engage the mind and heart.

There are seven weeks of Bible study and an introductory session for your group. See. Eight short but deep videos provide a starting place for meeting God and for transparent conversations. Each video is 8-12 minutes long. Ask. Conversation cards offer questions for spontaneous and authentic discussion time. You choose the questions that speak to you. Lead. The leader's guide prepares you to lead this study and encourages you along the way. --Thomas Nelson

Content Notes:

- Getting Started: Stuck -- Lesson 1: Broken -- Lesson 2: Mad -- Lesson 3: Discontent -- Lesson 4: Scared -- Lesson 5: Overwhelmed -- Lesson 6: Sad -- Lesson 7: Unstuck

ADULTS 248.4 Brueggemann, Walter. ***Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out***. Louisville, KY, Westminster John Knox Press, 2017.

Summary: Silence is a complex matter. It can refer to awe before unutterable holiness, but it can also refer to the coercion where some voices are silenced in the interest of control by the dominant voices. It is the latter silence that Walter Brueggemann explores, urging us to speak up in situations of injustice. *Interrupting Silence* illustrates that the Bible is filled with stories where marginalized people break repressive silence and speak against it. Examining how maintaining silence allows the powerful to keep control, Brueggemann motivates readers to consider situations in their lives where they need to either interrupt silence or be part of the problem, convincing us that God is active and wanting us to act for justice. --WJK Books

ADULTS Feinberg, Margaret. ***The Organic God***. Richardson, TX, Bluefish TV, 2008.
248.4
FEINBERG

Summary: What really makes this study so powerful is that Margaret helps us look past the busyness and distractions of life that can cloud our relationship with God, and she helps us imagine how our view of God can change if we cast aside all the things that get in the way, and truly experience God's big-hearted love ... His abundant kindness ... His surprising talkativeness ... and His outrageous generosity. *The Organic God* is perfect for small group bible study or women's ministry. Our team knew that the best place to shoot the series would be near her home in Alaska. So we flew into Juneau ... and actually kayaked to a beautiful glacier to film Margaret's powerful message of an organic relationship with God. The study is filled with real-life stories from Margaret as well as other women who have experienced the topics in Margaret's teaching. As your women go through the study, they will find thought-provoking questions that challenge them to dig deeper into the scriptures to know God more. --Right Now Media

Content Notes:

- .001 Covers Chapters 1-3: Luminescence, An Organic Appetite, Bighearted (13 Minutes) -- .002 Covers Chapters 3-4: Amazingly Wise, Surprisingly Talkative (11 Minutes) -- .003 Covers Chapters 5-7: Wildly Infallible, Outrageously Generous (14 Minutes) -- .004 Covers Chapters 8-9: Unbelievably Stubborn, Abundantly Kind (15 Minutes) -- .005 Covers Chapters 10: Deeply Mysterious (11 Minutes) -- .006 Recap and Closing (9 Minutes)

ADULTS Hamilton, Adam. ***Unafraid DVD: Living with Courage and Hope in***
248.4 ***Uncertain Times***. [Nashville, TN], Abingdon Press, 2018.

HAMILTON

Summary: We know Jesus tells us, “Do not be afraid,” but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? In this five-week study based on his book *Unafraid*, Adam Hamilton explores the worries and fears most of us experience. Your small group can learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them...all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope. In addition to the Leader Guide, which includes session plans, activities, and discussion questions, a DVD featuring Hamilton, a Youth Leader Guide, and a Children’s Leader Guide are also available. The five-session DVD features Adam Hamilton presenting to a group in his engaging style. The video segments are approximately 10–12 minutes each and, when combined with the book, make an ideal five-week group study. All videos sessions are closed captioned. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- 1. Understanding and Countering Your Fears (16:47) -- 2. Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics (16:06) -- 3. Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness (17:59) -- 4. Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances (15:09) -- 5. Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord (15:22)

ADULTS Hamilton, Adam. ***Unafraid Leader Guide: Living with Courage and Hope***
248.4 ***in Uncertain Times***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2018.

HAMILTON

Summary: We know Jesus tells us, “Do not be afraid,” but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? In this five-week study based on his book *Unafraid*, Adam Hamilton explores the worries and fears most of us experience. Your small group can learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them...all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope. In addition to the Leader Guide, which includes session plans, activities, and discussion questions, a DVD featuring Hamilton, a Youth Leader Guide, and a Children’s Leader Guide are also available. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- To the Leader -- 1. Understanding and Countering Your Fears -- 2. Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics -- 3. Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness -- 4. Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances -- 5. Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord

ADULTS Hamilton, Adam. ***Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain***
248.4 ***Times***. New York, Convergent, 2018.

HAMILTON

Summary: Truth is, a mere handful of fears work for us—fear of stepping in front of a bus, for example, or not taking care of our health. But the vast majority—fear of others, of failure, of the future—have almost no basis in reality, yet tie us in knots and steal our peace of mind. These fears, experts say, are often vestiges of primitive ‘fight, flight, or freeze’ instincts that, mostly, no longer apply. Making matters worse, our hyper fractious era of hate media, divisive politics, and multiplying natural disasters wreak havoc on our state of mind, leaving us troubled and unhappy. Fortunately there’s abundant good

news. As trusted pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton shows in *Unafraid*, we can escape the echo chamber of anxiety and dread. With insight, intention and faith, we can learn to overcome what oppresses us, and live with courage and hope. Drawing on fresh research, psychology, biblical principles, and his long experience shepherding a diverse faith community in Red State America, Hamilton helps readers untangle the knots of fear and truly embrace Jesus's recurring counsel: "Do not be afraid." He writes with generosity and intelligence for a wide audience in accessible language that will ring true to believer and unbeliever alike. For anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety, or who wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions. Trusted pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton draws on the latest research, therapeutic insights, biblical principles, and personal experience to untangle the knots of fear and truly embrace Jesus's recurring counsel to his followers: "Do not be afraid." As a leading voice in the progressive tradition, Hamilton communicates with grace and understanding to a wide and inclusive audience in accessible language that will ring true regardless of one's religious conviction. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- Part 1. Understanding and Countering Your Fears -- Part 2. Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics -- Part 3. Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness -- Part 4. Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances -- Part 5. Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord -- Acknowledgments -- Appendix: 31 Days of Scripture Readings on Fear

ADULTS Taylor, Susan K. ***What About Our Money?: A Faith Response***. New York, 248.6 NY, United Methodist Women, 2018.
TAYLOR

Summary: Most of us would rather talk about politics or death or pretty much anything else before we talk about money. *What About Our Money? A Faith Response* explores how we understand money within the context of our faith. This discussion and our own awareness of how we relate to money can actually help free us from many of the financial dilemmas we face. The focus of this study is both personal and communal. We will explore our own relationship with money, the money choices available to us, and how we individually and collectively respond to economic inequalities in light of our faith. --United Methodist Women

ADULTS Willard, Chris. ***Contagious Generosity: Creating a Culture of Giving in Your Church***. Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 2012. 248.6
WILLARD

Summary: What does it look like when pastors cultivate a culture of generosity in the church by actively teaching and mentoring people in the spiritual act of giving? It's generosity that's contagious. A growing number of leaders are beginning to discover that there are key factors that make some churches thrive with abundant resources while others struggle with shrinking budgets. Jim Sheppard and Chris Willard have spent years consulting with church leaders across a broad spectrum of church settings and have gathered their observations into this resource, part of the Leadership Network Innovations Series. *Contagious Generosity* highlights the best practices gleaned from real-life church leadership situations and shows how church leaders can effectively cultivate a culture of generous giving in the local church. It explains why some churches are experiencing unexplainable ministry growth and unprecedented church funding ... even in the midst of tough economic times. --Zondervan

ADULTS Roth, Brad. ***God's Country: Faith, Hope, and the Future of the Rural***
250.91734 ***Church***. Harrisonburg, Virginia, Herald Press, 2017.
ROTH

Summary: With the poetic force of Kathleen Norris and the pastoral warmth of Eugene Peterson, Kansas pastor Roth sets forth a vision for vibrant rural churches, for ministry in congregations that bear a profound sense of both loss and possibility, and for harvesting fruits of transformation and renewal. Rooted in stories from Scripture, his own ministry, and interviews with rural church leaders, Roth offers a sturdy theological and practical alternative to church-growth strategies that rely on success stories and flashy metrics. Reclaiming God's vision for the rural church, Roth writes, means learning how to praise, abide, watch, pray, grow, work the edges, die, befriend, and dream. In *God's Country*, rediscover the stunning abundance of God's presence in rural communities. Name the ways that the rural church testifies to God's glory and goodness. Learn to live and love and minister right where you are, no matter how small or unassuming it may seem. -- MennoMedia

ADULTS 253 Coon, Christian. ***Failing Boldly: How Falling Down in Ministry Can Be the***
COON ***Start of Rising Up***. Nashville, TN, Discipleship Resources, 2017.

Summary: This book is a must-read for anyone who has ever tried to energize or grow a ministry. Christian Coon takes us through his own missteps and mistakes as the co-founder of the Urban Village Church--as well as those of others working to do the same--and shows how failure can serve as a springboard to new possibilities and even a closer connection to God and what leadership means. Woven together with honesty, humility, and humor, we learn to look on failure as an actual gift that can be the gateway to a deeper journey. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 253 Moss, Marvin Anthony. ***Next: Surviving a Leadership Transition***. Nashville,
MOSS Abingdon Press, 2013.

Summary: Most new leaders hear the same phrase in some form: "This is the way we do it here." Resistance to change is common, and it is deadly to new church leadership. Leadership transition is a critical point for the church and its new leader. Incoming leaders need a realistic perspective and practical ideas, whether their predecessor was long-term or interim, highly effective or dysfunctional, beloved or unpopular. The author writes from personal experience: he helped transform a small, dying congregation, and later transitioned into leadership at a nationally recognized, historic congregation. He draws from these experiences and biblical examples to focus on practical principles, empowering the new leader to build a solid foundation. The Next leader is calm, determined, and effective, no matter who came before. --Cokesbury

ADULTS Barker, Amy Valdez. ***Trust By Design: The Beautiful Behaviors of an***
253.2 ***Effective Church Culture***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2017.
BARKER

Summary: Trust is a bankable asset. As a church leader, the more you are trusted, the more you can direct, shape, and guide. Trust is a form of equity that fuels attitudes, behaviors, and actions in faith communities that aim to transform the world. Through a process of self-examination into what it takes to build trust, as well as what leads to a break in trust, *Trust by Design* will help you step boldly into ministry...wherever God sends you. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 254 Kotan, Kay. ***Small Church Checkup: Assessing Your Church's Health and Creating a Treatment Plan***. Nashville, TN, Discipleship Resources, 2017.

Summary: Many small membership churches today are faced with the sobering reality of attendance loss and overall decline. This resource provides a guide to help you find hope, alternatives, and the possibility of a new beginning. Included are tools to help you measure your church's vitality, evaluate the results, and diagnose your church's condition, along with several options for treatment plans as you seek to faithfully serve your community. Remember that we can choose our story. If we believe in our hearts there is another possibility, we can be faithful in choosing intentional pathways forward that honor God, the church founders, and generations to come. Follow the steps outlined in these pages to evaluate where you are and what the next steps on your journey need to be as you seek to be a "not yet big church," "a stable, small church," or a church that chooses to close and be repurposed for unexpected new life. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 254 Parks, Lewis. ***Small on Purpose: Life in a Significant Church***. Nashville, PARKS Abingdon Press, 2017.

Summary: Small on Purpose: Life in a Significant Church is a joyful and honest look at the kingdom-enriching characteristics of small congregations. Lewis Parks demonstrates how to see and build upon those strengths. His premise is not better/worse. Instead, Parks shows us how life in a small congregation is profoundly significant and the important role these churches play. This book includes clear instructions on how leaders can streamline ministry to maximize the unique and powerful contributions small churches make in their communities. This book is inspiring and practical, a refreshing point of view for the church and church leaders. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 254.8 Picardo, Rosario. ***Funding Ministry with Five Loaves and Two Fishes***. Nashville, Abingdon, 2016.
PICARDO

Summary: Although surrounded by a deteriorating building, Rosario Picardo revitalized a dying congregation. He also launched a church in a movie theater, even though there were no people and very little financial support. So he knows what it's like to be a pastor in a church with few resources and feel the stress of managing "business" matters like finances, debt reduction, fundraising, and building maintenance. Through trials and failures, innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, Picardo learned new ways for reaching the least and lost and for growing disciples. He shares the lessons he's learned with the confidence that other leaders can do the same. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 254.8 Rogers, Richard. ***The E-Giving Guide for Every Church: Using Digital Tools to Grow Ministry***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2016.
ROGERS

Summary: Cash or check? How about neither? Many churches have figured out that when it comes to teaching, communicating, and taking attendance, paper is, for the most part, passé. We read Bible studies on a tablet, scan flat-screen monitors for class times, and swipe bar codes to record our presence at worship. Then why haven't we embraced the idea of electronic giving and digital finance? The E-Giving Guide for Every Church takes away the confusion and fear involved in using electronic media to raise money for your ministry and mission by providing a solid, sustainable framework that focuses on the key topics every church must address...sooner than later. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 260 Stonecypher, Jessica. ***Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective***

STONECYPHER **for *Covenantal Living***. New York, NY, United Methodist Women, 2018.

Summary: Study explores the ways God has called us to live in covenantal relationship with all of creation and challenges readers to work toward stronger and healthier relationships with creation, their communities, themselves, and God. This study is the second study in a two-part series about covenantal living. Part 1, "Living as a Covenant Community," by Evy McDonald, explores the scriptural definitions of "covenant" and their application and implications for the modern church. --United Methodist Women

ADULTS Oliveto, Karen P. ***Our Strangely Warmed Hearts: Coming Out Into God's***
262.076 **Call.** Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2018.
OLIVETO

Summary: As John Wesley discovered his true spiritual identity, he experienced a strangely warmed heart. Through poignant stories and well-reasoned principles, Karen Oliveto discloses why and how spiritual renewal and a personal call to ministry emerge in the strangely warmed hearts of lesbian and gay Christians. In The United Methodist Church (and other Christian denominations), it is difficult or impossible for lesbian, gay, transsexual, and bisexual clergy or laity to become a visible and outward channel for God's saving grace. This book traces the history of the church's struggle with homosexuality, highlighting critical incidents in the culture and church polity which shape the church's response. The controversy is deeply rooted in how God's people are searching the scriptures, which are interpreted as a means of grace for some and as a rulebook for others. This book includes first-person narratives of LGBTQ persons faithfully serving in a denomination that denies their calls and—in some cases—their presence. These stories will show how the coming out process is deeply spiritual as one grows into an authentic, God-created and graced self. --Cokesbury

ADULTS Renfore, Rob. ***Are We Really Better Together?: An Evangelical***
262.076 **Perspective on the Division in the UMC.** Nashville, Abingdon Press,
RENFROE 2018.

Summary: The authors set out to address the division within The United Methodist Church and contend that remaining united is hurting the church and the proclamation of the gospel. Recognizing that conservative and progressive Methodists are sincere in their beliefs, the authors doubt that one side will convince the other to change their minds. They therefore suggest that a fair and amicable separation is the best course of action. "The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads. We are a divided church and the truth is we are a hurting church. Some of us believe that our differences are so great and the ongoing battle so destructive that it's time to part ways. For over four decades conservative and progressive United Methodists have expended enormous emotional, financial and spiritual resources to gain the upper hand in a denomination that has declined every year since its founding in 1968. Surely our efforts and our finances would be better devoted to evangelism, discipleship and missions. For the sake of the lost and the poor, shouldn't we set each other free to pursue what we believe to be God's calling upon our lives and our ministries?" (From the Introduction) --Cokesbury

ADULTS Lawrence, William B. ***A Methodist Requiem: Words of Hope and***
287.6 **Resurrection for the Church.** Nashville, TN, Wesley's Foundry Books,
LAWRENCE 2018.

Summary: For Christians, the word "requiem" is a voice of hope. It heralds the promise of resurrection and power of life. A requiem is not about death, rather it is a prayer that accepts the Lord's redemptive sacrifice, trusts his resurrection, and finds abundant life. It

affirms our belief that by God's grace, we will enter a new realm of being. In this we can be confident and so remain unshaken by the challenges we face as communities of faith and as a denomination. What we now see as our troubles can give us new opportunities to seize God's promises and be strengthened by the mission to which God calls us. The mission of Methodism will endure. Includes discussion questions. --Cokesbury

ADULTS Rieger, Jeorg. ***Grace Under Pressure: Negotiating the Heart of the***
287.6 ***Methodist Tradition***. Nashville, Tenn, General Board of Higher
RIEGER Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church, 2011.

Summary: Distancing himself from liberals and conservatives but also pointing to the uselessness of a middle way, Rieger explores the theology of grace in situations of human pressure. Following John Wesley in his move to consider the 'works of mercy' as part of the means of grace, the author proposes to us a relational concept of grace that will prosper in dialogue and solidarity with those in distress, the oppressed 'other' who make present the gracious 'Other.' --General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church

Content Notes:

- Introduction: missing the reality of grace in the church -- Methodism thriving under pressure -- Means of grace under pressure -- The economics of grace under pressure -- Empire and grace -- A matter of life and death.

ADULTS Ellison, Gregory C. ***Fearless Dialogues: A New Movement for Justice***.
305.235089 Louisville, KY, Westminster John Knox Press, 2017.
ELLISON

Summary: Drawing on all the community's collective voices—from "doctors to drug dealers"—Fearless Dialogues is a groundbreaking program that seeks real solutions to problems of chronic unemployment, violence, and hopelessness. In cities around the United States and now the world, the program's founder, Gregory C. Ellison, and his team create conversations among community members who have never spoken to one another, the goal of which are real, implementable, and lasting changes to the life of the community. These community transformations are based on both face-to-face encounter and substantive analysis of the problems the community faces. In Fearless Dialogues: A New Movement for Justice, Ellison makes this same kind of analysis available to readers, walking them through the steps that must be taken to find common ground in our divided communities and then to implement genuine and lasting change. -- Westminster John Knox Press

Content Notes:

- Fear+less dialogues introduced -- Conversations with country dark: beyond the fear of the unknown -- The welcome table of radical hospitality: beyond the fear of strangers -- When pupils see: beyond the fear of plopping -- Listening for the love below: beyond the fear of appearing ignorant -- To die a good death: beyond the fear of oppressive systems.

CHILDREN Snyder, Denise. ***Money Matters: A Study for Children***. New York, NY,
248.6 United Methodist Women, 2018.
SNYDER

Summary: Money Matters endeavors to teach children about the concept of money, the importance of generosity, and how God intends for us to use money as an expression of

love for others. Participants will develop an understanding of the origins and purpose of money; learn about giving from biblical examples; explore the concept of intentional giving and how we can use our resources to be a part of God's plan; and understand the importance of being content with what we have. Each session contains suggestions from children's literature that correspond with the central topics. These are reinforced through activities, arts-and-crafts projects, and other hands-on learning experiences. Scriptural references are used throughout this study to further enhance the participants' understanding of money through the lens of our Christian faith. --United Methodist Women

CHILDREN Hamilton, Adam. ***Unafraid Children's Leader Guide: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2018.

248.82
HAMILTON

Summary: We know Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid," but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? In this five-week study based on his book *Unafraid*, Adam Hamilton explores the worries and fears most of us experience. Your small group can learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them...all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope. In addition to the Leader Guide, which includes session plans, activities, and discussion questions, a DVD featuring Hamilton, a Youth Leader Guide, and a Children's Leader Guide are also available. The Children's Leader Guide contains session plans for younger and older children, including games, activities, craft ideas, and reproducible handouts. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- To the Leader -- 1. God Is the Giver of Courage -- 2. God Is the Giver of Love -- 3. God Is the Giver of Grace -- 4. God Is the Giver of Hope -- 5. God Is the Giver of Peace

CHILDREN Zimmerman, L. J. ***Eek! Said Amy***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2018.

248.82

ZIMMERMAN

Summary: Eerie shadows, a bump in the night, a dark place... life can be just plain scary. Meet Devon. Devon is a little boy that introduces readers to his friend Amy the AMYgdala! Amy helps Devon feel emotions, including fear. Through his friendship with Amy, Devon learns that fear helps him stay safe, but sometimes he needs to face his fears. Adam Hamilton addresses adults' relationships to fear and faith in his new study, *Unafraid*. This companion piece, *Eek, said Amy*, inspired by *Unafraid*, gives you a tool to talk to your children about the same issues. Using the character of a little boy named Devon, the book shows children how fear is not always a bad thing; fear can keep us safe and when we face our fears, it can make us stronger. Bright, colorful, and amusing illustrations will engage will engage children ages 3–7 and make this scary topic more approachable. Additional resources on how to explore fear and anxiety with children are also included. --Cokesbury

CHILDREN Brown, Lisa. ***The Best VBS Workbook Ever!***. New York, Church Publishing, 2017.

268.432
BROWN

Summary: Designing a Vacation Bible School program, as opposed to choosing one of the many off-the-shelf packages, is a labor of love. It considers the unique perspective of

children and invests accordingly. It's a home-cooked meal compared to fast food. It sends a message to parents that a church values children enough to identify and meet their specific needs in their community at a particular moment in time. Well-designed VBS programs speak to children with respect, love, and patience, offering opportunity for authentic spiritual growth, not to mention an intentional theology that is reflective of the church. Finally, custom-designed VBS programs are a way to fully include children in the mission and ministry of the church rather than confine their unique gifts. This book provides Christian educators with the tools they need to assess the needs and resources in their congregation, and to craft a creative program in response to that assessment. The Best VBS Workbook Ever offers direction and suggestions on theme, structure, logistics, program, activities, staffing and promotion. --Church Publishing

YOUTH Burkett, Anna. ***Is It Just Money?: Our Dollars, God's Economy: A Youth***
248.6 ***Study.*** New York, NY, United Methodist Women, 2018.

BURKETT

Summary: Is It Just Money? Our Dollars, God's Economy is designed to engage youth in an exploration of money as it relates to faith and justice. This collection of activities and discussions will provide you, the study leader, with resources to help youth deepen their understanding of the complex questions that surround making, having, giving, and using money. The habits and perspectives they develop as young people will guide their relationship to personal resources for years to come. --United Methodist Women

YOUTH Hamilton, Adam. ***Unafraid Youth Leader Guide: Living with Courage and***
248.83 ***Hope in Uncertain Times.*** Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2018.

HAMILTON

Summary: We know Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid," but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? In this five-week study based on his book Unafraid, Adam Hamilton explores the worries and fears most of us experience. Your small group can learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them...all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope. In addition to the Leader Guide, which includes session plans, activities, and discussion questions, a DVD featuring Hamilton, a Youth Leader Guide, and a Children's Leader Guide are also available. This Youth Study Book takes the ideas presented in Adam Hamilton's book and interprets them for young people grades 6–12. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- Introduction -- 1. Understanding and Countering Your Fears -- 2. Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics -- 3. Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness -- 4. Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances -- 5. Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord

YOUTH Oestreicher, Mark. ***4 Views on Pastoring LGBTQ Teenagers: Effective***
259.086 ***Ministry to Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, and Questioning Students***
OESTREICHER ***Among Us.*** San Diego, Youth Cartel, 2018.

Summary: What do I do when a teenager comes out to me? How do I respond in a way that's helpful rather than creating additional problems? 4 Views on Pastoring LGBTQ Teenagers is a frank and compassionate conversation with four in-the-trenches youth workers who have wrestled with these questions and strengthened their ministries as a result. In fact, it's out of real-life experience with gay, bi, cisgender, trans, queer, or

questioning teens in their own youth groups that these youth workers are able to offer up their approaches—approaches which are then not theoretical at all, but practical and born of relational, everyday ministry. Will you find all the answers in this book? No. Look elsewhere for theological debate; look elsewhere for pat, one-size-fits-all methodologies. Youth ministry is often messy and complex, but it's a divine calling to connect every youth with Jesus: straight, gay, bi, cisgender, trans, queer, or questioning. --Youth Cartel

Content Notes:

- Introduction / Mark Oestreicher -- View 1: Integrity and Imago Dei / Gemma Dunning -- Response by Eric Woods -- View 2: Unity Over Uniformity / Nick Elio -- Response by Shelley Donaldson -- View 3: Belonging and Transformation / Eric Woods -- Response by Gemma Dunning -- View 4: Radical Welcome / Shelley Donaldson -- Response by Nick Elio -- Appendices: A Note About the Appendices / Mark Oestreicher -- Appendix 1: Thoughts from the Parent of a Transgender Teen / Mark Oestreicher -- Appendix 2: Thoughts on Pastoring Transgender Youth / Audrua Welch Malvaez -- Glossary of Relevant Terms -- Meet the Contributors