

Summer Reads 2021 from your Church Leaders

RELIGION

- 1) **Reflections on the Psalms**
C.S. Lewis, Harper/2017 Reprint (1958)
Lewis writes about personal difficulties and joys from reading the Psalms. An enlightening book from one of Christianity's most thoughtful authors.
 - 2) **Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church**
Rachel Held Evans, Thomas Nelson/2015
In this memoir, the author explores her messy relationship with the contemporary church including her reasons for not wanting to be a part of it and for wanting to find a way back.
 - 3) **Paul: A Biography**
N.T. Wright, Harper One/2018
Instead of focusing on Paul's theology and teachings, N.T. Wright seeks to explore Paul's Jewish heritage and the human and intellectual drama that shaped his thoughts and ideas.
 - 4) **Love Is the Way**
Bishop Michael Curry, Avery/Penguin Random House/2020/Hardback
The author is the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. He writes about holding on to hope in troubling times. Reviewers report that it is a profound and essential book to read.
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RACISM

- 5) **The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism**
Jemar Tisby, Zondervan/2020
Jemar Tisby takes readers back to the roots of sustained racism and injustice in the American church. Through powerful stories and examples, Tisby's historical narrative highlights the obvious ways people of faith have actively worked against racial justice, as well as the complicit silence of racial moderates. Tisby also suggests ways to foster a more equitable and inclusive environment among God's people.
- 6) **The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together**
Heather McGhee, One World/2021
This book makes a compelling case that all Americans, including more privileged Americans, suffer losses due to living in a racially unjust society. Her headline example is how towns in the South that used to have two pools, one for black and one for whites, ended up closing BOTH pools when the law forced them to integrate. So, a public resource was lost, forever. The evidence shows that, in many important ways, we all rise or fall together.

7) **The Warmth of Other Suns**

Isabel Wilkerson, Vintage/2011

This non-fiction book, written in a narrative style, traces the stories of several black families who were part of the Great Migration of African Americans from the southern US from 1915-1970. This book explores both the racism which led families to leave the south and the racism families experienced in the north.

8) **So You Want to Talk About Race**

Ijeoma Oluo, Seal Press/2019

This is a helpful book about how to begin conversations about racism with others in a clear and constructive way.

POVERTY

9) **Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America**

Barbara Ehrenreich, Picador USA/2011

Millions of Americans work full time, year-round, for poverty level wages. In 1998 the author decided to join them, taking a variety of jobs including working as a waitress, a hotel maid, and a cleaning woman. This book explores the realities of working a minimum wage job while trying to survive and prosper.

10) **Having and Being Had**

Eula Biss, Riverhead Books/2019

The author, a poet and essayist, explores our assumptions about class, property, and capitalism.

IMMIGRATION

11) **The Newcomers: Finding Refuge, Friendship and Hope in America**

Helen Thorpe, Schribner/2018

The Newcomers follows 22 immigrant teens at South High School in Denver during the 2015-2016 school year. Coming from a variety of situations, including alone and from refugee camps, this book touches upon many issues of those who are newly arrived in the US.

CLIMATE CHANGE/ECOLOGY

12) **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants**

Robin Wall Kimmerer, Milkweed Editions/2020

As a trained botanist and a Native American, the author argues for the necessity of developing ecological consciousness through the development of our awareness of the reciprocal relationships we have with the rest of the living world.

- 13) **Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming**
edited by Paul Hawken, Penguin Books/2017
The book includes a description of 100 techniques and practices being used towards the eradication of the problems surrounding climate change.
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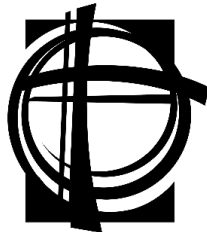
AGEISM/AGING

- 14) **This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism**
Ashton Applewhite, Celadon Books/2020
Immersed, as we all are, in our youth obsessed culture, the author explores the prejudice of ageism and the damage it does. Along the way, she dispels myth after myth about late life.
- 15) **Falling Upward**
Richard Rohr, Jossey-Bass Press/ 2011
The author, a Franciscan priest and counselor, writes about the spirituality for the two halves of life. The book offers a simple framework on understanding the spiritual aspects of aging.
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JUST FOR FUN

- 16) **Any book by Louise Penny**
This well-known Canadian mystery author has written 17 books based around the fictional Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. Somewhat atypical as mystery novels, in these books, the author is known for exploring themes such as kindness, relationships, friendship and hope.
- 17) **The Girl in Green**
Derek Miller, Mariner Books/2017
Set in the Middle East, this crime novel is an engaging story with idiosyncratic, funny, and outspoken characters. Although this book is fiction, it is factually based in part upon the author's PhD research.

Compiled by the Adult Spiritual Formation Team at



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