

2015 United Methodist Liturgical Color Calendar

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. The Youth Study Book interprets the Grinch, his struggles, and his redemption in a way that youth can relate to and understand, using humor, down-to-earth discussion, and examples from contemporary culture. For young people grades 6-12. Includes leader helps with discussion questions that can be used with the adult-level DVD.

An all-in-one resource that helps both the music director and pastor plan the worship services for each Sunday and holy day of the year, the 2015-2016 edition of *Prepare!* is lectionary-based and places at one's fingertips a calendar format that helps plan the entire choir year from September through August, with reproducible worship planning forms, suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more. Also included is the complete lectionary text of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel

readings.

It's uncertain that Howard Thurman made the remark often attributed to him, "I have been writing this book all my life," but there is little doubt that he was deeply immersed in reflection on the times that bear an uncanny resemblance to the present day, which give voice to the Black Lives Matter movement. Our "life's book" is filled with sentence upon sentence of marginalization, pages of apartheid, chapters of separate and unequal. Now this season reveals volumes of violence against Blacks in America. Ten Black women and men explore life through the lens of compelling personal religious narratives. They are people and leaders whose lives are tangible demonstrations of the power of a divine purpose and evidence of what grace really means in face of hardship, disappointment, and determination. Each of the journeys intersect because of three central elements that are the focus of this book. We're Black. We're Christians. We're Methodists. Each starts with the fact, "I'm Black," but to resolve the conflict of being Christian and Methodist means confronting aspects of White theology, White supremacy, and White racism in order to ground an oppositional experience toward domination over four centuries in America.

An all-in-one resource that helps both the music director and pastor plan the worship services for each Sunday and holy day of the year, The United Methodist Music and Worship Planner 2018-2019 is lectionary-based and places at your fingertips: Weekly pages in spiral-bound format that help you plan the entire worship year, from

September through August. Eight or more suggested hymns for each service keyed to United Methodist worship resources: The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, Worship & Song, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Africana Hymnal. Complete lectionary text of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings using the Common English Bible translation. Reproducible worship planning forms. Resources for holidays and special days. Suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more. Also available with NRSV texts.

This book examines the intersection of race, political sermons, and social justice. Religious leaders and congregants who discuss and encourage others to do social justice embrace a form of civil religion that falls close to the covenantal wing of American civil religious thought. Clergy and members who share this theological outlook frame the nation as being exceptional in God's sight. They also emphasize that the nation's special relationship with the Creator is contingent on the nation working toward providing opportunities for socioeconomic well-being, freedom, and creative pursuits. God's covenant, thus, requires inclusion of people who may have different life experiences but who, nonetheless, are equally valued by God and worthy of dignity. Adherents to such a civil religious worldview would believe it right to care for and be in solidarity with the poor and powerless, even if they are undocumented immigrants, people living in non-democratic and non-capitalist nations, or members of racial or cultural out-groups. Relying on 44 national and regional surveys conducted between

1941 and 2019, *Race and the Power of Sermons on American Politics* explores how racial experiences impact the degree to which religion informs social justice attitudes and political behavior. This is the most comprehensive set of analyses of publicly available survey data on this topic.

The church must get “unstuck” from its current context in order to address the context of younger generations; otherwise, it will not be relevant to younger people and will die with the older generations. As an example, a letter from the Younger Generations to Baby Boomers: Dear Baby Boomers, Thank you for all you've done, but I don't want your church. I want you, our relationship, our engagement, but not your church structure and outdated assumptions. Signed, The Younger Generations Blank Slate guides leaders to envision, and actually design, the future church. The authors start by describing each generational group currently living in the US, helping readers understand the varied context of people in every age group. Next, they explore five innovative secular organizations, drawing sharp lessons for the church. The last section includes a seven-step process for ministry leaders to engage current and upcoming generations. This book, with questions for individual and group reflection in each chapter, is a powerful planning tool for ministry teams. “In a time when so many of us want a blueprint for how to do ministry in a rapidly changing world, McIntosh, Smothers, and Smothers hand us a pencil and tell us to draw it ourselves. God has entrusted us to be the designers and visionaries for a new way. Blank Slate is the guide that you and

your team need to design a new future together.” –Jacob Armstrong, pastor, Providence Church, Mt. Juliet, TN

This edition includes the definitive list of RCL citations together with a new comprehensive introduction and notes to the reading sets, illuminating the origin and development of the lectionary that is explored weekly by thousands of preachers, worship leaders, and students of scripture.

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Wesley's message and his faith continue to speak to 21st-century Christians—calling for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our world might be changed. Join Adam Hamilton for a six-week journey as he travels to England, following the life of John Wesley and exploring his defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian. Wesley's story is our story. It defines our faith and it challenges us to rediscover our spiritual passion. This is a gracious gift that we will benefit from reading. The commentary is written by a superb preacher who

has a pastor's heart and knows how to make the past come alive to strengthen our own experience. Prepare to be transformed. Richard P. Heitzenrater, William Kellon Quick Professor Emeritus of Church History and Wesley Studies at Duke Divinity School Adam Hamilton connects John Wesley's contribution in 18th-century England with his legacy for 21st-century America, bringing lessons from Wesley's life and ministry to bear on discipleship today. This is an excellent resource for personal and denominational revival. Scott Jones, Resident Bishop of the Great Plains area of The United Methodist Church and author of *The Wesleyan Way*

In the midst of polarized communities and nations, religious leaders across the theological spectrum are seeking help with how to respond and lead in troubled times. The need for courage to speak out and act is ever-present, because every generation faces a new set of fears and troubles. Author Ginger Gaines-Cirelli pastors a church in the heart of Washington DC, adjacent to the White House, which actively works to bring justice and help for marginalized communities, refugees and immigrants, and the endangered earth. She inspires and leads this work through preaching and by organizing and developing strong leaders, deeply rooted in a well-developed theological understanding. Pastoral warmth and compassion characterize the recommended practices. *Sacred Resistance*

addresses these questions, among others:

- When Christians see that something is wrong in our nation or community, how and when should we respond?
- When we see multiple instances of 'wrong', how do we choose which ones to address?
- How can pastors and other leaders faithfully take risks without violating relationships with the congregation or denomination?
- What historical, biblical, and theological safety nets can be relied on?
- How can we take care of ourselves and one another, so that our ministries and lives are sustained?

2015 Standard United Methodist Program Calendar Standard Edition

"As a worship leader, I find the program calendar invaluable as a lectionary tool and liturgical calendar."- Carol S. Paton, Foothills United Methodist Church, La Mesa (Ca.) This calendar is vertical and stapled, 8.5" x 11". Simply stated...this is our best selling calendar. You'll find agency contacts/websites, information services, interdenominational services, Revised Common Lectionary readings, liturgical colors, next year's events, planning/resource guide, special days, a three-year calendar, the United Methodist giving program and pages for notes. The 2015 theme for the Official United Methodist Program Calendar is transformation. The compelling stories featured in the insert in the 2015 Classic and Standard calendars are catalysts for both personal and denominational reflection. Bishop Bruce Ough, president of the Connectional Table, asks United

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Methodists to seek people "from the outskirts of hope" and invite them to the "center of God's beloved community." United Methodist Program Calendars serve not only as organizational and communication tools, but as reminders of our commitment to do God's work. Please fill your calendar pages with ministries that change the world, events that answer the needs of your community, names of people willing to be "on call" for God's good, and with notes reminding you of why you do what you do as a United Methodist.

"I use the Classic, spiral bound 8.5 x 11 version. I like it for having a fuller calendar at my disposal and to know all the UM events, special Sundays, and other important seasonal and liturgical information. The UM Calendar is much more useful than a generic calendar for all the information, resources and UM specific events that are listed. My favorite feature is the full calendar for the following year, so that for planning purposes I know when Lent begins, Easter is, and what day Christmas falls. I get extra copies and distribute them to my planning team, worship team and other staff." - The Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones, senior pastor, La Plata UMC in La Plata, (Md.) This is the horizontal and spiral, 11" x 8.5" calendar. There's a reason planning and worship teams depend on the CLASSIC calendar. IT HAS EVERYTHING! Agency contacts/web sites, information services, interdenominational services, Revised Common Lectionary

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readings, liturgical colors, next year's events, planning/resource checklists, special days, a three-year calendar, the United Methodist giving program and pages for notes. The 2015 theme for the Official United Methodist Program Calendar is transformation. The compelling stories featured in the insert in the 2015 Classic and Standard calendars are catalysts for both personal and denominational reflection. Bishop Bruce Ough, president of the Connectional Table, asks United Methodists to seek people "from the outskirts of hope" and invite them to the "center of God's beloved community." United Methodist Program Calendars serve not only as organizational and communication tools, but as reminders of our commitment to do God's work. Please fill your calendar pages with ministries that change the world, events that answer the needs of your community, names of people willing to be "on call" for God's good, and with notes reminding you of why you do what you do as a United Methodist.

Worship Planner 2019-2020 is lectionary-based and places at your fingertips: Weekly pages in spiral-bound format that help you plan the entire worship year, from September through August. Eight or more suggested hymns for each service keyed to United Methodist worship resources: The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, Worship & Song, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Africana Hymnal. Complete lectionary text of the Old

Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings using the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Reproducible worship planning forms. Resources for holidays and special days. Suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more. Also available with CEB texts.

A Call to Action By: Dr. Herron Keyon Gaston A Call to Action: Practically Reversing the Trends of Mass Incarceration explores and establishes a blueprint for United Methodist Churches based on the current Mission Plan for Restorative Justice Ministries (MPRJM). This Mission Plan could be used internally or externally within the United Methodist Church and beyond to begin to deal with the issues associated with the large numbers of persons leaving the prison system and reentering communities where the connectional system of the United Methodist Churches is established, and where other church denominations are in general, to assist retuning prisoners with reentry and restorative justice programs and ministries. A Call to Action is for the United Methodist Church to use its historical work in this area along with its unique reformatory connectional system. The United Methodist Church is poised to lead in this area because of its creed, structure, and connectional emphasis on mission work, outreach, and methodical steadfastness to deliver and foster justice and the restorative process among former prisoners. The Summerfield United Methodist Church Prison Reentry

Model in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was identified as one of the unique prison reentry and restorative justice type programs to further explore this initiative. Using the Summerfield model as a starting point for this project, Gaston invited parishioners to participate in focus group sessions in May 2017. A group of twenty-five parishioners of varying socioeconomic backgrounds volunteered to participate. The main discussion centered on the current prison fellowship ministry and whether members believed that they were making a difference in their own community. This book has implications for the ministerial practice for dealing with those who have transgressed — and how the United Methodist Church must use its spiritual and connectional resources to reform, redeem, and restore formerly incarcerated individuals back to God and to humanity. The United Methodist Music & Worship Planner and Prepare! are all-in-one resources that helps both the music director and pastor plan the worship services for each Sunday and holy day of the year. The 2021-2022 editions of these resources are lectionary based and places at your fingertips: --Calendar format that helps you plan the entire choir year, from September through August --Eight or more suggested hymns for each service keyed to thirteen major denominational and ecumenical hymnals; the UM Planner includes suggestions based around United Methodist-specific resources. --Complete lectionary text of

the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings from both the Common English Bible and the NRSV --Reproducible worship planning forms --Resources for holidays and special days --Suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more

An all-in-one resource that helps both the music director and pastor plan the worship services for each Sunday and holy day of the year, *The United Methodist Music and Worship Planner 2019-2020* is lectionary-based and places at your fingertips: Weekly pages in spiral-bound format that help you plan the entire worship year, from September through August. Eight or more suggested hymns for each service keyed to United Methodist worship resources: *The United Methodist Hymnal*, *The Faith We Sing*, *Worship & Song*, *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, and *The Africana Hymnal*. Complete lectionary text of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings using the Common English Bible translation. Reproducible worship planning forms. Resources for holidays and special days. Suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more. Also available with NRSV texts

"Popular author F. Belton Joyner has revised his best-selling resource for introducing *The United Methodist Church*. In a humorous yet respectful style, Joyner takes the reader through illuminating questions and answers on United Methodist terms and beliefs on God, Jesus, the Bible, the church, salvation, and more. This revised edition includes new sections on United Methodism as a global church, United Methodist

ministries beyond the congregation, and United Methodist theology in conversation with other Christian traditions. It has also been updated to reflect recent changes to The Book of Discipline and the orders of ministry. The book's question-and-answer format easily lends itself to use in Sunday school classes and also works for individual study. From new recruits to lifelong United Methodists, readers will gain a lively sense of what is special and important about their denominational home."--Back cover.

"When the church embraces the responsibility of living as faith managers of God's vast resources [as Psalm 24:1 teaches], the community of faith will prosper." So begins this practical and theological study of stewardship, both in the context of the African-American church tradition and beyond. After all, a systematic approach to stewardship undergirds the ministry and mission of the church universal. A stewardship consultant, Amerson draws upon his experience to help churches develop a theology of generosity; define stewardship leadership roles; celebrate the offering each week; and establish endowment giving. While recognizing still-relevant traditions, he also points to newer tactics and strategies convenient to both members and congregations—including electronic giving, contribution statements, and year-end giving. A highlight of the book is Amerson's explanation of the development of a narrative budget/narrative spending plan. He also writes about stewardship education at multiple levels. This book is a solid resource for financial stewardship education.

An all-in-one resource that helps both the music director and pastor plan the worship

services for each Sunday and holy day of the year, the United Methodist Music and Worship Planner 2014-2015; is lectionary based and places at one's fingertips a calendar format that helps plan the entire choir year from September through August, reproducible worship planning forms, suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more. Also included is the complete lectionary text of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings, using Common English Bible translation.

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Just as Reconstruction after the Civil War worked to repair a desperately broken society, our Christianity requires a spiritual reconstruction that undoes the injustices of the past. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove traces his journey from the religion of the slaveholder to the Christianity of Christ, showing that when the gospel is reconstructed,

freedom rings both for individuals and for society as a whole.

Jamestown, the Lost Colony of Roanoke, and Plymouth Rock are central to America's mythic origin stories. Then, we are told, the main characters--the "friendly" Native Americans who met the settlers--disappeared. But the history of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina demands that we tell a different story. As the largest tribe east of the Mississippi and one of the largest in the country, the Lumbees have survived in their original homelands, maintaining a distinct identity as Indians in a biracial South. In this passionately written, sweeping work of history, Malinda Maynor Lowery narrates the Lumbees' extraordinary story as never before. The Lumbees' journey as a people sheds new light on America's defining moments, from the first encounters with Europeans to the present day. How and why did the Lumbees both fight to establish the United States and resist the encroachments of its government? How have they not just survived, but thrived, through Civil War, Jim Crow, the civil rights movement, and the war on drugs, to ultimately establish their own constitutional government in the twenty-first century? Their fight for full federal acknowledgment continues to this day, while the Lumbee people's struggle for justice and self-determination continues to transform our view of the American experience. Readers of this book will never see Native American history the same way.

In this six week video study, Adam Hamilton explores the key points in his new book, *Making Sense of the Bible*. With the help of this Leader Guide, groups learn from

Hamilton as his video presentations lead groups through the book, focusing on the most important questions we ask about the Bible, its origins and meaning. With interactive online access, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2015 offers fresh worship planning resources for pastors and worship leaders. Using a theme idea based on the lectionary readings, each week's offering of prayers and litanies follows a basic pattern of Christian worship: Invitation and Gathering, Proclamation and Response, Thanksgiving and Communion Sending Forth. Alternative ideas for Praise Sentences and Contemporary Gathering Words are offered for those who work in contemporary worship settings. Searchable online extras, along with the entire print text in PDF format for ease of navigation and use, are available with the purchase of the print resources. Now more than ever, The Abingdon Worship Annual is a must-have source-book offering countless opportunities for planning meaningful and insightful worship.

"I use both the Wall version (for quick reference and guidance on lectionary readings, planning checklist and special dates) AND the desk version (for work with Mission Outreach and Marketing committees). I use the calendar to begin my daily devotions, reading each Scripture twice throughout the week plus there is the added benefit of the planning resources. Also, as a support to ministry and devotional tool and as a teaching tool in Confirmation."- The Rev. Krysta Deede,

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Associate Pastor, Cargill United Methodist Church, 2000 Wesley Ave, Janesville, Wisconsin This wall calendar is 18x24. The writing is on the wall for all to see! Post this calendar on bulletin boards throughout your church, in offices, meeting rooms, Sunday school classrooms and more. Keep everybody in the loop about liturgical colors, next year's events and special days. The 2015 theme for the Official United Methodist Program Calendar is transformation. The compelling stories featured in the insert in the 2015 Classic and Standard calendars are catalysts for both personal and denominational reflection. Bishop Bruce Ough, president of the Connectional Table, asks United Methodists to seek people "from the outskirts of hope" and invite them to the "center of God's beloved community." United Methodist Program Calendars serve not only as organizational and communication tools, but as reminders of our commitment to do God's work. Please fill your calendar pages with ministries that change the world, events that answer the needs of your community, names of people willing to be "on call" for God's good, and with notes reminding you of why you do what you do as a United Methodist.

Ten personal narratives reveal the shared and distinct struggles of being Black in the Church, facing historic and modern racism. It's uncertain that Howard Thurman made the remark often attributed to him, "I have been writing this book

all my life,” but there is little doubt that he was deeply immersed in reflection on the times that bear an uncanny resemblance to the present day, which give voice to the Black Lives Matter movement. Our “life’s book” is filled with sentence upon sentence of marginalization, pages of apartheid, chapters of separate and unequal. Now this season reveals volumes of violence against Blacks in America. Ten Black women and men explore life through the lens of compelling personal religious narratives. They are people and leaders whose lives are tangible demonstrations of the power of a divine purpose and evidence of what grace really means in face of hardship, disappointment, and determination. Each of the journeys intersect because of three central elements that are the focus of this book. We’re Black. We’re Christians. We’re Methodists. Each starts with the fact, “I’m Black,” but to resolve the conflict of being Christian and Methodist means confronting aspects of White theology, White supremacy, and White racism in order to ground an oppositional experience toward domination over four centuries in America. “The confluence of the everyday indignities of being Black in America; the outrageous, egregious, legalized lynching of George Floyd; and the unforgivable disparities exposed once again by COVID–19 have conspired together to create a seminal moment in America and in The United Methodist Church—in which we must find the courage to say unambiguously ‘Black Lives

Matter.' To stumble or choke on those words is beneath the gospel," says Bishop Gregory Palmer, who wrote the foreword to the collection. Praise for I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist. "This book made me shout, dance, rage and hope—all at once! As a "cradle Methodist," I have deep love for my church and bless it for nurturing my walk with Christ and my passion for social justice. At the same time, I lament that my church is also the place where I have witnessed and been most wounded by virulent racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ageism. Yet, I stay and struggle for the soul of the church because I am a Black Christian woman fired by the love of God-in-Christ-Jesus. I stay because this is MY church and the church of my ancestors. Although I regularly question my decision to remain United Methodist, it is stories like these—from other exuberant love warriors—that remind me that I am called by God to stay, pray, fight, and flourish!" —M. Garlinda Burton, deaconess and interim general secretary, General Commission of Religion and Race, Washington DC "Racism continues to be the unacceptable scandal of American society and the American churches. In spite of some gains such as the diversity of supporters for "Black Lives Matter," even the best intentioned among us remain largely ignorant of the actual life experience of those who are other than ourselves. This collection of testimonies, edited by Rudy Rasmus, helps remedy that by simply recounting personal stories of being

Black, Christian, and Methodist in the United States. White Methodist Christians in particular need to read these stories and take them to heart so that racism and its divisiveness is countered by shared experience and recognition of common humanity across difference. More White Methodists need not only reject racism in our society and church but become active anti-racists willing to do the hard work to create the beloved community, dreamed about by Martin Luther King in the 1960s civil rights movement. —Bruce C. Birch, Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Biblical Theology Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC

“This book is a powerful collection interweaving personal stories, denominational and intercultural practices, and Black lives bearing hopeful witness. Readers will have their consciousness raised, and they will think more deeply about the meaning of beloved community and the embodiment of the justice of God.”

—Harold J. Recinos, Professor of Church and Society, Perkins School of Theology/SMU, Dallas, Texas “For hundreds of years, we have not listened. This book is our chance to hear the words of the Black leaders in our church. They will change us, remake us, and reform us. Get ready to be transformed by painful truth and deep love. —Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Lead Pastor, Catalina United Methodist Church, Tucson, Arizona “I’m Black gives readers a clear picture of the diversity and value of Black culture in church and society. After

reading the dynamic stories told by these faithful, transformative church leaders, Black lives will be cherished, and systemic change for the better will take place.” —Joseph W. Daniels, Jr. , Lead Pastor, Emory United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C. "Dr. Rudy Rasmus and others give an insightful look into what it means to be black, Christian and Methodist in America. Their perspectives on the status and plight of being black in America are both engaging and riveting. If you are looking for ways to better understand the nuances and many faces of African American Methodist evangelical life in America, this book is a must-read!" —The Reverend J. Elvin Sadler, D.Min., General Secretary-Auditor, The A.M.E. Zion Church Assistant Dean for Doctoral Studies, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio "I endorse this powerful book of Essays conceived and edited by my friend Pastor Rudy Rasmus. It is a book for our current and future realities facing the Black Church a must read." —Deborah Bass , Vice-Chairperson, National BMCR

America is more diverse than ever and the Church should embrace such a gift. This hope-filled and prophetic book seeks to answer the question, "Why does racial reconciliation matter in American Christianity today?" It is a new vision for the Church. Murriel provides a snapshot of history that highlights one of the Church's greatest challenges and uplifts a Christ-centered way forward that all

pastors, laity, students, and civic leaders should apply to promote racial reconciliation in American Christian Life as communities become more diverse. *Breaking the Color Barrier* is a thoughtful and insightful guide to help God's people move beyond the divisive issues associated with race to a more engaging reality of progressing the Kingdom of God. Copyright 2015 Redd House Publishers, LLC

This book is a useful guide that answers the most frequently asked questions about the beliefs, practices, and history of The United Methodist Church. The information is brief, and is presented in an easy question-and-answer format. It is great for those new to the United Methodist Church."

Recreating lay people's experience of the religion of the pre-Reformation church, this text argues that late-medieval Catholicism was neither decadent nor decayed, but was a strong & vigorous tradition, & that the Reformation represented a violent rupture from a popular & thoroughly respectable religious system. Previous ed.: 1992.

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The Gospel of John offers a unique understanding of Jesus Christ. A Gospel of a Different Color explores similarities, omissions, and additions to the stories of Jesus. Each section includes reflection questions for small group leaders and preachers.

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for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more. Also available with CEB texts. Koehler engages and guides inquirers and church members in the meaning of membership in The United Methodist Church. For both clergy and laity.

"American Methodist Worship is the most comprehensive history of worship among John Wesley's various American spiritual descendents that has ever been written. It will be a foundational book for anyone who wishes to understand how American Methodists have worshipped."--Sacramental Life "This groundbreaking study will help to reshape the way that we think about early American Methodist worship and how it connects to more recent trends."--The Journal of Religion "Karen Westerfield Tucker's exhaustive examination of the history of American Methodist worship may indeed launch a new genre in liturgical historiography: denominational liturgical histories. The genius of this contribution is its comprehensiveness in examining for the first time the worship life of an American ecclesiological tradition."--Doxology The Bible is a religious masterpiece. Its authors cast a profound vision for the healing of humanity through the power of divine love, grace and forgiveness. But the Bible also contains "dark texts" that challenge our ethical imagination. How can one book teach us to love our enemies and also teach us to slaughter Canaanites? Why does a book that preaches the equality of all people -- male and female, slave and free, Greek and Jew -- also include laws that permit God's people to trade in slaves and to persecute those of a different faiths or ethnicities? In Sacred Word, Broken Word Kenton Sparks argues that the "dark side" of Scripture is not an illusion. Rather, these dark texts remind us that all human beings, including the biblical authors, stand in need of God's redemptive solution in Jesus Christ.

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