

**Books on Racism and Other Oppressions in the
UUCWC Journey Towards Wholeness Library
(2017- 2018)**

Non-Fiction

All Labor Has Dignity Michael K. Honey (2011) Mr. Honey brings together a compilation of Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches on economic justice. Given today's staggering racial wealth gap and the near collapse of a financial system that puts profits before people, Dr. King's prophetic speeches and writings underscore his relevance in 2017. King firmly believed that ending poverty with the unions help, was a crucial part of his civil rights agenda

As Nature Made Him John Colapinto (2001) In 1967. A baby boy suffered a botched circumcision, his family agreed to a radical procedure to change his gender. This is the extraordinary story of David Reimer when finally informed of his medical history decided to live life as a male. A macabre tale of medical arrogance, it is first a human drama of one man's and one family's amazing survival in face of terrible odds.

Between the World and Me(2015) Ta-Nehisi Coates In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns for his son, Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our history and the current crisis. **Recommended**

Blood In The Water (2017) Heather Ann Thompson The 1971 prison riot at Attica left 39 dead and over 100 wounded. Historian Heather Ann Thompson sheds new light on every aspect of the uprising and its legacy. **Blood In The Water** is the searing and indelible account of one most important civil rights stories of the past fifty years. Pulitzer Prize winner.

Called To Rise (2017) David O. Brown The retired Dallas Police Chief, David Brown, shares his hard earned knowledge of Dallas - emphasizing outreach, accountability, and inclusion to help encourage unity in America's hurting communities. Chief Brown believes we have to band together to engage in the kind of dialogue that can lead to healing and solutions.

Chokehold: Policing The Black Man (2017) Paul Butler
Law professor Butler argues in this provocative book that police, politicians and ordinary white citizens are afraid of black men. The result is the Chokehold: laws and practices that treat every black man as a thug. His solution is releasing prisoners who are not dangerous and free up resources to combat the segregated poverty that underlies our criminal justice system. **Recommended**

A Colony In A Nation (2017) Chris Hayes Hayes contends our country has fractured into two parts: the colony and the nation. In the nation we venerate the law, while in the colony we obsess over order and fear trumps civil rights.

Hayes explains how a country founded on justice looks something like a police state, and examines how and why did Americans build a system where conditions mirror those that sparked the American Revolution. **Recommended**

Democracy in Black : *How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul* (2016) Eddie S, Glaude Jr, Ph.D. Dr. Glaude argues we have a “value gap” where some white lives matter more than others. He discusses why all Americans have racial habits that reinforce inequality and why remaking democracy from the ground up is the only way to achieve real change.

Divide: *American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap* Matt Taibbi (2014) Taibbi explores growing wealth inequality and mass incarceration side by side and shows how our basic rights are now determined by our wealth or poverty. This divide is what allows massively destructive fraud by the ultra-wealthy to go unpunished while turning poverty itself into a crime. **Recommended**

The Fire This Time : *A New Generation Speaks About Race* edited by Jesmyn Ward (2016 Simon and Schuster) A series of 18 essays by some of this generation’s best original thinkers shine a light on our darkest history, our current predicament and a path to a better future.

Ghettoside Jill Levoy(2015) Ghettoside is the powerful story of the quintessential American murder and a driven cadre of homicide detectives whose creed is to pursue justice for forgotten victims at all costs. A new look as to why murder happens in our cities and how the epidemic of killings might be stopped.

Hillbilly Elegy (2016) J.D. Vance **Hillbilly Elegy** is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

In Between (2009) Reverend Mark Morrison Reed **In Between** gives voice to the untold story of those Afro-Americans who were among the first to bring racial diversity to their neighborhood schools, church and workplace and to the increasing number of partners in interracial relationships and those struggling to raise multiracial children in a polarized world. Reverend Reed, a man of mixed heritage and father of biracial children, has served predominately white Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Indigenous Peoples History of the United States Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2014) Exploring the borders between action and narration-between what happened and what is said to have happened-Dunbar Ortiz strips away our innocence and draws a straight line from the sins of our fathers-the doctrine of discovery, the myth of manifest destiny, white supremacy, and systemic killing to

the contemporary condition of permanent war, mass incarceration and the constant threat and use of state violence.

Insane Clown President (2017) Matt Taibbi The power of spectacle over substance, the absence of a shared reality, the nihilistic rebellion white nationalism of the white working class, the emergence of white nationalism that will destroy what was left of Dr. King's dream of a successful pluralistic society, Taibbi argues are themes that are shaping today's America. For Taibbi the stunning rise of Donald Trump marks the apotheosis of the post factual movement.

I Will Find You by Joanna Connors... embarks on a quest to understand the man who raped her two decades earlier...Using her journalistic skills, she sets out to investigate the world that her rapist came from. What causes a man to become capable of such an act? Connors's forthright exploration of racism and poverty enlarges her personal story, turning it into a richer, more complex and ultimately more harrowing account of interwoven traumas. What's miraculous about this memoir is Connors's ability to identify, in clean, lucid prose, evidence of hope—and even beauty—amid such an abundance of misery.*

The Jefferson Bible (1989) Featuring an introduction by Forrest Church, this reissue of the Jefferson Bible offers extraordinary insight into the logic of Jefferson. Jefferson was convinced that the authentic message of Jesus from the Gospels be found only by extracting Jesus' message of absolute love and service rather than the miracle of the Annunciation.

Just Mercy (2014) Byran Stevenson 2017 GA Ware lecturer Byran Stevenson's memoir traces how he came to form the Equal Justice Initiative dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned and those trapped in the outreaches of our criminal justice system. This work has transformed Stevenson's understanding of mercy and justice forever. This provocative book has won many honors. **Recommended**

Lies My Teacher Told Me James Loewen (2007) Loewen explores how historical myths continue to be perpetuated in today's highly partisan political climate. Thought provoking, non partisan and often shocking, Loewen unveils the real America in this iconoclastic work. **Recommended.**

Loving: Interracial Intimacy in America and the Threat to White Supremacy Sheryll Cashin (2017)

Loving is a history of white supremacy and a hopeful treatise on race relations in America. Cashin reanimates the possibility of a future where interracial understanding serves as a catalyst for a social revolution ending not in artificial colorblindness but a culture where acceptance and difference are celebrated.

Native American History Judith Nies (1996) Native American History is a break through reference guide that recognizes and explores the rich unfolding

experiences of the indigenous American peoples as they evolved against a global backdrop. This history takes an important first step toward an understanding of the depth, breadth and scope of a long neglected aspect of our heritage.

Nobody : Casualties of America's war on the vulnerable from Ferguson to Flint and beyond. Marc Lamont Hill

Dr. Hill presents a thoughtful analysis of race and class by examining the existence of a group of citizens who are made vulnerable and disposable through the machinery of public policy, unfettered capitalism and social practice.

The New Jim Crow (2010) Michelle Alexander In this stunning critique Michelle Alexander argues that we have not ended the racial caste system in America we have simply redesigned it. By targeting black men, the U.S. criminal justice functions as a means of racial control. This ground breaking book is a must read for those doing anti-racism work. **Recommended**

On The Run (2014) Alice Goffman Goffman spent six years in one Philadelphia neighborhood documenting the routine stops, searches, raids and beatings that black young men must navigate as they come of age. This fugitive world is the hidden counterpoint to mass incarceration the grim underside of our nation's social experiment of punishing black men and their families.

The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America Andres Resendez. Resendez finds the evidence that it was mass slavery-more than epidemics that decimated Indian populations across North America, Slavery spread like wildfire particularly in the American Southwest.

A People's History of the United States (1999) Howard Zinn
Covering Columbus's arrival through President Clinton, **A People's History of the United States** features insightful analysis of the most important events in our history. This iconic book is a must read for all students of history.
Recommended

Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right
Arlie Russell Hochschild (2016 The New Press)
The author travels deep into arch-conservative Louisiana Bayou country where people suffer from poor health, widespread poverty, little education and environmental disasters. Hochschild truly listens to the other side to understand why they believe and feel the way they do. **Recommended**

Tears We Cannot Stop (2017) Michael Eric Dyson Dr. Dyson makes provocative call for change. Dyson argues that if we are to make real racial progress we must confront difficult truths including being honest about how black grievance had been ignored, dismissed or discounted. **Tears We Cannot Stop** is for all Americans who care about the long burning crisis in race relations.

The Third Reconstruction(2016) Reverend William Barber II In 2013 Reverend Barber began Moral Mondays to protest voter suppression by the North Carolina legislature. The movement has blossomed into states across the country. Dr. Barber offers a trenchant analysis of race based inequality and a hopeful message at a time when divide and conquer politics are exacerbating racial strife and economic injustice.

Tranny (2017) Laurs Jane Grace Punkrocker Tom Gabel (leader of the punk rock band Against Me) came out as transgender person in 2012. More than a typical music memoir about sex, drugs and rock n roll Tranny is an inside look at one of the most remarkable stories in the history of rock. It has been described as one of Billboard's 100 greatest music books of all time

Trump Revealed (2016) Michael Kranish and Marc Fisher **Trump Revealed** is an authoritative and provocative and thoroughly researched biography of Donald J. Trump one of the most polarizing and controversial figures in recent American history. The book details the rise of Trump to the presidency of the United States despite many flaws (racist, womanizer and unethical business practices) that would have derailed most candidates.

White Rage: The Unspoken Truth Of Our Racial Divide
Carol Anderson Ph.D. Dr. Anderson discusses how each time in our history, there has social progress for racial justice and equality, there has been a white backlash (at times violent). She traces these phenomena from the Reconstruction after the Civil War to the election of Barack Obama. **Recommended**

White Trash: The 400 year Untold History of Class in America
Nancy Isenberg (2016 Viking Press) In her ground breaking history of the class system in America , Isenberg explodes our comforting myths about equality in the land of opportunity uncovering the crucial legacy of the ever present poor white trash.

Writings on the Wall Kareem Abdul Jabbar (2016 Liberty Street Pub.) Abdul Jabbar explores today's America, a fractured society divided along lines of race, gender, religion and economic class. Jabbar examines these issues with insight and passion as he draws from his own experience as a superstar athlete, inquisitive scholar, father, African American and Muslim. **Recommended**

Fiction

Beloved Toni Morrison (1987) Sethe . Proud and beautiful, escaped from slavery, but is haunted by its heritage- from the fires of the flesh to heartbreaking challenges to the spirit. Set in rural Ohio several years after the Civil War, this novel profoundly affectmg chronicle of slavery and its aftermath is one of Toni Morrison's greatest novels.

Grant Park Leonard Pitts, Jr. Grant Park covers four decades of U.S. race relations through the eyes of two veteran journalists, a superstar black journalist and his white editor. The novel is bookended by Martin Luther King's last campaign in Memphis in 1968 and the election of Barack Obama in 2008. It is a poignant look at race relations in today's America. **Recommended**

Freeman Leonard Pitts, Jr. Sam Freeman, a freed slave, living in Philadelphia, returns to the South at the close of the Civil War to reunite with his wife whom he hasn't seen in 15 years.

Freeman illuminates the times and places it describes from a fresh perspective, with stunning results. It has the potential to become a classic addition to the literature dealing with this period. Few other novels so powerfully capture the pathos and possibility of the era particularly as it reflects the ordeal of the black slaves grappling with the promise—and the terror—of their new status as free men and women.*

The Hate U Give Angie Thomas (2017) In this debut novel, a teenage girl is caught up in extraordinary circumstances and has to address issues of racism and police violence, after witnessing the killing of her childhood best friend by the police. She faces her friend's death with intelligence, heart and honesty.

Homegoing Yaa Gyasi A novel of breathtaking sweep and emotional power that traces three hundred years in Ghana and along the way and also becomes a truly great American novel. Extraordinary for its exquisite language, its implacable sorrow, its soaring beauty, and its monumental portrait of the forces that shape families and nations, **Homegoing** heralds the arrival of a major new voice in contemporary fiction.*

- Barnes and Noble descriptions

Mississippi Blood by Greg Iles (2017) Penn Cage, Mayor of Natchez teams up with Serenity Butler, an investigative writer to unravel a mystery dating back to the 1960's concerning a splinter cell of the KKK the Double Eagles and his father Dr. Tom Cage. The Double Eagles will stop at nothing to keep their past buried and they mean to ensure Dr. Cage either takes the fall or takes his secrets to the grave. Cage and Butler battle to crack the Double Eagle group and discover the secret of the Cage family and the South itself risking the only thing they have left to gamble –their lives

Mudbound by Hillary Jordan(2008) **Mudbound** is a stunning portrait of two families caught up in the hatred of a small Southern town. Prejudice takes many forms: some subtle, some ruthless. The story is a saga of two families, the MacAllen family who struggles to survive on their remote ramshackle farm and the Jacksons their black sharecroppers. **Mudbound** is a winner of the Bellwether Prize for fiction.

The Round House Louise Erdrich (2012) Geraldine Coutts, a Native American, is raped on a North Dakota reservation. Details are slow to come out because she is so traumatized. Her 13 year son, Joe, sets out to find out the truth with his three trusted friends. Their quest takes them to the Round House, a sacred space of worship for the Ojibwe. This is only the beginning.

Small Great Things Jodi Picoult (2016) Ruth Jefferson is an African-American nurse with more than 20 years experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine check up on a newborn only to be told she's been reassigned. The parents are white supremacists who don't want a black woman to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene? Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and is charged with a serious crime. **Small Great Things** takes a hard look at overt prejudice and hate in today's America

Soul Catcher Michael White (2007) August Cain has the uncanny ability to track and find people who don't want to be caught. In this precivil war novel, he is sent to find a runaway slave, Rosetta. Fate has bound the hunted and hunter on a remarkable journey from Virginia to Boston and back again. This odyssey is an extraordinary test of character, will and mercy and compassion that will change them both forever.

Sycamore Row by John Grisham 2014 Seth Hubbard is a wealthy old man dying of lung cancer and trusts no one. Before he hangs himself on a sycamore tree, he writes a new will, leaving his fortune to his black maid. Lawyer Jack Brigrance is assigned the case and unravels the mystery of why Hubbard did what he did and the role the sycamore tree played.

Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead (2016) Whitehead's magnificent storytelling chronicles a young escaped slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.