

January 2017 Resources

11/16/16-12/20/16

(ResCode) Title	Author	Publisher	Pub Yr
(BKCFX083) COMMUNICATION IN THE CHURCH: A HANDBOOK FOR HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIPS	Kirkpatrick, Thomas G.	Rowman and Littlefield	2016

Communication is integral to the mission of the church, but it can go awry in myriad ways, both obvious and subtle. Communication in the Church helps congregations create healthier ways for their members to relate to one another for greater personal and congregational success. The book offers practical guidelines to help readers become more effective in how they build relationships, lead meetings, experience trust, practice forgiveness, use power, and bridge cultures.

Communication in the Church distills the latest social science research for readers including clergy, lay leaders, continuing education planners, students, scholars, and others. Each chapter includes real-life scenarios, sensible guidelines, practical applications, and suggestions for further learning. This book aims to help readers communicate more effectively—from leading more engaging and productive meetings to preventing or addressing communication breakdowns.

(BKDA2040) LIGHT UPON LIGHT	Arthur, Sarah	PARACLETE PRESS	2014
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Daily and weekly inspirational readings to help the reader prayerfully experience God through the liturgical seasons of winter. Well-loved classics by Andersen, Dickens, and Eliot join contemporary works by Frederick Buechner and Gary Schmidt. Poems by Donne, Herbert, and Rossetti are paired with newer voices: Scott Cairns, Benjamin Alire Sáenz, Susanna Childress, and Amit Majmudar. Readers are invited to experience Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany in its raw strangeness, stripped of sentiment, and to turn toward Emmanuel.

(BKGHX147) RISING STRONG; THE RECKONING, THE RUMBLE, THE REVOLUTION	Brown, Brene'	Spiegel and Grau	2015
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Walking into our stories of hurt can feel dangerous. But the process of regaining our footing in the midst of struggle is where our courage is tested and our values are forged. Our stories of struggle can be big ones, like the loss of a job or the end of a relationship, or smaller ones, like a conflict with a friend or colleague. Regardless of magnitude or circumstance, the rising strong process is the same: We reckon with our emotions and get curious about what we're feeling; we rumble with our stories until we get to a place of truth; and we live this process, every day, until it becomes a practice and creates nothing short of a revolution in our lives. Rising strong after a fall is how we cultivate wholeheartedness. It's the process, Brown writes, that teaches us the most about who we are.

(BKGJX035) THE BOOK OF COMIC PRAYER: USING ART AND HUMOR TO TRANSFORM YOUTH MINISTRY	Annis, Heather J.	Morehouse Publishing	2016
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The Book of Comic Prayer takes a fresh look at prayer from an unexpected perspective: comic art, humor, and their relevance to today's image-driven youth. Part explanation, part instruction, it explores the role of prayer and faith in mainstream and underground comics, and provides resources for incorporating comics and cartooning into curricula for children and youth. The Appendix includes an illustrated booklet created by one group of young people as a supplement to traditional forms of prayer and offers tips and tricks for creating books of comic prayer. The church has always used visual arts for prayer, worship, and education, and religious themes and figures still permeate popular culture. Comics, with their larger-than-life stories of villainy, morality, and heroism, have religious undertones ranging from explicit to metaphorical, offering opportunities to explore what post-modern prayer and faith look like and why they matter.

Comics are inexpensive, accessible, and adaptable to church school, youth groups, Bible studies, prayer groups, camps, and VBS. There have been illustrated comic Bibles and religious books, but no single resource dealing with prayer's individual and communal aspects as they relate to the comic art form. This is that book!

(BKHAX156) CHURCH MERGERS: A GUIDEBOOK FOR MISSIONAL CHANGE	Bandy, Thomas G. & Brooks, Page M.	Rowman and Littlefield	2016
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Church Mergers offers churches of all sizes and denominations practical advice on how to merge successfully. The authors draw on decades of experience to illustrate why successful mergers are always missional mergers and how these mergers happen. The book features the stories of four churches and outlines the steps of the missional merger process.

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(BKHAX157) LEADING CONGREGATIONS AND NONPROFITS IN A CONNECTED WORLD	Sanders, Theresa	Rowman and Littlefield	2017

Leading Congregations and Nonprofits in a Connected World shares emerging practices for leading and organizing congregations and nonprofits in our increasingly networked lives. Drawing on studies of congregations across denominations, and nonprofits with historic ties to faith communities, Hayim Herring and Terri Elton share practical, research-based guidance for how these organizations can more deeply engage with their communities and advance their impact in a socially connected world.

(BKICX002) VERY MARRIED	Pershey, Katherine Willis	Herald Press	2016
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Katherine Willis Pershey has never slept with the mailman or kissed an ex-boyfriend. Good thing, since she is married. But simply not committing adultery does not give you the keys to happily ever after, as Pershey has come to find out in her own marriage and in her work as a pastor. What is this sacred covenant that binds one person to another, and what elements of faith and fidelity sustain it? With equal parts humor and intelligence, Pershey speaks frankly about the challenges and consolations of modern marriage. As she shares her own tales of bliss and blunder, temptation and deliverance, Pershey invites readers to commit once again to the joyful and difficult work of cherishing another person. For better or worse. For life.

(BKIDX016) AVAILABLE HOPE; PARENTING, FAITH,	Richardson, Julie E	Chalice Press	2016
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Perfection is a myth, and hope is a choice. Our own brokenness as parents actually makes us better able to prepare our kids to really live. Our best teachers are our children. And despite daily fear and discouragement, hope is within reach. Grab ahold of it. Julie E. Richardson invites you to examine your own life and discover your struggles actually make you stronger- and a better parent. Find courage and live out your beliefs and values as you speak up on behalf of those who have no voice. Realize your own transformative relationships can help build a better tomorrow, together, with your children.

(BKMGX018) BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME	Coates, Ta-Nehisi	Spiegel and Grau	2015
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In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bracingly confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.

(BKMGX019) HOLDING UP YOUR CORNER: TALKING ABOUT RACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY	Johnson, F. Willis	Abington Press	2017
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Holding Up Your Corner is a passionate, fast-paced, wonderfully practical book. F. Willis Johnson has a gift for Christian communication and he pours all of his gifts and rich pastoral experience into a book that encourages his fellow Christians to acknowledge, affirm, and act in the face of the racism that grips many of us. He displays deliberative theology in the service of instigating talk and action on behalf of racial justice, all in the service of a God who graciously enlists us to work with God to defeat evil.

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(BKPAX025) GLORIFY: RECLAIMING THE HEART OF PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS	Heath, Emily C	Pilgrim Press	2016

Mainline Protestant denominations are dying, while conservative traditions are flourishing. "Nones" are the fastest growing religious demographic in the United States. A pastor and self-proclaimed former "none," Heath possesses an excellent understanding of church growth and the lack thereof, and frequently draws upon that experience when looking for ways to welcome people to church. In *Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity*, Heath shares the experiences, insights, lessons, and challenges that shaped them on their journey of faith. The book is sometimes practical, sometimes spiritual, and always glorifying the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which Heath asserts is the true way to change the world.

(BKPFX051) THE ALTERS WHERE WE WORSHIP	Floyd-Thomas, Juan & Stacey	Westminster/John Knox Press	2016
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While a large percentage of Americans claim religious identity, the number of Americans attending traditional worship services has significantly declined in recent decades. Where, then, are Americans finding meaning in their lives, if not in the context of traditional religion? In this provocative study, the authors argue that the objects of our attention have become our god and fulfilling our desires has become our religion. They examine the religious dimensions of six specific aspects of American culture—body and sex, big business, entertainment, politics, sports, and science and technology—that function as “altars” where Americans gather to worship and produce meaning for their lives. *The Altars Where We Worship* shows how these secular altars provide resources for understanding the self, others, and the world itself. “For better or worse,” the authors write, “we are faced with the reality that human experiences before these altars contain religious characteristics in common with experiences before more traditional altars.” Readers will come away with a clearer understanding of what religion is after exploring the thoroughly religious aspects of popular culture in the United States.

(CUSF1003) BEING REFORMED: BAPTISM	PC(U.S.A.)	CMP	2016
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Baptism: Coming to the Font is the newest title from *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding*. This workbook introduces some of the ways the church understands Baptism, drawing from both Scripture and the experience and reflection of the historic church. For use by worship committees and sessions considering the baptismal practices of their congregation; with persons or groups of expectant parents and grandparents; for adults who have not been baptized and are seeking membership in the church; and more.