inSpirit
The UU Book and Gift Shop
2021–2022 Catalog
Hello Friends,

In one of the pieces in *Shelter in This Place: Meditations on 2020*, Emily Wright-Magoon uses open doors and thresholds as metaphors to illustrate how we process our experiences in ways that make room for new chapters in our individual and collective stories. “We are currently passing through many doorways,” she writes. “We are facing a pandemic unseen in any of our lifetimes . . . deepening our reckoning with our country’s history of slavery and colonization . . . .” Personally, we might be struggling with “the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, a diagnosis, a searching question . . . .”

We often think of time as a perpetual threshold that helps us transcend the experiences we face, making us—we trust—into better humans. By the time you browse this catalog, we will be well into autumn. So much has happened lately, and we could all use the healing power of community and the benefit of perspective. The items offered at inSpirit offer new opportunities to gain empathy, become more knowledgeable about our world, expand our circles of inclusivity, and share our happiness and grief.

There are many timely, forward-looking books to choose from here. Kristen Harper’s *The Darkness Divine* confronts the cultural elements that demean and dehumanize Black people but that often go unnoticed in our communities. Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew’s *Swinging on the Garden Gate: A Memoir of Bisexuality and Spirit* and *Beyond Welcome: Building Communities of Love* from editor Linnea Nelson are examples of other new, important volumes from Skinner House Books.

Among the many new offerings from Beacon Press are *An Afro-Indigenous History of the United States* by Kyle Mays, *Not a Nation of Immigrants* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, G’Ra Asim’s *Boyz N the Void: A Mixtape for My Brother*, and *Did That Just Happen?!: Beyond “Diversity”—Creating Sustainable and Inclusive Organizations* by Stephanie Pinder-Amaker and Lauren Wadsworth.

Finally, we want to point out new and upcoming titles such as presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman’s newest collection, *Call Us What We Carry*. And do check out justice-based children’s books such as the adaptation from Ibram Kendi, *Stamped (For Kids)*, and the wonderful Skinner House picture book, *Desmond Gets Free*, from Matt Meyer and illustrator Khim Fam.

We’re excited about all these offerings from inSpirit and hope that you find among them some valuable and nurturing resources both for yourselves and your communities.

Best Wishes,

Michael Colyott
Manager, inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop
BLUU Notes
An Anthology of Love, Justice, & Liberation
Takiyah Nur Amin and Mykal Slack, Editors

“May this power of love you find in these pages change your life and your Unitarian Universalism.”

Forged at the intersection of faith and justice, BLUU Notes: An Anthology of Love, Justice, and Liberation is the first publication from Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU). Editors Dr. Takiyah Nur Amin and Rev. Mykal Slack, both on BLUU’s Organizing Collective Board of Directors, have collected original poems, prayers, and short prose pieces by Black Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist writers, musicians, worship leaders, and liturgists. This rich and profound collection can be used for personal study, private meditation, and worship that amplifies the articulation of a Black Unitarian Universalist perspective and worldview. Selected music and additional resources round out this transformative collection.

TAKIYAH NUR AMIN, PhD, is a dance scholar, educator, and academic success strategist. Her research focuses on 20th-century American concert dance, African diaspora dance performance and aesthetics, and pedagogical issues in dance studies. Dr. Amin has been a member of the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Organizing Collective Board of Directors since 2016.

REV. MYKAL SLACK is a speaker, trainer, worship leader, and congregational life specialist in Unitarian Universalist and other faith settings. He has been a member of the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Organizing Collective Board of Directors since 2017 and serves as BLUU’s community minister for worship and spiritual care. He is also a co-founder and facilitator of the Transforming Hearts Collective.”

phone 1-800-215-9076 Prices subject to change
Beyond Welcome
Building Communities of Love
Linnea Nelson, Editor

How do we go beyond welcome to build compassionate, authentic, and equitable communities? In Beyond Welcome, editor Linnea Nelson and contributors dream of a future Unitarian Universalism that upholds abundant love and universal justice within every community. Through personal and collective reflections, these heartfelt essays tell stories of how it feels to be in Beloved Community while prompting readers to imagine what it will take to get us there.

The lived experiences of these hopeful Unitarian Universalists illuminate the relevance of liberation in each and every one of our communities. Examining both the joys of community and the responsibilities we have to one another, Beyond Welcome provides clarity about current structures and behaviors that create barriers to equity in our faith communities as a passageway to building foundational structures of love and liberation.

LINNEA NELSON is a certified spiritual director companioning adults, youth, and children on their life journeys. She served as president of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) and is the executive director of UU Wellspring, a yearlong spiritual deepening program for Unitarian Universalists. She is a religious educator credentialed by the Unitarian Universalist Association. She and her husband, Ted, are active members of First Unitarian Church of Orlando, Florida.

order online uua.org/bookstore
Every story begins with a word. As a young woman, Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew carried a word within her so potent that it spread through her every artery and vein. She carried it in secret until she was shown a different way and the word inside her turned restless and eager.

A stunning memoir of coming of age and coming out, *Swinging on the Garden Gate: A Memoir of Bisexuality and Spirit* describes a period of time in award-winning writer and teacher Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew’s life when she came to know bisexuality as an embodied manifestation of divinity. Andrew not only reconciles her United Methodist faith with her sexuality but realizes that her body is holy, her sexuality is holy, and the word she carried within her has always been holy.

**ELIZABETH JARRETT ANDREW** teaches creative writing at Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is the author of the novel *Hannah, Delivered*; the essay collection *On the Threshold: Home, Hardwood, and Holiness*; and two books for writers: *Writing the Sacred Journey: The Art and Practice of Spiritual Memoir* and *Living Revision: A Writer’s Craft as Spiritual Practice*, which received a Nautilus Award in 2018.
Books about religion and the law tend to be highly technical or aimed primarily at religious conservatives. In *Faith on Trial*, legal scholar and Unitarian Universalist minister Mark J. T. Caggiano argues that concerns about separation of church and state often serve to silence the viewpoints of religious progressives, many of whom exit the conversation in the hope of protecting important social issues from religious infighting. But it is impossible to win a debate that you never join, and as Caggiano writes, it is paramount in these times that “religious liberals and progressives cultivate and refine an ability to articulate the need for moral changes within the political system. That goal will require an understanding of the law as well as a moral vision for the world.”

Complete with historical context, legal analysis, and specific examples of cases and statutes, *Faith on Trial* is an invitation to religious progressives and moderates to help put social progress and inclusion at the center of the national conversation about religion and the law.

**MARK J. T. CAGGIANO** currently serves as minister at First Church in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. A former lawyer, he is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Divinity School and received his Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Boston College Law School, teaching First Amendment law concerning matters of religious rights and the separation of church and state.

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The Darkness Divine
A Loving Challenge to My Faith
Kristen L. Harper

Minister and poet Kristen L. Harper confronts and unpacks the language, imagery, buzzwords, and cultural touchstones that demean and dehumanize Black people but are so commonplace they can easily escape notice. In a brilliant arrangement of essays and poems in the vein of Claudia Rankine, Harper lifts up the strength, beauty, and resilience of Black people and invites readers to explore what they have learned and assimilated so they might de-center whiteness and stretch their understanding and imagination to radically transform their perceptions of blackness.

REV. DR. KRISTEN L. HARPER is minister of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, Massachusetts. She received her D.Min. from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1999 and was only the second Black woman to be called to a UU Congregation as sole minister.

Shelter in This Place
Meditations on 2020
Meg Riley, Editor

2020 was a year unlike any other. A year of masks and marches. A tale of two pandemics, COVID-19 and the deep-rooted pandemic of white supremacy and structural racism, Shelter in This Place, the 2021 volume of the inSpirit Series, is an anthology of poems, prayers, and reflections from Unitarian Universalists about their experiences of 2020—offered as a testament to our collective grit and grief, rage and resistance, love and loneliness.

With readings that come from a variety of perspectives, identities, and geographies, Shelter in This Place captures the complex reality of 2020. As Meg Riley writes in her introduction, “May it contain words that heal, comfort, and inspire you in the days ahead.”

REV. MEG RILEY serves as co-moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

phone 1-800-215-9076  Prices subject to change
The Through Line
200 Years of the Berry Street Essay
Kate Walker, Editor

For more than two hundred years, Unitarian and then Unitarian Universalist ministers have gathered to hear one of their own deliver an essay of reflection and critique on their profession. It is believed this essay series, started in 1820 by William Ellery Channing, is the longest running of its kind in the United States.

In this powerful collection, Berry Street scribe and editor Kate R. Walker and contributors look back over the essays and offer analysis on what was said and what was not, with historical context; selected essays are included.

REV. DR. KATE R. WALKER serves as the minister at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, Virginia. She also currently serves as the scribe of the Ministerial Conference at Berry Street.

The Stonewall Generation
LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and Aging
Jane Fleishman

Sexuality researcher Jane Fleishman shares the stories of fearless elders in the LGBTQ community who came of age around the time of the Stonewall Riots of 1969. In candid interviews, they lay bare their struggles, strengths, activism, and sexual liberation in the context of the political movements of the 1960s and 1970s and today. Each of these inspiring figures has spent a lifetime fighting for the right to live, love, and be free.

For anyone committed to intersectional activism and social justice, this 2020 Nautilus Award–winning book provides a much-needed resource for empowerment, education, and renewal.

JANE FLEISHMAN, PHD, MS, MED, is a certified sexuality educator, researcher, and writer with more than forty years of experience.

order online uua.org/bookstore
Conversations with the Sacred
A Collection of Prayers
Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Kelleher, Editors

Bringing alive the heartfelt words and artwork contributed by creators diverse in spiritual perspective and identity, Conversations with the Sacred is a moving testimony to the power of prayer. Prayers of love, lamentation, justice, inspiration, and transcendence—all are here, thoughtfully selected to speak to anyone looking to explore or deepen a spiritual practice of reflection or prayer.

REV. MANISH MISHRA-MARZETTI serves as senior minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

REV. JENNIFER KELLEHER serves as the assistant minister of Lifespan Faith Development and Pastoral Care at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, New Jersey.

This Day in Recovery
365 Meditations
Lane Campbell and Katie Kandarian-Morris, Editors

Editors Lane Campbell and Katie Kandarian-Morris have collected daily quotes, reflections, and questions for readers on their spiritual journey of recovery, with each month focusing on one of the twelve steps. Inclusive and accessible, This Day in Recovery is a thoughtful and powerful spiritual tool in the toolkit for those in recovery and their families.

REV. LANE CAMPBELL serves as minister at the First Universalist Church of Rochester, New York. Lane has been in recovery for the past eight years.

REV. KATIE KANDARIAN-MORRIS serves as minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango, Colorado. She's been active in addiction recovery work for nearly two decades.

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Stubborn Grace
Faith, Mental Illness, and Demanding a Blessing
Kate Landis

Kate Landis grew up in the American Baptist Church, until she left the church in her late teens after surviving major depression and a handful of suicide attempts. She became an activist, feminist, punk, and self-described rabble rouser. And through activism she found a spiritual community with justice at its core and a faith that could hold it all—her mental illness, her fire, her spunk, and all of her questions—a loving, stubborn grace.

REV. KATE LANDIS currently serves as chaplain at Swedish Hospital in Edmonds, Washington. She previously served as minister at Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church. She lives with her husband, Jay, and ornery mutt, Wally, in Seattle, where she is frequently the oldest person in the mosh pit.

Held
Showing Up for Each Other’s Mental Health
Barbara F. Meyers, Editor

_Held_ illustrates how we can be supportive of and advocate for those living with mental health problems, and their loved ones, in our congregations and in society at large. Includes a discussion guide for congregations.

“During this time of pandemic, many of us are experiencing heightened anxiety and other mental health difficulties, so it is more important than ever that we understand how best to support affected congregation members. The recommendations in this book still apply when we can’t be physically together.”—Rev. Barbara F. Meyers

REV. BARBARA F. MEYERS is a Unitarian Universalist community minister whose ministry focuses on mental health issues, affiliated with Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont, California.
Desmond Gets Free
Matt Meyer, Illustrated by Khim Fam

Every morning Desmond the mouse wakes and spends the day playing in the meadow where he lives. Every night he sleeps under the starry sky. That is until one night he wakes up and finds an elephant asleep on his tail! Desmond asks for help from the animals passing by but no one wants to disturb the sleeping giant. How will Desmond get free?

Inspired by Desmond Tutu’s famous quote, Desmond Gets Free introduces young readers to timely and nuanced concepts of injustice.

MATT MEYER travels the country making music and speaking about the intersections of music, community, and social justice.

KHIM FAM is a self-taught illustrator. He hopes to create painting that allows us to better connect ourselves with the world around us.

The Interfaith Family Journal
Susan Katz Miller

The Interfaith Family Journal is an invaluable resource for family members practicing different religions (or none). Interactive exercises help interfaith families discover for themselves and reach mutual agreement about how they want to honor their combined histories, cultures, and beliefs in ways that nurture joy, creativity, and empowerment. This five-week program encourages reflection, dialogue, constructive ways to engage with extended family, and strategies for connecting with local communities.

SUSAN KATZ MILLER is a speaker, educator, and interfaith activist. She is the child of interfaith parents, the parent of interfaith children, and the author of Being Both: Embracing Two Religions in One Interfaith Family.

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Widening the Circle of Concern
Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change

Appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in 2017, the UUA Commission on Institutional Change served through June 2020. **Widening the Circle of Concern** represents the culmination of the Commission's work analyzing structural and systemic racism and white supremacy culture within Unitarian Universalism and makes recommendations to advance long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism.

The members and staff of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change were Rev. Leslie Takahashi (chair), Mary Byron, Cir L'Bert Jr., Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore, Dr. Elías Ortega, Caitlin Breedlove, DeReau K. Farrar, and Rev. Marcus Fogliano (project manager).

Unlocking the Power of Covenant
Report of the UUA Commission on Appraisal

The 2021 Commission on Appraisal report, **Unlocking the Power of Covenant**, examines the nature, substance, and structure of covenants within Unitarian Universalism. Through reading, focus groups, interviews, and surveys, the Commission describes and interprets the role that covenants do, can, and should play in the individual lives of Unitarian Universalists, as well as in our relationships with other congregations, other faith traditions, and the Unitarian Universalist Association. With its recommendations and resources, **Unlocking the Power of Covenant** is a powerful must-read for all looking to tap into a richer, fuller utilization of covenant.

order online [uua.org/bookstore](http://uua.org/bookstore)
Youth Ministry Advising
Second Edition
A Complete Guide

Tools and strategies for dynamic youth ministry. Topics include recruiting and supporting advisors, youth group management, creating a safer space, leadership training, programming ideas, and fostering multicultural and anti-oppressive programs.

“During the pandemic, it’s necessary to re-imagine youth ministry beyond the youth group. This book can help. Please also see uua.org/youth/adults-ministry/safety-guidelines/online.”—Jennica Davis-Hockett, Youth Ministry Specialist, UUA

The LIFESPAN FAITH ENGAGEMENT staff team of the Unitarian Universalist Association creates experiences for meaning-making and faithful living, accompanies people to make a home in our faith, and advocates for youth engagement and lifespan faith development.

Worship for Young Adults
A Practical Guide for Creating Contemporary Services

A practical guide to crafting young adult worship gatherings. Find tips for getting started, finding structure and flow, and making worship space accessible and inclusive.

“As we seek spiritual connection remotely, interactive, participant-driven, and co-created worship is more relevant than ever. This also helps communities respond to the call from the 2020 GA for more youth- and young adult–friendly experiences of spiritual deepening.”—Rev. Stevie Carmody, Emerging Adult Ministry Associate, UUA

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Defund Fear
Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment
Zach Norris

The UUA has announced *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment*, by Zach Norris, as the 2021/2022 UU Common Read. UU groups are encouraged to visit the Common Read page at uua.org/read for resources to guide our engagement with this book. Each of us will approach this book and experience it from our social locations and lived experience. We encourage everyone to pay attention to the large theological questions that arise while reading.

As the effects of aggressive policing and mass incarceration harm historically marginalized communities and tear families apart, how do we define safety? In a time when the most powerful institutions in the United States are embracing the repressive and racist systems that keep many communities struggling and in fear, we need to reimagine what safety means.

Community leader and lawyer Zach Norris lays out a radical way to shift the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities.

ZACH NORRIS is executive director of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, which creates campaigns related to civic engagement, violence prevention, and police brutality.

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Fannie Lou Hamer’s Enduring Message to America
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Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom, Editors
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Mariame Kaba, Edited by Tamara Nopper
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CONGREGATIONAL AND OUTREACH RESOURCES

Centering
Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry
Mitra Rahnema, Editor

UU religious professionals of color share essays about their experience in culturally white settings. Their reflections emerged from a conference in 2015 sponsored by the Committee on Antiracism, Anti-oppression, and Multiculturalism, which was formed by the UU Ministers Association. Bringing to the center the experiences, needs, and learnings of the contributors, this book lifts up the voices of religious leaders of color and prioritizes a readership of religious leaders of color as well.

REV. MITRA RAHNEMA has offered her ministry to congregations in Grosse Point, Michigan; Long Beach and Mission Viejo, California; and Kansas City, Missouri. She has served as DRUUMM vice president and member of the UUMA Committee on Antiracism, Anti-oppression, and Multiculturalism.

Mistakes and Miracles
Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism
Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin

What calls Unitarian Universalists to create multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community? What do congregations need when they embark on this journey? Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin share how five diverse congregations encounter frustrations and disappointments, as well as hope and wonder, once they commit to the journey.

REV. NANCY PALMER JONES has served as senior minister at the First Unitarian Church of San José, California, since 2005. With the late Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley, she co-edited Soul Work: Antiracist Theologies in Dialogue.

KARIN LIN is a member of First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she has played a number of leadership roles related to multiculturalism, antiracism, and social justice.

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Boyz N the Void
A Mixtape to My Brother
G’Ra Asim

How does one approach Blackness, masculinity, otherness, and the perils of young adulthood? For G’Ra Asim, punk music offers an outlet to express himself freely. As his younger brother, Gyasi, grapples with finding his footing in the world, G’Ra gifts him with a survival guide for tackling the sometimes treacherous cultural terrain particular to being young, Black, brainy, and weird in the form of a mixtape.

G’RA ASIM, a writer and musician, is an assistant professor of nonfiction writing at Ithaca College. He holds an MFA in nonfiction from Columbia University and a BA in writing, literature, and publishing from Emerson College. He has served as writing director at the African American Policy Forum and as graduate teaching fellow in Columbia’s Undergraduate Writing Program.

Call Us What We Carry
Poems
Amanda Gorman

Amanda Gorman’s remarkable new collection reveals an energizing and unforgettable voice in American poetry. *Call Us What We Carry* is Gorman at her finest. Including “The Hill We Climb,” the stirring poem read at the inauguration of the 46th President of the United States, Joe Biden, and bursting with musical language and exploring themes of identity, grief, and memory, this lyric of hope and healing captures an important moment in our country’s consciousness while being utterly timeless.

AMANDA GORMAN is the youngest presidential inaugural poet in US history. She is a committed advocate for the environment, racial equality, and gender justice. After graduating cum laude from Harvard University, she now lives in her hometown of Los Angeles.
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HISTORY

Not “A Nation of Immigrants”
Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz explains that the idea that we are living in a land of opportunity—founded and built by immigrants—was a convenient response by the ruling class and its brain trust to the 1960s demands for decolonization, justice, reparations, and social equality. Moreover, Dunbar-Ortiz charges that this feel-good—but inaccurate—story promotes a benign narrative of progress, obscuring that the country was founded in violence as a settler state and imperialist since its inception.

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Kyle T. Mays

Afro-Indigenous historian Kyle T. Mays argues that the foundations of the United States are rooted in anti-Blackness and settler colonialism and that these parallel oppressions continue into the present. He explores how Black and Indigenous peoples have always resisted and struggled for freedom, sometimes together and sometimes apart. Whether to end African enslavement and Indigenous removal or eradicate capitalism and colonialism, Mays shows how the fervor of Black and Indigenous peoples’ calls for justice have consistently sought to uproot white supremacy.

KYLE T. MAYS is an Afro-Indigenous (Saginaw Chipewa) writer and scholar of US history, urban studies, race relations, and contemporary popular culture.

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Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi, and Sonja Cherry-Paul

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