

It is the hope of the Missions and Outreach committee that in order to be sensitive to and respond to the injustices in our society, it is important to educate ourselves on the issues. The books listed below were recommended by members of Aldersgate to aid in this pursuit. This will be an evolving list.

BOOKS

NONFICTION:

***White Fragility: Why it's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin diAngelo**

It explores the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

***I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown**

From a leading voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with "diversity" so often falls short of its ideals.

***Be the Bridge, Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation* by Latasha Morrison**

Winner of the *Christianity Today* Book Award • A leading advocate for racial reconciliation calls Christians to move toward deeper understanding in the midst of a divisive culture. In an era where we seem to be increasingly divided along racial lines, many are hesitant to step into the gap, fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. At times the silence, particularly within the church, seems deafening.

***The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson**

The book tells the story of the Great Migration, a watershed in American history. The book was named one of *Time Magazine's* ten best nonfiction books of the decade.

***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson**

According to Oprah, this book is “required reading for all humanity.” The Pulitzer Prize–winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions.

***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and crisis through writing a letter to his African American son. It was a Pulitzer prize finalist.

***His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham**

An intimate and revealing portrait of civil rights icon and long time U.S. Congressman John Lewis, linking his life to the painful quest for justice in America from the 1950s to the present. Jon Meacham is a Pulitzer prize winning author.

***Just Mercy: A story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson**

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice According to the author, John Grisham, Bryan Stevenson is doing “God’s work fighting for the poor, the oppressed, the voiceless, the vulnerable, the outcast, and those with no hope. *Just Mercy* is his inspiring and powerful story.”

***How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi**

A primer for creating a more just and equitable society through identifying and opposing racism. “The most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind.”—*The New York Times*

***Becoming* by Michelle Obama**

With unerring honesty and lively wit, Michelle Obama describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

***The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin**- a class on Anti-Racism this summer in which every person teaching the class said the most important book to read to start understanding the reality of systemic injustice towards blacks in America is this book. The Following is a quote about the book. "Baldwin wrote about the complexities of race in America with great eloquence. He saw racism not only as negative for black people, but for society as a whole. He sought a deeper national healing and consciousness for society, rather than simply the of enforcing civil liberties. This has yet to be fully realized even in 2016, half a century after he published his major works. Baldwin wrote "The Fire Next Time" when the retrenchment of de facto segregation left many white people unwilling to face their place in history, one that had oppressed black people for several centuries and created a staunch racial hierarchy in American society."

FICTION:

***American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins**

This book has utterly believable characters, and their breathtaking journey moves with the velocity and power of one of the freight trains used by the migrants. Intensely suspenseful and deeply humane, this novel makes migrants seeking to cross the southern U.S. border indelibly individual.

***The Book of Unknown Americans* by Christina Henríquez**

This book "Illuminates the lives behind the current debates about Latino immigration." —*The New York Times Book Review*. The story begins when fifteen-year-old Maribel Rivera sustains a terrible injury, the Riveras leave behind a comfortable life in Mexico and risk everything to come to the United States so that Maribel can have the care she needs.

***The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead**

Colson chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. It is a powerful meditation on the history we all share.

FILMS:

"Eyes on the Prize" (Part 1 and 2) – available on YouTube. The documentary gives a history of the Civil Rights Movement. It is a

background for Black Lives Matter – a call for white people to seize the opportunity to make things better.

“**13th**” – available on Netflix. The film explores the interaction of race, injustice and mass incarceration in the U. S. Titled after the 13th amendment which abolished slavery.

“**Just Mercy**”-available on Netflix-the movie version of Bryan Stevenson’s book.

“**The New York Times 1619 Project**” -available as a podcast- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/23/podcasts/1619-slavery-anniversary.html> **The 1619 Project** is an ongoing project developed by *The New York Times Magazine* in 2019 which aims to reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of [the United States national narrative. The project was timed for the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the Virginia colony in 1619.

“**A Conversation between Michelle Alexander and Angela Davis**”- YouTube – part of the “The Spirit of Justice Series – “Justice questions are spiritual” – takes place at Union Theological Institute. Excellent!

Code Switch - <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/> - An NPR outlet and podcast - Code Switch is a race and culture outlet and a weekly podcast from American public radio network NPR. It began in 2013 with a blog as well as contributing stories to NPR radio programs. The Code Switch podcast launched in 2016. In the wake of the George Floyd protests, it became one of NPR's top ranked podcasts.

“**Dr. Ibram X. Kendi: Creating a More Equitable Society Is in Americans’ Self Interest**” – on YouTube . The author of How to Be an Anti-Racist joins Steven Colbert to discuss what it takes to call oneself antiracist, and how he believes it is in everyone’s interest to end the racist policies that cause inequity in this country.