

## United Methodist Lectionary 2014 2015

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study." --Robert H. Culpepper, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Jesus' best-known mandate--after perhaps the mandate to love God and neighbor--was given at the Last Supper just before his death: "Do this in memory of me." Indeed, a case can be made that to "do this" is the source and summit of the way Christians carry out Jesus' love-mandate. Of course, Christians have debated what it means to "do this," and these debates have all too often led to divisions within and between them--debates over leavened and unleavened bread, reception of the cup, real presence and sacrifice, "open" or "closed" communion, this Supper and the hunger of the world. These divisions seem to fly in the face of Jesus' mandate, causing some to wonder whether this is "really" the Lord's Supper we celebrate (compare 1 Corinthians 11). Everything turns on just what it means to "do this." The purpose of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology's 2012 conference was to address at least some of the many aspects of this question--to address them together, as Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox pastors and theologians, and all participants in the Supper.

A resource for both newcomers to the United Methodist Church and those who have been members for decades, Our Membership Vows is a wonderful reflection on the vows each member takes upon joining the church. Members make covenant to uphold the vows, and each one is discussed in this easy-to-read booklet. A great gift idea for churches to give to new members.

Whether through a hymn, Handel's Messiah, or the lectionary reading, the book of Isaiah provides a familiar voice for congregations during the season of Advent. So how do we create faithful, Christian interpretations of Isaiah for today while respecting the interpretations of our Jewish neighbors? Integrating biblical scholarship with pastoral concern, Tyler Mayfield invites readers to view Isaiah through two lenses. He demonstrates using near vision to see how the Christian liturgical season of Advent shapes readings of Isaiah and using far vision to clarify our relationship to Jews and Judaism—showing along the way how near vision and far vision are both required to read Isaiah clearly and responsibly. Pastors and other preachers have long turned to The Abingdon Preaching Annual for help with one of the central tasks of their ministry: sermon preparation. The 2013 edition of the Annual continues and, in response to our faithful readers, improves this fine tradition. Sermon helps include: lectionary-based sermons for each Sunday and special liturgical event of the year; lectionary commentary; and 15 topical sermon series on diverse themes like missions, modern families, life in the Holy Spirit, stewardship, and more. Worship planning aids include a four-year liturgical event calendar Guide to liturgical colors; 2013 lectionary readings in one, easy-to-read table; and related worship aids following each lectionary sermon, and each sermon series. The Abingdon Preaching Annual, always a trusted resource, is the most comprehensive and useful aid for sermon preparation you will find.

A resource for use wherever weekday celebrations of the Eucharist take place. It includes scripture readings from the NRSV and psalms from the Common Worship Psalter, and provides all the readings for the two year cycle of the weekday lectionary in one place.

Preachers often feel stuck when met with quickly shifting and dense media topics that flood the headlines. If and when they determine it is appropriate to address issues that arise in the news cycle, they are often at a loss for how to speak about them from the pulpit. When preachers understand that a responsibility to sustain life is embedded in the purposes of preaching, they discover greater fluidity between the everyday world, the biblical text, and preaching itself. Preaching the Headlines reframes preaching as an ongoing conversation between the modern world and the world of the Bible, exploring where the divides between the two may be less rigid than we often acknowledge. The preacher uses what they know about life as a bridge to the text, while life in the text provides the bridge back to faith in the contemporary world. The goal of the book is to help preachers do theological reflection on the everyday world as an integral part of sermon development. The process offered in this book is not a substitute for basic methods of sermon development nor a model of exegesis for preaching. Preachers will use this process as a supplement alongside their current method of sermon preparation. Before the preacher can ever translate the meaning embedded in the headlines, they have to learn more about the topics they seek to preach about. They do this by digging behind the headlines and expanding their own resources beyond theological traditions alone. This work is done in order to think earnestly about how faith might spur transformative action in our world for more just ways of living together.

Daily Bible Study is a great companion to the quarterly Adult Bible Studies or as a stand-alone study. Bible-based, and Christ-focused, and United Methodist-approved, it coordinates with the theme of Adult Bible Studies. Each lesson includes a one-page Bible study for each day of the quarter, along with introductory reflection questions and commentary on the daily Scripture passage, life application, and a concluding prayer. Daily Bible Studies Fall 2021 Theme: Belong Unit 1: Outside In Sociologists studying the story of the early church often attribute the growth of the church to the sense of belonging that it offered people in a world where belonging was limited to those with things such as property, high status, and/or birthright. This unit of lessons looks at the various ways that the Bible makes clear how we belong to God's people even when we appear to be outsiders. Several of the lessons point out where we as human beings insert distinctions that restrict membership within the community of Christ. Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:1-23; Luke 7:36-50; Galatians 2:11-21; Philippians 3:2-21; Ephesians 2:19-21 Spiritual Practice: Hospitality Unit 2: Into the Future After over 2000 years of existence as an institution, we can easily take for granted that we know what the church is. This unit invites readers to look at it from the view of the community living into the future. The Greek word for church, ekklesia, is not a

word that the first members of the church associated with a religious activity. The word signifies the assembly of the people of God. It is instructive to look at what their understanding of the purpose of assembling as a group signified, how it has shaped our understanding of church, and how reading these texts might renew and expand our understanding. Scriptures: Acts 2:37-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Matthew 16:13-19; Revelation 3:1-6, 14-20; Deuteronomy 29:10-29  
Spiritual Practice: Community Unit 3: The Fellowship of the Table Once one enters the Church through baptism, the central identity marker for membership in the church is participation in Communion. The opening of God's people to both Jews and Greeks, men and women, masters and slaves required people previously unaccustomed to eating together to sit down at a common table. When we look at the Gospel narratives, we see Jesus modeling open table fellowship. In this unit, we will look at the significance of the practice of open table fellowship in the church as a sign of God's shared abundance, ministry of reconciliation, and celebration. Scriptures: John 6:1-15; 1 Samuel 25:2-39; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; Isaiah 25:6-10a; 55:1-3  
Spiritual Practice: Open Table Fellowship Visit [AdultBibleStudies.com](http://AdultBibleStudies.com) and sign up for the weekly newsletter to automatically receive the FREE Current Events Supplement and other information about these resources and more!

This essential handbook for the preparation of worship presents the authorised Bible readings (references only) for the liturgical year beginning Advent Sunday 2021. It includes: - a full calendar of the Christian year; - a simple code indicating whether celebrations are mandatory or optional; - complete lectionary references to the Principal, Second and Third services for Sundays, Principal Feasts and Holy Days; - lectionary references for Morning and Evening Prayer; - the Additional Weekday Lectionary; - general readings for saints days and special occasions; - a guide to the liturgical colours of the day. A must-have reference guide for every vestry and parish office. This is the standard pocket-book size edition.

Left Behind and Loving It is a cheeky critique of popular writings about the end times. Rather than presenting a steroid-buffed Jesus wrapped in an American flag and "coming again in clouds of gunfire," Left Behind and Loving It invites readers to approach some of the most controversial and scary portions of the Scriptures with the utter confidence that "God's steadfast love endures forever." Rather than asserting a hope premised on a few chosen ones escaping the world, Left Behind and Loving It argues that if it is Jesus who is to return (and not his evil twin), then the second coming has redemption written all over it. Many today cannot accept the escapist, violent, end-of-the-world scenario envisioned by "Left Behind" theology. Left Behind and Loving It invites readers not to fear but to trust in God's steadfast love and look at the finitude of the world with hope in an infinitely loving God.

In rich ethnographic detail, Robin Nagle chronicles the life of a poor Brazilian community in its relationship to the Catholic

church and to the larger politics of Brazil. Centered in Recife, on the northeast coast, Nagle's work investigates how liberation theology attracted followers, and demonstrates why the movement never took hold as predicted.

This best-selling book of daily devotions based on the Revised Common Lectionary features 53 writers from diverse locales, ethnicities, and Christian traditions. Writers for 2014 include Missy Buchanan, Jan Richardson, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Luis Reyes, Kwasi Kena, Claudio Carvalhaes, and many others. Each week opens with a scripture overview and questions and thoughts for reflection that can be used individually or with a small group.

Each daily reading focuses on a selected scripture passage and ends with a prayer or suggestion for meditation.

"Reclaiming the Great World House in the 21st Century: Cross-Disciplinary Explorations of the Vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.," does just that. Established and emerging scholars explore Martin Luther King, Jr.'s global vision and his lasting relevance to a globalized rights culture. The editors further explain that this edited collection looks at: King afresh in his own historical context, while also refocusing his legacy of ideas and social praxis in broader directions for today and tomorrow. Employing King's metaphor of "the great world house," with major attention to racism, poverty, and war - or what he called 'the evil triumvirate'--the focus is on King's appraisal of and approach to the global-human struggle in the 1950s and 60s, and on the extent to which his social witness and praxis takes on new hues and pertinence not only in the ongoing struggles against racism, poverty and economic injustice, and violence and human destruction, but also in the mounting efforts to eliminate problems such sexism, homophobia, and religious bigotry and intolerance from the global landscape. The conclusion is that King's ideas and models of social protest are not only alive but also growing in vitality and popularity in the 21st century, especially as humans worldwide are struggling daily with the lingering, antiquated thinking and behavior around race and ethnicity, the widening gap between "the haves" and "the have-nots," the mounting cycles of violence, torture, and terrorism, and the frustrating and growing chasms resulting from religious pluralism and the subordination and marginalization of certain sectors of the human family based on gender and sexuality"--

Discover God's hope and purpose for your life. Allow God's word to speak to you through the powerful daily meditations in the 2014 edition of 'The Upper Room disciplines'.

Gail Ramshaw provides ten insights into the three-year lectionaries to guide all who are interested in exploring the meaning and importance of the Revised Common Lectionary and the Lectionary for Mass. Ramshaw combines deep historical, biblical, liturgical, and ecumenical knowledge with a keen perspective on the contemporary church to show us all the value and wisdom of these lectionaries.

This collection considers how religious identity interplays with other forms and contexts of identity, specifically those related to

sexual identity. It asks how these intersections are formed, negotiated and resisted across time and places, including the UK, Europe, North America, Australia, and the Global South. Questions around 'queer' engagements in same-sex marriages, civil partnerships and other practices (e.g. adoption) have created a number of provoking stances and policy provisions – but what remains unanswered is how people experience and situate themselves within sometimes competing, or 'contradictory', moments as 'religious queers' who may be tasked with 'queering religion'. Additionally, the presumed paradoxes of 'marriage', queer sexuality, religion and youth combine to generate a noteworthy generational absence. This leads to questions about where 'religious queers' reside, resist and relate experiences of intersecting religious and sexual lives. In looking at interconnectedness, this collection offers international contributions which bridge the 'contradictions' in queering religion and in making visible 'religious queers.' It provides insight into older and younger people's understandings of religiosity, queer cultures, and religious groups. A small but active religious minority in the US has received much attention for its anti-gay political activity; much less attention has been paid to the more positive, supportive role that religious-based groups play in e.g. providing housing, education and political advocacy for queer youth. Queer methodologies and intersectional approaches offer a lens both theoretically and methodologically to uncover the salience of related social divisions and identities. This collection is both innovative and sensitive to 'blended' identities and their various enactments.

A former Catholic priest gives an account of his experiences as a Methodist lay preacher, and advocates for joint membership — Catholic and Methodist (the church of his ancestors). "A spiritual journal," the book includes 40 sermons as well as references to his religious life and to Church pronouncements that support his thesis — joint membership, which he sees as a path to re-unity in the Church Jesus founded.

A weekly worship planning book for pastors and musicians.

This pew-sized edition of the hymnal contains all the words from the pew edition, enlarged in a more-readable type and bound for use in worship. Also ideal for those using the hymnal as a devotional or study resource. Contains no music. 6 1/4" by 9 1/4."

Approximately 1 1/2 inches thick and 2 pounds, five ounces in weight. Black cover. Actual shipping will be charged for all hymnal products.

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.

Years of reader evaluations yield a record of overwhelming positive teaching results. Teachers agree that The New International Lesson Annual gets highest marks for helping Christian educators in the classroom, making Scripture understood, relating Scripture to contemporary living, and challenging students to respond with positive actions. Based on the Bible study foundations of America's leading ecumenical Bible educators and editors in the venerable Committee on Uniform Series. Lessons for a full year include analysis by leading scholars, four quarterly Bible background articles, a

Teacher Helps article, and helps put faith into action. The annual uses NRSV and CEB text.

Early Americans have long been considered "A People of the Book" Because the nickname was coined primarily to invoke close associations between Americans and the Bible, it is easy to overlook the central fact that it was a book-not a geographic location, a monarch, or even a shared language-that has served as a cornerstone in countless investigations into the formation and fragmentation of early American culture. Few books can lay claim to such powers of civilization-altering influence. Among those which can are sacred books, and for Americans principal among such books stands the Bible. This Handbook is designed to address a noticeable void in resources focused on analyzing the Bible in America in various historical moments and in relationship to specific institutions and cultural expressions. It takes seriously the fact that the Bible is both a physical object that has exercised considerable totemic power, as well as a text with a powerful intellectual design that has inspired everything from national religious and educational practices to a wide spectrum of artistic endeavors to our nation's politics and foreign policy. This Handbook brings together a number of established scholars, as well as younger scholars on the rise, to provide a scholarly overview--rich with bibliographic resources--to those interested in the Bible's role in American cultural formation.

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1* provides liturgical pieces used in preparing for worship. Written and compiled by an ecumenical team of 11 seasoned liturgy writers, this resource offers a multitude of poetic prayers and responsive readings for all parts of worship and is meant to complement existing denominational resources. In addition, the weekly entries include questions for reflection and household prayers for morning and evening that are drawn from the lectionary, allowing churches to include them in their bulletin for parishioners to use throughout the week. During times of the year when two different tracks of Old Testament texts are offered by the RCL, this resource offers an entire set of materials for each track. Also, a CD-ROM is included with each volume that enables planners to easily cut and paste relevant readings, prayers, and questions into worship bulletins. Liturgy writers include the following: \* Kimberly L. Clayton, Director of Contextual Education, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) \* David Gambrell, Associate for Worship in the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Louisville, Kentucky; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) \* Daniel M. Geslin, Pastor, Sixth Avenue United Church of Christ, Denver, Colorado; United Church of Christ \* Kimberly Bracken Long, Associate Professor of Worship, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) \* L. Edward Phillips, Associate Professor of Worship and Liturgical Theology, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia; United Methodist Church \* Melinda Quivik, Liturgical Scholar, Houghton, Michigan; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \* Carol L. Wade, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, Kentucky;

## Episcopal Church

To read and visualize the transfiguration of Christ is to enter its mystery and encounter its hope. Like the Gospel writers and the disciples who climbed the mountain with Jesus, we struggle to tell the story and explain its meaning. Yet this astounding event reveals God's ultimate purpose in sending his Son—the complete restoration of humanity and all creation—our transfiguration in Christ. The light and glory of that moment reveal a destiny that is infinite and eternal, made possible by the power of grace. Transfiguration is the trajectory and goal of our spiritual journey. Across time and space, Christians have reflected on the mystery and hope epitomized in the transfiguration, yet their voices have been heard primarily within their own cultural and ecclesiastical contexts. This study gathers many of those voices from the panorama of Scripture and church history and finds in them the common theme of radical transformation in Christ. The point of this theological conversation is spiritual transfiguration and hope for each of us as we reach toward the future Christ has shown us in himself.

A three-year pattern of lectionary readings has come into widespread use over the past generation within many churches. Since its release in 1992 the three-year Revised Common Lectionary has had a significant influence ecumenically on worship and its preparation. Now the ecumenical consultation responsible for the Revised Common Lectionary is releasing a set of proposed prayers specifically designed for use with the calendar of readings in the RCL. The Consultation on Common Texts sought to prepare a truly ecumenical set of prayers that represent the full spectrum of Christian tradition in all its diverse richness.

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. A Guide to the Practice of Church Music by Marion J. Hatchett was published by Church Hymnal Corporation in 1989 and was an invaluable resource for church musicians, clergy, and educational programs in the church, such as the Leadership Program for Musicians (LPM). Since that time our liturgical language expanded and changed the scope of our worship offerings. The hymnody of other cultures, as well as hymn writers from the past thirty years, has influenced congregational song. The use of the Revised Common Lectionary has necessitated the need for new liturgical and music planning texts. All Things Necessary: A Practical Guide for Episcopal Church Musicians by Marti Rideout is a resource for musicians serving in Episcopal Churches who come from other denominations; clergy who desire to have a deeper

appreciation for church music and who seek a resource that will help them in their ministries; those who are new to church work, and those who have served the church but desire to expand their knowledge. This book provides: - Comprehensive information about the Episcopal Church, The Book of Common Prayer (1979), liturgical resources published since then and the opportunities for music within the various rites, The Hymnal 1982 and all hymnal supplements and resources written since that publication. - A philosophy of music in the Episcopal Church. - A complete compilation of service music and canticles for the Daily Offices, Holy Eucharist and Sacraments from Church Publishing's six main hymnal sources. - Suggestions for the singing of Psalms and planning liturgies throughout the liturgical year. - Extensive lists of sources for most aspects of church music and liturgy, terms and definitions from an Episcopal perspective, and a practical bibliography.

Marriage for Life begins by listening to the lived experiences of Catholic, married, HIV-positive women, in order to better understand their struggles. The eight women interviewed in Chicago, Illinois, USA, shared their stories of marriage, of family life, of church involvement, and of living with HIV. Their candid reflections offer a fresh and grounded perspective on the challenges of living with HIV in a US context. After listening to and learning from these women's experiences, Reimer-Barry constructs a theology of Christian marriage that is life-giving in a world with AIDS. While Catholic teachings have developed and now affirm the equal dignity of women and men, troubling legacies of women's subordination remain embedded in liturgical practices and theological texts. Arguing that self-care is an indispensable component of a healthy marriage, Reimer-Barry constructs a life-affirming theology of marriage that is sensitive to the struggles of her collaborators. She argues that marriage for life must promote the full flourishing of both partners, respect wives as equal partners with their husbands, and offer a coherent and empowering sexual ethic. Building on the wisdom of her collaborators' lived experiences, Reimer-Barry examines the need for a more adequate Catholic response to HIV and AIDS, arguing that church communities should promote comprehensive sexual education, affirm both abstinence and condom use for HIV prevention, and actively work to reduce stigmatizing behaviors within church communities. She also unpacks the implications of marriage for life for Catholic liturgical practice, marriage preparation programs, sexual education programs, and family ministries. Modeling her method on what Pope Francis calls the "art of accompaniment," Reimer-Barry argues that Catholic theology of marriage must be renewed and updated so that all can plainly understand that marriage is for life.

During a forty-year period ending in 2002, leaders of major American churches tried to unite their members, ministries, and public service in a new church they named A Church of Christ Uniting. Participating in this movement were four Methodist Churches, the Episcopal Church, the nation's largest Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the International Council of Community Churches. With a membership of close to twenty million, this church would have been spread throughout the nation more fully than any other church except the Roman Catholic. Leaders of the movement believed that

this union would enable church members to experience their Christian life more fully. It would heal divisions that had existed since the Protestant Reformation 450 years earlier and displace the denominational system that was increasingly dysfunctional. By coming together in a new way, these churches could work more effectively at overcoming problems in American life--especially the challenges related to racism. Although the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) closed before converting its vision into a new form of the church, it had a significant effect on these churches and the nation. This is a story that needs to be remembered. 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 2014-2015 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, using Common English Bible translation.

Various Christian traditions mark their calendars to reflect the biblical and ecclesial narrative and enhance public worship. Such efforts safeguard against secularization's encroachment in the church's life. Setting the Spiritual Clock serves as a guide and traveling companion for the liturgical year, which circles the glorious Son as he breaks through the secular eclipse.

The standard resource for teachers of the Uniform Series.

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