

Christmas Resources for Adults (does not include group studies)

Available to borrow from the United Media Resource Center

To request resources, contact Jill Stone at umrc@igrc.org or 217-529-2744

DVDs:

DOVETALE (104018) Author: Swartz, Ted; Eshleman, Lee; De Sanctis, Ingrid. How the First Christmas Finally Came Together. Comedy/theater duo Ted & Lee, along with playwright Ingrid De Sanctis, authored the DoveTale script and portray all 11 characters in it. The play finds gentle humor as Mary, Joseph, and Gabriel stumble through the gritty realities of God becoming human. Other minor characters appear as well: a couple of earthy shepherds, a verbose innkeeper, chatty Elizabeth and her mute husband Zechariah, and a wedding photographer. Taped in front of a live audience. Captions available in both English and Spanish. 83 Minutes.

DRIVE THRU HISTORY: BETHLEHEM TO CAESAREA (104069) Author: Stotts, Dave. Volume 3: Miracles, Messiah, and the Roman Empire. Join host Dave Stotts as he speeds through the ancient world of the Bible. He delivers a fast-paced and even humorous encounter with the people, places, and events that have shaped our world and the Christian faith. Three 27-minute episodes: 7) **Saint Nicholas, camels, Saint Francis, light, the Church of the Nativity, the shepherd's field**; 8) Sea of Galilee, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Tabgha (the feeding of the 5,000), Capernaum (ancient synagogue, House of Peter), 'Jesus boat' Nazareth (Nazareth Village); 9) Caesarea Philippi, Caesarea Maritima. Includes guide with Scripture references and discussion questions. CLOSED CAPTIONED.

GOOD GOD THEATER, ACT 1: OLD TESTAMENT (107038) Author: Ted & Company TheaterWorks. Sixteen humorous skits help you see Bible events in a new way: Creation (9 min.); Cain and Abel (4 min.); The Flood (10 min.); Babel (9 min.); Jacob and Esau (7 min.); Joseph (7 min.); The Midwife (4 min.); Manna (7 min.); Golden Calf (8 min.); Leviticus (4 min.); David and Bathsheba (6 min.); Song of Solomon (9 min.); Prophet Radio (5 min.); Jeremiah (4 min.); Jonah (9 min.); **Advent** (8 min.). Includes guide.

GOOD GOD THEATER, ACT 2: NEW TESTAMENT (107042) Author: Ted & Company TheaterWorks. Sixteen humorous skits help you see Bible events in a new way: **Gabriel's Announcement** (15 min.); Temptation (7 min.); The Call (6 min.); Feeding 5,000 (11 min.); Sermon on the Mount (9 min.); Don't Tell Anyone (5 min.); Last Supper (9 min.); Arrest and Denial (7 min.); Breakfast on the Beach (13 min.); Pentecost (6 min.); Larry the Lame Guy (4 min.); Peter's Vision (6 min.); Philip and the Ethiopian (5 min.); Jerusalem Council (7 min.); Paul in Prison (10 min.); Don't Be Afraid (8 min.). Includes guide.

GREAT FIGURES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: PART 1 (107048) Author: Levine, Amy-Jill. 12 lectures, each 30 minutes long: 1) The New Testament; 2) John the Baptist; 3) The Virgin Mary; 4) **Joseph, Magi, and the shepherds**; 5) Peter; 6) John and James, the sons of Zebedee; 7) Martha, Mary, and Lazarus; 8) 'Doubting' Thomas; 9) The Gentile mother; 10) The Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son; 11) The Samaritan woman; 12) Mary Magdalene. Includes lecture transcript and course guidebook. NOT FOR USE IN CLASSROOM SETTING; can be used for teacher prep and personal viewing only.

HISTORICAL JESUS: PART 1 (108026) Author: Ehrman, Bart. 12 lectures, each 30 minutes long: 1) The many faces of Jesus; 2) One remarkable life; 3) Scholars look at the Gospels; 4) Fact and fiction in the Gospels; 5) The birth of the Gospels; 6) Some of the other Gospels; 7) The Coptic Gospel of Thomas; 8) Other sources; 9) Historical criteria -- getting back to Jesus; 10) More historical criteria; 11) **The early life of Jesus**; 12) Jesus in His context. Includes lecture transcript and course guidebook. NOT FOR USE IN CLASSROOM SETTING; can be used for teacher prep and personal viewing only.

INNKEEPER'S DREAM (109008) Author: Shelton, David. This one-man performance is based on Chapter Two of Luke's Gospel. The innkeeper tells the story of Christ's birth to his friend, thinking that it was just a dream. With humor and poignancy throughout, this Christmas performance tugs at the heartstrings of everyone as they watch the innkeeper realize it wasn't a dream after all. 28 Minutes.

MATTHEW: THE VISUAL BIBLE (113011) Actor Richard Kiley is Matthew, telling this New International translation of the first gospel. This 2-DVD set allows you to search by event or chapter. Includes English and Spanish language tracks. CLOSED CAPTIONED (English only). 240 Minutes.

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS: A SANDSTORY PRESENTATION (113053) Author: Castillo, Joe. In this dynamic visual experience with a music soundtrack, Joe Castillo tells the Christmas story in a series of scenes created by manipulating black sand on a colored lightboard. 19 Minutes.

MR. KRUEGER'S CHRISTMAS (113028) The story of a lonely man whose Christmas fantasies come true. As he decorates his Christmas tree, Mr. Krueger (played by Jimmy Stewart) dreams about directing the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He invites some real carolers inside for warmth and refreshment. After they leave, his fantasies continue and he finds himself among the now living biblical figures of his creche. In a moving monologue, he thanks Christ for being with him as a friend and comforter. The carolers return and invite him to join him in singing and sharing Christmas dinner (26 min.). Includes guide. Additional DVD segments include: The Restoration (about Joseph Smith); The Nativity (5 min.); and Carols of Christmas (25 min.).

NATIVITY: THE ART AND SPIRIT OF THE CRECHE (114017) The history, art, and spirituality of the nativity scene have been embraced by cultures around the world. In this DVD, theologians and collectors explain the history of the creche and discuss the individual elements within it. Illustrated with a variety of international creches housed at the Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina. CLOSED CAPTIONED. 27 Minutes.

O CHRISTMAS TREE: A CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE (115020) This documentary looks at various aspects of the Christmas tree: it's history, how they are grown, decorations, etc. 55 Minutes.

PATH OF JESUS (116037) Seven short dramas of the life and teachings of Jesus: Introduction (1 min.); **The Christmas Story** (9 min.); The Temptation (5 min.); Jesus and the Pharisees (10 min.); The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (8 min.); The Decision (6 min.); The Absent King (10 min.); The New Covenant (13 min.). The DVD also includes a director's commentary for each story containing behind-the-scenes information that leaders may want to show before or after each segment. Includes guide.

PERFECTLY IMPERFECT: CHARACTER SKETCHES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT (116092) Author: Busic, David. This six-session DVD study is about people whose true-to-life stories are found in the New Testament. They are like us in many ways -- confused, tempted, and often afraid -- but then they meet Jesus, and their lives are wonderfully transformed. Sessions: 1) Joseph (11 min.); 2) Gerasene demoniac (15 min.); 3) The generous widow (10 min.); 4) Mary and the alabaster jar (9 min.); 5) Stephen (12 min.); 6) Philip and the Ethiopian (14 min.). Includes guide and paperback book. Age: YAS. 71 Minutes.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SPIRITUAL EXPLORER (118010) Three meditations for use by individuals or groups: 1) **With You Always: Reflective images from scripture and our world bring to life the song 'Mary Did You Know'** (6 min.); 2) How Beautiful: The song 'How Beautiful' is paired with scriptural and modern images in this reflective piece (6 min.); 3) Mystic Moments: A quote from Thomas Merton sets the stage for a virtual walk through the forest on a beautiful day in early fall (16 min.). Leader's guide includes ideas for use with the two music segments.

SAVING JESUS (119050) A 12-Session Small Group DVD-Based Exploration of Jesus Christ for the Third Millennium. Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right? This study, featuring a variety of religious voices (some controversial), discusses the following topics: 1) Jesus through the ages and across cultures (25 min.); 2) Who was Jesus? (19 min.); 3) What can we know about Jesus (and how) (21 min.); 4) **The world into which Jesus was born** (19 min.); 5) Jesus' birth: incarnation (21 min.); 6) Teachings of Jesus: wisdom tradition (24 min.); 7) Jesus' program: the Kingdom of God (17 min.); 8) Jesus' ministry of compassion (20 min.); 9) Killing Jesus, part one: who killed Jesus? (19 min.); 10) Killing Jesus, part two: the atonement (21 min.); 11) The resurrection of Christ (22 min.); 12) Why Jesus is worth saving (23 min.). Also includes a 9-minute overview segment. Contributors include Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes, John Shelby Spong, Helen Prejean, and others. The basic format for each weekly 60 to 90 minute session includes conversation around the readings, a 20-minute (approx.) DVD segment, and guided discussion. Kit includes two DVDs, a CD-ROM with print material, and a binder of materials printed from the CD-ROM.

STORY OF ADVENT: SPEED SKETCH BIBLE STORIES (119135) This DVD contains four Bible stories told in 'speed sketch' style which are appropriate for use with all ages. Each story is told in two versions: 1) an easy-to-understand

narrated paraphrase; 2) narrated directly from the NIV 1984 translation of the Bible. Likewise, each story in both forms is available with either English or Spanish audio. Stories (paraphrase time/NIV scripture time): 1) Isaiah's vision (5 min./5 min.); 2) The magi (5 min./2 min.); 3) The annunciation (5 min./5 min.); 4) Jesus' birth (5 min./3 min.). Lesson plans and coloring pages are available online at <https://www.wesleyan.org/2668/speed-sketch-bible-stories>.

STORY OF JESUS (119142) Author: Frazee, Randy. This seven-session DVD study presented by Randy Frazee provides individuals and small groups the opportunity to learn, discuss, and apply Jesus' life, work and teachings to their lives. Max Lucado adds introductory insights. Sessions: 1) **The birth of the King** (13 min.); 2) Jesus' ministry begins (12 min.); 3) No ordinary man (11 min.); 4) Jesus, the Son of God (11 min.); 5) The hour of darkness (12 min.); 6) The resurrection (10 min.); 7) New beginnings (11 min.). Includes guide.

TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY, THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW (120001) Author: Vander Laan, Ray. **This DVD contrasts Herod the Great and the ruins of the Herodian and other building programs Herod built in Israel with Jesus, the King of the Universe, the Messiah born a few miles from the Herodian (Herod's palace) in Bethlehem in humble circumstances** (17 min). Also includes the segment 'Living Water,' the story of En Gedi and the significance of living water to King David and to us (23 min). Other bonus materials (under 5 min. each) include: Hebrew Thinking; Illustration Gallery; Video Trailers: True Christmas Story, True Easter Story, That the World May Know. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

VISION OF SIMPLER LIVING (122019) This DVD includes three separate programs: "Break Forth Into Joy" (15 min. with three additional 10 min. segments) -- encourages persons to adopt simpler lifestyles which reflect biblical teachings on wealth and poverty. "The Celebration Revolution of Alexander Scrooge" (17 min.) -- In this story, told with cartoon drawings, visits from three spirits teach Alexander (great-great-grandson of Ebenezer) the value of celebrating all holidays and special days in a simpler and more meaningful way. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" (18 min.) -- encourages people to make Christmas celebrations less consumer-oriented and more meaningful. Includes guide.

Music CD:

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD (703053) Author: DeCormier, Robert. The 17 songs in this CD collection are a sampling of carols from many countries, cultures, and styles performed by The Robert DeCormier Singers & Ensemble. Part of the Global Praise series. Includes small booklet. 64 Minutes.

Kits:

UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE: WORKSHOP LEADER'S GUIDE (721011) Author: Robinson, Jo and Staeheli, Jean Coppock. Help Your Group Create a Joyful, Stress-Free Holiday. Designed for a four-hour workshop, the materials can be adapted for a four-week study for adults. The kit includes notes for the leader, reproducible participant pages, and an audio CD.

Complimentary resource:

UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE: REVISED EDITION (808135) Author: Robinson, Jo and Staeheli, Jean Coppock. A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back Into the Season. This book discusses how individuals and families can reduce the stress of preparing for Christmas and focus on the meaning of the season. Includes index.

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS: WOMEN'S HOLIDAY EVENT KIT (722007) Plans for a one-session event in which women share Christmas traditions and memories and are challenged to keep Christ at the center of everything they do during the busy holiday season. Kit includes a CD-ROM (printable items for decoration and promotion), a leader's guide (planning tips, simple decorating ideas, menu helps, and a Bible-based devotion), and ten copies of the participant memory booklet (copies for your participants to keep must be purchased from Group).

Books:

52 LITTLE LESSONS FROM A CHRISTMAS CAROL (815181) Author: Welch, Bob. A collection of three- and four-page lessons we can learn from Charles Dickens' classic book, 'A Christmas Carol.' Lessons include: Growing wiser means getting uncomfortable; It's about more than Christmas; Business isn't life; Death is a comma, not a period; It is never too late to change; and more.

52 LITTLE LESSONS FROM IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (815223) Author: Welch, Bob. A collection of three- and four-page lessons we can learn from the classic film, 'It's a Wonderful Life.' Lessons include: God honors our childlike faith; Underdogs matter; Perspective changes everything; The essence of life is relationships; High ideals are an honorable pursuit; and more.

ADVENT JESSE TREE (814054) Author: Lambert, Dean Meador. Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. Designed as a 25-day devotional guide, this book includes a short devotion each day for both children and adults. Suggestions for making an Advent Jesse Tree with ornaments is included.

BEHOLD! CULTIVATING ATTENTIVENESS IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT (811057) Author: Hawkins, Pamela. Allow the word "Behold!" to draw you into a prayerful Advent, whether individually or with a group. Be attentive to expectancy, preparation, faith, and promise. Then as you draw near to the manger, you will find what you seek and what God chooses to give. This book provides daily meditations as well as a weekly prayer practice such as praying with images, silent prayer, using prayer beads, and compline. A guide for leaders adapts this book for group use.

BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH (812107) Author: Brown, Raymond. A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives in Matthew and Luke This scholarly book covers every aspect of the Nativity story. Includes index.

CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS: A CELEBRATION OF THE SURPRISING STORIES BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY SONGS (815180) Author: Gant, Andrew. Andrew Gant, former director of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal in Great Britain, discusses the origins of 21 beloved carols: 1) O Come, O Come Emmanuel; 2) O, Christmas Tree; 3) The Holly and the Ivy; 4) I Saw Three Ships; 5) O Little Town of Bethlehem; 6) Good Christian Men, Rejoice; 7) O Come, All Ye Faithful; 8) While Shepherds Watched; 9) O Holy Night; 10) Ding dong! Merrily on High; 11) Angels from the Realms of Glory; 12) Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; 13) Away in a Manger; 14) I Wonder As I Wander; 15) Good King Wenceslas; 16) Personent hodie; 17) Here We Come a-Wassailing; 18) The Twelve Days of Christmas; 19) We Three Kings; 20) What Child Is This?; 21) Jingle Bells. Includes introduction and index.

CHRISTIAN SOUP FOR THE SOUL CHRISTMAS (807228) Author: Canfield, Jack and Hansen, Mark Victor. A collection of short stories from a variety of contributors. Sections: The Meaning of Christmas; Through the Eyes of a Child; The Santa Files; The Joy of Giving; Christmas Traditions; Special Memories; Insights and Lessons.

CHRISTMAS FROM THE BACK SIDE (806210) Author: Kalas, J. Ellsworth. The author opens up new possibilities of insight into the biblical Christmas story by entering the Gospel scriptures through the 'back side' -- through a unique starting point, a creative retelling, a new 'lens,' or the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character. Seven chapters. Book text in slightly larger than average print. Includes a study guide for group use in large print.

CHRISTMAS TREASURES (807162) A Collection of Congregational Resources for Advent/Christmas. This anthology provides a selection of seasonal worship, drama, and children's worship from a variety of denominations. Includes: readings for Advent and Christmas candle lighting, dramatic readings, plays, a Sunday school Christmas program, and children's sermons for Advent and Christmas.

CHRISTMENT TREE, VOLUME 1 (804210) Author: Harpine, Elaine Clanton. How to Make Christian Ornaments for Your Christmas Tree. Photographs, instructions, and patterns for 21 Christments, some easy enough for children to make. Includes a story to be read while the Christments are hung on the tree.

CHRISTMENT TREE, VOLUME 2 (804211) Author: Harpine, Elaine Clanton. 21 Christian Ornaments for Your Christmas Tree. Photographs, instructions and patterns for 21 all-new beaded Christments centered around the theme 'We Follow Jesus.' Each Christment is identified by its level of difficulty: Level 1-easy enough for young children through Level 5-for craft-oriented adults. Includes a Christmas story for the hanging of the Christments.

CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE (804221) Author: Iona Community. Worship Resources and Readings for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

DRAMA OF CHRISTMAS: LETTING CHRIST INTO OUR LIVES (830054) Author: Kelsey, Morton. Drawing on scripture, tradition, and legend, the author explores the lives and thoughts of the major participants in the first Christmas.

EVERLASTING LIGHT: A RESOURCE FOR ADVENT WORSHIP (807224) Author: Dixon, Sandy. A collection of worship resources for each Sunday in all three cycles of the Revised Common Lectionary. Also includes Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Sunday services.

FINDING THE MESSIAH: TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS OF DEEPER DEVOTION THROUGH ADVENT (815225) Author: Rubietta, Jane. From Darkness to Dawn -- The Birth of Our Savior. Twenty-nine short devotional readings. For a group study guide go to www.wphresources.com/findingthemessiah

FIRST CHRISTMAS (807226) Author: Borg, Marcus & Crossan, John Dominic. What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus's Birth. The authors propose 1) to exposit the birth stories and their meanings in their first-century context, and 2) to treat their meanings for Christian understanding and commitment today.

FIRST CHRISTMAS: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED? (814212) Author: Richards, H. J.. Chapter titles: The Christmas stories -- fact or fiction?; Jesus and the Old Testament -- St. Matthew's approach; Jesus and the Old Testament -- St. Luke's approach; The childhood of Jesus in fiction; Where have all the angels gone?; The story of Jesus' virgin birth.

GIFT OF NOTHING (805265) Author: McDonnell, Patrick. It's a special day and Mooch wants to give his best friend, Earl, a gift. But what do you get someone who has everything? Join Mooch as he searches high and low for . . . the gift of nothing! Based on the author's comic strip, 'Mutts,' this book emphasizes the gift of friendship over material gifts.

GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE! (816210) Author: Tipton, Annie. Devotional Inspiration from 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. A collection of 58 devotional readings. Includes Scripture index.

GOD IS IN THE MANGER: REFLECTIONS ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (810181) Author: Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. Daily reflections from Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Readings for the four weeks of Advent are arranged by theme: waiting, mystery, redemption, and incarnation. These are followed by devotions for the twelve days of Christmas, which stretch from Christmas Day until January 5. The book also includes a final reflection for January 6, the feast of Epiphany. Includes Scripture index.

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY (823999) Author: Barclay, William. The Birth of Jesus the Messiah. Reflections on the birth of Jesus Christ to enrich the Advent and Christmas season and bring the good tidings of the Savior to a new generation.

GOODNESS AND LIGHT: READINGS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (816043) An anthology of selections by beloved writers for every day of the season, from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany. Writers include: Frederick Buechner, Richard Rohr, Harper Lee, Willa Cather, Phyllis Tickle, Annie Dillard, Mohandas Gandhi, Kathleen Norris, Leo Tolstoy, Maya Angelou, Oscar Romero, and many others. Contains 48 entries, one each for November 21 through January 7. Includes author index.

GROUP'S BODY-BUILDING GUIDE TO COMMUNITY (807057) Author: McMahan, Candace, editor. Strengthening Relationships in Your Church. This book provides 15 practical ways to encourage lasting friendships in your church. Build community among: men, through a new take on meal ministry, through racial reconciliation, at annual meetings, during the 12 days of Christmas, among children and adults, before and after worship, through long-term share groups, through membership retreats, with college students, through date nights, among women, among mothers of young children, through 6-week spiritual adventures, and with shut-ins. **Includes "Build Community During the 12 Days of Christmas: Members of this church celebrate Christmas by giving gifts anonymously."**

HIDDEN WOMEN OF THE GOSPELS (804157) Author: Coffey, Kathy. Chapter titles: Susanna, the shepherd woman; Magda, the wise one; Mari, Ben's mother; Wedding without wine: told in three voices; Sara, Peter's mother-in-law; Leah, wife of Jairus; Feeding 5,000 and me, Raissa; Anna, the adulterous woman; Miriam's threshold; The parable of the missing mother; Rebecca, mother of the man born blind; Salome: blunder and blessing; Martha's splendid moment;

Deborah: serving a meal, turning a corner; Esther accosts Peter; Claudia: wife of Pontius Pilate; Hannah at the foot of the cross; Joanna's 'idle tale'; Mrs. Cleopas: seven-mile trudge, seven-mile flight.

HURRY LESS, WORRY LESS AT CHRISTMASTIME (811032) Author: Christie, Judy Pace. Having the Holiday Season You Long For. Chapter titles: 1) Whatever happened to comfort and joy? -- assessing your holidays; 2) Creating a new way of celebrating -- steps to change hassles to happiness; 3) Developing a thankful heart -- using Thanksgiving to change your thinking; 4) Glad tidings -- savoring the spiritual focus of Advent and Christmas; 5) Less is more -- spending less, eating less, fretting less for more joy; 6) Conquering the clutter of Christmas -- tools to help move beyond the muddle; 7) The gift of new traditions -- what to do when change comes; 8) Special days -- having a happy spirit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; 9) Hello, New Year -- setting goals to start the year with optimism; 10) Growing stronger spiritually -- using the days until Epiphany.

LIVING WITH HOPE: A SCIENTIST LOOKS AT ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, & EPIPHANY (802423) Author: Polkinghorne, John. Divided into daily readings for Advent through Epiphany, this book illuminates biblical thinking with new insights from the author's twin disciplines of theology and science at the cutting edge of physics.

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS (807039) Author: Moore, James W. An Advent Study for Adults. This 4-week study, appropriate for both group and individual use, provides one lesson for each week of Advent. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, questions for study or discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week. Session titles: 1) The miracle of Good News; 2) The miracle of hospitality; 3) The miracle of giving; 4) The miracle of Christmas.

O COME EMMANUEL (806241) Author: Giles, Gordon. A Musical Tour of Daily Readings for Advent and Christmas. This book of daily devotions (December 1 to January 6) explores the legends, message, and theology behind some of your favorite carols and hymns. Includes discussion questions for each week.

ONE YEAR BOOK OF HYMNS: 365 DEVOTIONAL READINGS BASED ON GREAT HYMNS OF THE FAITH (816158) Author: Brown, Robert and Norton, Mark, editors. Each entry includes a short reading about a hymn. Helpful indexes allow you to locate specific titles or hymn writers, or to look up hymns on specific topics.

PRAISING GOD THROUGH THE LIVELY ARTS (804268) Author: Goens, Linda M. Chapter titles: A leap of faith: creating a worship arts program; Embodying the Spirit: drama and Scripture reading; Sacred dance; God's messenger: the clown as messenger; Seasonal services and drama series. Includes Scripture index. **Includes two short readings for Epiphany, 'Mary/Angel dance for Advent,' and 'Weekly Dialogue for Advent, Including Music, Dance, and a Complete Christmas Eve Service.'**

PREACHING THE INCARNATION (810042) Author: Stevenson, Peter and Wright, Stephen. The authors discuss 12 important Bible passages connected with the doctrine of incarnation. Each chapter includes a complete sermon on the passage followed by discussion. Chapter titles: 1) The involved 'I AM' (Ex. 3:1-15); 2) Embodied wisdom (Prov. 8 and Jn. 1:1-14); 3) 'God with us' (Mt. 1:1-25 and Lk. 1:26--2:21); 4) From infant to adolescent (Lk. 2:21-52); 5) 'Who do you say that I am?' (Lk. 9:18-27); 6) Struggling to obey God (Mk 14:32-42); 7) In the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:1-8); 8) The self-emptying Christ (Phil. 2:1-11); 9) God's true image (Col. 1:15-20); 10) Able to help (Heb. 2:5-18). Includes name, subject, and biblical reference indexes.

PROCLAIMING THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL (814211) Author: Witvliet, John and Vroege, David, editors. Ancient Sermons and Hymns for Contemporary Christian Inspiration. Rediscover the miracle of Christ's birth with this collection of Christmas sermons from legendary figures of the faith: Jerome, Augustine of Hippo, Leo the Great, Caesarius of Arles, Gregory the Great, Bede, Rabanus Maurus of Mainz, Gueric of Igny, Bernard of Clairvaux, John Wyclif, Thomas a Kempis, Martin Luther, and John Calvin.

ROADS FROM BETHLEHEM (824557) Author: Johnson, Pegram and Troiano, Edna, editors. Christmas Literature from Writers Ancient and Modern. Chapter titles: Scripture and early traditions; The Middle Ages--from liturgy to literature; The Renaissance--visions individual and communal; The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries--the age of sentiment; The Twentieth Century--the age of anxiety.

SEASON OF LIGHT AND HOPE: PRAYERS AND LITURGIES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (806209) Author: Meeks, Blair Gilmer. This book is a treasury of scripture-based prayers, liturgies, and other worship

aids to enrich worship from the First Sunday of Advent through the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord (usually the second Sunday in January.)

SILENCE AND OTHER SURPRISING INVITATIONS OF ADVENT (813061) Author: Okoro, Enuma. A 28-day exploration into the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Includes Advent wreath candlelighting meditations and a guide for small groups. *2014 UMW Reading Program: Spiritual Growth

SILENT NIGHT: THE STORIES BEHIND 40 BELOVED CHRISTMAS CAROLS (814055) Author: McLaughlin, David. This small book includes short articles on 40 Christmas songs, blending history, tradition, and devotional insight.

SONGS FOR THE WAITING: DEVOTIONS INSPIRED BY THE HYMNS OF ADVENT (816212) Author: deVega, Magrey. Each of the twenty-eight devotions in this collection are based on a portion of an Advent hymn and include a text of Scripture, a prayer, and questions for reflection or discussion.

SOUL CARE: HOW TO PLAN AND GUIDE INSPIRATIONAL RETREATS (807180) Author: Stutzman, Rose Mary, editor. This book brings together retreat designs from a wide variety of experienced retreat leaders. Sections: Church leadership retreats; Retreats for life passages; Adventure retreats; Special group retreats; Topical and thematic retreats; Spirituality retreats. **Includes 'Waiting for God: A One-Day Advent retreat' and 'Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph: An Advent Retreat.'**

STORIES OF JESUS' BIRTH: A CRITICAL INTRODUCTION (807225) Author: Freed, Edwin. Chapter titles: The genealogies of Jesus; Matthew's women in the genealogy of Jesus; Comparisons between the stories of Matthew and Luke; The use of Old Testament material; Individual pericopes in Matthew's stories; Luke's stories of the births of John and Jesus; Luke's portrayal of John and Jesus; Luke's stories of the shepherds and of Jesus and His parents; Luke's poetic sections (songs or canticles). Includes Scripture and author indexes.

WATCH FOR THE LIGHT: READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT (809017) This anthology offers wisdom, beauty, and spiritual nourishment from a wide spectrum of classic and contemporary writers: C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Philip Yancey, Madeleine L'Engle, Henri Nouwen, Kathleen Norris, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Annie Dillard, Dorothy Day, and many others. Contains 45 entries, one each for November 24 through January 7. Includes author index.

WE REJOICE IN THE LIGHT: CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONIES FOR ADVENT (807227) Author: Dixon, Sandy. This small book provides ceremonies for the lighting of Advent candles during public worship for the four Sundays of Advent and the Sunday after Christmas. There are ceremonies for each of the three years in a cycle of the New Common Lectionary.

WERE THEY WISE MEN OR KINGS? THE BOOK OF CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS (839420) Author: Walsh, Joseph J. In this informative book of fifty questions, the author gives us the details behind Christmas traditions like holiday decorations, the nativity, celebrations and rituals, Santa, and more.

WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE JEWISHNESS OF JESUS (816008) Author: Moffic, Evan. A New Way of Seeing the Most Influential Rabbi in History. Chapters: A humble birth; An unexpected turn; Entering the waters; Surviving a wilderness of temptations; Calling the disciples; Do you believe in miracles?; Finding honey on the page; The Shema; The Lord's Prayer; The last days; Five rabbis explain Jesus.

WHY THIS JUBILEE? ADVENT REFLECTIONS ON SONGS OF THE SEASON (815189) Author: Howell, James C. Appropriate for individual or group study, this book of 24 reflections revisits familiar Christmas hymns and songs and contemplates certain phrases and their meaning for us. Includes a leader's guide.