

**BOOKS**

**Americanah Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Knopf, 2013.** This novel follows a young Nigerian woman who moves to America and learns for the first time what it means to be black in America. The novel is funny, warm and powerful. – *The Rev. Shannon Anderson*

**Between The World and Me Ta-Nehisi Coates, Random House, 2015.** Brave and blunt reflections on vulnerability of being black in a white culture. Written as a memoir to his son. – *The Rev. Mitch Whatney*

**Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance Reggie L. Williams, Baylor University Press, 2014.** This book by a contemporary African American Theologian focuses on the impact of the Harlem Renaissance upon the nascent theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. – *The Rev. Karen Brau*

**Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation Jennifer Harvey, Eerdmans, 2014.** An insightful historical analysis of the painful fissures that emerged among activist Christians toward the end of the Civil Rights movement, and the necessity of bringing "white" racial identity into clear view in order to counter today's oppressive social structures. – *The Rev. Mitch Whatney*

**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Maya Angelou, Random House, 1969.** Angelou's literary autobiography of her coming-of-age encompasses racism, rape and oppression. A powerful classic in African-American women's literature. – *The Rev. Gloria Cline-Smythe*

**Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God Kelly Brown Douglas, Orbis Books, 2015.** A black mother's social and theological response to today's American "stand your ground" culture following the murder of Trayvon Martin. Timely and compelling. – *The Rev. Gloria Cline-Smythe*

**The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race Willie James Jennings, Yale University Press, 2010.** This book by a contemporary African American Theologian is very technical, historical and theological in its content. It addresses the impact of Western culture on the cultures of the Americas, and it reflects on the resulting effects (and the significant devastation) upon local cultures. – *The Rev. Karen Brau*

**The Collapse of American Criminal Justice William Stuntz, Belknap Press, 2011.** **Stuntz** argues that good intentions gone astray have led this country to opt for a form of justice that is cheap, quick, and especially destructive of the legal rights of the poor. He proposes a vision of a community better able to protect its most vulnerable members and more willing to punish crime fairly. – *Bishop Richard Graham*

**The Cross and the Lynching Tree. James H. Cone, Orbis Books, 2011.** Prominent black liberation theologian Cone explores the relationship between the lynching tree of U.S. mob violence and the cross of the crucifixion. – *Deb Haynes*

**The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Michelle Alexander, The New Press, 2010.** With history, legal scholarship and current data, Alexander argues that the U.S. criminal justice system now functions as a system of racial control, a replacement for Jim Crow that claims to be color-blind. – *Deb Haynes*

**Understanding and Dismantling Racism: The Twenty-First Century Challenge to White America Joseph Barndt, Fortress Press, 2007.** ELCA pastor Barndt addresses the history of racism in the particular personal, institutional and cultural forms in the U.S. and offers ways to work toward the goal of dismantling racism. – *Katharyn Wheeler*

**White Theology: Outing Supremacy in Modernity James W. Perkinson, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.** Perkinson re-examines white race privilege throughout history and its relationship to black theology. James W. Perkinson articulates a white theology of responsibility responding to the claims of James Cone (and other black scholars) that serious engagement with history and culture must be at the heart of any American projection of integrity or "salvation" in the modern period. – *Katharyn Wheeler*

## ***MEDIA***

**TED Talks to help you understand racism in America: a curated list of 9 TED talks on race:** [https://www.ted.com/playlists/250/talks\\_to\\_help\\_you\\_understand\\_r](https://www.ted.com/playlists/250/talks_to_help_you_understand_r)  
For black Americans, the far-reaching effects of racism are felt daily. From passionate pleas for reform to poetic turns of phrase, these speakers take an honest look at everyday realities and illuminate the way forward. – *The Rev. Shannon Anderson*

**Blog post written by a white mom of a Liberian son to the white parents of his friends:** <http://www.amusingmaralee.com/2015/12/to-the-white-parents-of-my-black-sons-friends/#sthash.TgKUGla7.dpuf> - *The Rev. Renata Eustis*

**Three webcast videos on confronting racism with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and guests.** Available at <http://www.elca.org/webcast> – *Katharyn Wheeler*

**Movie selections:** 42: The Jackie Robinson Story, A Time to Kill, Amistad, Crash, Lean on Me, Malcolm X, Skin, The Color Purple, To Kill a Mocking Bird – *The Rev. Leila Ortiz*