

# WOODLAKE

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Wood Lake uses the ancient and enduring art form of storytelling to connect, educate, and inspire readers of every age and culture.



# Beloved

Being Gay and Christian

Donald Schmidt

Successful author and pastor Donald Schmidt shares his life journey as a gay man deeply committed to his Christian faith and ministry no matter what. Because it wasn't easy. Although many denominations today welcome gay candidates into ministry, it wasn't like that in the early 1980s when Schmidt entered seminary at McGill University in Montreal. Homophobia was prevalent in the church and made even worse as the terror of a new illness, AIDS, gripped society. With amazing honesty, Schmidt tells about it all the questioning, the fear, the stigma, the anger, the defiance, the heartbreak, the struggle to live his life and ministry with integrity. If the church has come a long way since the 1980s, if it has grown and matured and evolved to value its lgbtq+ members and ministers, it must surely be due to the faith and extraordinary perseverance of those who were the first to come out and lay claim to their inheritance as beloved children of God.

ISBN 978-1-77343-638-8 144 pages | 5" x 8.5" | \$19.95



Our Home and Treaty Land Walking Our Creation Story Raymond Aldred & Matthew Anderson

An Indigenous writer and scholar and a settler scholar and pilgrimage enthusiast together explore what it means to live and walk in harmony on the land.

Treaty - what it meant to the First Nations and to the Newcomers who originally entered into it, and what it could and should mean for all of us today - lies at the heart of this book. Treaty is key to the shared narrative, shared spirituality, and shared respect for the land that Ray Aldred says are necessary for our peoples - Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike - to walk well, to live well together on the land because Treaty still is, or should be, a lived reality. Treaty doesn't refer to a one time, historical event, but to a lasting, daily way of "living well," in right relation to each other, to the land, and to the Creator.

ISBN 978-1-77343-414-8 192 pages | 4.75" x 7" | \$19.95



# Fall 2022 Release

# The Bible and Homosexuality for Progressive Christians A Six Session Study Guide

# Donald Schmidt

Did you know that there are *no* passages in the Bible that talk about homosexuality as a sexual *orientation* and that there are arguably only six or seven passages in the entire Bible that even touch on homosexual *behaviour*? Did you know that some of the passages from the Hebrew scriptures we have assumed were about homosexuality were actually meant to chatise the community for their lack of hospitality? This study looks at all these passages in depth, but it also invites readers to look at the Bible as a whole and wonder about its overall message. When we do that, we see that compassion and inclusion are key for Jesus, and for early disciples such as Philip – as they should be for us.

ISBN 978-1-77343-640-1 | 104 pages | 5.5" x 8" | \$14.95





# Spring 2022 Releases

## The Power of Storytelling in Worship and Education A Practical Guide

led Griswold

A resource for pastors, religious educators, teachers, and parents.

Think about how Jesus taught. And rabbis. How have Buddhist monks taught children and adults for centuries? How have Hindu swamis taught? And Islamic leaders? And Indigenous elders in lands around the globe?

It is difficult to overstate the importance of storytelling when it comes to our desire to pass along our values, our spirituality, our faith to the next generation. Or to teach and inspire our own generation. Jed Griswold's 12 tips for storytelling and his 20 original stories are more than enough to clarify and inspire readers to engage in the art of storytelling. It also includes a sample lesson plan, which is available as a free download.

ISBN 978-1-77343-519-0 | 112 pages | 4.75" x 7" | \$14.95

# **Saving the Future**

### Lessons in Resistance from Child Activists Donna Sinclair

# This book contains ideas and tools children can use as they work to save what they care about most, and lots of expert tips and advice from other children who are showing the way.

It contains ten lessons on how to save the future – get as much political power as you can, defend your rights, choose solidarity, defend the sacred, care for the vulnerable, speak only truthful words, equip yourself to lead, and more – as told by children and youth who are busy trying to do that. It tells the stories of these young activists without attempting to place the weight of saving the world on the shoulders of children.

ISBN 978-1-77343-293-9 | 124 pages | 5.5" x 8" | \$19.95

# **Bible Studies Series**



# Bible Studies For Progressive Christians

Donald Schmidt

Marcus Borg once said we should take the Bible seriously, but not literally. Wood Lake Publishing's series of Bible study guides seeks to do just that. It digs behind the layers of tradition and instead opens the scriptures in a way that invites us to determine our own understanding. What can faith stories written millennia ago tell us about how to live today? How is God's call for justice relevant in an age of computers, global warming, and pandemics? How can we find simple truths in these ancient texts?

These guides are perfect for individual and group use. Take time by yourself or join with others in a formal or informal study and you will find yourself immersed in wondrous story, freed from any sense that "this is what you must believe" and able to form or develop your own interpretation of texts that are still relevant and vital for today's living.





2020 Gold Medal Winner for Birth of Jesus 2021 Gold Medal Winner for The Beatitudes 2022 Bronze Medal Winner for Women in the Bible



# Study & Worship For Progressive Churchs

Donald Schmidt with Sharon Harding

These all-in-one study and worship resources include everything a congregation needs to enable children, youth, parents, and grandparents to share together. a complete, newly expanded edition of the original adult study guide with five new photocopiable resource sheets for adults four/five weeks of learning resources for children, with full lesson outlines and photocopiable resource sheets

 four/five weeks of learning resources for youth, with full lesson outlines and photocopiable resource sheets

and much more

### Creation

ISBN 978-1-77343-412-4 | 136 pages | 8.5" x 11" | \$39.95 Birth of Jesus ISBN 978-1-77343-393-6 | 128 pages | 8.5" x 11" | \$24.95







# **Recent Releases**

# **How the Light Shines**

# Stories, Strategies, and Spiritual Practices for Caregivers of People with Dementia

# Trisha Elliott

This book is for caregivers who have a desire not only to hone their caring skills, but also to deepen their relationship with God through their care. It explores feelings of loss and challenge, but turns always towards potential and hope. There are over 100 types of dementia affecting over 50 million people around the world. Unfortunately, knowing the hard numbers doesn't make caregiving less demanding, challenging, exhausting, and yet in many ways, potentially uplifting. Caregiving is typically understood as an activity, as something we do – likely because caregivers do a lot. But caregiving is deeper than what we do. It is more than a series of tasks. It is, first and foremost, a call to love.

Regular Edition: ISBN 978-1-77343-526-8 | 176 pages | 6" x 9" | \$24.95 Pocket Edition: ISBN 978-1-77343-285-4 | 176 pages | 4.75" x 7" | \$19.95

# **Alphabet of Faith**

# **26 Words about Faith, Ethics, and Spirituality** Sara Jewell

Weaving together faith and culture, this breathtaking book explores what it means to live a life of faith and spirit in the 21 st century. It brings together 26 "words" – such as energy, justice, liminal space, and X marks the spot – that reflect the challenges and joys of living in our beautiful but broken and often brutal world.

It is unwaveringly contemporary, progressive, and thought-provoking. The pieces are written for those who say they are spiritual but not religious, for people who are or may be familiar with church but perhaps don't attend anymore, for those who know Jesus and his teachings and are familiar with the Bible, even if they haven't opened it in awhile.

ISBN 978-1-77343-517-6 | 256 pages | 4.75" x 7" | \$24.95

# **Fishing With My Fathers**

# A Memoir by Paul D. Rath

# This book is like no memoir you've ever read.

Paul Rath writes with the soul of a poet, his prose alive with vibrant images and metaphors that capture the raw beauty and challenges of fishing for white fish in the frigid November air . Yet this is no mere fish story. As much as this book is about fishing, it is even more about relationships. *Fishing with My Fathers* explores the deep bonds that form between men of the earth, between men and the land and the water and the creatures that feed their spirits. With wonderful humour and genuine sensitivity, he regales the reader with tales of his father, grandfather, great-grandfather, as well as of his mentors – of the men who taught him how to grow up, how to control his emotions, how to work, how to grow his spirit, how to love, as well as how to fish. **ISBN 978-1-77343-408-7 | 192 pages | 5.55" x 8.5" | \$19.95** 









A History of Our Relationships with Animals BRIAN GRIFFITH

# **Starship Citizens**

# Indigenous Principles for 100 Year Intersteller Voyages Dawn Marsden

In this insightful exploration, a scholar of Indigenous health and education outlines some of the principles that support Indigenous societies, and how they might enlighten future space voyages. She examines how Indigenous principles can sustain not only the basic needs of space travellers and settlements for equitable distribution of food, air, water, and other resources, but also provide the philosophical, ethical, and social processes that would be needed.

ISBN 978-1-77343-398-1 | 88 pages | 4.75" x 7" | \$12.95

# **Celebrating the Labyrinth**

# A Journey of the Spirit

# Gailand MacQueen

Labyrinths have been around for a very long time. In fact, they have been used outside of formal religion as a ritual object to express spiritual values for at least 3500 years in countries all over the world. They have been carved into rocks, turf, and wood; engraved in metal; laid out in stones; woven in reeds; set in tiles; painted and drawn. This book tells their stories. **ISBN 978-1-77343-416-2 | 88 pages | 4.75" x 7" | \$12.95** 

# Annie Ruth's Truths

# Wisdom, Warnings, and Wake-Up Calls

Collected and written by David Preston Sharp

A humorous, wisdom-filled collection of 111 lively expressions and conversations spoken from the mouth of a remarkable woman, faithfully recorded by her son. Each of Annie Ruth's sayings is a jewel of language and thought. With explanations where needed, Annie Ruth's "truths" cut across culture, race, and nationality, as they contain themes that are part of our common experience as human beings. Young and old will benefit from her wit and wisdom.

ISBN 978-1-77343-283-0 | 128 pages | 4.75" x 7" | \$12.95

# War and Peace with the Beasts

## **A History of Our Relationships with Animals** Brian Griffith

In this immediately engaging, story- and fact-filled page-turner of a book, Brian Griffith looks at the range of ways we relate to animals and the stories we tell about them. He asks how we choose whether buddyhood, fearful respect, businesslike predation, or genocidal war is the most appropriate response to each species we meet.

ISBN 978-1-77343-179-6 | 216 pages | 5" x 8.5" | \$19.95





Imagine a Joyful Economy



PRAYER FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD

VANCE MORGAN

# **Backlist Highlights**

# In Sync with the Sacred, Out of Step with the World

# Embracing an Unconventional Life in a Culture of Conformity Tom Stella

In this richly rewarding book, Tom Stella offers insights into what it means to live a "soul-full" life. More than that, he provides a guide on how to approach life in ways that make soul-sense, even if those ways seem like nonsense to the world around us.

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# James Gustave Speth & Peter Denton

James Gustave (Gus) Speth and Peter Denton – world experts in their respective fields – are two voices to which we should listen. Speth argues that despite victories in environmental law, habitat protection and conservation, we are on a destructive path. Denton sees Christianity's role as both complicity in the destruction of the natural world, and proposes the positive role it could still play.

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# Douglas MacLeod

Doug MacLeod's compelling glimpse into the near future is not, at its core, a work of fiction. It offers an immediately compelling glimpse into the future, a near future only 15 years hence, and a way of living that is decentralized, re-localized, and regenerative.

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# Prayer for People Who Don't Believe in God Vance Morgan

Many progressive Christians struggle with prayer – or, at least, with the kinds of prayer they are often exposed to: shouted, whispered, forceful, timid, begging, and demanding; everything from essay length unscripted petitions, to poetry read from a book, to rote recitations that no one pays much attention to, to pronouncements, to communications in a "prayer language." Working only with the assumption that prayer might have value even for those who are not sure *what*, or *who*, or even *if* God is, this book is about opening oneself to the "possibility of God."

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# **Read, Wonder, Listen**

# Stories from the Bible for Young Readers

# Laura Alary and Ann Sheng

"Every person who tells these stories does it in a slightly different way. And every person who reads these stories hears something a bit different. So even though these stories are very old, they are also always new." So writes Laura Alary in the Introduction to the new children's story Bible *Read, Wonder, Listen.* Alary combines her gift for telling the biblical stories, with historical research, contemporary concerns about language, and a compassionate and inclusive theology, making *Read, Wonder, Listen* a perfect children's Bible for progressive Christians.

ISBN 978-1-77343-041-6 | 8.25" x 11" | 244 PP | Hardcover | \$24.95

# **Activist Alphabet**

# Donna Sinclair

This book is aimed at people of faith who find themselves involved in resistance of any kind; but especially against those projects that hurt creation. Like pipelines or large dams or massive quarries. This book is an effort to figure out why and how environmental activists fall passionately in love with a lake, a river, or a planet and its people. It's a primer, or an



Living Now 2019 Gold Medal Winner

alphabet, on how to stay strong enough to keep putting that love into action. ISBN 978-1-77343-154-3 | 5.5" x 8.5" | 176 pages | \$19.95

# **Radical Gifts**

# Living the Full Christian Life in Troubled Times

Gene W. Marshall "We are living in the midst of a turning point in the history of Christianity that is more radical than the Reformation period, perhaps as radical as the birth of Christianity itself. This emerging form of Christianity is so new that it does not seem to be Christianity at all to many people." Progressive Christians will be immediately drawn to Marshall's discussions of "Spirit" sickness and how to heal it, his reflections on the nature of God, the relevance of the life of Jesus for people today, and the importance of community and of ethical thinking, which are fresh and challenging...

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# The Family Story Bible, 3rd Edition

# Ralph Milton and Margaret Kyle

From its first publication, *The Family Story Bible* has held a special place among children's Bibles. Its use of inclusive language for God, its emphasis on stories that depict a God of love, its commitment to telling the stories of the *women* as well as the men in the Bible, its positive and life-affirming



tone – all of these things have made it a modern classic of children's religious literature. Every bit as marvellous as the text by Ralph Milton, Margaret Kyle's art – bright and colourful, full of wonder and joy – pulls it all together and helps bring the stories to life in the imaginations of children and adults alike. **ISBN 978-1-77343-290-8 | 6.75'' x 9.75'' | 288 PP | \$24.95** 

# 



UNIVERSAL SPIRIT The Seasons of the Christian Year in the Company of Northrop Frye DON COLLETT



# **Backlist Highlights**

# **FAITH FORWARD**

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# **Superabundantly Alive**

Thomas Merton's Dance with the Feminine

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To a church that increasingly addresses itself to biblically illiterate people, to people who may have little or no church experience, and to those who simply call themselves spiritual-but-not-religious, Don Collett's look at the Christian year inspired by the work of the great Canadian scholar Northrop Frye offers a priceless gift.

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# Ralph Milton

In *The Gift of Story*, Ralph Milton romps through a lively reflection on what stories mean to humans, "the storytelling animal," how we can all use stories to enrich our lives, and rejoice in the complementary role that stories and the logic of science play in our lives.

The Cift of Story picks up where Milton's live StoryFest events leave off. Those events – led by gifted musicians, artists, and storytellers – were designed to provide a spiritual "shot in the arm, focusing on evocative Bible stories and personal faith experiences." The 10 StoryFest videos and other downloads, available at www.woodlakebooks.com/storyfest, help people come together to enjoy the rich and varied stories of the Bible, and discover ways those stories connect with their lives.

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## **Passion & Peace**

## The Poetry of Uplift for All Occasions

### Compiled by Diane Tucker

All cultures we know of, at all times, have had poetry of one sort or another – chants, songs, lullabies, epics, blessings, farewells – to mark life's most important moments, transitions, and transformations. Ever since our species began using words, we have arranged them to please, to experience the pleasures, the fun, of rhythm and rhyme, repetition and pattern. *Passion & Peace: The Poetry of Uplift for All Occasions* was compiled to speak directly to this deep human need, with 120 of the best poems from almost as many classical and contemporary poets, and including a thematic index.

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Creative Aging is a powerful new social and cultural movement that is stirring the imaginations of communities and people everywhere. Often called Sage-ing, it takes many forms: academic, social and personal. Sage-ing is about seeking - satisfying inner gnawing and transforming it to knowing and action. Aging can be alchemy when one allows the realisation that to know thyself and contribute that knowing to our culture is indeed one of life's highest purposes. That knowing brings gratitude, grace and integrity.

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# The arts as catalyst for spiritual transformation

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Music, dance, drama, visual art, writing – what role do the arts play in our spiritual life? Some people believe the arts are essential to their spiritual practice because they bring moments of insight and transformation to their journey. *Creating Change* explores the many ways the arts cultivate spiritual depth and transformation. Stories from artists and congregations reveal how the arts breathe new life into prayer, worship, theological reflection, and the work of justice. It looks at how the arts allow us to express our spirituality with an individuality and depth that truly celebrates our connection to God. **ISBN 978-1-55145-568-6 | 7.25" x 9" | 160 PP | Paper | \$29.95** 

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# Lisa-Dawn McKenzie and Dorothy Henderson

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ISBN 978-1-896836-79-9 | 7.25" x 9" | 160 PP | Paper with CD | \$29.95

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Protestant edition: ISBN 978-1-77064-683-4 | 128 PP Catholic edition: ISBN 978-1-77064-791-6 | 160 PP 5.5" x 7.5" | \$19.95









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JoAnn Restoule, Wedlidi Speck, Karen Close

How does one define reconciliation in a way that gives meaning to those who have experienced and suffered from colonization and to those who have not? Is it even possible? This book presents a collection of storytellers who have set out to do just that. As Wedlidi Speck states in his introduction to this important book: "By sharing the stories in this book, we hope each reader will find a role in reconciliation by placing all these stories together in a mixing bowl of sorts and coming up with a broader view that will heighten our country's cultural awareness, deepen Canadian sensitivity, sharpen Canadian agility and grow cultural safety in all our country's new synthese and work spaces."

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ISBN 978-1-55145-294-4 | 6" x 9" | 288 PP | Paper | \$24.95











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ISBN 978-1-77064-438-0 | 6" x 9" | 224 PP | Paper | \$19.95

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James Taylor

Caring for an aging parent involves more than finding a care facility or dealing with legal and financial matters. It means feeling the frustration of always being "on call" if you live close by, or feeling helpless and guilty because you live far away and can do relatively little. It means riding the emotional roller coaster of having your roles reversed.

ISBN 978-1-896836-34-8 | 6" x 9" | 224 PP | Paper | \$19.95

# The Tiny Red Bathing Suit of Mr. July

# Inspiration & Resources for Continuing Care Providers Jean Clayton

Most residents of continuing care facilities are dealing with losses and many changes. *The Tiny Red Bathing Suit of Mr. July*, written by hospital chaplain Jean Clayton, deals with key issues for the chronically ill, aging, and disabled including sexuality, grief, and mental illness.

ISBN 978-1-55145-246-3 | 5.5"x8.5" | 128 PP | Paper \$12.95

# **Growing a Healing Ministry**

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# Children

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Author Laura Alary's charming story is full of unexpected twists and is based on a well-loved tale from India about giving (and receiving). Ariane Elsammak's whimsical illustrations draw us into the story, as we journey with Jesse and find ourselves surprised at how open-hearted giving is a gift in itself. **ISBN 978-1-77064-443-4 | 8.5" x 11" | 32 PP | Paper | \$12.95 |** 

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# Children





# How Do I Pray for Grandpa?





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