

# 10 Books for Human Relations Day

Books for individuals, small groups and families to read in preparation or this Special Sunday



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**



Whether you're surfing Facebook, catching up on the nightly news, or even just driving around town, you will be confronted with people who are struggling to survive.

These are the people living in the margins— the homeless, the almost homeless, the incarcerated, the impoverished, the hungry. **We are called to serve our brothers and sisters in this place.**

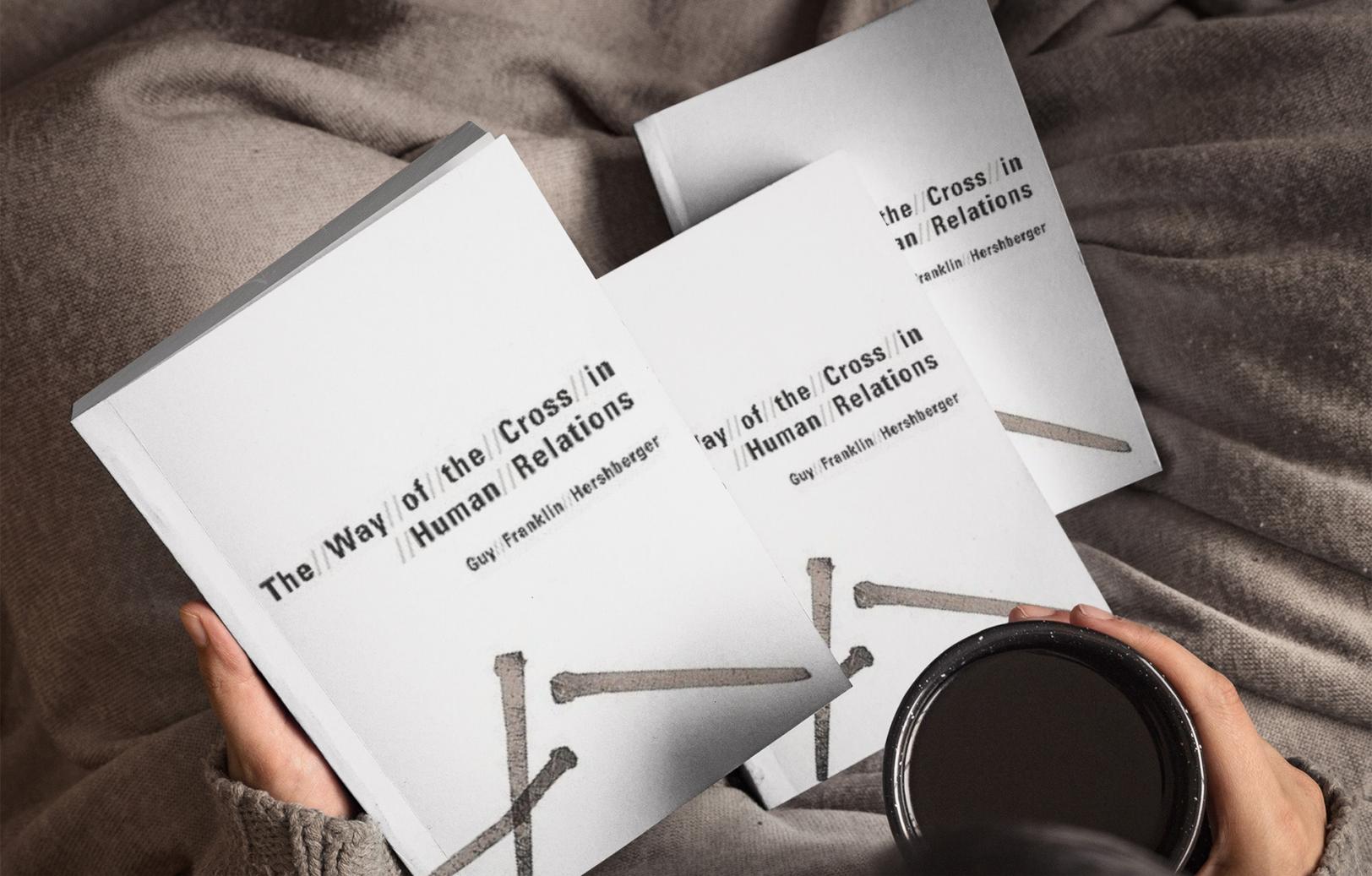
We are called to embrace them; to love them. When we love and serve the disenfranchised and the marginalized, we are continuing the ministry of Jesus and we are helping our neighbors understand provision, grace and who God is.

Jesus served even the least of us so that we might all reach our potential.

**This is what Human Relations Day is about.** It's about celebrating the local and national ministries that do this work everyday. It's about giving generously to make sure they can continue to do so.

As you prepare to celebrate this year, take some personal time— or spend time as a family, leadership team, or small group — to read one or many of the books we've handpicked for you. We've even included a few books for your children!

*Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40*



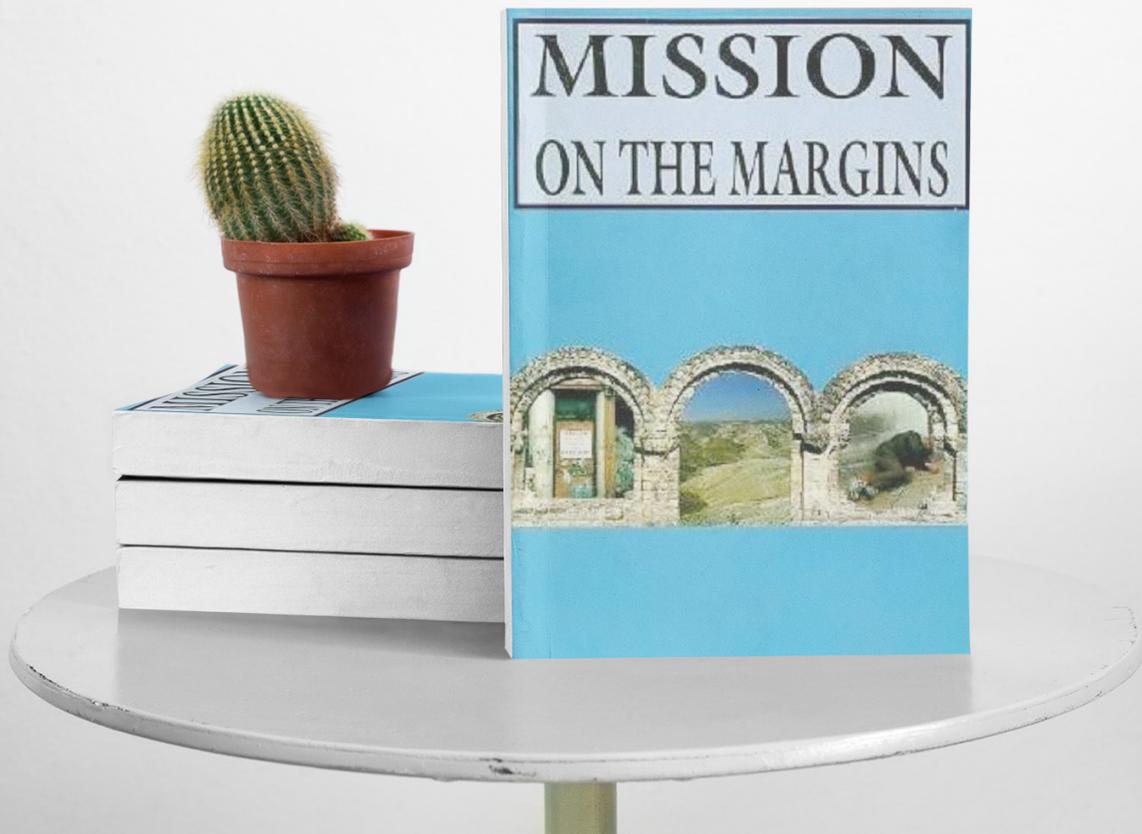
# 1. The Way of the Cross in Human Relations

By Guy Franklin Hershberger

“The Way of the Cross in Human Relations, Guy F. Hershberger brings the teachings of Jesus Christ to bear on the complexities of modern living and human relations problems. Every man’s responsibility is examined in the light of God’s eternal purpose. No problem is more pertinent in our time than man’s relation to man. No problem has been more disturbing within Christianity itself than the problem of social responsibility in an evil society.”

Available from [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com)

[Click here to get your copy.](#)



## 2. Mission on the Margins

By Mary Beasley

“Arising from the author’s work among homeless alcohol and drug abusers in Birmingham, this text explores the theory that many people feel alienated from the church because they are alienated from society and through marginalization, cannot relate to the dominant middle-class culture of most churches. In confronting this issue, the author attempts to transform understanding of marginality and to draw a parallel between transcending present-day socioeconomic conditions, and the growth of Christianity through history among those rejected by their host societies - Gentiles, barbarians, outcasts.”

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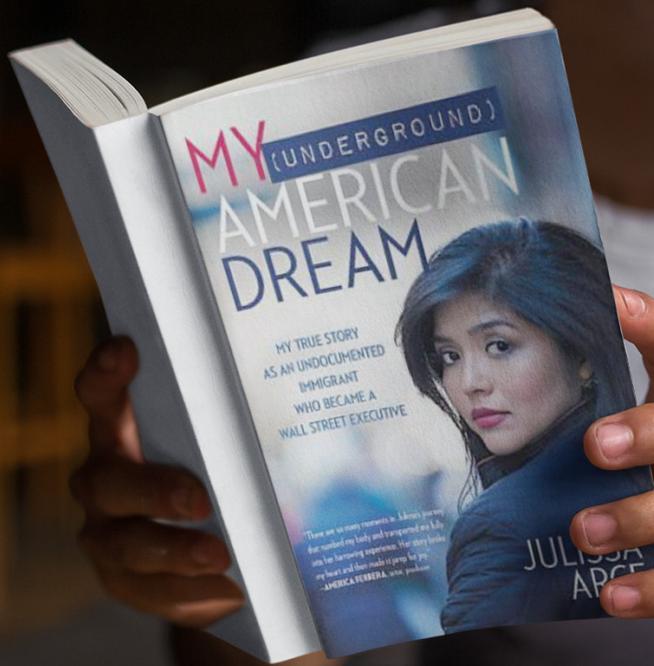
## 3. Immigrant Voices, Volume 2

By Gordon Hutner

“Filled with moving narratives by authors from around the world, Immigrant Voices: Volume II delivers a global and intimate look at the challenges modern immigrants confront. Their stories, told with pride, humor, trepidation, candor, and a touch of homesickness, offer rarely glimpsed perspectives on the difficult but ultimately rewarding quest to become an American.”

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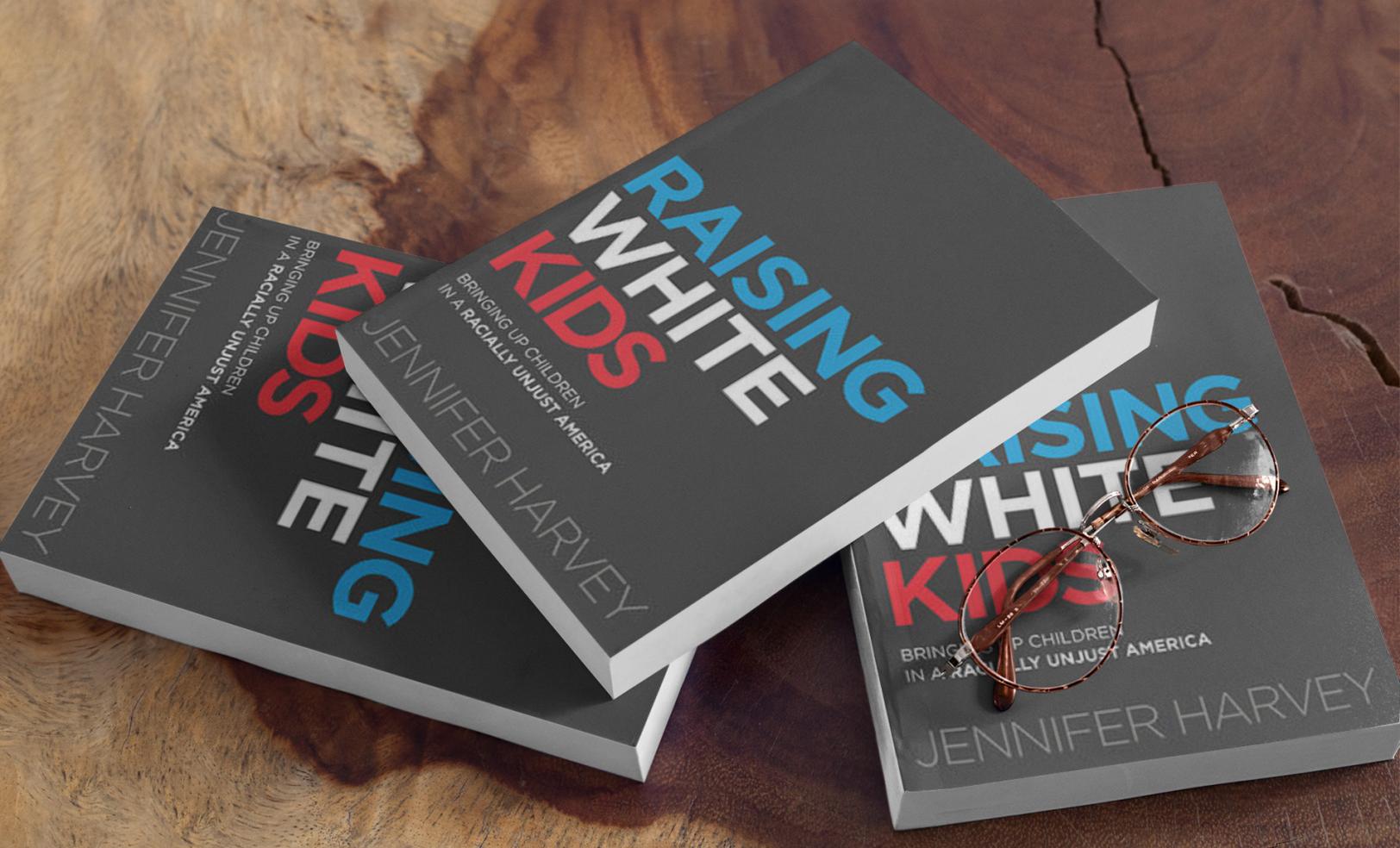
## 4. My (Underground) American Dream

By Julissa Arce

“In this surprising, at times heart-wrenching, but always inspirational personal story of struggle, grief, and ultimate redemption, Arce takes readers deep into the little-understood world of a generation of undocumented immigrants in the United States today- people who live next door, sit in your classrooms, work in the same office, and may very well be your boss. By opening up about the story of her successes, her heartbreaks, and her long-fought journey to emerge from the shadows and become an American citizen, Arce shows us the true cost of achieving the American dream-from the perspective of a woman who had to scale unseen and unimaginable walls to get there.”

Available from [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com)

[Click here to get your copy.](#)



# 5. Raising White Kids

Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America

By Jennifer Harvey

“Like many in the white community, you may be under the impression that with today’s more racially diverse families, racial tension in our country has eased...that we are more tolerant, more accepting. Events over the past few years have shown us we are wrong. Our nation remains racially unjust and deeply segregated. Raising White Kids helps parents, teachers, and churches enter into a dialogue about the impact of racism on our children and offers guidance for sharing our commitment to equity and justice”

Available from [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com)

[Click here to get your copy.](#)



## 6. All Day

### A Year of Love and Survival Teaching Incarcerated Kids at Rikers Island, New York's Most Notorious Jail

By [Liza Jessie Peterson](#)

“Told with equal parts raw honesty and unbridled compassion, ALL DAY recounts a year in Liza Jessie Peterson’s classroom at Island Academy, the high school for inmates detained at New York City’s Rikers Island. A poet and actress who had done occasional workshops at the correctional facility, Peterson was ill-prepared for a full-time stint teaching in the GED program for the incarcerated youths. For the first time faced with full days teaching the rambunctious, hyper, and fragile adolescent inmates, -Ms. P- comes to understand the essence of her predominantly Black and Latino students as she attempts not only to educate them, but to instill them with a sense of self-worth long stripped from their lives.”

Available from [Cokesbury.com](#)

[Click here to get your copy.](#)



# 7. Poverty

## What Did Jesus Teach?

By Liza Jessie Peterson

“The poor will always be with you, Jesus said - but that doesn’t mean Christians have ever figured out how to be with the poor.

At times praised as a virtue and blessed as a condition, poverty easily confuses us, and we are often left doing little to nothing to make a difference with and for the poor. As a social evil and a burden, poverty has elicited many kinds of reactions among the followers of Christ. It is time for Christians to figure out what to do about it.”

Available from [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com)

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# 8. The Berenstain Bears Help the Homeless

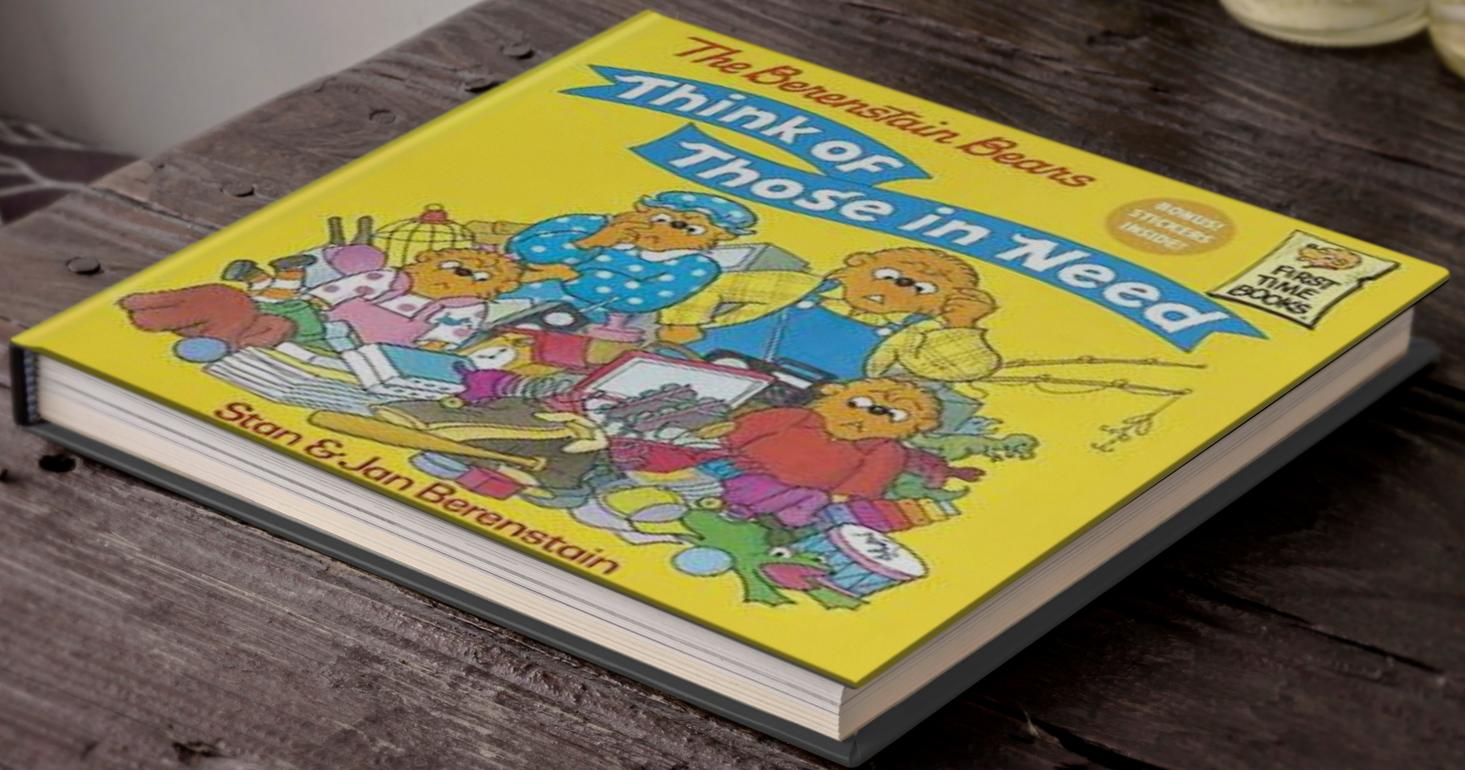
By Jan Berenstain

Have a discussion with even the youngest reader in your household about homelessness and serving them in their time of need.

“The spooky, old house on 1 Spook Hill would make the perfect homeless shelter for Bear Country. The Good Deed Scouts and Old Tom better get busy with repairs.”

Available from [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com)

[Click here to get your copy.](#)



# 9. The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need

By Jan & Mike Berenstain

Have a discussion with even the youngest reader in your household about generosity and serving others in need.

“Come for a visit in Bear Country with this classic First Time Book(R) from Stan and Jan Berenstain. From closets and drawers to the attic and the basement - Papa, Mama, Brother, and Sister realize that they have too much stuff. But what will they do with it all?”

Available from [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com)

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For more information and resources on  
Human Relations Day, visit [www.umcgiving.org/HRD](http://www.umcgiving.org/HRD)