Education is a core value of The United Methodist Church that dates back to the earliest days of the Methodist movement in 18th-century England. As your church prepares for United Methodist Student Day, spend some time in small groups or individually exploring one or more of these books that reflect the importance and impact of education.
THE MISSION-MINDED GUIDE TO CHURCH AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

By Jake McGlothin

This guide offers practical steps that congregations can take to make a difference with the children in their communities. Readers discover how to begin two-way, trusting relationships with schools, principals and teachers and inspire your church family to embrace the power they have to change lives and make a difference in your community.

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EDUCATED: A MEMOIR

By Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara’s older brothers became violent. When another brother found his way to college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she’d traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

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When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Malala’s miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At 16, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.
THE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE: A HISTORY OF PROTESTANT HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA

By William C. Ringenberg

When it was published in 1984, The Christian College was the first modern comprehensive history of Protestant higher education in America. This second edition updates the history, featuring a new chapter on the developments of the past two decades, includes an introduction by Mark Noll, a new preface and epilogue, and a series of instructive appendixes.

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Despite increased attention to the mass incarceration and over-incarceration of black men, the plight of criminalized black women and girls is overlooked, underreported and under-analyzed. *Pushout* shows how even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities and beyond. The book challenges the rest of us to do the same.
Set in 1980s South Korea amid the tremors of political revolution, I’LL Be Right There follows Jung Yoon, a young woman, as she recounts her tragic personal history as well as those of her three intimate college friends. When Yoon receives a distressing phone call from her ex-boyfriend after eight years of separation, memories of a tumultuous youth begin to resurface, forcing her to relive the most intense period of her life. With profound intellectual and emotional insight, she revisits the death of her beloved mother, the strong bond with her now-dying former college professor, the excitement of her first love, and the friendships forged out of a shared sense of isolation and grief.

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Courts in the United States long ago banned public school teachers from preaching of any kind. But the question remains: how much should schools teach about the world’s religions? Veteran education journalist Linda K. Wertheimer traveled to communities around the nation, listening to voices on all sides of the controversy, including those of clergy, teachers, children, and parents who are Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Sikh, or atheist. Wertheimer’s investigation—which includes a return to her rural Ohio school, which once ran weekly Christian Bible classes—reveals a public education system struggling to find the right path forward. Her report offers a promising roadmap for raising a new generation of religiously literate Americans.
Michael Bloomberg’s gift to fund financial aid at Johns Hopkins University drew additional attention to the high cost of undergraduate education. Why does college cost so much? How does the price of college affect students and society? How can our faith help us address this issue?

FAITHLINK IS A DOWNLOADABLE DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CLASSES AND SMALL GROUPS PUBLISHED BY COKESBURY.
There is more to college than classes, credits, and a nonstop social life. The experience leads to more than getting a degree to improve one’s job prospects. As students are shaped into adults, they have the opportunity to explore the big questions about life and human destiny. The years in college often form the character and faith of students. *Make College Count* helps students make the most of their time in college. It encourages young people to ask important questions of themselves, such as:

- Why are you going to college?
- What kind of person do you want to be?
- How do you want your life to influence others?
- With whom will you surround yourself?
- What do you believe?
BENEDICT ON CAMPUS: EIGHT SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

by David E. MacDonalld

Inspired by the religious life of St. Benedict and richly illustrated with concrete examples, MacDonald adapts eight spiritual disciplines for young adults. This book is a practical guide for those who work in higher education including college and university chaplains, campus ministers, student leaders, pastors and spiritual directors. Spiritual practices covered in the book include:

• communal prayer
• Lectio Divina
• contemplative prayer
• service
• spiritual direction
• pilgrimage
• intentional community
• hospitality

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For more information and resources on United Methodist Student Day, visit umcgiving.org/UMSD