

Florida United Church of Christ Women  
Reading for Renewal  
2025- 2026

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This year's list contains a selection of books with content related to the theme of "HOPE", including titles focused on content and topics related to the theme, including Health, Opportunity, Purpose and Empowerment. There are also a few books that touch on current, cultural topics. Some books are based on real events (factual or fictionalized) others are events/stories created by the writer. The Mission Study books this year are focused on the topic of "Equitable Health Care for All." My hope is that you will find a book or two that challenges you, entertains you, delights you, engages you and provides a common topic of conversation to share with others both in your home congregation as well as throughout the state of Florida.

You can join the *Reading for Renewal – Florida UCC Women* book club by visiting the website using the following link: <https://bookclubz.com/clubs/32786/join/793c8f/> Once you join you will see the books from this year listed under Books We Want to Read. Please do not add other books to this list but feel welcome to add comments/messages as you are reading. If you are hosting a meeting to discuss any of the books the meeting can be posted on the site. This is a closed club so the link should only be shared with other FL UCC Women and friends.

~Terri Crawford, FL UCC Women/Reading for Renewal

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Reading for Renewal List for 2025 - 2026

**#1. After Annie** – Anna Quindlen (Literary Fiction) When Annie Brown dies suddenly, her husband, her children, and her closest friend are left to find a way forward without the woman who has been the lynchpin of all their lives. Bill is overwhelmed without his beloved wife, and Annemarie wrestles with the bad habits her best friend had helped her overcome. And Ali, the eldest of Annie's children, has to grow up overnight, to care for her younger brothers and even her father and to puzzle out for herself many of the mysteries of adult life. Over the course of the next year what saves them all is Annie, ever-present in their minds, loving but not sentimental, caring but nobody's fool, a voice in their heads that is funny and sharp and remarkably clear. The power she has given to those who loved her is the power to go on without her. The lesson they learn is that no one beloved is ever truly gone.

**#2. All My Knotted-Up Life: a memoir** – Beth Moore (Non-Fiction, Memoir) *New York Times* best-selling author, speaker, visionary, and founder of Living Proof Ministries Beth Moore has devoted her whole life to helping women across the globe come to know the transforming power of Jesus. An established writer of many acclaimed books and Bible studies for women on spiritual growth and personal development, Beth now unveils her own story in a much-anticipated debut memoir. *All My Knotted-Up Life* is told with surprising candor about some of the personal heartbreaks and behind-the-scenes challenges that have marked Beth's life. But beyond that, it's a beautifully crafted portrait of resilience and survival, a poignant reminder of God's enduring faithfulness, and proof positive that if we ever truly took the time to hear people's full stories . . . we'd all walk around slack-jawed.

**#3. Arise and Shine: how to be the light that ignites hope in a dark world** – Allyson Golden (Non-Fiction, Christian Self-Help) When the darkness of the world feels overwhelming, we wonder, where can I find light? And even more, how can I be the light? Pediatric nurse Allyson Golden faces the hardest realities of life—and death—every day. She longed to be a light for Christ in every patient's room, but she didn't know what that looked like when she could hardly find that light herself. As Allyson immersed herself in Scripture, she began to understand the transformative truth that we have no power to shine on our own, but the Light of the World shines through us—and no darkness can overcome it. With practical action steps at the end of every chapter, *Arise and Shine* helps you renew your mind, recharge your spirit, and take a positive step forward, because nothing can dim the light inside of you.

**#4. Brown Faces, White Spaces: Confronting Systemic Racism to Bring Healing and Restoration** – Latisha Morrison (Non-Fiction, Christian Social Issues) We might think of systemic racism as an unfortunate part of American history, something that happened *back in the day*. But the systems were never truly dismantled in our country, leaving artifacts of

injustice that continue to affect every aspect of life for Black and Brown Americans. Many of us feel overwhelmed by the problem, unsure how we can make a difference. Yet God calls the church to stand firmly committed to racial reconciliation—and for each one of us to make choices that lead to healing. In *Brown Faces, White Spaces*, Latasha Morrison explores nine aspects of American life where systemic racism still flourishes, including education, healthcare, the justice system, entertainment, and the church. Through story, historical context, and present realities, Morrison looks at what it means to recognize and confess the truth about inequities in the system (preparation), commit ourselves to changing the system (dedication), and move into true freedom as a society (liberation). This honest, hope-filled book shows us how we can reform historically white spaces and create systems that work for the good of all.

**#5. But You Don't Look Arab: and other tales of unbelonging – Hala Gorani (Biography)** What is it like to have no clear identity in a world full of labels? How can people find a sense of belonging when they have never felt part of a “tribe?” And how does a blonde-haired, blue-eyed woman who’s never lived in the Middle East honor her Arab Muslim ancestry and displaced family—a family forced to scatter when their home country was torn apart by war? Hala Gorani’s path to self-discovery started the moment she could understand that she was “other” wherever she found herself to be. Born of Syrian parents in America and raised mainly in France, she didn’t feel at home in Aleppo, Seattle, Paris, or London. She is a citizen of everywhere and nowhere. And like many journalists who’ve covered wars and conflicts, she felt most at home on the ground reporting and in front of the camera. As a journalist, Gorani has traveled to some of the most dangerous places in the world, covering the Arab Spring in Cairo and the Syrian civil war, reporting on suicide bombers in Beirut and the chemical attacks in Damascus, watching the growth of ISIS and the war in Iraq—sometimes escaping with her life by a hair. But through it all, she came to understand that finding herself meant not only looking inward, but tracing a long family history of uprooted ancestors.

**#6. Class: a memoir of motherhood, hunger and higher education – Stephanie Land (Biography)** When Stephanie Land set out to write her memoir *Maid*, she never could have imagined what was to come. Handpicked by President Barack Obama as one of the best books of 2019, he called it an “unflinching look at America’s class divide...and a reminder of the dignity of all work.” Stephanie’s escape out of poverty and abuse in search of a better life inspired millions. *Maid* was a story about a housecleaner, but it was also a story about a woman with a dream. In *Class*, Land takes us with her as she finishes college and pursues her writing career. Facing barriers at every turn including a byzantine loan system, food insecurity, the judgments of professors and fellow students who didn’t understand the demands of attending college while under the poverty line—Land finds a way to survive once again, finally graduating in her mid-thirties. *Class* paints an intimate and heartbreaking portrait of motherhood as it converges and often conflicts with personal desire and professional ambition. *Who has the right to create art? Who has the right to go to college? And what kind of work is valued in our culture?* In clear, candid, and moving prose, *Class* grapples with these questions, offering a searing indictment of America’s educational system and an inspiring testimony of a mother’s triumph against all odds.

**#7. The Collected Regrets of Clover - Mikki Brammer (Southern Fiction)** From the day she watched her kindergarten teacher drop dead during a dramatic telling of *Peter Rabbit*, Clover Brooks has felt a stronger connection with the dying than she has with the living. After the beloved grandfather who raised her dies alone while she is traveling, Clover becomes a death doula in New York City, dedicating her life to ushering people peacefully through their end-of-life process. Clover spends so much time with the dying that she has no life of her own, until the final wishes of a feisty old woman send Clover on a trip across the country to uncover a forgotten love story—and perhaps, her own happy ending. As she finds herself struggling to navigate the uncharted roads of romance and friendship, Clover is forced to examine what she really wants, and whether she’ll have the courage to go after it.

**#8. Crow Talk – Eileen Garvin (Women’s Fiction)** Frankie O’Neill and Anne Ryan would seem to have nothing in common. Frankie is a lonely ornithologist struggling to salvage her dissertation on the spotted owl following a rift with her advisor. Anne is an Irish musician far from home and family, raising her five-year-old son, Aiden, who refuses to speak. At Beauty Bay, a community of summer homes nestled on the shores of June Lake, in the remote foothills of Mount Adams, it’s off-season with most houses shuttered for the fall. But Frankie, adrift, returns to the rundown caretaker’s cottage that has been in the hardworking O’Neill family for generations—a beloved place and a constant reminder of the family she has lost. And Anne, in the wake of a tragedy that has disrupted her career and silenced her music, has fled to the neighboring house, a showy summer home owned by her husband’s wealthy family. When Frankie finds an injured baby crow in the forest, little does she realize that the charming bird will bring all three lost souls—Frankie, Anne, and Aiden—together on a journey toward hope, healing, and rediscovering joy.

**#9. The Curious Secrets of Yesterday – Namrata Patel (Women’s Fiction)** Raised by her mother and grandmother and tutored in the healing wonders of spices, Tulsi Gupta is expected to carry on the ancestral tradition from her family’s Salem spice shop. Restless and reluctant, Tulsi yearns to follow her own path—destiny has other plans. When Tulsi finds a letter written by her grandmother, addressed and never sent, that speaks of a long-ago betrayal, she decides to unravel the mystery as a distraction. But Tulsi stumbles into much more than she bargained for. With each new discovery, she learns there’s much more to her mother and grandmother than their expertise in the remedial aromas of coriander and cloves. When an attractive neighbor begins renovating

the shuttered deli next door, Tulsi finds the courage to break her routine and chase the unexpected. As Tulsi digs into the past and secrets come to light, she's determined to heal old family wounds and find her true purpose—and maybe even love—every step of the way.

**#10. Good Night Irene** - Luis Alberto Urrea (Historical Fiction) In 1943, Irene Woodward abandons an abusive fiancé in New York to enlist with the Red Cross and head to Europe. She makes fast friends in training with Dorothy Dunford, a towering Midwesterner with a ferocious wit. Together they are part of an elite group of women, nicknamed Donut Dollies, who command military vehicles called Clubmobiles at the front line, providing camaraderie and a taste of home that may be the only solace before troops head into battle. After D-Day, these two intrepid friends join the Allied soldiers streaming into France. Their time in Europe will see them embroiled in danger, from the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of Buchenwald. Through her friendship with Dorothy, and a love affair with a courageous American fighter pilot named Hans, Irene learns to trust again. Her most fervent hope, which becomes more precarious by the day, is for all three of them to survive the war intact. Taking as inspiration his mother's own Red Cross service, Luis Alberto Urrea has delivered an overlooked story of women's heroism in World War II.

**#11. Grown Woman Talk: your guide to getting and staying healthy** – Sharon Malone (Non-Fiction, Women's Health) There's not enough talk around women's health, and what little there is rarely helps. Women are routinely warned, lectured, or threatened about their health. Or they are ignored, dismissed, or shamed. But they are rarely empowered. And empowerment, more than anything, is what women—and women of color, in particular—need. *Grown Woman Talk* is for every woman who has felt marginalized or overwhelmed by a healthcare system that has become more impersonal, complex, and difficult to navigate than ever. It's also for any woman who is simply standing at the intersection of aging and health, anxious and wanting solutions. Part medical handbook, part memoir, and part sister-girl cheerleader, this book is filled with useful resources and real-life stories of victory and defeat. It not only highlights the current data around women's health issues, but it also places that data in a helpful context. In a tone that is lively and intimate but unflinchingly direct, Dr. Sharon Malone details how to live better, age better, and get better medical treatment, especially when it's most needed. This is not a medical activism book designed to fight the power. This is a book designed to show women that they already have the power—they need only to increase their capacity and willingness to use it. Most important, *Grown Woman Talk* seeks to eradicate the silence that surrounds women's health by facilitating discussion between women of all ages and encouraging more accurate and productive medical insights.

**#12. The Happy Life of Isadora Bentley** - Courtney Walsh (Christian Women's Fiction) -Isadora Bentley follows the rules. Isadora Bentley likes things just so. Isadora Bentley believes that happiness is something that flat-out doesn't exist in her life—and never will. As a university researcher, Isadora keeps to herself as much as possible. She avoids the students she's supposed to befriend and mentor. She stays away from her neighbors and lives her own quiet, organized life in her own quiet, organized apartment. And she will never get involved in a romantic relationship again—especially with another academic. It will be just Isadora and her research. Forever. But on her thirtieth birthday, Isadora does something completely out of character. The young woman who never does anything “on a whim” makes an impulse purchase of a magazine featuring a silly article detailing “Thirty-One Ways to Be Happy”—which includes everything from smiling at strangers to exercising for endorphins to giving in to your chocolate cravings. Isadora decides to create her own secret research project—proving the writer of the ridiculous piece wrong. As Isadora gets deeper into her research—and meets a handsome professor along the way—she's stunned to discover that maybe, just maybe, she's proving herself wrong. Perhaps there's actually something to this happiness concept, and possibly there's something to be said for loosening up and letting life take you somewhere . . . happy.

**#13. How Does That Make You Feel, Magda Eklund?** – Anna Montague (Women's Fiction) Most days, Magda is fine. She has her routines. She has her anxious therapy patients, who depend on her to cure their bad habits. She has her longtime colleagues, whose playful bickering she mediates. She's mourning the recent loss of her best friend, Sara, but has brokered a tentative truce with Sara's prickly widower as she helps him sort through the last of Sara's possessions. She's *fine*. But in going through Sara's old journal, Magda discovers her friend's last directive: plans for a road trip they would take together in celebration of Magda's upcoming seventieth birthday. So, with Sara's urn in tow, Magda decides to hit the road, crossing the country and encountering a cast of memorable characters—including her sister, from whom she's been keeping secrets. As the trip shakes up her careful routines, Magda finally faces longings she locked away years ago and confronts questions about her sexuality and identity she thought she had long put to rest. And as she soon learns, it's never too late to start your next journey.

**#14. The Measure** – Nikki Erlick (Literary Fiction) It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live. From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth to what they promise? As society comes together and pulls apart, everyone faces the same shocking choice: Do they wish to know how long they'll live? And, if so, what will they do with that knowledge? *The Measure* charts the dawn of this new world through an unforgettable cast of characters whose decisions and fates interweave with one another: best friends whose dreams are

forever entwined, pen pals finding refuge in the unknown, a couple who thought they didn't have to rush, a doctor who cannot save himself, and a politician whose box becomes the powder keg that ultimately changes everything.

**#15. The Next Place** – Warren Hanson (Picture Book – for all ages) *The Next Place* is an inspirational journey of light and hope to a place where earthly hurts are left behind. An uncomplicated journey of awe and wonder to a destination without barriers. Lose yourself in the uplifting sense of comfort and serenity. Embrace the joyful spirit of oneness. Then pour yourself into the lives of those you love. *The Next Place* is, above all, a celebration of life. Hear the music. Feel the warmth. And be carried away along life's everlasting flight. A classic, *The Next Place* brings gentle verse revealing a safe and welcome destination free from earthly hurts and filled with wonder and peace.

**#16. Nice Work, Nora November** – Julia London (Women's Fiction) Nora November is alive—but she wasn't always. She was once clinically dead, having spent several minutes under water after a terrible surfing accident she doesn't remember. What she does remember from her time in a coma is her grandfather, who passed away over a year ago. And a beautiful garden. And the most delicious tomato she ever tasted. Now that she's awake again her life has been cleaved in two. In the Before, Nora lived like a ghost, drowning under the weight of her parents' expectations. In the After, she's determined to accomplish the things she left undone before she died. Her reverse bucket list is simple: She wants to learn to cook and to be a better older sister to Lacey. She wants to quit her terrible job as a personal injury lawyer at her dad's firm. She wants to bring Grandpa's now-neglected garden back to life. And she wants to find the guy she met in a corner store months ago—the one she never called but never stopped thinking about. As Nora's attempts at a new life prove disastrous at best, her mission to fulfill her reverse bucket list leads her to a reckoning with the truth she almost hid from herself.

**#17. Only the Beautiful** – Susan Meissner (Historical Fiction) *California, 1938*—When she loses her parents in an accident, sixteen-year-old Rosanne is taken in by the owners of the vineyard where she has lived her whole life as the vinedresser's daughter. She moves into Celine and Truman Calvert's spacious house with a secret, however—Rosie sees colors when she hears sound. She promised her mother she'd never reveal her little-understood ability to anyone, but the weight of her isolation and grief prove too much for her. Driven by her loneliness she not only breaks the vow to her mother, but in a desperate moment lets down her guard and ends up pregnant. Banished by the Calverts, Rosanne believes she is bound for a home for unwed mothers. But she soon finds out she is not going to a home of any kind, but to a place that seeks to forcibly take her baby – and the chance for any future babies – from her. *Austria, 1947*—After witnessing firsthand Adolf Hitler's brutal pursuit of hereditary purity—especially with regard to “different children”—Helen Calvert, Truman's sister, is ready to return to America for good. But when she arrives at her brother's peaceful vineyard after decades working abroad, she is shocked to learn what really happened nine years earlier to the vinedresser's daughter. In her determination to find Rosanne, Helen discovers a shocking American eugenics program—and learns that that while the war had been won in Europe, there are still terrifying battles to be fought at home.

**#18. Purpose Doesn't Pause: finding freedom from what's holding you back** – Hope Reagan Harris (Non-Fiction, Christian Personal Growth) Even if you're feeling stuck—lost about who you are and where you're going—God invites you to live with intention and joy. With true stories and faith-based practical ideas, author Hope Reagan Harris speaks into ten different experiences that cause confusion, such as when: Something good comes to an end -- You feel pressure to figure out who you are -- You're called out of your comfort zone -- Nothing is going as planned -- You wonder if you're good enough. You could keep waiting for the life you want. Or you could embrace God's purpose in the life you have. *Purpose Doesn't Pause* helps you create a map for the road ahead as you flourish in who God created you to be. This interactive book includes a free QR code and URL to access all twelve videos, plus additional content for engaging study as a group or on your own.

**#19. Relaxed: walking with the one who is not worried about a thing** – Megan Fate Marshman (Non-Fiction, Christian Inspirational) Jesus was never in a hurry to be anywhere other than where he was, trusting and obeying his Father. Could the same be said of us? We long to know peace, purpose, and contentment, but life's stresses, the world's discouragements, and our own striving for growth get in the way. In *Relaxed*, pastor and teacher Megan Fate Marshman explores what it means to set aside our addiction to trying to figure everything out and relish a slower, compelling, powerful, and relaxed life with God. As Megan takes us word by word through Proverbs 3:5-6, she helps us discover: The joy of a continual, intimate relationship with God; what God calls us to do with the burden of shame and guilt; what it looks like to be relaxed in the midst of grief, financial stress, mistakes, and fatigue; the freedom and forgiveness of being found “in Christ”; and, how to incorporate rhythms of walking with God into our everyday routines. God never intended for us to be in control. As we lean away from our own understanding and into an intentionally relaxed spiritual life, we join Jesus in trusting a God who knows what he is doing—and isn't worried about a thing.

**#20. The Small and the Mighty: twelve unsung Americans who changed the course of history, from the founding to the Civil Rights Movement** – Sharon McMahon (Non-Fiction, American History) Sharon McMahon proves that the most remarkable Americans are often ordinary people who didn't make it into the textbooks. Not the presidents,

but the telephone operators. Not the aristocrats, but the schoolteachers. Through meticulous research, she discovers history's unsung characters and brings their rich, riveting stories to light for the first time. Meet a woman astride a white horse riding down Pennsylvania Ave, a young boy detained at a Japanese incarceration camp, a formerly enslaved woman on a mission to reunite with her daughter, a poet on a train, and a teacher who learns to work with her enemies. More than one thing is bombed, and multiple people surprisingly become rich. Some rich with money, and some wealthy with things that matter more. This is a book about what really made America – and Americans – great. McMahon's cast of improbable champions will become familiar friends, lighting the path we journey in our quest to make the world more just, peaceful, good, and free.

**#21. The Songbird of Hope Hill – Kim Vogel Sawyer (Christian Fiction)** Driven by survival to a life at a house of ill repute, Birdie Clarkson now longs only for escape. So, when Reverend Isaiah Overly and his son, Ephraim, appear and offer a better life, she jumps at the chance. Ignoring the furious raging of the madam, Birdie climbs into the back of the preacher's wagon. The men take her to Hope Hill, the haven the reverend and his wife, Ophelia, founded so women like Birdie can be taught skills to help them rise above their pasts. Soon a resistant Birdie finds herself singing in the choir Ephraim leads at revival meetings, even though she's certain she's the last person who should be representing God. Reverend Overly teaches that no one is irredeemable, but even as Ephraim is falling in love with her, Birdie remains convinced that she's past saving. After all she's been through, can she ever believe that God's redemption wipes every soul clean? And can Ephraim convince her that God loves her more than she can grasp—and that he does, too?

**#22. What We Found in Hallelujah – Vanessa Miller (Christian Fiction)** Good things never happen in November—at least not for the Reynolds women. It was the month they lost their patriarch. And the month when fourteen-year-old Trinity went missing during a tropical storm. So, Hope Reynolds isn't surprised when it becomes the month she walks in on her boyfriend kissing another woman. Or when she receives a panicked call from her mother about a mistake that could cost the family their treasured beach house. Meanwhile, Faith Reynolds-Phillips is facing her own financial struggles. She's also looking down the barrel of divorce and raising a daughter who reminds her so much of her younger sister, Trinity, that sometimes it physically hurts. The last place Hope and Faith want to be is in Hallelujah, South Carolina, during hurricane season. Going home will force them to confront the secrets that have torn their family apart. But if they can survive another storm, they'll have a chance to rebuild on a new foundation—the truth.

**#23. What Wild Women Do – Karma Brown (Historical Mystery)** Rowan is stuck. Her dream of becoming a Hollywood screenwriter is stalled, and so she and her novelist fiancé, Seth, retreat to an isolated cabin in the Adirondacks to hopefully get out of their creative ruts. There, Rowan finds herself drawn into a mysterious and unsettling story—that of socialite-turned-feminist-crusader Eddie Callaway, who vanished in these same woods the summer of 1975 and was never heard from again. A handbook found in the abandoned ruins of the Callaway camp gives Rowan glimpses into who Eddie was, and then a fateful discovery offers clues about what might have happened to her. As Rowan learns more about the enigmatic Eddie, she discovers the camp leader's greatest wish: to help other women unlock their true, though long-repressed, "wildness." However, Eddie's methods and wild ways weren't welcomed by all, and rifts between the camp owners threatened her mission, perhaps perilously. As Rowan draws closer to the truth of Eddie's unsolved disappearance, she realizes that the past may hold two keys: one that reveals what really happened to Eddie Callaway, and another that unlocks a future beyond her wildest imagination.

**#24. The Wind Knows My Name – Isabel Allende (Literary Fiction)** Intertwining past and present, *The Wind Knows My Name* tells the tale of two unforgettable characters, both in search of family and home. It is both a testament to the sacrifices that parents make and a love letter to the children who survive the most unfathomable dangers—and never stop dreaming. Samuel Adler is five years old when his father disappears during Kristallnacht—the night his family loses everything. As her child's safety becomes ever harder to guarantee, Samuel's mother secures a spot for him on a Kindertransport train out of Nazi-occupied Austria to England. He boards alone, carrying nothing but a change of clothes and his violin. Eight decades later, Anita Díaz and her mother board another train, fleeing looming danger in El Salvador and seeking refuge in the United States. But their arrival coincides with the new family separation policy, and seven-year-old Anita finds herself alone at a camp in Nogales.

**#25. Yellowface – R.F. Kuang (Cultural Heritage Fiction)** Authors June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars. But Athena's a literary darling. June Hayward is literally nobody. Who wants stories about basic white girls, June thinks. When June witnesses Athena's death in a freak accident, she acts on impulse: she steals Athena's just-finished masterpiece, an experimental novel about the unsung contributions of Chinese laborers during World War I. So what if June edits Athena's novel and sends it to her agent as her own work? So what if she lets her new publisher rebrand her as Juniper Song—complete with an ambiguously ethnic author photo? Doesn't this piece of history deserve to be told, whoever the teller? That's what June claims, and the *New York Times* bestseller list seems to agree. But June can't get away from Athena's shadow, and emerging evidence threatens

to bring June's (stolen) success down around her. As June races to protect her secret, she discovers exactly how far she will go to keep what she thinks she deserves.

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## **MISSION STUDY BOOKS: Equitable Health Care for All**

### **#26. Equity Health: strategies & solutions for an inclusive, accessible and fair healthcare system for all –**

**Aurora Bellini (Non-Fiction, Health Care Delivery)** Disparities in access to healthcare services can seem insurmountable. Whether you are a health professional, a policymaker, a student, or simply someone interested in a fairer world, the reality of barriers to equitable health is alarming. Non-inclusive policies, lack of awareness, and limited innovation hinder progress towards a truly equitable healthcare system. However, there is a solution. "Equity Health" is a groundbreaking guide that directly addresses these challenges. This book not only explores existing disparities in the healthcare system but also offers practical and achievable solutions to overcome them. With an in-depth analysis of social determinants of health, effective strategies, and real case studies, this book equips you with the tools to become a change agent in the movement for health equity.

### **#27. Health, Hope, and Healing for All: Toward More Equitable and Affordable Healthcare - Eugene Woods**

**(Non-Fiction, Health Care Delivery)** Eugene A. Woods, CEO of Advocate Health, one of the largest non-profit health systems in the nation, provides a riveting behind-the-scenes look at healthcare in the United States. By sharing his insights from three decades in healthcare administration, as well as his personal journey, readers gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing healthcare systems and the impact on all of us. Woods sheds light on the inequities our communities face, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and presents actionable prescriptions to create a more equitable, just and accessible healthcare system. He tackles tough questions around the affordability of healthcare, rising drug prices, alarming clinical shortages and more. As a Black healthcare CEO, Woods shares his personal experiences with injustice and charts a path towards meaningful change. His optimistic outlook and passion for transformation and innovation inspire readers to believe in the power of unity and resilience in the face of adversity. The book presents real solutions to the current crisis and highlights the urgent need to ensure accessible, affordable and compassionate healthcare for every American.

### **#28. Here Be Dragons: one man's quest to make healthcare more accessible & affordable -Web Golinkin**

**(Non-Fiction, Health Care Delivery)** "*Here Be Dragons*" is the true story of what happens when you are bold enough to try to transform a hidebound, multi-trillion-dollar industry. Today, millions of people benefit from accessible, affordable healthcare at walk-in clinics close to their homes and businesses that Web Golinkin and a small number of others pioneered. They are open seven days a week, with extended weekday hours, and provide high-quality basic healthcare at reasonable prices that are transparently presented. The fact that walk-in clinics are now a permanent part of the healthcare landscape is evidence of success, but getting to this point was a wild and frequently very rough ride. Partially a story about the challenges of changing healthcare, and partially about creating new business models and leading organizations through challenging times, *Here Be Dragons* makes for fascinating reading on multiple levels

### **#29. 9 Simple Solutions to Achieve Health Equity – Mauvareen Beverley (Non-Fiction, Health Care Delivery)**

Dr. Beverley offers a clear roadmap supported by real-life stories, addressing the critical gap between patient perception and reality. She emphasizes simple, empathetic solutions to prevent complex health issues, stressing the importance of recognizing patients as multifaceted individuals with roles beyond their medical conditions. This essential guide advocates for cultural competence across all patient demographics, highlighting the often-overlooked needs of the English-speaking Black population who are not included in the need for cultural competence. Echoing Hippocrates, Dr. Beverley reminds us: "It is more important to know the person who has the disease than the disease who has the person." This book is a vital resource for healthcare professionals and patients committed to achieving health equity and improving health outcomes.

### **#30. What Your Doctor Wants You to Know to Crush Medical Debt – Dr. Virgie Bright (Non-Fiction, Health Policy)**

Medical bills can bury you in debt for the rest of your life, but it doesn't have to be that way. When Dr. Virgie Bright Ellington became a cancer patient, she faced insurmountable medical bills. That's when she took her insider industry knowledge and put it to work. In this book, she shares her secrets to help individuals, families, and veterans protect against America's number one cause of bankruptcy—medical debt. Filled with practical and step-by-step strategies, this guide provides the tools you need to stop spending money you don't owe and save yourself from becoming a victim of a predatory healthcare system.