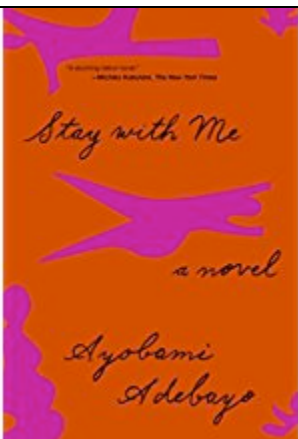


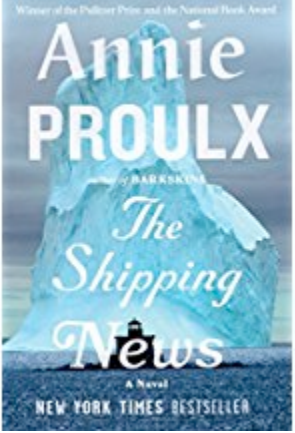
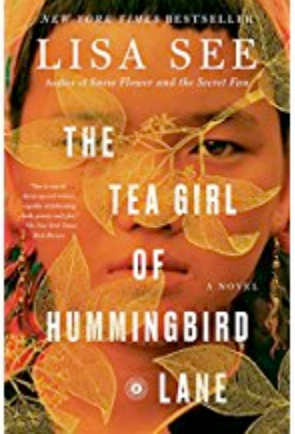
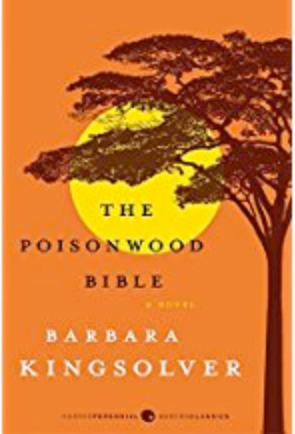
White Bear Lake United Methodist Church

## Reading the World

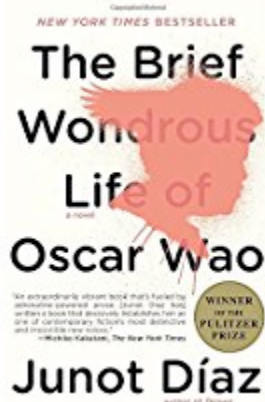
Both as American Christians and as American citizens, it benefits us to know as much about other countries as possible. Yet the decks are stacked against us as readers. Fewer than 3% of the books published in the U.S. are works translated from other languages, and that figure doesn't take into account the difficulty an author from another country may even have getting a work translated into English at all.

This summer, the church library will highlight excellent books set in, or written by authors from, countries outside the U.S. – some, like Canada, that we know well, or others, such as Sri Lanka or Cameroon, that are little known to most Americans. The books are fiction and nonfiction, memoirs and mysteries, for children and for adults. Watch for new selections throughout the summer.

AFGHANISTAN	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: C Sen</p>	<p><b>Shooting Kabul.</b> N. H. Senzai. Simon &amp; Schuster, 2010. Ages 8-12. FICTION</p> <p><b>Shooting Kabul</b> follows an Afghan family's emigration to San Francisco. After receiving a PhD in the U.S. and returning to Kabul to help rebuild the country, Fadi's father has grown disillusioned with the Taliban (“These are not true Muslims”), and he pays human traffickers to smuggle his family into Pakistan. During the terrifying escape, Fadi's six-year-old sister, Mariam, is lost. After fruitless, life-risking searches, the grief-stricken family tries to begin anew in California, while overseas efforts to find Mariam continue.</p>
CAMEROON	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 1 Ado</p>	<p><b>Stay With Me.</b> Ayobami Adobayo. Knopf, 2017. Adult. FICTION</p> <p>Yejide and Akin have been married since they met and fell in love at university. Though many expected Akin to take several wives, he and Yejide have always agreed: polygamy is not for them. But four years into their marriage--after consulting fertility doctors and healers, trying strange teas and unlikely cures--Yejide is still not pregnant. She assumes she still has time--until her family arrives on her doorstep with a young woman they introduce as Akin's second wife. Furious, shocked, and livid with jealousy, Yejide knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant.</p>

<p><b>CANADA</b></p>	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 1 Pro</p>	<p><b>The Shipping News.</b> E. Annie Proulx. Scribner, 1993. Adult. FICTION</p> <p>Quoyle, a third-rate newspaper hack, with a “head shaped like a crenshaw, no neck, reddish hair...features as bunched as kissed fingertips,” is wrenched violently out of his workaday life when his two-timing wife meets her just deserts. An aunt convinces Quoyle and his two emotionally disturbed daughters to return with her to the starkly beautiful coastal landscape of their ancestral home in Newfoundland. Here, on desolate Quoyle’s Point, in a house empty except for a few mementos of the family’s unsavory past, the battered members of three generations try to cobble up new lives.</p>
<p><b>CHINA</b></p>	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 1 See</p>	<p><b>The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane.</b> Lisa See. Scribner, 2017. Adult. FICTION</p> <p>In their remote mountain village, Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, begins to reject the customs that shaped her early life. When she has a baby out of wedlock—conceived with a man her parents consider a poor choice—she rejects the tradition that would compel her to give the child over to be killed, and instead leaves her, wrapped in a blanket with a tea cake tucked in its folds, near an orphanage in a nearby city. This is a lovely story of family, of pursuing dreams, and of the famed Pu'er tea of China.</p>
<p><b>CONGO (DEM. REP.)</b></p>	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 1 Kin</p>	<p><b>The Poisonwood Bible.</b> Barbara Kingsolver. HarperPerennial, 1998. Adult. FICTION</p> <p><i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil.</p>

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

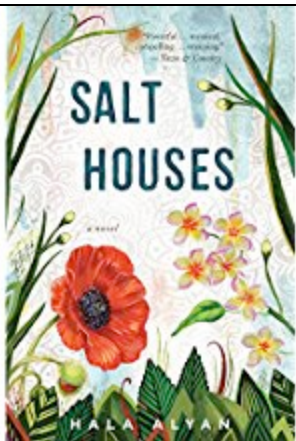


Find it on the library shelf at:  
1 Dia

**The brief wondrous life of Oscar Wao.** Junot Díaz.  
Riverhead, 2006. Adult. FICTION

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar’s family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA.

## ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

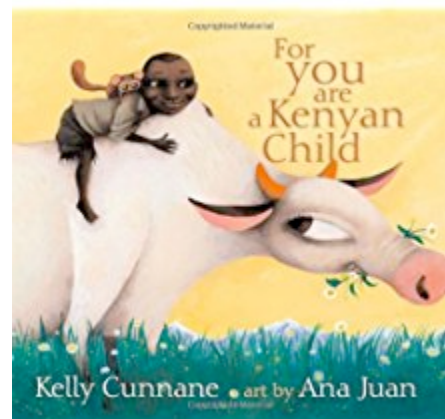


Find it on the library shelf at:  
1 Aly

**Salt Houses.** Hala Alyan. Simon & Schuster, 2017. Adult. FICTION

On the eve of her daughter Alia’s wedding, Salma reads the girl’s future in a cup of coffee dregs. She sees an unsettled life for Alia and her children; she also sees travel, and luck. While she chooses to keep her predictions to herself that day, they will all soon come to pass when the family is uprooted in the wake of the Six-Day War of 1967.

## KENYA



Find it on the library shelf at:  
A Cun

**For You Are A Kenyan Child.** Kelly Cunnane.  
Athenaeum, 2006. Ages 3-8.

Through vivid, descriptive text that highlights the Kenyan countryside and culture, this story about one day in the life of a Kalenjin boy unfolds.

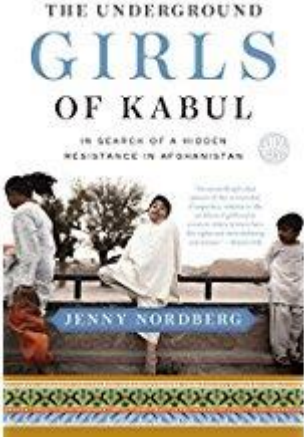
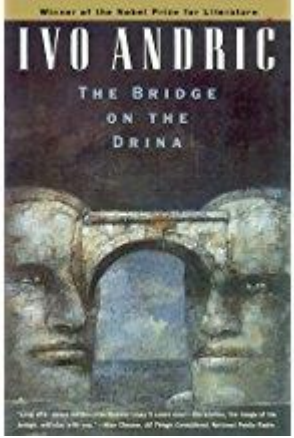
<p><b>SRI LANKA</b></p>	
<div data-bbox="256 180 553 611" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="248 617 561 674">Find it on the library shelf at: 1 Fre</p>	<p data-bbox="651 180 1373 247"><b>On Sal Mal Lane.</b> Ru Freeman. Graywolf, 2013. Adult. FICTION</p> <p data-bbox="651 296 1422 617">On the day the Herath family moves in, Sal Mal Lane is still a quiet street, disturbed only by the cries of the children whose triumphs and tragedies sustain the families that live there. As the neighbors adapt to the newcomers in different ways, the children fill their days with cricket matches, romantic crushes, and small rivalries. But the tremors of civil war are mounting, and the conflict threatens to engulf them all. An exquisite depiction of Sri Lanka, a country few of us know.</p>
<p><b>SYRIA</b></p>	
<div data-bbox="256 764 553 1192" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="248 1199 561 1255">Find it on the library shelf at: 4 Mal</p>	<p data-bbox="651 764 1390 831"><b>The Home That Was Our Country.</b> Alia Malek. Nation Books, 2017. Adult. MEMOIR</p> <p data-bbox="651 879 1422 1306">At the Arab Spring's hopeful start, Alia Malek returned to Damascus to reclaim her grandmother's apartment, which had been lost to her family since Hafez al-Assad came to power in 1970. In chronicling the people who lived in the Tahaan building, past and present, Alia portrays the Syrians--the Muslims, Christians, Jews, Armenians, and Kurds--who worked, loved, and suffered in close quarters, mirroring the political shifts in their country. Restoring her family's home as the country comes apart, she learns how to speak the coded language of oppression that exists in a dictatorship, while privately confronting her own fears about Syria's future.</p>
<p><b>VIETNAM</b></p>	
<div data-bbox="256 1400 553 1829" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="248 1835 561 1892">Find it on the library shelf at: 1 Hoa</p>	<p data-bbox="651 1400 1341 1467"><b>Once Upon A Mulberry Field.</b> C. L. Hoang. Willow Stream, 2014. Adult. FICTION</p> <p data-bbox="651 1516 1422 1688">From the jungles of Vietnam through the minefields of the heart, "Once upon a Mulberry Field" follows one man's journey to self-discovery. A powerful depiction of the Vietnam War era but also of Vietnam itself, its peoples and culture.</p>



White Bear Lake United Methodist Church

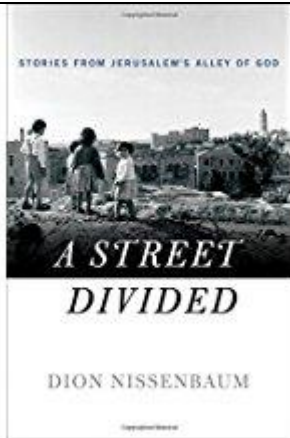
## Reading the World - July

This summer, the church library is highlighting excellent books set in, or written by authors from, countries outside the U.S. – some, like Canada, that we know well, or others, such as Sri Lanka or Cameroon, that are little known to most Americans. The books are fiction and nonfiction, memoirs and mysteries, for children and for adults. Watch for new selections throughout the summer.

AFGHANISTAN	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: UMW Nor</p>	<p><b>The Underground Girls of Kabul.</b> Jenny Nordberg. Broadway, 2014. Adult. NONFICTION</p> <p>In Afghanistan the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is often mourned as misfortune. A <i>bacha posh</i> is a third kind of child--a girl temporarily raised as a boy and presented as such to the outside world. <i>The Underground Girls of Kabul</i> tells the story of these girls: Zahra, the tomboy teenager who struggles with puberty and refuses her parents' attempts to turn her back into a girl; Shukria, now a married mother of three after living for twenty years as a man; and Nader, who prays with Shahed, the undercover female police officer, as they both remain in male disguise as adults. Astonishing and heartbreaking.</p>
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 1 And</p>	<p><b>The Bridge on the Drina.</b> Ivo Andric. University of Chicago, 1945. Adult/Young Adult. FICTION</p> <p>Set in the town of Višegrad in what is today Bosnia, Ivo Andric's classic story tells the tale of the building of a bridge over the river Drina; of the people who live in the village, now under the domination of the Ottoman Empire; and of the generations that follow up until the fall of the Ottomans at the end of World War I. A fascinating introduction to the nations and empires that claimed, shaped and suppressed this part of the world, giving a better understanding of why the Balkans are still riven today by faith, by language, by culture, and by their global allies.</p>

<p><b>ETHIOPIA</b></p>	
<div data-bbox="264 184 548 615" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="248 646 561 705" data-label="Text"> <p>Find it on the library shelf at: C Zep</p> </div>	<p><b>Refugee Boy.</b> Benjamin Zephaniah. Bloomsbury, 2001. Ages 10-16. FICTION</p> <p>Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him. It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London - even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his parents.</p>
<p><b>GHANA</b></p>	
<div data-bbox="264 850 548 1278" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="248 1312 561 1371" data-label="Text"> <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 1 Gya</p> </div>	<p><b>Homegoing.</b> Yaa Gyasi. Vintage, 2016. Adult. FICTION</p> <p>Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery. <i>Homegoing</i> follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.</p>
<p><b>IRAN</b></p>	
<div data-bbox="264 1463 548 1892" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="248 1925 561 1984" data-label="Text"> <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 1 Nay</p> </div>	<p><b>A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea.</b> Dina Nayeri, Riverhead, 2014. Adult. FICTION</p> <p>Growing up in a small village in 1980s Iran, eleven-year-old Saba Hafezi and her twin sister Mahtab are captivated by America. So when her mother and sister disappear, leaving Saba and her father alone in Iran, Saba is certain that they have moved to America without her. But her parents have taught her that “all fate is written in the blood,” and that twins will live the same life, even if separated by land and sea. As she grows up in the warmth and community of her local village, falls in and out of love, and struggles with the limited possibilities in post-revolutionary Iran, Saba envisions that there is another way for her story to unfold.</p>

**ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**



Find it on the library shelf at:  
14 Nis

**A Street Divided: Stories From Jerusalem's Alley of God.** Dion Nissenbaum. St. Martin's, 2015. Adult. NONFICTION

A one-time shepherd's path between Jerusalem and Bethlehem has been a dividing line for decades. Arab families called it "al Mantiqa Haram." Jewish residents knew it as "shetach hefker." Peacekeepers that monitored the steep fault line dubbed it "Barbed Wire Alley." For nearly two decades, coils of barbed wire ran right down the middle of what became Assael Street, marking the fissure between Israeli-controlled West Jerusalem and Jordanian-controlled East Jerusalem. In a beautiful narrative, Dion Nissenbaum's *A Street Divided* offers a more intimate look at one road at the heart of the conflict, where inches really do matter.

**LAOS**



Find it on the library shelf at:  
4 Yan

**The Latecomer: a Hmong Family Memoir.** Kao Kalia Yang. Coffee House Press, 2008. Adult/Young Adult. MEMOIR

Driven to tell her family's story after her grandmother's death, *The Latecomer* is Kao Kalia Yang's tribute to the remarkable woman whose spirit held them all together. It is also an eloquent, firsthand account of a people who have worked hard to make their voices heard. Beginning in the 1970s, as the Hmong were being massacred for their collaboration with the United States during the Vietnam War, Yang recounts the harrowing story of her family's captivity, the daring rescue undertaken by her father and uncles, and their narrow escape into Thailand where Yang was born in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp.

**MEXICO**

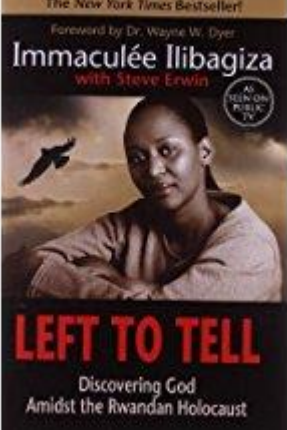
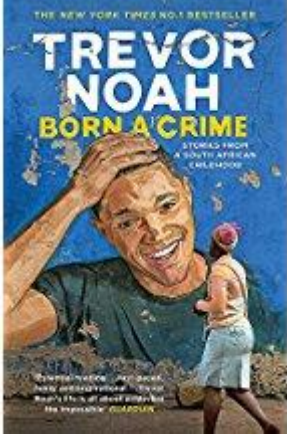
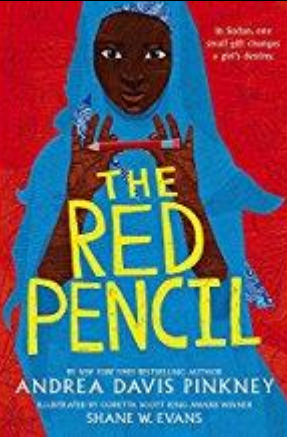


Find it on the library shelf at:  
1 Esq

**Like Water for Chocolate: A Novel in Monthly Installments with Recipes, Romances, and Home Remedies.** Laura Esquivel. Doubleday, 1992. Adult. FICTION

This classic love story takes place on the De la Garza ranch, as the tyrannical owner, Mama Elena, chops onions at the kitchen table in her final days of pregnancy. While still in her mother's womb, her daughter to be weeps so violently she causes an early labor, and little Tita slips out amid the spices and fixings for noodle soup. This early encounter with food soon becomes a way of life, and Tita grows up to be a master chef, using cooking to express herself and sharing recipes with readers along the way.



<p><b>RWANDA</b></p>	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 4 Ili</p>	<p><b>Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust.</b> Immaculée Ilibagiza. Hay House, 2006. Adult. MEMOIR</p> <p>Immaculée Ilibagiza was a young woman at the time of the 1994 Rwandan genocide of the Tutsi people by the Hutu majority government. She describes growing up in a loving family and community, and tells of the suddenly darkening political climate culminating in the appalling massacre of perhaps 1 million Rwandans. A staunch Catholic, Ilibagiza holds on to her faith in order to cope with a time of terror nearly too great to be borne.</p>
<p><b>SOUTH AFRICA</b></p>	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: 4 Ili</p>	<p><b>Born A Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood.</b> Trevor Noah. Spiegel &amp; Grau, 2016. Adult/Young Adult. MEMOIR</p> <p>Comedian Trevor Noah was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Noah’s colorful, honest memoir unforgettably portrays his family, especially his fearless, rebellious mother, the crazy-quilt milieu of South Africa, and the climb of a restless young man out of a punishingly racist environment.</p>
<p><b>SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN</b></p>	
 <p>Find it on the library shelf at: D Pin</p>	<p><b>The Red Pencil.</b> Andrea Davis Pinkney. Little, Brown. 2014. Ages 10-14. FICTION</p> <p>In this lyrical “novel told in poems, pictures, and possibilities,” 12-year-old Amira’s family life and dreams of going to school are shattered when Janjaweed militants attack her Sudanese village and force the survivors to flee to a refugee camp. Silenced by her grief, the girl’s voice and spirit are slowly restored by the amazing gift of a tablet and a red pencil. A heartening and powerful read.</p>