

12 Books for UMCOR Sunday

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



UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief



We are living in a time where people face disasters everyday. Every two seconds, individuals worldwide are forcibly displaced due to war, persecution or natural disaster. When tragedy strikes around the globe, so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, UMCOR is prepared to act.

UMCOR serves the most marginalized and excluded groups of people. They bring life to the verse:

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the hands and feet of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity, they are assisting those impacted by disaster.

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!

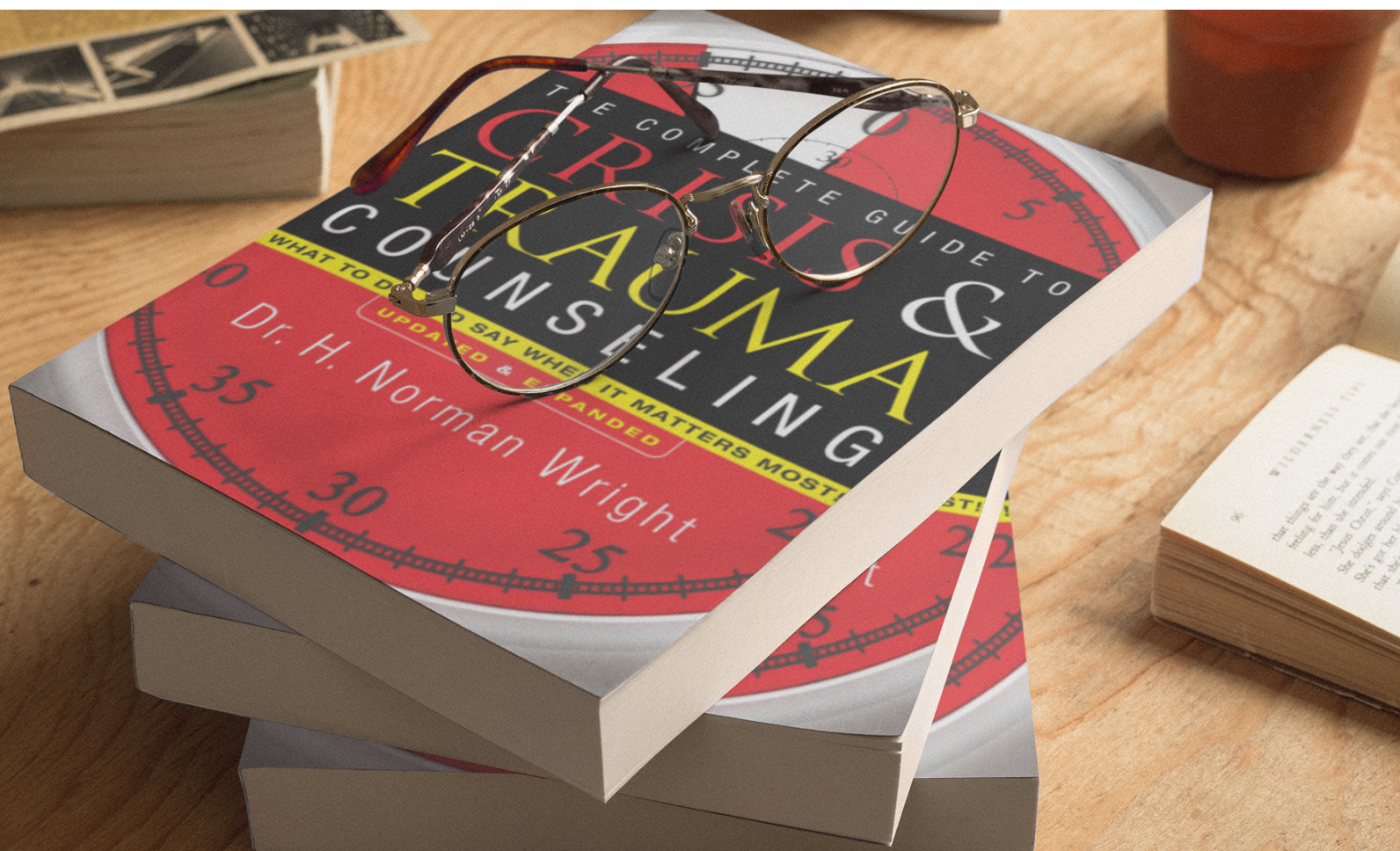
1. The Complete Guide to Crisis and Trauma Counseling

By Dr. H. Norman Wright

Written by one of the most respected therapists of our time, this book is a “biblical, practical guide to pastoral counseling...Readers will learn how to counsel and coach both believers and nonbelievers who are in crisis, how to walk alongside them through the hours, weeks, and months following their trauma, and how to help them find the path to complete restoration.”

Available from Cokesbury.com

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





2. Compassion

Loving Our Neighbor in an Age of Globalization

By Maureen H. O'Connell

“After presenting a historical overview of the development of the concept of compassion, O’Connell turns to contemporary theologians...to better understand how compassion can alleviate massive and unjust suffering and how compassion offers a roadmap for a better future.”

Available from Cokesbury.com

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

3. Crisis Manual for Christian Schools and Youth Workers

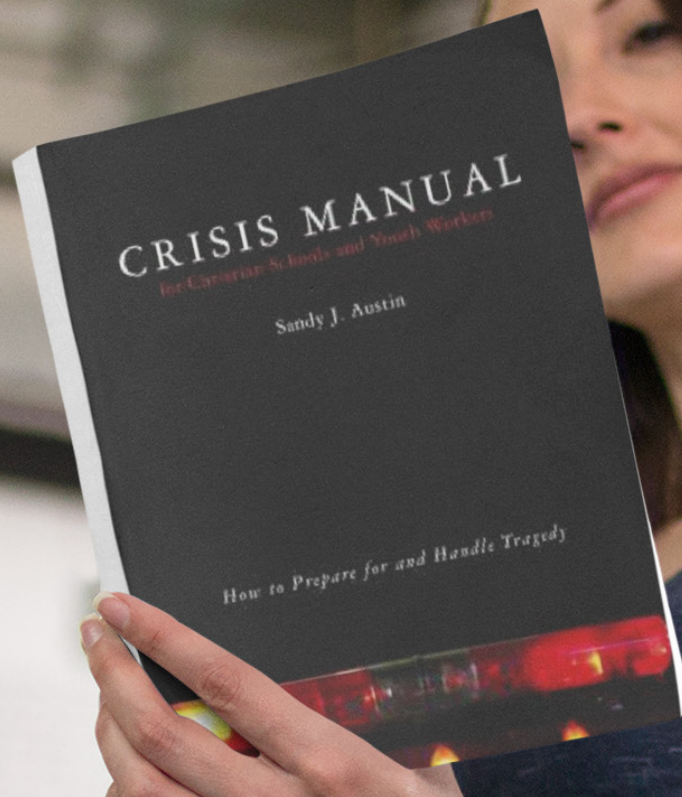
How to Prepare for and Handle Tragedy

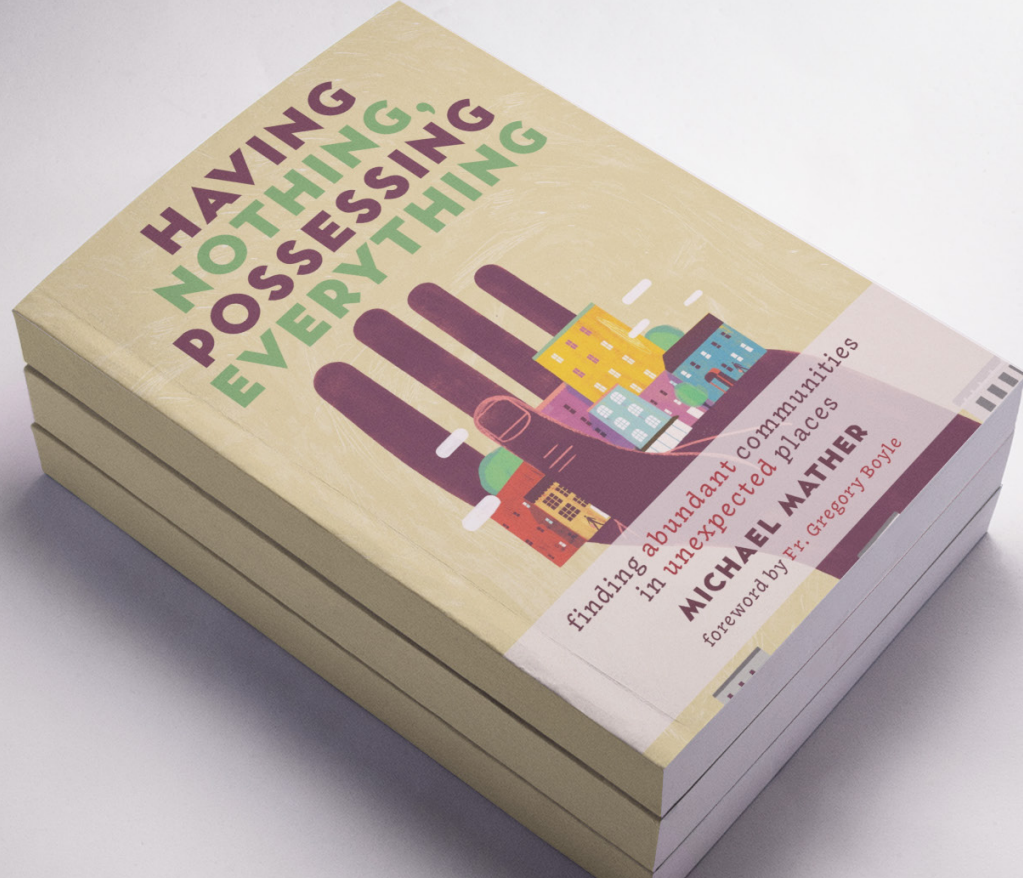
By Sandy Austin

“This authoritative, best-selling text presents the latest skills and techniques for handling real crisis situations. The authors’ six-step model clearly illustrates and elucidates the process of dealing with people in crisis:...Using this model, the authors then build specific strategies for handling a myriad of different crisis situations.”

Available from Cokesbury.com

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





4. Having Nothing, Possessing Everything.

Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places

By Michael Mather
Foreword by Fr. Gregory Boyle

This is the story of how one church found abundance in a community of material poverty. Viewing people—not programs, finances, or service models—as their most valuable resource moved church members beyond their own walls and out into the streets, where they discovered folks rich in strength, talents, determination, and love.

Available from Cokesbury.com

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

5. Compassion Evangelism

Meeting Human Needs

By Thomas G. Nees

“A poignant look into the role the church plays in meeting the needs of people through compassionate ministries. The author attempts to describe the proper balance necessary between social activism and salvation, taking us back to our roots in John Wesley and Phineas Bresee. This book will challenge you and the church to become more directly involved in meeting the needs of a lost and hurting world.”

Available from Cokesbury.com

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





6. Considering Compassion

Global Ethics, Human Dignity, and the Compassionate God

By L. Juliana Claassens & Frits de Lange

“The question at the heart of this book is whether the Christian legacy provides us with sources of moral imagination needed to guide us into the global era. Can the Christian practice of faith contribute to a more compassionate world?”

Available from Cokesbury.com

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

7. Radical Compassion

Finding Christ in the Heart of the Poor

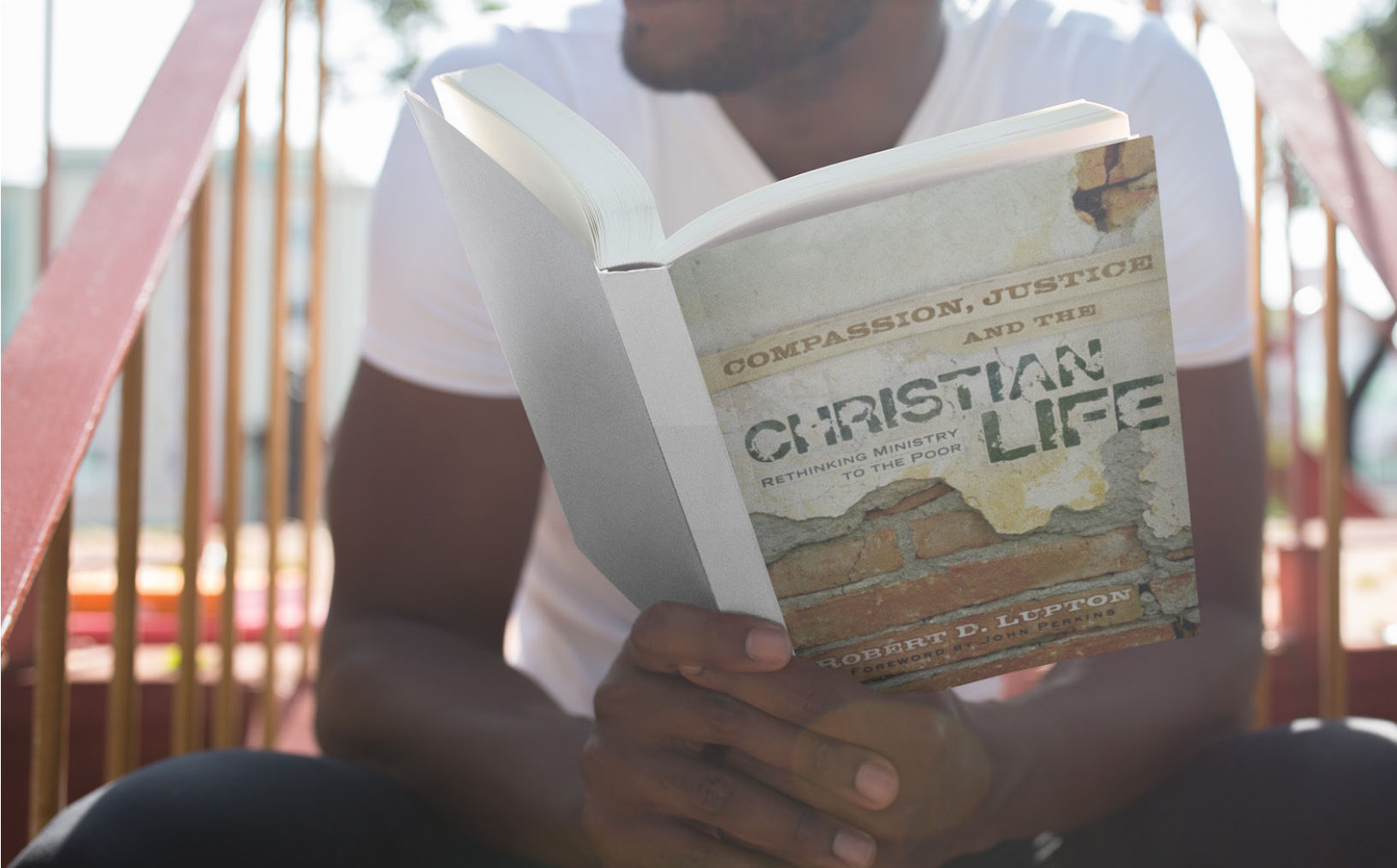
By Gary Smith

“For almost ten years, Gary Smith, S.J., lived and worked among the poor of Portland, Oregon. With this memoir, he invites us to walk with him and meet some of the abandoned, overlooked, and forgotten members of our society with whom he has shared his life. Just as Smith found a deeper, truer understanding of himself and of the heart of God through his work, these people and their stories stand to transform us.”

Available from Cokesbury.com

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





8. Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life

Rethinking Ministry to the Poor

By Robert Lupton

“The urban landscape is changing and, as a result, urban ministries are at a crossroads. If the Church is to be an effective agent of compassion and justice...we must change our mission strategies...To effect these types of changes will require new skill sets and resources, but the possibilities for good are great.”

Available from Cokesbury.com

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

9. Teaching Kids to Care and Share

300+ Mission & Service Ideas for Children

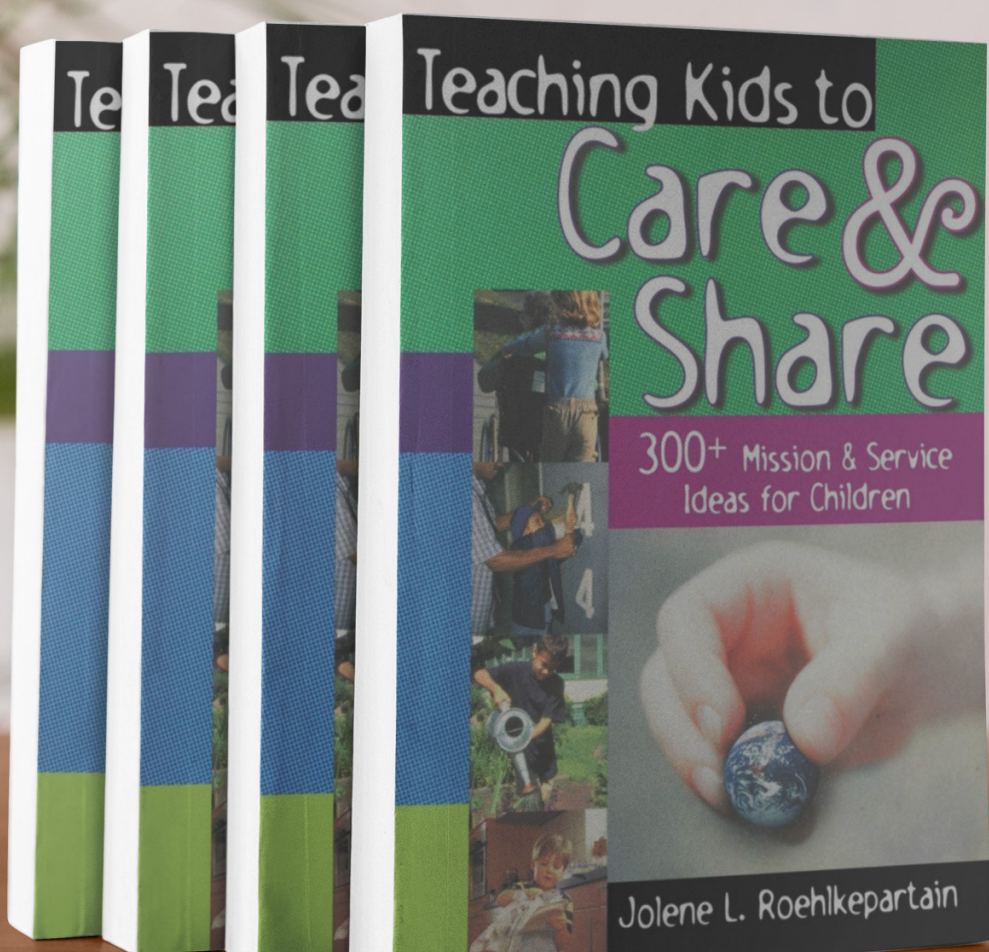
By Jolene L. Roehlkepartain

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

“This volume provides over 300 hands-on activities that involve children in service to one another, their churches and local communities, and the world...lively, age-appropriate projects and activities for 3- to 5-year-olds, 6- to 9-year-olds, and 10- to 12-year-olds.”

Available from Cokesbury.com

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





10. Unwrapping the Servant

Teaching Kids to Serve Jesus and Others

By Tina Houser

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

A fun guide to projects that encourage and teach service to others. Also included is a six-week program outline to be used with young children as early as preschool.

“Through these experiences, your kids lives will be changed as God unwraps the servants heart that is waiting to be unleashed in each person.”

Available from Cokesbury Press.

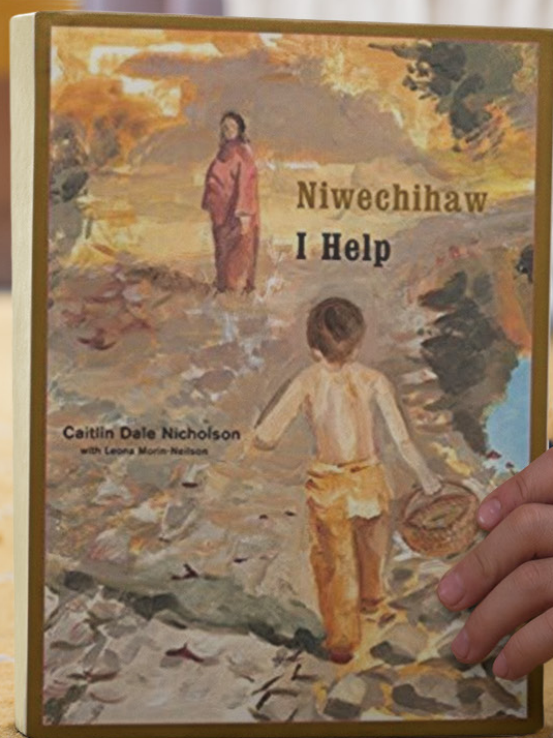
[Click here to get your copy.](#)

11. I Help

(English and Cree Edition) (Cree) Hardcover –
February 28, 2008

by Caitlin Dale Nicholson (Illustrator)
Leona Neilson (Contributor)

This sweet, simple story looks at a very special relationship. A young boy goes for a walk with his kohkom, or grandmother, listening, picking, praying, eating . . . just as she does. In doing so, he begins to learn the rich cultural traditions and values of his Cree heritage.





12. Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale

By **Duncan Tonatiuh**

A young rabbit named Pancho eagerly awaits his papa's return. Papa Rabbit traveled north two years ago to find work in the great carrot and lettuce fields to earn money for his family. When Papa doesn't return, Pancho sets out to find him. He packs Papa's favorite meal and heads north. He meets a coyote, who offers to help Pancho in exchange for some of Papa's food. They travel together until the food is gone and the coyote decides he is still hungry . . . for Pancho!

Duncan Tonatiuh brings to light the hardship and struggles faced by thousands of families who seek to make better lives for themselves and their children by illegally crossing the border.



For more information and resources on
UMCOR Sunday, visit www.umcgiving.org/UMCOR