

## 2020 Prison Books Annual Report

The Prison Books Program delivers books for use by prisoners in Michigan prisons. We contact prison librarians to determine the type and quantity of books wanted. Adult books are for recreational reading, self-help, literacy, and art and writing programs. Children's books are provided in waiting rooms at the jail and Huron Valley Women's prison.

In 2019-2020 we collected over 9,000 books from area public libraries (Saline, Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Ypsilanti, and Rochester Hills); AAUW sale in Ann Arbor; Ann Arbor Kiwanis; and individual donations; . We delivered 4,895 books to several prisons in Jackson, the Washtenaw County Jail and waiting room, and the Huron Valley Women's Prison. Overcrowding at all the prisons we serve has reduced available staffing in prisons to sort books, as well as space in prisons for libraries. The librarians in the prisons we serve have told us that we are their only source of books.

We continue to receive requests for information about our program, how to create a similar program, about donating books, and about volunteering to help. Use of a single email, [prisonbooks@uuua.org](mailto:prisonbooks@uuua.org), has been useful in ensuring prompt replies.

Volunteers, (including non UUAA congregants), who worked on the program this year include: Dick Barber, Lee Boeke Burke, Shelley Ferguson, Dave Hall, Emily Harpe, Bob Heinold, Anna Kuipers, Sara Matthews, Mike Muha, Quincy Northrup, Dave Purcell, Audrey Salas, Dave Schwab, Phyllis Valentine, Tadd Rosa, Anne Vanden Belt, and Debbie Zivan. We continued phasing in new leadership and dividing responsibilities. A small team now coordinates communication via email with prison librarians, local area librarians, and volunteers. This year we honor Bob Heinold, one of the original committee members, as he moves away.

Submitted by Phyllis Valentine