

# THE RELAY

UNITED METHODISTS  
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

MARCH 2022  
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## Helping Those Still Recovering from Hurricane Ida

By Cricket Denton

As people of The United Methodist Church, we are called to walk alongside those who have experienced disaster. This was true in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, and it still holds true today as we work together to help those in need recover from Hurricane Ida. Ten years ago, when Sandy hit, New Jersey made national news headlines. Pictures circulated worldwide of a roller coaster in the ocean, splintered boardwalks scattered along the shorelines, and homes

“THE STORM HAS BEEN QUICKLY OVERSHADOWED BY OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND MANY ARE UNAWARE OF ITS OVERWHELMING OUTCOME.”

devastated. But knowledge of Hurricane Ida’s impact hasn’t had as much reach. The damage spanned over several states, homes were destroyed by both flooding and tornados, and precious



Aftermath flooding from Hurricane Ida

lives were lost; however, the storm has been quickly overshadowed by other natural disasters throughout the country and many are unaware of its overwhelming outcome. Although many people have forgotten the name “Hurricane Ida,” Greater New Jersey has not.

Behind the scenes, we have a team of people working hard to meet the needs of those affected. Rev. Cricket Denton is the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. Rev. Denton said, “I worked with A Future with Hope in the aftermath of Sandy, where we were overwhelmed

with volunteers and support. Ida is a different beast, altogether. We don’t have as much federal support, so we’re partnering with other organizations in an effort to accomplish together what none of us could accomplish alone.”

*Continued on page 5*

## IGNITE 2022 – We Are Ready for You!

By Mekan Payne

Next Generation Ministries is elated to announce the return of our annual youth conference, IGNITE, this fall! After two years filled with uncertainty about events, health and safety, we cannot wait to gather again safely in Wildwood. This year, we will come together once again as a community who worships, prays, reflects, laughs and serves. All the components that work together to make IGNITE special, will be there... but this year? This year, our team is most excited about the people. We have missed you, each and every one of you, and we are waiting in anticipation to honor the past, experience the present and dream about the hope of the future.



their fearless and dedicated pastors and youth leaders.

As we prepare for IGNITE weekend 2022, we want to encourage you to branch out! Invite your friends and neighbors. Invite the teenagers who come to Sunday school. Invite the student who hasn’t been to youth group in two years. Challenge the students in your group to bring their siblings and friends. Remind

them about the connection that takes place at IGNITE and support them in getting outside of their comfort zone, to bring others into that powerful experience this year!

We also want to encourage you to think differently about the problems you might face in attending IGNITE in 2022. Struggling to find adult leaders? Invite a youth parent. Families need sup-

port getting their students registered? Host a fundraiser to raise support for IGNITE 2022. Want to prepare all of your own meals for the weekend? Set up a Sign-Up Genius and send it to your congregation.

*Continued on page 5*



The IGNITE youth conference is known as a high energy experience of worship, games, messages, breakout sessions and of course, countless laughs and memories, all crammed into one fun weekend! This experience is open to any and all students grades 6-12, as well as

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

## Direction — A Key Ingredient for Successful Leadership

Bishop John Schol



Leaders who are not leading toward something rarely move forward and rarely succeed. Skilled leadership, providing direction through vision, missional clarity and goals bear fruit. Vision provides direction and inspiration, *mission* provides focus and alignment, and *goals* inform activity and progress. Jesus' leadership used each of these.

**Jesus' vision** was the Kingdom of God. It provided an image of God's preferred future. Jesus told stories about it, he taught about it and he lifted up people when they were achieving the vision.

**Jesus' mission** was to proclaim Good News and deliver people from sin to life. Jesus was sent by God to bring Good News to the poor, to set free the captive and recover the sight of the blind (Luke 4:18-19). The miracles of Jesus delivered people to life, with the ultimate miracle being the resurrection, which delivered people from death to life.

**Jesus' goals** were illustrated through the numerical reports of the Gospel writers. While the Gospels do not specifically state the goals, they certainly tell us that Jesus had a plan (4:18-19; John 7:6), and the Gospel writers point to the numbers of people healed, fed and delivered. The Gospel writers used numbers as an illustration that God was at work in and through the ministry of Jesus.

Today, the church is in a season of discerning what God has next for us. This is a time to discern and reframe God's vision, missional clarity and ministries for a healthy body of Christ. This is a time for learning, experimentation and refinement to identify what is essential for the life of the church as we move forward with God.

Over the next three months, I will talk with you about leaders providing direction through vision, mission and goals for ministry. Today I begin with vision.

### Vision

Vision is discerning *what is in God's mind for us to become*. God's preferred future for the body of Christ will vary from congregation to congregation and ministry to ministry based on context, church size and God's calling for a congregation.

A vision should excite, motivate and inspire as it provides direction for a ministry or congregation. If you have ever written a vision statement, you know just how hard it is to come up with a memorable vision statement that captures excitement and inspiration.

Moses had several visions. One of his firsts was — *Let my people go! Freedom*. To a Jewish slave in Egypt, this didn't take much imagination. They understood it, dreamed it, longed for it and were willing to sacrifice for it. This is a powerful mission statement because it arises from God's preferred future and the people's condition. While people generally know what freedom is, they also dream about what it might look like for them.

Moses second vision shortly followed — *Forward, a promised land of milk and honey awaits*. Here again, the vision arises from the people and their hope. A picture is painted, not by the statement but by people's imagination. Vision helps people paint a picture in their mind.

### When A Vision Loses Its Power

Visions lose their power when it overstates and leave little for the imagination. Suppose Moses' vision had been, *we have been enslaved and tortured for too long and freedom is what God desires for us, a freedom where we can choose for ourselves who we are and becoming who we want and worship God as we please and so there is a land across the Jordan River where we will settle and it will be a place of abundance in our gathering and hunting, giving birth and raising our children and live happily together*.

I think you get the point. While everything in the statement is true, it loses power of the simple eloquent, *Freedom! or, Promised land, flowing with milk and honey*.

Slogans aren't vision statements either. A slogan strings together words and phrases that are important to people. Again, Moses' vision could have been — *We will be a people of freedom, justice, mercy and liberation*. There is nothing wrong in this statement, but it is more of an affirmation of a group's values than a vision.

Here are some memorable vision statements that provides direction and inspires people to act.

*We will land on the moon in 10 years.* —John Kennedy. The President said this before any American had circled the earth in a spaceship. This vision marshalled people, resources and talent to achieve the moon landing.

*A job I can enjoy.* —Jared. Jared's vision led him to leave the East Coast for Lake Tahoe where he could work at a ski resort during the winter and boating in the summer. Jared just bought a new boat, his third, that he rents to people in the summer on Lake Tahoe. This vision anchored his need for income and his life's passion and joy.

*Become the reason others see and know God.* —Emily. A personal vision for her life.

*Be a place where joy flourishes and your life's purpose is fulfilled.* —Christ Church. This vision is outward focused toward the people who have not yet come to the church who are looking for a joyful, purposeful and fulfilled life. It is also for the people already attending as what they continue to strive toward, joy and purpose. This statement informs all ministry. In planning for ministry one can ask a powerful question that informs and inspires. *What will we do in worship so that joy flourishes and people find their purpose/calling? How will we greet people so that joy flourishes? What will we study this year so that joy flourishes and people discover their purpose? As we do our ministry how will our joy flourish?*

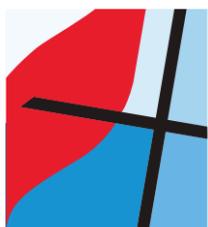
### Using the Vision

It is important to publish the vision in church bulletins and webpages. It keeps it before the people. But when the vision comes to life in the people's hearts, then the congregation becomes the vision.

You can help the vision live in people's hearts by telling stories and illustrations about the people of the congregation. Using Christ Church vision, here are a few examples.

- I visited Jim in the nursing home and there he was sitting in the hallway in his wheelchair saying good morning to everyone and wishing them a good day. Joy flourishes in the hearts of the people of Christ Church.
- I visited the volunteer work project by our Good Works Mission Team. It was lunch time, and Christ Church volunteers invited the people from the street where they were working to have lunch with them. Music played, people met their neighbors and people were joyful. Joy flourishes and purpose abounds through the people of Christ Church.
- Sherry changed how she approached her job after attending the small group on *finding your purpose at work*. She began to think of others and how she could help them do better. People find purpose at Christ Church.

Visioning, making it plan, writing it, casting it, telling stories about it will excite and inspire people to seek a promise land, go for the moon, be something better for the world and dare to pursue risky changes. Flourish in visioning so that your joy may be full and your purpose meaningful. 🇺🇸



# THE RELAY

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OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

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Join us for the 23rd Annual Conference  
Virtual Session, May 23 & 24

[www.gnjumc.org/2022-annual-conference/](http://www.gnjumc.org/2022-annual-conference/)

# 5 Ways to Engage Disciples through Lent & Easter

**1** Create a collaborative altar space. Ask your congregation to bring their favorite cups and mugs to decorate the altar table. As they worship, they'll see their own cups ready to be filled with grace!

**2** Post questions from the small groups resource on social media or send them in a weekly email to keep people engaged through the week.

**3** Jesus said that when his disciples fed or clothed "the least of these," they fed or clothed Jesus himself (Matthew 25:31-46). Organize a feeding or clothing mission project or event around this passage when you preach it for Week 5: The Cup of Compassion. Rearrange the weeks as needed for your church's schedule.

**4** Get creative ideas to engage your youngest disciples in the Facebook groups: GNJ Breakthrough for Clergy and GNJ Breakthrough for Congregations.

**5** Set up a photo booth for Easter Sunday with a thematic backdrop. A volunteer can take photos or people can use their own cell phones. Provide a hashtag like #[ChurchName]Easter22 so people can share their fun photos online with everyone! Provide a virtual version for online worshipers.



DRINK FROM THE

# Fountain of Grace

# In Honor of Mom — Letter from The Maker's Place Co-Director

By Alyssa Ruch

**A**s United Methodists, we believe that the gospel is good news to the poor. Like you, we are always looking for ways to translate Sunday wor-

ship into action — ways to live out our call to be “one in ministry to all the world” with justice and compassion.

At the Maker's Place, we're continuing the hard work of building a United Methodist Hope Center and diaper bank

from the ground up. Last year, over 1500 mamas and caregivers requested diapers from us because they were struggling to afford essential items for their little ones. We distributed 220,000 diapers to one in four children in Trenton. We were able to

help because of the radical generosity of United Methodists like you!

Mother's Day is right around the corner — May 8th. As a Co-Director of The Maker's Place, I've come to realize something: nobody works as hard as a mama. This Mother's Day, I will do something special to honor the mama and mama figures in my life.

Like me, I imagine you've got a special mama in your life. And as someone who has supported the Maker's Place in the past, I know you care about mothers struggling to make ends meet. You've donated because you believe that no parent should have to choose between their little one's health and their family's bottom line. Yet for many families, diapers, wipes, and formula can be one of the hidden costs of poverty.



Photo by William Fortunato

This Mother's Day, I'm inviting you and your church to join a special Mother's Day project: a way to honor the mamas in your life, your congregation, and your community, and help struggling mamas right here in New Jersey.

I invite you to join our “In Honor of Mom” fundraising campaign. Make a donation, and we'll send you a personalized letter of recognition to share with your honoree, letting them know that essential items, like diapers, have been donated to a Trenton-area mom in their honor. Your congregation can also join us by collecting a special offering — a love offering — during your Sunday service for mamas in Trenton. Your congregation can help us make a change for little ones and their families right here in Trenton. It's a Mother's Day gift that makes a difference — one mama to another!

Please consider what you can give. \$50 can buy a month's supply of diapers; a \$500 donation can keep a little one safe, healthy, and dry for up to a year. You can donate online at [www.makersplace.org/give](http://www.makersplace.org/give), or write to “The Maker's Place” at P.O. Box 54, Trenton, NJ 08601.

Thanks for your prayers, partnership, and all you do to keep our nonprofit organization strong, as we come alongside families living in poverty and build abundant community for all God's children. We're continually amazed at the generosity of churches here in GNJ.

May God bless you and have a happy Mother's Day! 🌸

THE  
maker's  
place  
TRENTON | NEW JERSEY

This Mother's Day, give a gift  
to struggling mothers

in honor  
of mom

Donate to the Maker's Place, a United  
Methodist diaper bank in Trenton, in  
honor of a mom in your life, and she'll  
make a difference in their lives too.

VISIT [WWW.MAKERSPLACE.ORG/GIVE](http://WWW.MAKERSPLACE.ORG/GIVE)  
OR WRITE TO P.O. BOX 54, TRENTON NJ 08601

Donate before Mother's Day (May 8th) and we'll send a letter  
in recognition of your donation to you for your loved one.



**Ignite**

*Continued from page 1*

We believe that God moves without limit and we KNOW that God is going to move in incredible ways at IGNITE 2022. From the band, to the speakers, to the workshop leaders, to the middle schoolers, to the high schoolers, to the pastors, to the youth leaders, to the parents, to the volunteers, to the aunt's neighbor's sister's son that you invited to join your youth group for a crazy youth weekend in Wildwood... We have faith that God is going to show up September 30 — October 2, 2022 and we hope that you will show up to!

\*Stay tuned for the IGNITE 2022 theme reveal later this month!\*

If you find that you need support, resources or prayer leading up to IGNITE 2022, please reach out to the Next Generation Ministries Program Specialist, Mecan Payne, [mpayne@gnjumc.org](mailto:mpayne@gnjumc.org).



**Youth serving among community**



**Woman volunteering with youth**



**A team of volunteers from Butler UMC participated in a muck-out at Christ Church in Jersey City.**

**Hurricane Ida**

*Continued from page 1*

AmeriCorps is one of the nonprofit organizations that Greater New Jersey is partnering with in the relief efforts of Hurricane Ida. Part of their mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities through volunteerism. In the coming weeks, AmeriCorps is sending skilled volunteers to help finish the clean-up work from Hurricane Ida before the rebuilding phase can begin, and Greater New Jersey is working with them to supply additional hands. Jack Inglis, from Butler UMC, is one of those pairs of hands. "Disasters can happen to any one of us, and God calls us to help each other. It's not about the work, it's about being a blessing to someone in

need and giving them hope," Inglis said. "By that, we are being blessed also."

There is much to learn from each disaster that strikes our shores, including how to brace for the next one. Frank Friend, the Assistant Disaster Response Coordinator, has been working tirelessly to make sure Greater New Jersey is prepared for any natural disaster that comes our way. "Since Sandy the Greater New Jersey Disaster Response Team has been



defunct," Friend said. "Now, under new leadership with members that have emergency service experience, training, and education, as well as willing volunteers, it has been transformed and being built from the ground up. We are working to be a functional response group, soon to be ready for Greater New Jersey's next disaster."

*Honor the humanity, racial identity, uniqueness and sacred worth of everyone as we live out our baptismal vow.*

**JOURNEY**  
*of Hope*

LEARN MORE ABOUT JOURNEY OF HOPE.

[www.gnjumc.org/journeyofhope](http://www.gnjumc.org/journeyofhope)



# Wespath

BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

a general agency of The United Methodist Church



## Take the Health Check for Savings and Better Well-Being



### Better Well-Being

The Health Check online health assessment identifies common concerns around nutrition, sleep, activity, stress and more. Based on your Health Check results, Virgin Pulse® has the ability to provide personalized recommendations for coaching, Journeys® and other HealthFlex well-being programs that can help you achieve your goals. Health coaching is provided by Virgin Pulse at no extra cost to you.



### Savings

Take the Health Check and avoid paying extra on next year's HealthFlex deductible.

- Individual deductible—**avoid paying \$250 extra**
- Family deductible—**avoid paying \$500 extra\***

You and your spouse (if in HealthFlex) must *both* complete the Health Check to avoid paying extra.



### Quick—Easy—Confidential!

Complete the Health Check in 15 minutes or less. If you did the Blueprint for Wellness® biometric screening, your health data is uploaded automatically into your Health Check—for faster, more accurate data entry.

Health Check is confidential! Your church, annual conference, employer and HealthFlex cannot see your Health Check results and other health information, and Virgin Pulse and its health coaches are bound by federal HIPAA laws on patient privacy.

*Participation in HealthFlex well-being programs is voluntary.*

### Health Check At-a-Glance

#### WHO

Participants and spouses in HealthFlex

#### WHAT

Health Check online health assessment (administered by Virgin Pulse)

#### WHEN

**January 1 – August 31**

#### WHY

Avoid paying extra; improve your well-being; explore health coaching and other wellness resources

#### HOW

Take by computer, tablet or smartphone

#### WHERE

**[www.virginpulse.com/login](http://www.virginpulse.com/login)** or the **Virgin Pulse mobile app.**

\* Households with family coverage in the H3000 plan in 2023 who did not complete Health Check in 2022 will have their individual out of pocket maximum increased by \$500 (to \$6,500), in order to accommodate the higher family deductible. This only applies to the H3000 family coverage.

# A Month to Celebrate Women Trailblazers

By Krista B. Jefferies

**M**arch is Women’s History Month, a time to acknowledge the countless women who have shaped our society in so many profound ways.

It actually started as just a week, not a month. Former Legislative Aide Susan Scanlan set up a bill to declare Women’s Week to coincide with International Women’s Day on March 8th.

In his 1980 address to the nation designating March 2-8 as National Women’s History Week, Jimmy Carter said: *“From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But*

*of money, the dangers of the ports, and the immigration system itself, immigrants were often in need of assistance, and they found it in Alma Mathews and her parents. They selflessly showed these immigrants compassion and caring, provided food and helped them obtain jobs, and offered free lodging at what later became known as the Alma Mathews House. Alma Mathews left her imprint in the lives of so many, and her ministry and good heartedness should be remembered.*

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery but escaped to freedom in 1826 and became an abolitionist, women’s rights activist, and author turned literary icon. She delivered her historic speech “Ain’t I a Woman?” at the 1851 Women’s Rights Convention in Ohio. Her piece effectively portrayed women’s strength and self-worth and advocated for equal rights.

Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton helped women obtain those equal rights. Both pioneers in the women’s suffrage movement, they laid some of the first stones leading to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Every single time I go to vote, I find myself thanking the many women who fought for me to have that right, and I am grateful for their strength and resilience.

Pauli Murray was an attorney, minister, author, and activist who spent her life fighting against racial and gender discrimination. She wanted to become an attorney to fight injustice, but when she initially applied to law school, she was denied due to her race, thus perpetuating the very injustice she was trying to eradicate. Eventually, she was accepted into Howard University’s School of Law, and as the only female in her class, she was continually subjected to both racism and sexism. In 1945, Murray wrote, “As an American, I inherit the magnificent tradition of an endless march toward freedom and toward the dignity of all mankind.” Since then, her work has been critical in fighting segregation in schools and in the battle for all human rights. Murray made sure that women were not just present in the fight but leaders in the fight, allowing their voices to be heard and their opinions to make a difference.

March is a time to lift women up and highlight their significance to our society and our lives. We must remember that we are stronger together, and we are better off because of the remarkable, steadfast, and awe-inspiring women who paved the way to life as we know it today. 🇺🇸



Young woman with crafted birds

*“...THE ACHIEVEMENTS, LEADERSHIP, COURAGE, STRENGTH, AND LOVE OF THE WOMEN WHO BUILT AMERICA WAS AS VITAL AS THAT OF THE MEN WHOSE NAMES WE KNOW SO WELL.”*

—President Jimmy Carter

*the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.”*

In 1987, Congress designated March as Women’s History Month. Scanlan later worked to create the National Women’s History Museum to shine a light on the contributions of American women in our society and how they have transformed our nation. While many of these vital women have been recognized over time, some are still so unknown, and it’s important for us to acknowledge the many women who have left their mark.

Missionary and immigration activist, Alma Mathews, aided women and children coming to this country to help them safely enter New York from the lower ports of Manhattan. Given challenges such as language barriers, a lack



Woman crafting the art of hand-weaving

## United Methodists of Greater New Jersey REDISTRICTING IN 2022



**METRO HIGHLANDS REGION**  
UNITED METHODISTS OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

**Meadowlands District**  
Rev. William M. Williams III

**Skylands District**  
Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega Perez

**Raritan Shore District**  
Rev. Sang Won Doh



**COASTAL PLAINS REGION**  
UNITED METHODISTS OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

**Central District**  
Rev. Héctor A. Burgos

**Cape Atlantic District**  
Rev. Brian Roberts

**Delaware Bay District**  
Rev. Glenn J. Conaway

Learn more, including an interactive map to see where your church fits, on the GNJ website at:  
[www.gnjumc.org/districts](http://www.gnjumc.org/districts)

# Local Church Leaders and Members Encouraged to Join #BeUMC Campaign

By UMCOM

A new #BeUMC online toolkit has launched to assist church leaders in creating engagement in their church communities, focused on the work of the Holy Spirit being done through the people of The United Methodist Church. Resources include inspiring ideas and practical suggestions, worship and preaching aids, communication tools, informative research, and more. Churches can access tools and details at [ResourceUMC.org/BeUMC](https://ResourceUMC.org/BeUMC).

#BeUMC is a grassroots effort built upon powerful stories of congregations and individuals living their faith, while celebrating what draws people to The United Methodist Church and what United Methodists collectively aspire to be. It calls people to embrace their Wesleyan heritage and envision a promising future in which members play an active role.

The campaign is consistent with the Council of Bishops of The United



The United Methodist Church is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit. The #BeUMC initiative's overall message

for the transformation of the world in the tradition of John Wesley.

- *Belonging and Inclusion* — All belong and will be loved in the United Methodist Church. All will be heard, respected, and engaged. All will be free to develop their personal relationship with God and to serve fully in the ministry of Jesus Christ. This tenet is lived out by being diverse, justice-seeking, and resilient people of God.
- *Influence, Connection, and Impact* — With more than 12 million members across the globe, United Methodists are a connected, missional, and generous community, who are committed to changing the world by living and sharing the grace of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. They are committed to working for global health, education, creation care, child welfare, disaster recovery, and countless other efforts.
- *Experience of God through The UMC* — United Methodists show their commitment to being Jesus-seeking and Spirit-filled people by embracing our triune God in personal and community relationships while transforming their lives, the lives around them, and the world.

A specific core value will be spotlighted every month. In addition to toolkit resources, United Methodist Communications is rolling out dedicated editorial content that mirrors each month's theme to help members, leaders, and seekers to dig deeper into these values via [ResourceUMC.org](https://ResourceUMC.org) and UMC.org, and their social media channels.

"We invite every church member, local church, and annual conference to be a part of the campaign as they tell their own stories," shared Jennifer Rodia, Chief Communications Officer for United Methodist Communications, the global communications agency for the denomination. "They can start by simply including the #BeUMC hashtag in their social media posts that illustrate the UMC's mission as it is lived out within our local churches, agencies and ministries, individual lives, and communities at large. Adding the #BeUMC frame to the profile images on their local church and/or personal Facebook accounts is another easy way to participate."

"Building off of the initial People of God campaign, we first introduced the #BeUMC hashtag in June 2021. Early efforts have generated millions of impressions and built strong awareness of the messaging campaign," noted Poonam Patodia, Chief Marketing Officer for United Methodist Communications. "Through collaboration and the development of the robust user-friendly online toolkit, we're excited to be entering the next phase of the campaign where we focus on engaging the denomination. We're eager to see how our members personalize the initiative as they highlight how God works through The United Methodist Church in their communities. We want to hear why they are United Methodist and what makes them optimistic for the future as we move toward a more perfect church." 🇺🇸

Downloadable resources are available in English and Spanish, with French and Korean options on the horizon.

**"#BEUMC IS A GRASSROOTS EFFORT BUILT UPON POWERFUL STORIES OF CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS LIVING THEIR FAITH, WHILE CELEBRATING WHAT DRAWS PEOPLE TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND WHAT UNITED METHODISTS COLLECTIVELY ASPIRE TO BE."**

Methodist Church's "A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church," adopted in November 2021. The narrative speaks to the excitement, enthusiasm, and hopes for the future of the denomination that are shared amongst United Methodists.

ing highlights these core tenets and their related core values that unite United Methodists:

- *Disciple Making* — United Methodists draw from being faithful and deeply rooted people as they embrace the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ



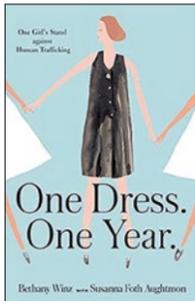
# MARCH BOOKSHELF

For Women’s History Month, our bookshelf includes books and resources from the Journey of Hope Resources webpage on [GNJUMC.org](http://GNJUMC.org). To learn more, and for preaching series, articles and videos, please visit [www.gnjumc.org/journeyofhope/joh-resources](http://www.gnjumc.org/journeyofhope/joh-resources).

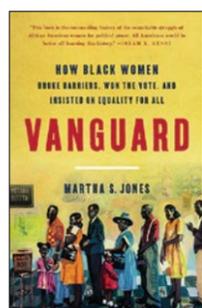
## One Dress. One Year: One Girl’s Stand Against Human Trafficking

By Bethany Winz

How can one girl change the world? It all began with a heart for justice and a little black dress. In 2012, sixteen-year-old Bethany Winz decided to make a difference. Her yearlong journey was one of hope, discipline, and sometimes disappointment. She celebrated some successes yet despaired at the depth of the problem. As she found her identity tied to the things she did, Bethany discovered that while she stood for freedom for others, she also struggled to find her own freedom in believing that she was loved just as she was. This moving book shows readers that their voices matter, they can make a difference, and sometimes the smallest gestures have lasting impact.



seventy percent are women. What she didn’t have was a business plan. Or a passport. But that didn’t stop her from creating a socially conscious business that has helped poor women in five continents feed their families and send their children to school. *Global Girlfriend* has since grown into a multi-million-dollar enterprise that specializes in handmade, fairly traded, ecoconscious apparel, accessories, and items made by women all over the world. Global Girlfriends is Stacey’s inspiring story of following her convictions, as well as her passionate argument for simple actions we can all take to eliminate extreme poverty. Stacey Edgar refused to be paralyzed by the size of world poverty; she started by taking several small steps, personal responsibility firmly in hand, and never looked back.



## Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All

By Martha S. Jones

The epic history of African American women’s pursuit of political power — and how it transformed America.

In the standard story, the suffrage crusade began in Seneca Falls in 1848 and ended with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. But this overwhelmingly white women’s movement did not win the vote for most black women. Securing their rights required a movement of their own.

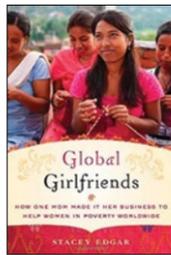
In *Vanguard*, acclaimed historian Martha S. Jones offers a new history of African American women’s political lives in America. She recounts how they defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot, and how they wielded political power to secure the equality and dignity of all persons. From the earliest days of the republic to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond, Jones excavates the lives and work of black women—Maria Stewart, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Fannie Lou Hamer, and more—who were the vanguard of women’s rights, calling on America to realize its best ideals.

## Global Girlfriends: How One Mom Made It Her Business to Help Women in Poverty Worldwide

By Stacey Edgar

*Start small, dream big, change lives— how one woman harnessed the power of fair trade to help women in poverty help themselves.*

Seven years ago, Stacey Edgar had a \$2,000 tax return and a deep desire to help provide economic security for women in need. She knew that of the 1.3 billion people living on less than \$1 per day,



## #Not Your Princess: Voices of Native American Women

By Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale (editors)

Whether looking back to a troubled past or welcoming a hopeful future, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America resound in this book. In the same style as the best-selling *Dreaming in Indian*, *#NotYourPrincess* presents an eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art that combine to express the experience of being a Native woman. Stories of abuse, humiliation, and stereotyping are countered by the voices of passionate women making themselves heard and demanding change. Sometimes angry, often reflective, but always strong, the women in this book will give teen readers insight into the lives of women who, for so long, have been virtually invisible.

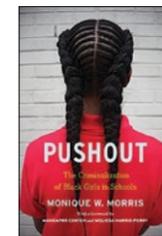


## Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School

By Monique W. Morris

On the day fifteen-year-old Diamond from the Bay Area stopped going to school, she was expelled for lashing out at peers who constantly harassed and teased her for something everyone on the staff had missed: she was being trafficked for sex. After months on the run, she was arrested and sent to a detention center for violating a court order to attend school.

In a work that Lisa Delpit calls “imperative reading,” Monique W. Morris chronicles the experiences of Black girls across the country whose complex lives are misunderstood, highly judged—by teachers, administrators, and the justice system—and degraded by the very institutions charged with helping them flourish. Painting “a chilling picture of the plight of black girls and women today” (*The Atlantic*), Morris exposes a world of confined potential and supports the rising movement to challenge the policies, practices, and cultural illiteracy that push countless students out of school and into unhealthy, unstable, and often unsafe futures.



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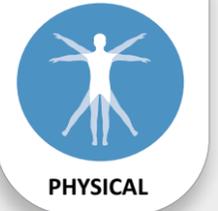
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## CURRENT JOB POSTINGS

### Director of Music Ministry | Centenary UMC

The ministry of music is one of the most essential elements of worship and nurture in the life of the United Methodist Church. The Director of Music Ministry appreciates the vital role of music in spiritual life and worship services. The successful candidate will have experience with a broad range of music styles, including traditional and contemporary genres. As a Christian, he/she will be able to lead others into deeper spirituality through the ministry of music. The Director of Music Ministry is responsible for planning and implementing a comprehensive program of music as a whole.

### Florida United Methodist Foundation President

The Florida United Methodist Foundation, located in Lakeland, Florida, promotes comprehensive Christian stewardship through education, consulting, development and financial services. As an independent, faith-based financial institution, the Florida United Methodist Foundation is uniquely positioned to offer congregations and individuals the resources and tools they need to be more faithful stewards.

We seek candidates for the president position with the goal of filling it by June 30, 2022. The president, responsible for implementing the stewardship vision of the foundation, must possess demonstrated success in strategic planning. Additionally, development requirements of this position, in conjunction with the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, demand someone who can forge collaborative partnerships with stakeholders.

### Audio-Visual/Social Media Specialist

Small diverse church in New City, NY seeks part-time (3 hours/week) creative individual with computer skills to develop and implement a plan to enhance the church's social media presence and to operate an audio-visual program during Sunday worship services (via Zoom) and a few nighttime special services during the year.

### Director of Music | Vincent UMC in Nutley

Vincent United Methodist Church seeks a part-time Director of Music who is a devoted Christian, is passionate about the ministry of the Church, and seeks to draw people deeper into their faith through engaging and spirit filled traditional and contemporary Christian music. The ideal candidate will plan and implement the musical components of the worship services with the pastor and music committee. The position requires the music director to play both piano and pipe organ for worship. The director will also lead the Chancel Choir and Wesley Bell choir utilizing a variety of musical styles.

## GNJ JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- Staff Accountant
- Executive Director of the U.M. Stewardship Foundation

All details can be found at [www.gnjumc.org/job-opportunities/](http://www.gnjumc.org/job-opportunities/). If you'd like to have your job published, please contact [communications@gnjumc.org](mailto:communications@gnjumc.org). Your posting can also be placed in the weekly Digest.

## OBITUARIES

*Our thoughts and prayers are with these families and friends.*

**Travis Waid**, Spouse of Pastor Melissa Doyle-Waid, passed away on February 25, 2022. A memorial service was held on March 2, 2022. Memorial donations may be made to the Beautification Fund, c/o Sea Isle City UMC, 4102 Central Ave, Sea Isle City, NJ 08243-1914. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Pastor Melissa Doyle-Waid, 4100 Central Ave, Sea Isle City, NJ 08243.

**Nancy Gresham Van Cleef**, Spouse of retired clergy, Rev. Robin E. Van Cleef, passed away on February 11, 2022. A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 26. Memorial donations may be sent to Whiting UMC, 55 Lacey Rd., Whiting, NJ 08759-4439 or The Centenary Fund. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Robin E. Van Cleef, 509 Route 530, Apt. 366, Whiting, NJ 08759-3169.

**Paula Andrea Blackman**, Former Lay Member to Conference, passed away on January 31, 2022. A Memorial service was held on February 12. Memorial donations may be sent to First UMC of Montclair and Verona, 24 N. Fullerton Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042 and Assurance UMC, 9700 Mount Holly Huntersville Rd., Huntersville, NC 28078. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Karen Sinclair (sister), 9504 Schumacher Ave. NW, Concord, NC 28027.

**Robert Luther Reasner**, Retired Full Elder, passed away on September 20, 2021. A memorial service was held last September at the Johnson-Gloschat funeral home.

*"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

—2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21, 28 and May 5 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.	Courageous Conversations: Racism
May 12	Annual Conference Clergy Session
May 23 & 24	Annual Conference Session (Virtual)

Additional details can be found on the GNJ website at [gnjumc.org](http://gnjumc.org).



JOB OPENINGS

Check out all the latest job postings at:  
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