

THE RELAY

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

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Dave Pettigrew performing at the first summer concert

A SUMMER OF

Ministry and Music

By Krista Jefferies

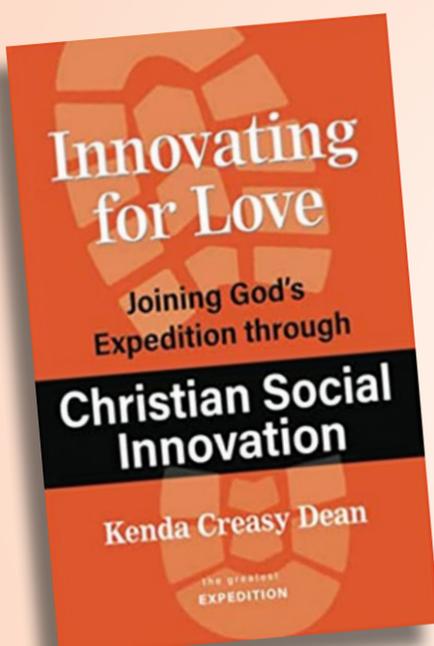
Summer is upon us, and it's a time for relaxation and fun, friends and family, exploration and travel, and of course, ministry and worship. The beautiful part about worship is that it can be done anywhere and in a variety of ways. This summer, two churches in our GNJ beach communities are drawing in worshippers near and far with the power of music.

Rev. Keith Roller, Pastor of Zion UMC in Egg Harbor, NJ is excited to present their 2022 Outdoor Summer Concert Series, which began on Friday, June 3rd with Dave Pettigrew and will continue throughout the summer with John Tibbs in July, and Lan Wilson in August. The concerts may even extend into September and October for the church's 200-year anniversary.

"IT'S WHEREIN OUR HOPE LIES AND WE CAN REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY, SO WE CALLED IT HOPE FIELD."

—Rev. Keith Roller, Pastor of Zion UMC, Egg Harbor, NJ

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Why *Innovation* is the Wrong Word

Kenda Creasy Dean,
interviewed by Eric Drew

Last month, GNJ's Director of Congregational Ministries Eric Drew caught up with Kenda Creasy Dean, Mary D. Synnott Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary and co-founder of Ministry Incubators, to discuss her new book for congregations, *Innovating for Love: Joining God's Expedition through Christian Social Innovation* (Market Square, 2022).

Eric Drew: *Kenda, why this book and why now?*

Kenda Dean: The book is part of *The Greatest Expedition* series, edited by Kay Kotan, to help congregations lean into a new season in their ministry. Kay believes that congregational vitality requires us to embrace social innovation as a spiritual practice. So, she asked me to do this book.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

GNJ 2022 Annual Conference Episcopal Address 5/4, 7:53

Bishop John Schol



Everything was coming together for Erica. She had just finished up her next to last day of work and was headed to her obstetrician for her scheduled checkup. She had only one day left with her former employer and then she could focus all of her attention on delivering in two weeks her child. Upon examination, the doctor said, “you are about to deliver, I want you to go to the hospital now.” “I can’t,” Erica said, “I have one day left of work and I need to finish some things up.” “NOW!” the doctor replied. That evening Erica had a baby boy, Kobe. Today, Erica MartinezSantos is the administrative assistant for the Bishop’s office and shares her story as a reminder that in the midst of challenges, God delivers.

As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic, God’s calling is as urgent now as ever before. We are called to stand up and step out to deliver a relevant and urgent message that connects with the people in our communities. We were delivered by God’s grace so that we would share the Good News of Jesus Christ. More than being delivered from our past, we are delivered to witness for God’s great future.

Our witness is shaped by the words of Jesus at the start of his ministry recorded in Luke, “proclaim Good News to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind.” We are delivered to heal, set free, and recover God’s vision for creation. Where is this urgent calling to be lived out? You need to look no further than the mission field in your own community and the communities of GNJ. We are called to be among the poor, those without faith, the oppressed, the sick, the hungry, and the lonely. To be with those recovering from disaster and addiction; with the youth and the seniors.

While we have struggled with the pandemic, faced into financial challenges, and come face to face with racism and a hurricane, you the people of GNJ have stepped up and stepped out to claim NOW is the time to act, to engage in the mission and ministry of God’s deliverance.

- We celebrate each of our congregations and pastors who stepped up and stepped out by adapting ministry during the pandemic. It was not easy and there were new learnings and challenges, but you remained faithful and innovated to connect with people during the pandemic. During the pandemic the people of Wesley Church in Trenton went through a Pathway visioning process, reorganized their ministry, moved to a new location, and changed their name. In 2021 they had three adult professions of faith. The first in years. In GNJ we adapt to innovative and become the church God is inviting us to be.
- We also have congregations who found ways to continue their mission during the pandemic. The Butler church feeds more than 250 people a month in its community, sent a team to Jersey City after Ida, sent teams to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, and is sending three people to Costa Rica this June. In GNJ, we are missionally engaged at home and around the world.
- We also celebrate your generosity during the pandemic. In 2021, you stepped up and stepped out in your giving. You gave a total of 93% of shared ministry asking, up from 78% just 10 years ago and you paid 98% of the billings. These are two goals in our strategic plan that you helped us accomplish a year ahead of schedule. Praise God! In GNJ we are not afraid to take on the hard challenges. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

- When Hurricane Ida blew through New Jersey, our churches and volunteers stepped up and stepped out to assist in the relief effort and now we turn to the recovery work. We plan to repair and rebuild 75 homes. United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR is giving a \$2 million dollar grant to GNJ and our A Future with Hope recovery effort and a number of our churches are raising funds and volunteers. In GNJ, when people hurt, United Methodists help.

- We continue the journey toward ending the sin of racism and celebrate 150 laity and pastors from our congregations who stepped up to be equipped to lead A Journey of Hope training and planning to end the sin of racism. In GNJ, we seek to end bigotry, bias, and oppression.

How are we delivering and accomplishing all of this? With God’s help! Our GNJ transformational leaders are making disciples of Jesus Christ and growing vital missional congregations that are transforming lives, communities and even the world. Never underestimate that God is ready NOW, at this moment to deliver hope, healing, wholeness—This is God’s salvation, through you, in our communities. Praise God!

While God is doing a great work in and through you, we also have challenges that call for renewed focus and commitment to face the challenges with resilience, innovation, and perseverance. In the fall of 2021 through a survey, you indicated there are four challenges that we are facing that are urgent and important.

- Our first challenge is congregations authentically connecting with the people in their community and growing their missional vitality and sustainability. The culture has changed in how it views and connects with faith and the church. In a number of congregations, we have been slow to adapt worship, small group ministry, hands on mission experiences, and relevant witness that stirs the hearts and minds of potential new disciples from the community. While we have seen progress in a number of congregations, and reached our goal of 50% vital congregations, we need to deepen the vitality of our existing vital congregations and bring along the next wave of congregations to become vital. The cabinet and regional teams are prepared through Pathways to assist your congregation in charting a path that will assist you to travel deeper, wider, and further in engaging with the people in your community.

- Our second challenge is emerging from the pandemic. The pandemic has shaken people’s faith and created fear about gathering in public. The pandemic has also opened up new opportunities to use technology for how we gather in worship, study the Bible and participate in meetings. I invite all of our congregations to explore how you will use technology over the next five years to reach new, younger and more diverse generations of disciples. We commit to come along side all congregations that want to further create and innovate how people will gather, hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and engage in meaningful relationships that invites, deepens and spreads faith.

- Our third challenge is our commitment to end the sin of racism. Our Journey of Hope plan has taken important steps forward. Together, we created a more equitable Shared Ministry and billing strategy for congregations serving in our poorest communities, many of whom are churches of color. I challenge each of our congregations over the next several years to develop a Journey of Hope plan that will guide your ministry in learning, growing, and developing strategies to end the sin of racism. Together, we will make a difference.

- Our fourth challenge is assisting congregations to navigate differences within our denomination about ministry with and by LGBTQ persons. This includes assisting congregations that seek to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and GNJ. Let me be abundantly clear, we would like all of our congregations to continue in the powerful global witness and mission of The United Methodist Church. We want all of our congregations to continue in GNJ.

In GNJ, we have declared that we may not all think alike, but we can love alike. We have declared that we will honor the ministries and theologies of our congregations based in our Wesleyan heritage and the Wesleyan three simple rules, stay in love with God, do good, and do no harm.

Let me also be clear, while assisting some congregations to disaffiliate, we will spend more than 90% of our time, energy and resources over the next year with congregations that want to grow their mission and the mission of GNJ. Our number one priority is to recruit and develop GNJ transformational leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital congregations for the transformation of the world.

God’s mission for GNJ is our primary goal.

Four important challenges, 1) connecting with our community to become more vital 2) ending the sin of racism 3) emerging from the pandemic and 4) navigating differences. All four have a common thread, leadership. We will not program or workshop our way through these challenges, but together lead the way. Our current and future leaders are our greatest asset. I call on all of us to pray that God will continue to raise up transformational leaders among us. I call upon all of our congregations to provide space and room for new leaders and their ideas. If we are to deliver on these four challenges, it will not be by what worked in the past, but who God is calling us to be NOW, and how God is calling us to lead in the future.

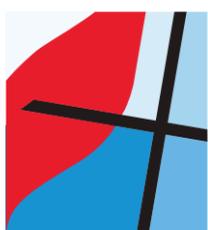
William Carter, a GNJ pastor, with God’s help has made his way through the challenges of life and faith to become a transformational leader. He connected with GNJ during his schooling at Princeton Seminary. Even though he was a part of another denomination, he has come to call GNJ home. His first appointment after seminary was a cross racial appointment, Pemberton UMC, the oldest congregation in GNJ and the fourth oldest in our denomination. Under his leadership it grew. He has served as a circuit leader and on A Journey of Hope Team. This July 1, he will begin as the senior pastor of the Franklin St. Johns UMC in Newark, NJ. Discerning a call to be a pastor in the UMC had its joys and deep challenges, but through discernment and the Holy Spirit, his faith and determination makes him a transformational leader and GNJ is better for it.

Today, we invite you to a season of discernment, centering ourselves in the Holy Spirit, to hear again what God has next for your congregation’s ministry and mission in the community. I also call you to “holy boldness,” that recruits and equips transformational leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital congregations for the transformation of the world.

The cabinet and regional staff commit to come along side of you to dream with you, plan with you and resource you on a path that grows your ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow mission driven vital congregations for the transformation of the world. Together we will raise new, younger more diverse generations of transformational leaders and disciples. Now is our time to deliver the Good News of God’s salvation. To be the bearers of hope and the angels of justice.

What then is left for us to say, if God is for us, who can be against us, what can separate us from God? Tribulation, distress, fear, or danger. No, in all of these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loves us. For I am sure that pandemics, disaffiliations, oppression, bias, changing culture, even death itself will not be able to separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord! (Romans 8)

So, let’s pray together, work together, serve together, and live into God’s great future for us. 🙏



THE RELAY

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

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2022 Mission u

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Adults, Youth, and Children (entering K-12th grade) All are welcome

3-Day School Hybrid

July 14-15, 2022 virtual 6:30 pm - 9:15 pm

July 16, 2022 in-person 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Aldersgate UMC, 568 Ryders Lane,
East Brunswick, NJ

\$40.00 (includes lunch)

1-Day Korean School

July 23, 2022 in person 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Calvary Korean UMC

\$20.00 (includes lunch)

3-Day School Virtual

July 14-15, 2022, virtual 6:30 pm - 9:15 pm

July 16, 2022 virtual 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

\$25.00

1-Day School Virtual

July 23, 2022, virtual 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

\$15.00

Registration is now open register at <https://gnjumw.org/programs%2Fevents>
Or <https://form.jotform.com/220367661806155>

Purchase Book

https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53516

Lay Servant Re-Certification is Available

TOPIC IS LUKE 13

A Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Adults, Youth, and Children

These are tumultuous times. Chaos dots our history, including those days of Jesus' earthly life.

What are the lessons we can take from his teaching, especially found in Luke 13?

The chapter opens and closes with a community trying to make sense of and navigate their way through times of turmoil and tragedy. What can be learned as we discover what type of community we can build together?

If you are wondering what would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small and often disruptive ways as Jesus did in Luke 13, this is a must study for individuals and churches!



United
Women
in Faith



Who Can We Be Together?

Building Communities
of Hope and Joy



Participants in the first Ministry Incubators Hatchathon, in Ocean Grove, NJ

Interview with Kenda Creasy Dean

Continued from page 1

The pandemic turned out to be a great clarifier. If I had written this book in 2019, when I signed the contract, it would have been a completely different book! We've known for years that churches need to innovate—lean into creativity, try new things, reimagine ministry for new contexts... but the penny really didn't drop until the 2020 shutdowns. The pandemic put two things up front: 1) for people who follow Jesus, innovation is about participating in God's "big idea," not getting God to participate in ours; and 2) in the church, innovating for love is first and foremost a practice of humility. These markers are game changers, they make Christian social innovation very different from innovation in Silicon Valley.

Eric Drew: *Speaking of Christian social innovation—what is that, anyway?*

Kenda Dean: It's interesting—Christian social innovation used to just be "what Christians did" but we had no name for it other than "love." Churches knew that loving the way Jesus loved meant turning many cultural norms upside down. In Acts 17, Paul and Silas are thrown in jail for being those Christians "turning the world upside down" again. Luther was a social innovator par excellence, but for many he was just a troublemaker. For centuries, people just pointed to this work and said, "Look, there's the church!"

Today, we like to label things. So Christian social innovation is just a clunky term for human efforts to embody Christ's love in ways we haven't tried before—to "add value" to people's lives, you might say, by making the church or broader community more like the world God intended. If you've heard terms like *social entrepreneur*, *missional innovator*, or *"changemaker"*—I put all of those under the umbrella of social innovation. The difference is, for Christians, God is the innovator, not us. Our innovations help people glimpse God's plans, not ours.

So, churches have always done this?

KD: Yes! For centuries! The problem is that today we tend to separate sacred and secular work, which is a very modern division of labor. In the early church, improving public life was as important as caring for congregations. The first Christians created new systems for caring for the sick and poor (it exasperated Emperor Julian that Christians cared for pagan people better than pagans did). In the Middle Ages, monastic communities were hotbeds of social and commercial innovation. They pioneered agricultural practices that prevented famine, used participatory governance that became the models for civic democracies, pioneered new forms of music, art, and education, and of course gave us a slew of "life hacks" (mechanical clocks, cast iron, muenster cheese, champagne, etc.)

You share that "starting with why" is wrong. Where should our congregations start?

KD: It's not wrong as much as it's just the wrong *first* question. The church starts with "who" being the person of Jesus Christ and the person who is our neighbor. It means our best ministries aren't shaped out of some grand sense of purpose, rather, they emerge

"...OUR BEST MINISTRIES AREN'T SHAPED OUT OF SOME GRAND SENSE OF PURPOSE, RATHER, THEY EMERGE FROM THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE GOD HAS PLACED IN OUR LIVES, WHOSE STORIES PRICK US UNTIL WE MUST DO SOMETHING WITH THEM."

—Kenda Creasy Dean,
author of *Innovating for Love*

from the needs of the people God has placed in our lives, whose stories prick us until we must do something with them. Every Christian social innovator starts here.

It's interesting that the field of "human centered design" has reminded us, more than our faith has, that the starting point for good design is empathy, listening to the needs of those we hope to bless. But it is a deeply faithful impulse. Father Greg Boyle's pioneering work with Los Angeles gangs 30 years ago led to founding "Home Boy Industries" because he was pained that these young

people could not find jobs. So, he started "Home Boy Industries" to employ them. Boyle is now regarded as one of the founders of the modern Christian social entrepreneurship movement. But the idea came, not from a desire to pioneer social entrepreneurship (the term didn't exist then), but from the needs of people he loved who could not find work.

Another Greg, (one of my former students, now a professor at Candler and the founder of Fearless Dialogues) talks about "the three feet practice," which I love. He remembers asking his aunt when he was six years old, "How can I change the world?" She said, "Baby, I don't know how you can change the world, but you can change the three feet in front of you." The three-feet practice starts with the person God places on your path right in front of you. Before we go looking for grand purposes and mission fields and ways to change the world, innovating for love starts by tackling the three feet in front of us (or maybe with social distancing we can extend it to 6 feet!)

You have regularly been a creative force in the church and community, but you share that you hate the word innovation. What's that about?

KD: Well, for one thing, we've turned it into an idol. Innovation is "cool" right now; every organization wants "innovative" leaders. But when a word gets used for everything, it starts losing its meaning. My point is that it's the substance of innovation that matters. You could argue that Bonnie and Clyde were innovators, but they sure weren't innovating for love.

Continue reading Eric Drew's interview with Kenda Dean on our website at <https://www.gnjumc.org/news/why-innovation-is-the-wrong-word/>

Ministry and Music

Continued from page 1

They were supposed to hold these events in 2020, but when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, everything was shut down. Now, everyone is coming together again in a new normal after pandemic impact, the concerts will take place on Hope Field, a name that is very fitting. As Pastor Keith profoundly stated, "It's wherein our hope lies and we can reach out to the community, so we called it Hope Field."

The musicians will perform on a new stage that was rebuilt by community members, a project that was spearheaded by Joe Elwell from BSA Troop 94 for his Eagle Scout project. The stage was completed in the summer of 2021 in time for the inaugural concert, which allowed them to reach a variety of individuals either from or visiting the area.

The Summer Concert Series is a great example of a community outreach event from our very own GNJ local churches. Pastor Keith joyfully recalled how many people even just drove past and beeped their horns when they heard the music, both last year and this year, and some even drove in off the highway just to see what was going on and be a part of it. He said, "It's an inspirational night of worship and music. We are a church for the community."

The events cost \$10 to attend and all proceeds go directly to the church. This provides funding for Zion United Methodist to minister to the community through their food bank and distribute food every Saturday of the month. They provide emergency dis-



Audience enjoying Dave Pettigrew's performance

tribution as well, which is something Covid brought about, along with online streaming services that will continue. Pastor Keith shared that in 2022, they fed 200 people in the month of May alone. "Food insecurity is on the rise," he said, "but we worked to find silver linings with the clouds that Covid

brought." Through their ministry, they provide comfort and hope for so many.

While the congregation is excited about the summer concerts, they were a little hesitant about the costs associated with hiring musicians, but Pastor Keith told them, "Put your trust and faith in the Lord, and we'll make the money

back." He reached out to a local mentor of his, D'Amato Law Firm, and you could say they have become a "soul" provider for the event! 🇺🇸

For more information on the Zion Summer Concert Series visit: <https://zumcbargaintown.org>

MORE MINISTRIES AND MUSIC:

Vespers of Worship at Asbury UMC

Asbury UMC in Atlantic City, NJ is another GNJ church providing ministry and music with their Jersey Jazz Vespers Worship Series, which will take place the 4th Sunday of each month from 4-6PM. Atlantic City is known for

being a jazz town and as Rev. Dr. Stafford Miller tells us, "Jazz is music but also Vespers of Worship."

This event was inherited from the late Reverend Clancy and was restarted in 2015. Many local jazz artists and young talented students from local high schools are afforded the opportunity to work with professional musicians. Light refreshments are provided after, as well as a chance to chat with the musicians and congregate with one another.

With a grant from GNJ's 2022 Annual Conference, Asbury UMC is able support this endeavor. A very grateful Allen Maddux said, "It helps us open our doors to the surrounding community to offer a different way of worship. Music is like a universal language, bringing people together under the genre of Jazz." Psalm 150 inspires the very idea of this concert series as it says to give praise with musical instruments. Through music, we praise the Lord and connect with each other.

Asbury UMC will also connect with the community by continuing their Touch Ministry, which provides a comfortable hot meal on Saturdays. It's considered a relational time, meaning those in the community should come for a meal and are encouraged to stay for

relax," offered Reverend Miller. They also minister to the community by providing "protein boxes", consisting of perishables like eggs, milk, and cheese that are provided by the community food bank. As Rev. Miller so eloquently and lovingly put it, "There is a greater hope from bringing people from desolation to consolation." When I expressed awe at their good works, he replied without hesitancy, "This should not be amazing or special; it's the way it should be, just what we do. It's actually what we're called to do."

The church is on Pacific Avenue, a main road that faces a hotel located across the street. They are very intentional about making the church visible, especially to visitors coming to the area to vacation. Many visitors who are Methodist flock to their doors, but also people who simply "feel the need to worship," as Rev. Miller says.

These two churches are putting in great efforts to bring people together through summer ministry and beyond vacationing season,

whether they are regular worshippers or those on a brief sojourn to the area. Worship brings people together and music helps shape lives, like waves connecting with the shore and shaping the shoreline, leaving their imprint with every touch. 🇺🇸



a while to spend time with one another in fellowship. Rev. Miller expounded that it's wonderful to "hear people's stories and connect with who God is in their lives." It's open to the public with no fee, just come as you are. "Come in out of the weather, sit, talk, and

Get Your Church to IGNITE 2022!

By Mekan Payne

Our God is creative. Our God is powerful. We believe in a God who brings the dead to life and is making all things new. We believe in a God who gathers all people together—no matter who they are, where they are from, or what they've been through. We believe in a God that is LIMITLESS.

In anxious times, we know this: God isn't finished with us yet. God has been faithful through trials before and will bring us through whatever challenges we face going forward. The Giver of Life, our Sustainer, the Spirit of Fire, Lion of Judah, and Prince of Peace is with us. God is with us and is breaking through the limits that world continues to set.

Our God brings people together. When people from all nations, all races and all tongues gather—they worship, they make an impact, and they are *limitless*.

At IGNITE 2022 we will safely join in community together, to learn about and be inspired by a God who is limitless. We're going to worship. We're going to grow in faith and community. We're going to have a blast!

When we seek God, we can break through the things that limit us. We're excited for you to join us in Wildwood this fall. We'll see you at IGNITE 2022!

Registration Information

TICKETS:

June 19 — LAST DAY for early pricing

June 20 — September 4 | Regular Pricing

1-9 Registrants \$70
10-29 Registrants \$65
30 or more Registrants \$60

September 5 — September 29 | Late Pricing

1-9 Registrants \$75
10-29 Registrants \$70
30 or more Registrants \$65

September 30 | At the door pricing

add-ons to existing groups only

1-9 Registrants \$85
10-29 Registrants \$80
30 or more Registrants \$75

Register your group for IGNITE by visiting our website:

www.ignitenj.org

Give an estimated guess of how many students and leaders you think will sign up for this event. You can always buy more tickets if needed, but you cannot return tickets if you bought too many.

Please note that scholarships are available. The application for scholarships will be available this summer on the IGNITE website and will be awarded on a rolling basis.

Over the next few weeks/months, we will be sharing more information and resources to help you get your church to IGNITE 2022! Keep an eye out for our upcoming Leadership Guide, social media posts, and our newly added media kit!

For more information on all things IGNITE 2022, please contact Mekan Payne at mpayne@gnjumc.org

Students participating in an IGNITE workshop



Youth worshipping together at IGNITE conference

Are You Ready to Rest and Reset this Summer?

By Meg Sizemore

As a Pennsylvania native, one of my favorite moments when summer arrives is that highly anticipated drive to the beach. The car is jam-packed with vacation bags, the windows are rolled all the way down, and as the shoreline draws nearer that salty air starts to fill my lungs. A friendly reminder that it's time to unwind and enjoy the days of rest ahead.

For some of us, vacation season is an opportunity to go, go, go. We try to fit as many activities as possible into our slated time off from work. For others, it is a time to relax and enjoy much needed downtime. Maybe you find it difficult to turn your brain off from whirling away with projects and deadlines back at work. Maybe you welcome the idea of unwinding completely and disconnect from the everyday tasks left on your desk. No matter how you chose to reset this summer, remember to trust that God is control and in God, we can find rest.

Block a Specific Time to Disconnect

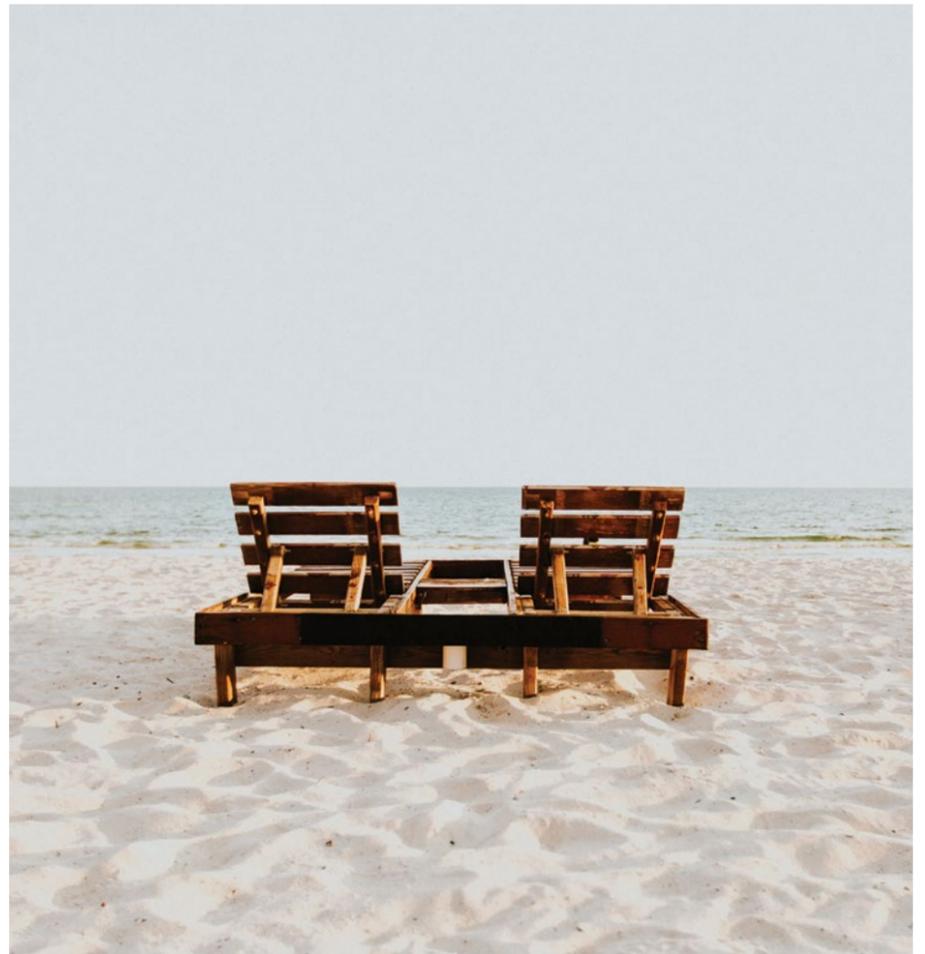
Have you ever noticed sometimes that if you don't have something scheduled, it's hard to find time for it? Make time in your calendar to shut down and plan a relaxing activity. It can be as simple as taking a cup of coffee to your backyard and enjoying the fresh air. Maybe it's finding time to finally finish a book on your reading list. Think of ways you enjoy to de-stress and give yourself the downtime you deserve.



Replenishment enables us to rebalance our minds and bodies, which in turn helps us to put forth God's good work.

Engage in a Non-Work-Related Stimulating Activity

Studies show that for stress recovery, it can be helpful to engage in an activity that stimulates your brain and body. Take time for your hobbies that have fallen on the wayside. If you're on vacation, try a vacation activity like a leisurely game of minigolf, a kayaking trip, a hike on a new trail, or a picnic on the beach. A healthy balance of fun and rest are calling your name.



Do What Fills Your Cup

We want to put in the effort and commit to impactful, missional work. But we can't continue when our energy runs low, and we aren't taking care of ourselves first. One great reminder is that you can't pour from an empty cup. Taking time for self-care is essential to rejuvenating your

mind and your body. I encourage you to let go of the pressure of everyday responsibilities, extend yourself grace, and practice gratitude.

Your physical and mental wellness are important, so, to refill your energy's gas tank, I challenge you to a time of rest and reset this summer! 🌊

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

SUMMER BOOKSHELF

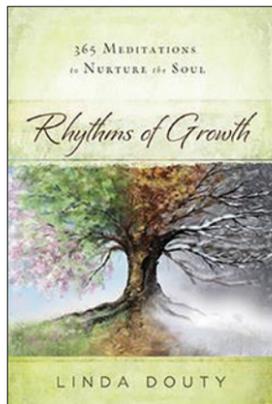
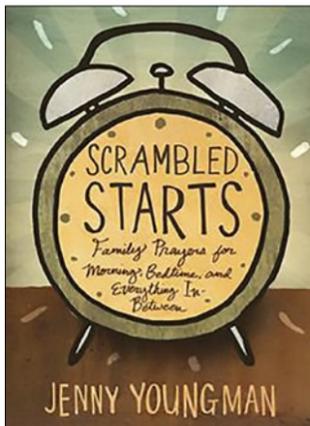
Scrambled Starts

Family Prayers for Morning, Bedtime, and Everything In-Between

Jenny Youngman

In *Scrambled Starts*, Youngman shares honestly from her family’s journey as she tried to build prayer into their daily lives. This encouraging book for parents and families includes

- prayers for mealtime and bedtime
- prayers for specific occasions and ordinary times
- prayers for all ages
- scriptures to memorize
- help for starting a family devotion time



Rhythms of Growth

365 Meditations to Nurture the Soul

Linda Douty

In *Rhythms of Growth*, Linda Douty uses the seasons of the year to illustrate natural trends in our spiritual lives. For winter, she writes about themes of rootedness, fallow times, reflection; for spring—awakening, planting, new growth, storms; for summer—bearing fruit, abundance, blossoming, weeding, and pests; for fall—letting go, sifting, harvesting. Douty’s conversational style and ability to bring together the everyday and the holy make this book appealing for anyone who wants a devotional book that is applicable to everyday life.

Servants, Misfits, and Martyrs

Saints and Their Stories

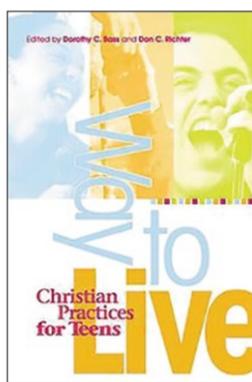
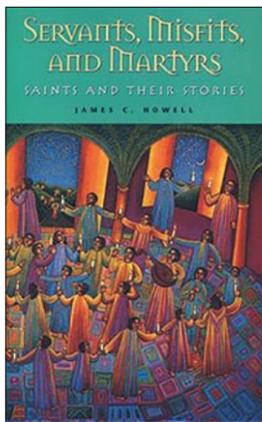
James C. Howell

Servants, Misfits, and Martyrs gives you a glimpse inside the lives of regular, everyday people who made a profound impact on the world through their service to God.

“This is a book of stories, my personal favorites, really,” writes Howell. “These friends of God are not superhuman or the elite. They are flesh and blood, just like you and me. And that is the point. It’s important to remember that the most ordinary soul possesses the most extraordinary gift.”

Read about Dorothy Day and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who devoted their lives to helping those who could not help themselves. Experience the stories of Sojourner Truth and Billy Graham. Learn about singing saints Charles Wesley, Isaac Watts, and John Newton. Meet misfit Francis of Assisi and Clarence Jordan, creator of The Cotton Patch Bible.

An engaging page-turner, *Servants, Misfits, and Martyrs* proves that God blesses every one of us with a special gift we can use to light the world. Discover a world of saints whose faith, hope, and action will encourage and inspire you to make a difference.



Way to Live

Christian Practices for Teens

Dorothy Bass, Don C. Richter

“This book invites you into a community of people who don’t just go with the flow,” say the editors. “This community’s image of ‘the good life’ is not about having lots of stuff or being more successful than other people. Instead, it’s about getting involved in the loving, challenging life of God.”

Find out how Alex dealt with all his stuff, how Marie expressed her creativity with a paint roller, what Jack learned about play. These are just a few of the Christian practices this team of writers explores.

Some ancient Christian practices turn up as ways to deepen awareness of God’s presence in our lives today. Discover how to use your imagination when reading the Bible—à la Saint Ignatius—and practice tuning in to God like Brother Lawrence of the 17th century.

This fun, graphics-filled book will start teens on the spiritual journey of a lifetime!

Each One a Minister

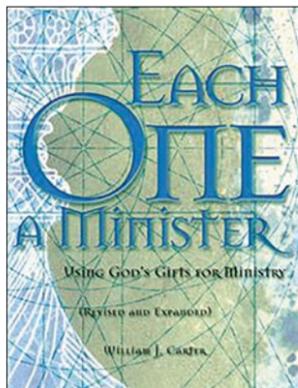
Using God’s Gifts for Ministry

William J. Carter

Carter engages the reader in discovering the meaning of church, ministry, and gifts — from the early church up to the present.

As a follow-up to the Bible study, readers and study groups look at ways in which God’s gifts are practical as well as spiritual. Four ministry categories, closely connected to the congregational primary task (receive, relate, equip, send), are identified. Scripture readings, activities, and ways to implement specific ministries are suggested.

Designed to encourage individuals to discover God’s call to ministry in their own lives, *Each One a Minister* leads toward practical ways of using gifts in ministries in our congregations and in our communities. An ideal resource for clergy, lay leaders, study groups, and others seeking to identify and use their gifts in meaningful ways.



Parents and Grandparents as Spiritual Guides

Nurturing Children of the Promise

Betty Shannon Cloyd

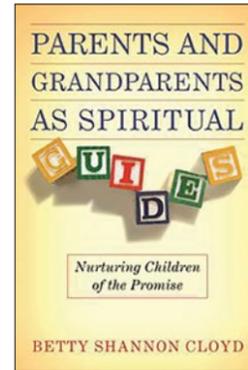
Today, we’re increasingly disconnected from one another. Our mobile society, with its incessant busyness, creates a tragic break in relationships and diminishes the sense of community—even within families.

Some parents communicate with their children by texting or calling them—inside their home! With all of the activities children are involved in—school, sports, music, camp, and others—spiritual nurture often gets neglected.

“Spirituality makes persons look beyond themselves to the well-being of those around them,” writes Cloyd. “How we care for the spirituality of our children, then, is not only crucial for their own well-being; it is crucial for the well-being of our society as well. Spiritual training is a primary role for parents and other family members. It cannot, must not, be neglected or relegated to some other person or agency.”

Cloyd explores simple ways parents and grandparents can introduce children to the presence of God and nurture them spiritually—even through daily, routine activities as well as planned devotional times. This must-have book includes biblical models of spiritual guides along with insightful stories from children, Christian educators and the author’s own experiences as a parent and grandparent.

Attentiveness to God’s daily presence gives the family (and society) the root system that is necessary to live with whatever events life brings. In parenting and grandparenting, we want to give our children wings, but we must start by providing them with healthy roots. *Parents & Grandparents as Spiritual Guides* will help you with that critical task.



Quiet Spaces

Prayer Interludes for Women

Patricia Wilson

The intimate relationship with God you’ve yearned for is well within your grasp—despite the chaos of juggling multiple roles, deadlines, and commitments in your stretched-to-the-max life. With *Quiet Spaces*, you can learn to calm your mind and listen for God’s still, small voice in the midst of the tumult around you.

Author and former professional speaker Patricia Wilson knows what it’s like to struggle with finding a few minutes for herself. Through *Quiet Spaces* she shows how even a few

stray minutes can become a blessed opportunity for a focused encounter with God.

Each brief prayer interlude featured in this book has 5 parts:

Calming — a passage from the Psalms to calm the mind

Centering — a practice to focus on God

Praying — a prayer for a particular situation or occasion

Listening — a passage from the Gospels with the words of Jesus

Returning — a practice to anchor the prayer experience

On hold for a phone call? Waiting for an appointment? In traffic? The quiet spaces are all around you! Capture those 5-minute breaks and use them to touch the hand of God. 📖



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Hillary Harris | 609-634-1388 | hharris@panatlanticfoundation.org
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CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Disaster Case Manager

AFWH

The Disaster Case Manager serves as a survivor's primary point of contact, assisting individuals in coordinating necessary services and resources to address the individual's complex disaster recovery needs to reestablish normalcy. The Disaster Case Manager partners with a disaster affected individual to plan for and achieve realistic goals for recovery.

Visit <https://www.gnjumc.org/news/afwh-disaster-case-manager/>

General Secretary

The General Commission on United Methodist Men

This person will serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission on United Methodist Men, exercising general administrative oversight over the activities and policies of the Commission. This person is accountable to the Commission for the planning, coordination, interpretation and implementation of goals and objectives to support the mission of the General Commission on United Methodist Men and the directives of General Conference.

Director of Connectional Ministry

Atlantic Highlands Navesink UMC

Seeking an individual who has a clear calling and passion to work with young children, youth and families with creativity. We seek a person who generates creative ideas and programs and who values a team concept of ministry; an energetic, dynamic leader who will engage, and welcome the greater community beyond the church family. The individual for this position will be responsible for providing Worship Leadership by creating and sustaining a weekly, creative, contemporary service.

Interested candidates should contact Robyn Korsen at AHNUMNCoffice2@gmail.com.

Music & Artistic Director

First United Methodist Church Cape May Court House

The Music & Artistic Director will work in conjunction with the Pastor and Director of Communications, providing information and details pertaining to planned elements of the traditional worship service, for the bulletin, email newsletter and other forms of communication. The Music & Artistic Director will engage in the life of the congregation, developing a Music & Artistic team to seek and recognize gifts among the body of Christ to recruit, train and sustain volunteers to participate in the artistic elements of each service. The Music & Artistic Director duties will be responsible for developing and coordinating with the Music & Artistic team and all artistic elements for each traditional service.

Visit www.gnjumc.org/job-opportunities/

Part-time Director of Youth Ministries

Elmer UMC, Salem County, NJ

Elmer UMC, an evangelical congregation located in Salem County, NJ seeks a part-time Director of Youth Ministries. The Youth Director will be responsible for leading two Wednesday night youth programs (Grades 3-6, and 7-12 with volunteer assistance, leading occasional special youth outreach events. A complete job description may be obtained by contacting the church office at (856) 358-0135.

Resumes may be submitted to the SPRC by email to: elmerumc@juno.com.

Part Time Director of Worship

St. John's UMC, Turnersville, NJ

Seeking an energetic and motivated Worship Director to serve as a member of our church's staff. The individual would lead in the following ways: planning and executing the Order of Worship for two weekly services; leading and developing a team of volunteers; and providing creativity and insight into our ongoing music programs.

Interested parties should email their resume to Jeff Leonard, Staff-Parish Chairperson at jleonard136@gmail.com.

General Board of Church and Society

Communications Senior Specialist

GBCS seeks a highly skilled and creative professional, who will help create, design, write and manage communications that enable consistent strategic implementation of the GBCS mission that informs, motivates and trains external stakeholders on the social principles of the United Methodist Church and its shared vision of peace and justice. The primary focus of the Communications Sr. Specialist is Digital Communications and Media Relations, but the role will also contribute to all aspects of the Communications Department, which includes events, print production, video development and issue management. The Sr. Specialist will help manage key aspects of the organizations day-to-day communications needs, while also helping shape long-term strategic goals.

Visit www.gnjumc.org/job-opportunities/.

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Bridgewater United Methodist Church, Bridgewater, NJ

Seeking an individual who has a clear calling and passion to work with young children, youth and families with creativity. We seek a person who will have the flexibility to help shape this part-time role commensurate with their experience in order to optimize the program and drive more engagement from our youth and young adults. The individual for this position will be responsible for developing programs and ministries for our youth from 11-18 years old as well as our young adults, with the goal of empowering and equipping this population to join and contribute to the life of the church.

Interested candidates should submit your resume by June 30, 2022 to resume@bridgewaterumc.org.

GNJ is Looking for Freelancers & Volunteers

Calling all
Graphic Designers,
Copywriters,
and Copyeditors:

GNJ is looking to expand
freelancers and volunteers
to support communication projects,
writers for The Relay, and more.

For more information on collaborating
with the communications team,
please email our Communications Manager,
Meg Sizemore: msizemore@gnjumc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 28, 7 p.m.	UMM monthly Meeting
July 14-16, 23	UWF 2022 Mission u
Sep. 30 - Oct. 2	IGNITE Conference
Oct. 4, 11, and 18, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Faith Sharing in Innovative Ways

Additional details can be found on the GNJ website at gnjumc.org.

OBITUARIES

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families and friends.

Rev. Robert B. Steelman, Retired Elder, passed away on May 15, 2022. A memorial service was held on Saturday, May 21. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to: Audubon Society of NJ, Nature Center of Cape May, 9 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Eileen Steelman (spouse) and family, visit www.padgettfuneralhomes.com.

Dr. Robert Smyth, former District Superintendent, passed away on June 1, 2022. A memorial service will be held on June 8, 2022, at Haddonfield UMC, 29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield, NJ 08033.

George Peter Fischer, Retired Full Elder, passed away on June 2, 2022. A memorial service will be held on June 10, 2022, at Bridgewater United Methodist Church, 651 Country Club Rd., Bridgewater, NJ 08807. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to: Grahamsville United Methodist Church, PO Box 86, Grahamsville, NY 12740 or Ulster Heights United Methodist Church Food Pantry, 1264 Ulster Heights Rd, Ellenville, NY 12428 or Hudson Valley Hospice, www.hvhospice.org. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Gretchen Fischer, wife at PO Box 712, Ellenville, NY 12428-0712.

JOB OPENINGS

Check out all the latest job postings at:
www.gnjumc.org/job-opportunities

FOR UNITED HEALTHCARE PARTICIPANTS

Direct Path-Your Support for Retiree healthcare is changing its name.

By the end of this year, Direct Path will transition to a new name: Optavise

They will still be your trusted partner delivering a cohesive suite of year-round services including, voluntary benefits, benefits administration, benefits communications, and healthcare advocacy.



DirectPath is becoming Optavise

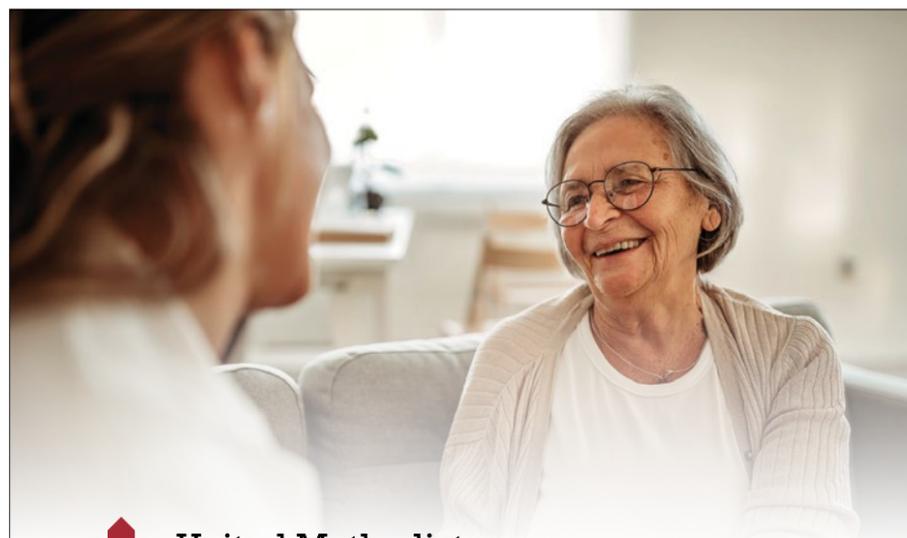


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Assisted Living at United Methodist Communities provides assistance with activities of daily living so that you or your loved one can reclaim independence. In a secure environment, our residents feel empowered to rediscover their interests and confidently do more of the things they've always wanted to do.

To learn more about Assisted Living at United Methodist Communities, visit UMCommunities.org.

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UMCommunities.org



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PATHWAYS

— *for fruitful & healthy ministry* —

This summer discover how your congregation can have a great future. Pathways offers your congregation a process to grow to be healthy and fruitful. Pathways resources offer the tools to create a plan to take the next faithful steps in ministry, and mobilize leaders and disciples to world-changing discipleship and ministry.

www.gnjumc.org/pathways