

THE RELAY

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 2022
Vol. LXVI/No. 8

gnjumc.org

IGNITE 2022 is Here!

 **IGNITE 2022**
CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2022

What will you experience at IGNITE? A high-impact, life-changing weekend for youth in grades 6-12. High energy worship with powerful worship bands. A relevant, engaging message from nationally and locally known speakers. Interactive and inspiring workshops led by dynamic professionals. Community building for your group and with others.

Connect with God and grow spiritually with 2,000 young people from around the region. IGNITE is more than a conference. It's more than bands and speakers. It's about a generation. A generation united for Jesus Christ. Hosted by the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey but welcoming to all.

[Read more on page 6!](#)

A New Hurricane Season is Upon Us, One Year After Hurricane Ida

By Meg Sizemore

On August 26, 2021, Hurricane Ida inundated the Atlantic Coast with heavy rains, deadly flooding, tornados, and more. The physical toll Ida left on the Greater New Jersey community can still be seen as rebuilding continues over a year later. Homes are still boarded up, roofs are still covered with tarp. There is great work to be done to restore homes and hearts of Hurricane Ida survivors. A Future With Hope is ramping up relief efforts, through organizing Hope Centers, recruiting local volunteers, and newly appointed Disaster Case Workers partnering with Ida survivors to ensure needs are being met.

After a year of damaged homes sitting stagnant and waiting to be repaired, New Jersey residents are about to head into yet another hurricane season. Looking ahead at what our coastal

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Bound Brook UMC members cleaning up after Hurricane Ida

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

The Being of Leadership

Bishop John Schol



Over the last several months, I have written to you about leading – why leadership is important, what leaders focus on and do, and how leaders develop. Today, I focus on the being of leadership. As much as the doing of leadership is important, if we are not in sync with the being of leadership, all of our doing may not matter or may not connect with people.

Mahatma Gandhi, a world-renowned spiritual leader, prophet, and teacher, was teaching a group of students under a tree one day. While seated on the ground, a scorpion stung him in the hand. He shook the scorpion off his hand and continued to teach. Again, the scorpion stung him on the hand and again Gandhi shook the scorpion off his hand. This happened several times and finally a student asked, why don't you kill the scorpion. Gandhi replied, "just because it is in the nature of the scorpion to sting, it does not have to change my nature."

Jesus said it this way, if someone slaps you on the cheek, turn your other cheek (Matthew 5:39). Jesus said later "...love those who hate you and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44)

The being of leadership is a humble posture. It doesn't assume one is right but listens to learn about what others experience and the challenges they face. Learning and being open to others are some of the most humbling acts a leader can engage in.

Today, we live in a world where ideas, convictions, and beliefs become a weapon to hurt others. I am hard-pressed to find a scripture where Jesus used authority, power, beliefs, and convictions to hurt others. I find Jesus' leadership posture one of healing, correcting through story, and while being clear and

even firm at times, his posture was not criticism of the person because Jesus saw everyone as created in the image of God. The being of leadership is not always in your words but your posture and actions. Maya Angelou said, "people will not always remember what you say, but they will remember how you made them feel."

The best leaders are humble, listen to learn, open to correction, as well as being clear, competent, focused, relational, and results oriented.

Today, leaders are facing some of the most challenging issues. The "being" of leadership is hard these days. Today's leaders in midst of challenges face criticism as if certain circumstances are their fault. Ron Heifetz, a leader in the area of leadership development, shares the illustration that when a soccer player is dribbling the ball down the field and fans are screaming at the player, they are shouting at the player because they have the ball. The ball doesn't belong to them, but they are playing the role and handling the ball. Take heart pastors and all leaders, it isn't you, it is your role.

You make a difference through humility, willingness to listen to learn, and see the image of God in every person. What will be your nature, to sting when you are stung or to remain humble and clear? The best leaders are humble, listen to learn, open to correction, as well as being clear, competent, focused, relational, and results oriented.

In the midst of the challenges, your leadership will have greater impact by focusing on health, healthy people, healthy ministries, and healthy outcomes. As leaders, it is our natural tendency to be drawn into problems, other's problems. We wind up giving more attention to the problems while the opportunities and possibility quietly die because they are not given the nurture and care of leadership. I encourage all leaders whether in the workplace, the community, or the church to focus on health, the places where your humble convictions and leadership can make a difference. And like the soccer player, recognize that people are so concerned about how you are leading because you have the ball.

"...LOVE THOSE WHO HATE YOU AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU."

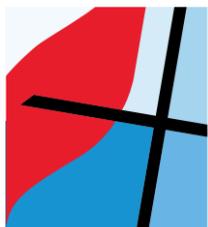
MATTHEW 5:44

"JESUS SAID IT THIS WAY, IF SOMEONE SLAPS YOU ON THE CHEEK, TURN YOUR OTHER CHEEK."

MATTHEW 5:39

Keep the faith!

Bishop John Schol
The United Methodists of
Greater New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania



THE RELAY

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OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

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

JOURNEY
of Hope

LEARN MORE AT:
www.gnjumc.org/journeyofhope



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

JOURNEY of Hope

A View into Journey of Hope's Vision

An Interview with Ronell Howard by Meg Sizemore

Introducing New Champion for JOH

Hello GNJ community! I am Ronell Howard, a newly transferred Elder from the American Baptist Churches USA and I am so excited to be serving GNJ as the champion for the Journey of Hope work. As a pastor who has had the great joy and challenge of serving in cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments, I know first-hand how important cultural competency and anti-racism work is for individuals, congregations, and GNJ. GNJ celebrates great diversity, and yet has room to grow as we work together to end the sin of racism, build on past progress, and create a more just, inclusive, and equitable church and world. The Journey of Hope plan calls us to go beyond hoping for an end to racism, towards leading the charge in dismantling the systems, practices, and beliefs that allow inequity and exclusion to flourish.



Ronell Howard

Meg Sizemore: You're new in your role at GNJ. What vision do you have for JOH moving forward?

Ronell Howard: My vision and prayer for JOH is that our work will impact not only our members and churches but transform the world. Racism is a system of oppression based on race that is a problem worldwide and in the words of Jemar Tisby, "everyone is either fighting racism or supporting it, whether actively or passively." Through the Journey of Hope, we will offer churches and individuals the opportunity to join the fight. Understanding that on the journey towards racial justice, we won't all start from the same place or go at the same pace, the JOH will offer various points of entry and degrees of engagement so that, no matter where you are right now, you can participate in God's transformative and redemptive work of ending the sin of racism.

MS: Part of the Journey of Hope plan focuses on grants. The deadline for 2022 applications is coming up on October 15. How can churches maximize the opportunities from grant money given for congregational development?

RH: I see churches maximizing the opportunities from grant money to advance existing ministries and start new ministries that engage the community around them. For churches that have already begun much needed equity and justice work, I see churches like Christ UMC in Piscataway, NJ addressing issues of unequal access to fresh and affordable food through growing community gardens and expanding food pantries. I see congregations like UMC at Mt. Tabor looking beyond the four walls of the church, and using grant money to reach people of various ethnicities within their larger community. I see churches like UMC of New City, NJ sharing their resources of space and technology with a traditionally Black church within the community and fostering new relationships. I also see, traditionally under-resourced churches in low-income neighborhoods being released from the weight of debt that they may focus their resources on our mission, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The grants for congregational development can go a long way with GNJ churches renewing and restoring hope and justice among their communities.

MS: As JOH progresses forward through the end of 2022 and looking ahead at 2023, what is your hope for churches to be more involved in Journey of Hope plans?

RH: My hope is that churches will examine where they are on the journey to racial justice and get engaged where they best fit. If a church has had little experience with cultural competency and

seek greater vitality, I hope they will participate in GNJ's resource, Pathways, where they may engage in a module on cultural competency. For churches where most members look alike but don't reflect the diversity of their community, I hope they commit to the year-long Bridges program which will allow up to 75 churches to explore diversity, missional opportunities, and cultivate relationships across lines of difference. For churches ready to dig deeper into relationship building and anti-racism work, I hope will embark on creating and living into a Journey of Hope plan to do their part in ending the sin of racism.

MS: What do you foresee coming out of the upcoming training opportunities?

RH: As a result of Fearless Dialogue trainings, I see 50 trainers and facilitators dispatched to churches as coaches to assist congregations in implementing their Journey of Hope plans, engage the diversity that surrounds them, and dismantle racism within and outside of the church. I foresee churches growing spiritually, relationally, and numerically as they seek to open their hearts and doors to new people of all ethnicities.

MS: How will churches becoming more engaged with JOH and GNJ move the mission forward?

RH: It is my hope that through the Journey of Hope and the plans implemented in local congregations, churches and individuals will seek inclusion, integration, and equity among all racial groups. By engaging in this journey towards racial justice, we move our mission forward through the transformation of minds, hearts, and systems that God's will might be done on earth as it is in heaven. I look forward to the day that all GNJ communities of faith reflect the diversity of creation and what I believe heaven will look like. 🌈

Visiting Harp Prayer and Chant Circle



Each Prayer and Chant Circle will begin with a harp meditation on a classic hymn to calm our soul and focus our mind on the presence of God in our midst. Scripture, chanting, and prayer will then draw the circle closer together and grow the Light of God within and among us.

Contact for booking

609-577-3604

Email: pastorfkb@GodHQ.net

<http://www.prayersong.net/VisitingHarp.php>



Children and volunteers that participated in VBS

UMC Congregations Collaborate on Vacation Bible School

by Rev. Lynn B. Mears Pastor of Cokesbury & Fairmount UMC

The theme at Whitehouse United Methodist Church's vacation bible school this summer was: "Jesus gives us the power to do hard things, hope, be bold, live, and to be good friends". This was truly lived by all who helped make VBS happen, hosted at Whitehouse UMC. In a new way of life after Covid-19 quarantine, providing a well-run VBS is a challenge for any congregation, but for small member congregations it can be truly overwhelming.

Jesus does give us the power however, and this power led Rev. Dianna Stone to reach out to fellow UMC's for assistance this year. Representatives from Round Valley UMC, Cokesbury UMC, and Fairmount UMC answered the call. In the past, the hope was that a church's VBS may attract families to a particular congregation and form a connection to that church. When several congregations come together, there is a bigger hope that we as Christians in the community will plant the seeds of Jesus' love in these children, that they will answer the call of Christ in their lives and remember the love of Jesus that United Methodists gave them through a fun VBS program.

The United Methodist Church is a church of connection, and Christ has given

us the gift of each other. We are called in these modern times to support the missions of each congregation, instead of trying to do all in things secluded in small member churches. We can do more together to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ than working in isolation from each other. Being good friends is as important as being hopeful and bold, so that we can all truly live the love of Christ.

Reflecting on a week of VBS and volunteers, were many highs and lows that we faced. Although family emergencies appeared and pulled some volunteers away, we were committed to working together through the challenges, and God provided for the needs that allowed VBS to continue smoothly. It was also amazing to have a variety of generations, teens through seniors, working boldly together for the children of our community. The volunteers were also blessed by this opportunity to serve Christ, and we were all changed by our work together. We share this VBS success with hope that more church communities will hear it, and feel called to collaborate and work together to bring the Good News to those around us in a bigger way than we have ever been called to do before. 🌈



Volunteer selfie with VBS children

One Year After Ida

Continued from page 1

state can expect, the weather agency is reporting a “quieter” season and is backing down on storm predictions. The weather agency has increased odds of a normal season from 25% up to 30%, due to warmer than average ocean temperatures in the Atlantic.

“WHILE THE TROPICS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET OVER THE LAST MONTH, REMEMBER THAT IT ONLY TAKES ONE LANDFALLING STORM TO DEVASTATE A COMMUNITY. THIS IS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL AS WE HEAD INTO WHAT THE TEAM HERE ANTICIPATES IS LIKELY TO BE A BUSY PEAK OF THE SEASON.”

—Matthew Rosencrans,
Lead Hurricane
Outlook Forecaster

“While the tropics have been relatively quiet over the last month, remember that it only takes one landfalling storm to devastate a community. This is especially critical as we head into what the team here anticipates is likely to be a busy peak of the season.” —Matthew Rosencrans, Lead Hurricane Outlook Forecaster.



Hillsborough, N.J. on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021. Photo: New Jersey State Police Tim Larsen

With hurricane season peaking from mid-August to mid-October, and lasting through November 30, New Jersey could be playing catch-up as recovery from Ida has barely begun. New Jerseyans remember the destruction that Superstorm Sandy wrought to the shore October 29th, 2012. GNJ and AFWH raised over \$14 million, engaged 500 households and repaired 250 homes. Our response to Superstorm

Sandy set a precedent for our work with Ida impacted households.

With the support of UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, GNJ/A Future With Hope is on track to work over the next two years providing disaster case management to 200 impacted households, rebuilding 50 homes with volunteers, and funding additional unmet needs in the hardest hit communities.

United Methodists are generous with their time, talent, and treasure. GNJ and A Future With Hope is calling on you to support relief efforts through the “Ida Relief” fund, where one hundred percent of donations go towards assisting churches and residents of Greater New Jersey effected by Hurricane Ida. If you feel led, please donate on GNJ’s Ida Road to Renewal page, at <https://www.gnjumc.org/afwh/ida-relief-effort/>.



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

ROMANS 15:13

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CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2, 2022

Wildwoods Convention Center
Wildwood, New Jersey

www.ignitenj.org


IGNITE
CONFERENCE



Students engage at the stage of past IGNITE Conference



A peak into the IGNITE experience from past programs

By Mecan Payne

The IGNITE Conference is a powerful, worship-filled, Spirit-led weekend for middle and high school students in Greater New Jersey, New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, and beyond. The purpose of the IGNITE Conference is for young people to come together to:

Connect – with God & with each other through sessions, workshops, and games

Grow – in their faith through worship, talks, and small groups

Lead – develop their leadership skills through practical training and experience

Students who attend IGNITE will experience high-energy worship, inspirational messages from nationally known speakers, engaging workshops from dynamic professionals, hands on mission with vital mission partners, and of course, the life-changing power of community that comes from the Kingdom of God joining together.

“IGNITE is one of the events that I most looked forward to each year as a youth student. The friendships, passion for community and moments of connection between peers and with God, make this event a moment of light, filled with anticipation before and continual reflection after!”

When asked about her experience at IGNITE, Hailey, a former yearly attendee of IGNITE, and planning to return to IGNITE 2022 as an IGNITE Squad young adult volunteer, said: “IGNITE is one of the events that I most looked forward to each year as a youth student. The friendships, passion for community and moments of connection between peers and with God, make this event a moment of light, filled with anticipation before and continual reflection after!”

We are deeply aware of the effect that the pandemic has had on the young people in our youth groups, our churches, and our local communities. Young people are in desperate need of interaction, connection, community, and most of all, encounters with Jesus. The lives of our young people significantly benefit from the powerful experience of attending the IGNITE Conference: the worship, the messages, the workshops, the missional initiatives, the small groups, the prayer... and most importantly, the community that can only come through the powerful movement of the Holy Spirit.

IGNITE is a great opportunity to start, rebuild and grow youth ministry programs! Gather a group of students, head down to Wildwood and experience the Holy Spirit at work in the young people of your church.

To learn more about the artists and speakers at IGNITE 2022, check out our webpage <http://www.ignitenj.org/artist-speakers/>.

Register to attend IGNITE 2022 today and check out our latest Registration Guide on ignitenj.org to help get your youth group to this year’s conference. 🎉



Navigating Forward on a Fruitful Journey

By Gina Yeske

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

PSALM 119:105

On a recent trip in Lancaster County my husband and I used our phones to navigate from one town to the next. To our great surprise, the map app directed us through some winding country roads. At first, we thought this was a mistake and tried another map but when it offered the same directions, we decided to slow down and enjoy our time off the highway and appreciate the scenery. It was on this pathway through the rolling farmlands that we truly saw the best of what southern rural PA has to offer.

While we often like to travel the most direct and fastest way from point to point, those routes are not necessarily the best ways to enrich our journey. In the same way, often in our church life we want to fast track our approach to growing disciples or rely on the ways we have always done things in the past. However, as we move the mission forward, it might be time for us to take a new route: *Pathways for Fruitful and Healthy Ministry* can be your guide.

Over the last few months, many church leaders have shared that they are feeling stuck. That they recognize that their past vision no longer fits but are not sure what is the next faithful step to refresh their vision. We would invite you to consider *Pathways for Growing Congregational Health and Fruitfulness Module*.

This *Pathways* module starts with your team re-discovering your “whys” as a congregation. It’s the first step towards creating an intentional discipleship system within your church, to grow and engage your people. A discipleship pathway defines how each person who participates in your ministry will clearly understand how they can grow in their faith and service. It supports the mission to “make disciples for the transformation of the world.”

Pathways is not designed to give you the answers. It’s not another workshop or a program. Instead, it sets up an environment and the process to bring the church



Scenic country road in rural Pennsylvania

through a time of discernment. It allows space to gain clarity of a vision of what you can accomplish now. It will also anchor you in what is important. It is not about getting it right, but it’s about the next faithful step. Your leadership will discern what you hope to do and be, and how they can live this out as a congregation. *Pathways* will support your leaders to set up goals to strengthen your congregation.

In a time of such uncertainty, it might seem impossible to plan. *Pathways* is designed to support the goals that your congregation can support now, and then encourage them to keep following the path. We believe, a simple plan is a great way to restart... otherwise you will remain stuck.

While Stephen and I were wandering the back roads of PA, there were times that we could not see where the road led to up ahead. But we kept our eyes focused on what was before us and trusted our map. *Pathways* was designed to help you navigate forward, even when you can’t see what’s around the bend in your journey.

Pathways for Growing Congregational Health and Fruitfulness Module is only one of many modules being offered in 2022. Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing more about our Organization, Sustainability, Community Engagement modules. To learn more about *Pathways* see <https://www.gnjumc.org/pathways>. 🇺🇸

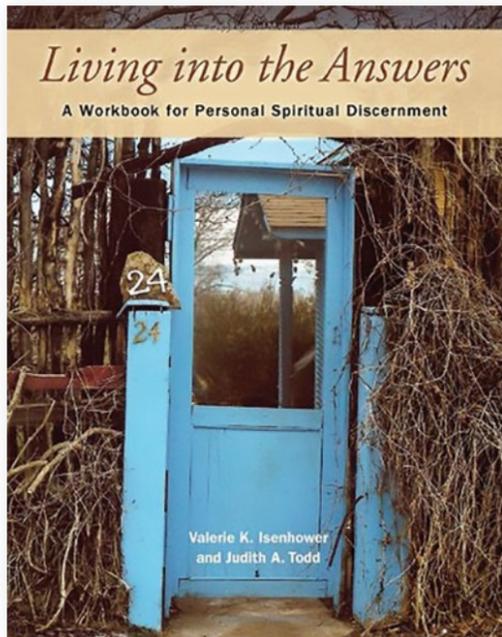
SEPTEMBER BOOKSHELF

Living into the Answers

A Workbook for Personal Spiritual Discernment
Valerie K. Isenhower, Judith A. Todd

Living into the Answers is an inspiring and practical personal workbook that:

- introduces tools and practices that invite God in as we consider priorities and alternatives
- guides us to create prayerfully considered options
- helps us live with the confidence that God will use our choices to invite us into a deeper and more fruitful relationship.

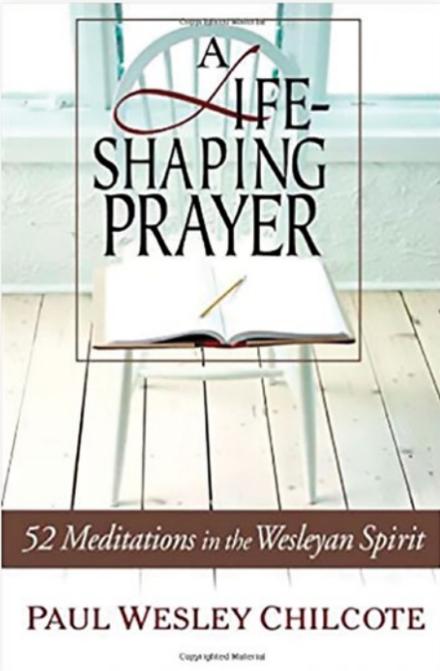
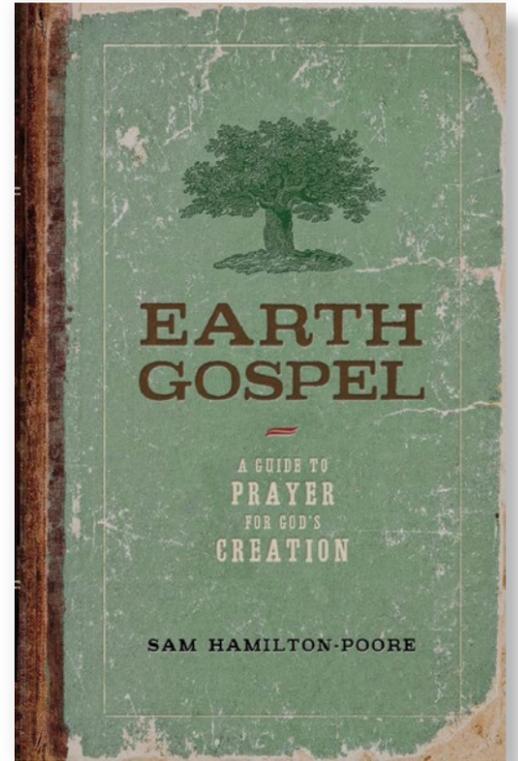


Earth Gospel

A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation
Sam Hamilton-Poore

Earth Gospel offers four weeks of prayer (seven days per week with prayers for morning, midday, and evening) to encourage care of God's creation. Each daily reading includes scripture, hymn texts, beautiful poems and reflections from sages across time, and blessings. Featured voices include Emily Dickinson, Wendell Berry, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther, e.e. cummings, Julia Esquivel, Annie Dillard, Henry David Thoreau, Catherine of Siena, and many others.

Conveniently sized to tuck into a backpack for a field expedition or as a companion to your Bible during prayer time, *Earth Gospel* will deepen your appreciation and commitment to creation.



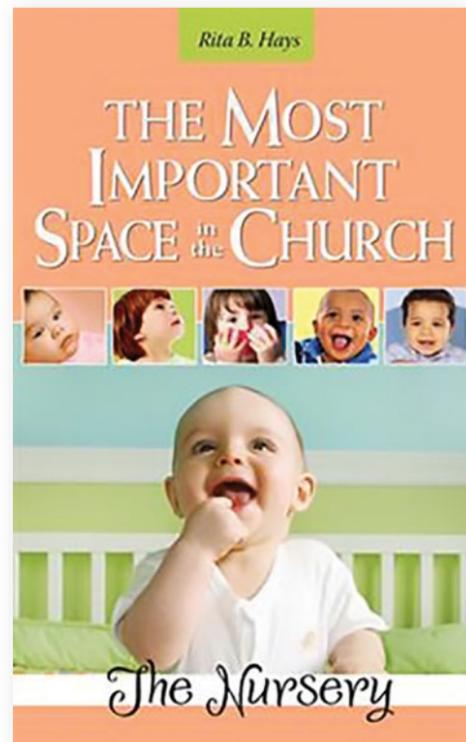
A Life-Shaping Prayer

52 Meditations in the Wesleyan Spirit
Paul Wesley Chilcote

Drawing on the rich resources of the Methodist tradition, *A Life-Shaping Prayer* is a beautifully written devotional resource. Centered around a prayer of an early Wesley follower, the themes of this book lead to a rediscovery of what it means to practice faith.

Advocating a holistic spirituality where prayer and life are interconnected, Chilcote's premise will make God increasingly real to you.

Breaking down the early Methodist prayer into 52 readings, Chilcote retooled it into a flexible devotional format that includes a scripture, a brief meditation, a Wesley hymn, and a prayer for the day. Whether you decide to read a selection a week or begin a pattern of morning/evening prayers, you'll immerse yourself in the discipline of prayer.



The Most Important Space in the Church

The Nursery
Rita B. Hays

In *The Most Important Space in the Church*, Rita Hays emphasizes that evangelism and spiritual formation begin in the nursery that many visitors first interact with church members and experience an outpouring of warmth and acceptance—known as radical hospitality.

By building a rich, spiritually rooted ministry with infants through two year olds and with their families, congregations establish a faith formation pattern that continues through all age levels. Hays presents both theological groundwork and practical applications for strengthening any church's ministry, beginning in the most important space—the nursery.

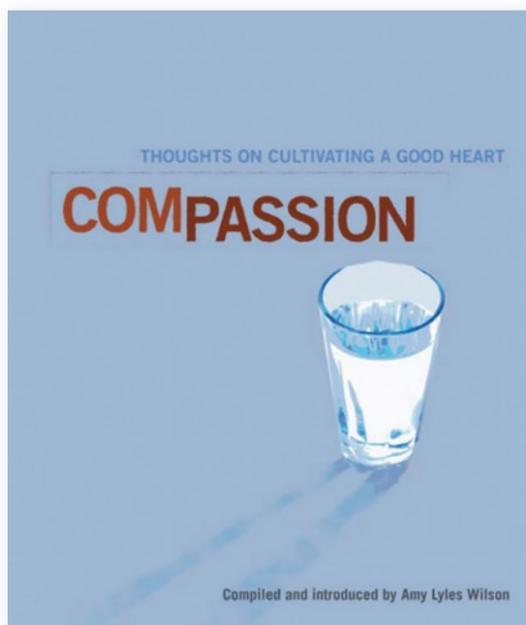
Compassion

Thoughts on Cultivating a Good Heart

Amy Lyles Wilson, compiler and editor

"*Compassion: Thoughts on Cultivating a Good Heart* invites us to consider that our attention to the little things makes it easier to appreciate the concerns of our friends, families, communities, and the world at large," writes compiler and editor Amy Lyles Wilson. "In so doing, we can begin to conduct our lives with an ever-present spirit of compassion instead of saving such outpouring for tragic situations and natural disasters."

The essays in this powerful little book provide examples for doing just that—whether it's tending injured animals or bearing the burdens of another. Writers as varied as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Wendy Wright, and Robert Corin Morris urge us to appreciate the gift that compassion offers. You'll be guided through several practical paths of enhancing your capacity to care.



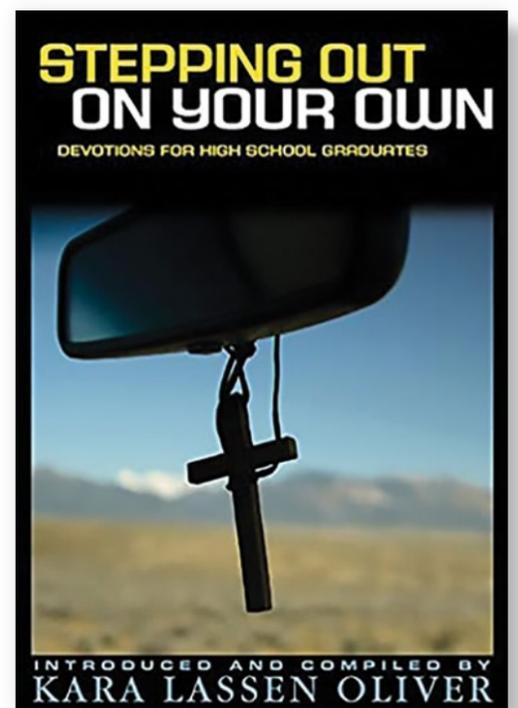
Stepping Out on Your Own

Devotions for High School Graduates

Kara Lassen Oliver

Whether a young person is beginning work full-time, continuing his or her education, or exploring the world, the time after high school graduation is a profound transition. *Stepping Out On Your Own* provides spiritual support that is important when developing new friendships and encountering new challenges.

A meaningful gift from family, friends, and churches.



CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Part-Time Office Administrator

Hillsdale UMC in Hillsdale, NJ

Hillsdale UMC in Hillsdale, NJ is looking for a reliable Office Administrator. The Office Administrator is responsible for providing administrative and organizational support to a church, their staff, and committees. Generally, this position must:

- Have the ability to interact with parishioners, guests, committees, and staff (including the Nursery School) in an enthusiastic manner that is helpful, courteous, pleasant, and professional.
- Ensure the office runs smoothly; develop and recommend improved office procedures and systems.
- Be able to independently and proactively complete tasks and communicate with others.
- Serve as the Senior Pastor's executive assistant.
- Possess excellent computer skills and the ability to learn new software.

25 hours per week- Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (including 30 minutes paid lunch break). Salary: \$20,000.00 – \$25,000.00 per year.

If you are interested, please send your resume to pastor Julie at pastor.julie@hillsdaleunited.org.

Program and Administrative Coordinator in the Center of Clergy Excellence

VAC

The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church is currently recruiting for the position of Program and Administrative Coordinator in the Center of Clergy Excellence. The selected candidate will be responsible for providing support to the Center for Clergy Excellence and the Board of Ordained Ministry, which is including, but not limited to correspondence, data management, and assisting with meeting registration and logistics. The Program and Administrative Coordinator will be responsible for the local hospitality and local host committees during Conference-related meetings. The deadline for receiving applications is September 12, 2022.

Interested parties should contact Michelle Reddick, Human Resources Generalist at 615-369-2313.

Disaster Case Manager Supervisor

AFWH

AFWH, seeks a Full Time, Limited Term Disaster Case Manager Supervisor. The Disaster Case Manager Supervisor manages a team of four disaster case managers who serve 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 Supervisor ensures that case managers are completing accurate needs assessments and recovery plans and partnering effectively with disaster affected individuals so that they achieve realistic goals for recovery. To be qualified for this position you must be competent and skilled in Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Acrobat. You must have a bachelor's degree in field of social work, human services, or behavioral sciences or minimum of five years' experience in disaster recovery and managing teams is required.

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

Bookkeeper

AFWH

AFWH, seeks a Full Time, Limited Term Bookkeeper. The Bookkeeper is responsible for documenting and recording financial transactions, managing revenue and expenses, managing accounts payable and receivable, and preparing reports for GNJ's recovery project. They will be the primary liaison to GNJ's accounting department, ensuring accurate financial reporting, and monitoring and evaluation of grant awards to meet compliance for a successful Greater New Jersey Ida Recovery. They will seek additional grant opportunities to support Ida recovery. To be qualified for this position you must be competent and skilled in Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Acrobat, experienced in financial software, and knowledge of bookkeeping principles. You must have a bachelor's degree or minimum of 3 years in related job experience is required.

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

Part-time Music Director

St. Mark UMC

St. Mark's United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Music Director. The Director of Music is responsible for developing and enhancing the ways that music contributes to the spiritual life of St. Mark's worship services, to the music ministry of its choirs, and the spiritual growth of the music ministry members. Since music is one of the most important elements of worship, the Director of Music has the general responsibility of ensuring that in-person and online music provides a spiritual message for the congregation and the more specific evangelical responsibility of bringing others to Christ. The Director of Music achieves these major goals through preparing choirs, soloists, other musicians, and all music groups, and in planning worship services with the pastor, Worship Planning team, and AV team.

Interested parties can apply to info@themarkmtc.org.

Music Directors (Part-time)

St. Andrew UMC, Toms River, NJ

St. Andrew UMC, Toms River is seeking both a part-time traditional music director and part-time contemporary music director. The positions can be combined into one full-time job for the qualified candidate.

For more details and application process visit www.standrewtr.org/resources/employment/.

Music Ministry Coordinator (Part-time)

Denville Community Church, NJ

Seeking an individual who is passionate about bringing people to a relationship with Christ for this part-time position as Music Ministry Coordinator. We seek an energetic, dynamic musician who creates a positive feeling and movement in worship, and who values a team concept of ministry. The individual for this position will be responsible for playing piano and organ, as well as leading weekly rehearsals for the traditional choir and handbell choir. The ministry will be evangelistic and discipleship-oriented and implemented by reaching to musicians. Strong piano and organ skills and knowledge of choral pedagogy and directing required. College degree preferred in a related field.

Interested parties should email their resume to Denville Community Church at staffing@denvillecommunitychurch.org.

Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry (Part-time)

United Methodist Church in Chatham, NJ

The United Methodist Church in Chatham, NJ is looking to hire the right person to serve as Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry. It is a part time job of 25-27 hours per week (remote/in person hybrid), with salary commensurate with experience. The Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry will be responsible for coordinating and overseeing Sunday school activities (ages 3-18) and leading youth mission activities. We are a congregation that values social justice, commitment to serving others, teamwork, full inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community, welcoming of different Christian spiritualities and styles which include traditional mainline, contemplative, perennial, praise and ecumenical.

Questions, interest, and resumes can be sent to: Rev. Jeff Markay, Senior Pastor, or call 973-635-7740.

Education Coordinator

First UMC in Delran, NJ

First UMC in Delran, NJ is in search of an Education Coordinator. The role is to coordinate, communicate to families, and lead the educational program for our children and youth (pre-school –12th grade); currently approximately 15 students. It is anticipated that the time commitment will be 10-12 hours per week. Serve as Educator Coordinator directing the overall teaching-learning experience, including scheduling and technology insertion. The coordinator is expected to teach Sunday School for any grades that require services in the absence of an assigned teacher. The ideal candidate will have a college degree or pursuing Christian Ministry.

Interested candidates should contact Terri Pagani, SPRC Chair at pagani5@comcast.net.

Grant Monitor and Evaluator

A Future With Hope

AFWH, seeks a Full Time, Limited Term Grant Monitor and Evaluator. The Grant Monitor and Evaluator is responsible for tracking data collection, program indicators and financial expenditures to ensure that so that they adhere to grant compliance requirements. They are responsible for completing all grant progress reports. They will work closely with the bookkeeper and GNJ's accounting department, ensuring grant compliance for a successful Greater New Jersey Ida Recovery. To be qualified for this position you must be competent and skilled in Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Acrobat, experienced in financial software, and minimum of two years of grant monitoring and evaluation experience. You must have a bachelor's degree in finance, accounting or related field or similar job experience.

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

Case Manager

A Future With Hope

A Future With Hope, Inc, a non-profit with the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, is seeking exceptional individuals to join their Hurricane Ida Recovery team. The Disaster Case Manager position for Hurricane Ida through AFWH will be the first of its kind in all of New Jersey. This is a pivotal opportunity in the state of NJ and a great opportunity to work with a compassionate team of individuals at Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. If you are passionate about people and eager to serve disaster impacted communities, please consider joining our team.

Interested parties can apply at <https://www.gnjumc.org/job-opportunities/>.

GNJ Video Producer

GNJUMC

The Video Producer is responsible for producing video content and managing the media production studio for United Methodists of Greater New Jersey and its vital mission partners. The Video Producer oversees all aspects of production from communication and creativity to lighting, camera angles, editing, and audio mixing. To be qualified for this position you must have strong editing skills on Adobe Creative Suite and/or equivalent, deep and current knowledge of video equipment, professional use of social video: YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, Instagram and body of work that includes promotional and documentary video. A Bachelor's Degree is preferred or related experience.

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





Are You Discerning a Call?

By Joanne Sullivan

Have you ever wondered if you were being called into ministry? We would like to invite you to an evening to explore your call. On Monday, Oct 3, 2022, GNJ Board of Ordained Ministry will host a virtual session of Orientation to Ministry. Those attending will have the opportunity to meet other clergy and ask questions in order to begin understanding the diversity of ministry. Attendees may build relationships with others seeking to enter ministry. We will explore the commonalities and differences among the work and responsibilities of those serving in the different varieties of ministry. This is a wonderful opportunity for those early in their discernment process.

Kindly Note: Orientation to Ministry attendance is required for all clergy candidates. Therefore, if you are an Inquiring, Exploring, or Certified candidate, you should sign up for this session. However, if you are just beginning to question the possibility of licensed or ordained ministry, this will offer a place to receive a clear explanation of the orders of ministry, both elder and deacon, as well as the licensed ministry of the local pastor. This can be an important step to discerning God's calling.

Orientation to Ministry will be held Oct 3, 2022, 7:00-8:30 PM on Zoom. To register go to <https://www.gnjumc.org/ordained-ministry-2/orientation-for-ministry/>.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

John W. Wright, Jr., Retired Full Elder, passed away on June 28, 2022. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be made to John's memory to the Swords United Methodist Church, 1404 Swords Road Buckhead, GA 30625. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Susan Wright at 1305 Pinhorn Drive Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

David Beach, Retired Full Elder, passed away on June 28, 2022. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) in lieu of flowers you are invited to contribute to the Alzheimer's Association at <https://www.alz.org> or the hospice of your choice. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Maxine Beach at 1822 Pipers Meadow Dr. Palm Harbor, FL 34683-6155.

Carol Miller, Surviving Spouse of Rev. Charles Miller Jr., passed away on July 9, 2022. A memorial service was held on August 21, 2022. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to: United Methodist Communities—to Bristol Glen <https://umcommunities.org/> or The Nature Conservancy Attention: Treasury 4245 Fairfax Dr. #100 Arlington, VA 22203. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Dr. Vicki Brendler, daughter at 939 Emmons Ln. Newton, NJ 07860-4281.

Karen E. McMartin, Retired Elder, passed away on July 30, 2022. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 3, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Whitehouse UMC 73 Old Highway 28, Whitehouse, NJ 08888. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to: UMCOR or Whitehouse UMC 73 Old Highway 28 Whitehouse, NJ 08888, In memory of Rev. Karen E. McMartin. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Donald McMartin (spouse) at 127 Hillcrest Road Flemington, NJ 08822.

Bettyann Gilmore, Retired Deacon in Full Connection, passed away on August 14, 2022. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Lindsey Klausmeier, daughter at 569 Barringer Lane Apt. D Webster, TX 77598.

Elizabeth Gibbons, Retired Full Elder, passed away on August 19, 2022. A memorial service was held on Saturday, August 27. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to: Oakhurst United Methodist Church 103 Monmouth Road Oakhurst, New Jersey 07755 or Fulfill NJ: Foodbank of Monmouth & Ocean Counties at <https://fulfillnj.org/>. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Ken Gibbons, son at 73 Robinson Place Shrewsbury, NJ 07702.



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Home Office
 3311 State Route 33, Neptune, NJ 07753
UMCommunities.org



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SEPTEMBER 30TH

OCTOBER 2ND

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ISAIAH 55:9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

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