

THE RELAY

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

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Where Are They Now? A Peek Into 2022 New Appointments

By Meg Sizemore

“Change is an inevitable part of life, but that does not make it easy. Change is especially hard when it comes to saying goodbye to your pastor and welcoming a new one. At the beginning of each year, the cabinet convenes for regular spirit-led conversations to determine new appointments for pastors and local churches. *Who is retiring? Who are the new pastors eager to begin in parish ministry? What are the missional needs of this community? Who might have the gifts and graces needed to lead this congregation to the next step that God has for them?* These are the questions the district superintendents and bishop wrestle with each week during appointment season.

Appointments are announced between January and April and begin on July 1. Pastors often move into new parsonages, begin getting to know members of the congregation, and ease into the life and ministry of the community. The first two months often feel like a “soft-launch” for new pastors, which then culminates into a big kick-off in September.”

—Rev. James Lee of Wesley UMC

Pastors in their 2022 appointments have already begun entering a busy rhythm of “back to church” festivities, seasonal changes and intentional events, holidays, and advent season. We checked in with a few pastors in their new appointments to peek inside this prime time of their leadership, and just to get to know them better!



Pastor Javier Barroso-Rodriguez of Manasquan UMC speaks with congregants.

Here are the questions we asked:

- What excites you about the opportunity of this particular appointment?
- What plans do you have for this new season?
- How has GNJ supported you in this transition?
- If you could preach the most FUN sermon, what topic would it be on and why?

Pastor Labenyimoh Kpachi Patrick

Belford UMC

I am excited about the opportunity to genuinely help my congregation grow in faith and to make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. I am looking forward to growing our church, spreading the good news of Christ and

principles of grace and truth... doing this through preaching, pastoral care, and Christian living.

This is my first appointment as a Pastor, don't know exactly what this new season is going to bring. I'm praying and asking God to take me to where I need to be. Because our church building is not located on the main thoroughfare, many

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A FUTURE WITH HOPE
UNITED METHODISTS
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Ida Road to Recovery Reflects on 10-Year Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy



NJ Coastal Damage from Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

By Andrea Wren-Hardin

The second-worst storm in US history, Superstorm Sandy, hit New Jersey ten years ago on October 29, 2012. This devastating disaster left 2 million households without power and damaged hundreds of homes. Not only were structural buildings impacted, but the heavy damage left NJ residents with hope wiped from their hearts.

The Greater New Jersey Conference stepped up and stepped out to respond with a wave of care through volunteers, dollars, and experience when Superstorm Sandy devastated New Jersey. Through this effort, A Future With Hope was born with its vision that “hope emerges where

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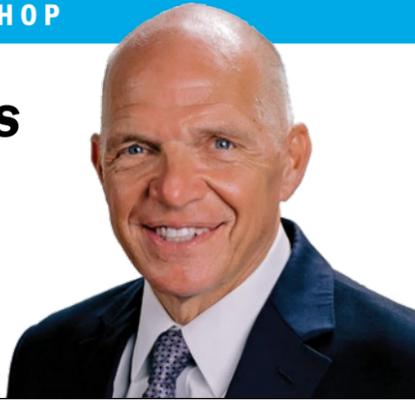
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither be afraid.

—JOHN 14:1

Bishop John Schol



These have been anxious times. Weather, politics, a pandemic, financial uncertainty and for the church, disaffiliation. Each of us chooses how we react and engage during these times. Today, I want to talk with you about disaffiliation and congregations exploring leaving The United Methodist Church.

In GNJ, 21 churches, or 4% of our congregations have chosen to participate in the disaffiliation process. These are congregations whose leadership have voted to explore disaffiliation because they do not want to be a part of The United Methodist Church because they do not agree that Church should allow ministry with and by LGBTQ persons and see this occurring within The United Methodist Church. Their hearts and our hearts are broken. Most of the congregations have been United Methodist for more than 100 years. They have faithfully participated in the mission and ministry of GNJ and The United Methodist Church. They are our friends and colleagues in Christ. Regardless of differences, if they vote to disaffiliate, they will be missed.

The disaffiliation process involves 2-3 sessions of discernment led by a spiritual guide and a series of votes. It is a time to listen for the Holy Spirit. The congregation by church law must vote by two-thirds to disaffiliate. Unfortunately, in a few congregations, division has arisen, and church leaders and some members have turned to pressuring members on how to vote, are not speaking the truth about The United Methodist Church and biblical and theological understanding and have created further division. Some members are even claiming their leaders are manipulating them. I am deeply troubled by these allegations.

“...NOT ONE WOULD BE LEFT STANDING WITH JESUS. BUT IN THE MIDST OF THEIR DIFFERENCES, JESUS WOULD CONTINUE TO STAND WITH THEM AND BY THEM.”

On the last night of his life, Jesus gathered with his disciples in a room. During the evening, there were differences between the disciples and heated debate. One of disciples would turn Jesus in to the authorities, another would deny he even knew Jesus and by the end of the evening, not one would be left standing with Jesus. But in the midst of their differences, Jesus would continue to stand with them and by them. In a very troubling time for Jesus and the disciples, Jesus said, *let not your hearts be troubled*.

The majority of congregations in GNJ, both traditional orthodox and progressives, are staying in the midst of their differences. One matter is not going to divide them. Like Jesus and even the disciples, there will be differences, but we have a greater mission and ministry that we are focused on. I am deeply proud of clergy and lay leadership who have led their congregations to continue to focus on the greater mission and purpose of the church.

Ultimately that is why Jesus could tell his disciples to not be troubled. God had a plan and mission bigger than any one of their differences. Jesus would not let them, or the mission, be compromised by their differences.

Our present United Methodist controversy is about people, not issues. That is what Jesus realized, he saw his disciples as people, not an object, not an issue, not those who were with him or against him, but as people. For those who go through the process and continue with The United Methodist Church and its mission, we have a covenant process that identifies what you need to continue with the mission of The United Methodist Church and a covenant with the cabinet to value you and see you as important member of the body of Christ.

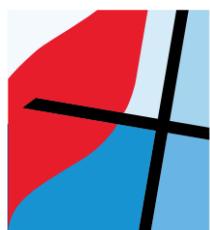
Today, I call the 96% of the congregations who have chosen to continue as United Methodist congregations to see those who are exploring disaffiliation as people, beloved children of God. I ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide their decision making. And for those who vote to disaffiliate, that God will bless them and their ministry. An untroubled heart can release, forgive, and see people through God's eyes.

Today, I call the pastors and church leaders who are applying pressure, and it is not all the congregations who are exploring disaffiliation, but a few, to trust the Holy Spirit. That is also an untroubled heart. We tend to get more of what we promote, and if we promote division, you will see more division in your future.

Thank you everyone for being part of the body of Christ and for faithfulness to the mission of God in and through The United Methodist Church.

Keep the faith! 🇺🇸

“LIKE JESUS AND EVEN THE DISCIPLES, THERE WILL BE DIFFERENCES, BUT WE HAVE A GREATER MISSION AND MINISTRY THAT WE ARE FOCUSED ON.”



THE RELAY

UNITED METHODISTS
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.

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UNITED METHODISTS
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Ida Road to Recovery

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residents, businesses, organizations, government, and institutions work together to heal communities.”

Under the leadership of Bishop Schol and Bobbie Ridgley, AFWH’s recovery program repaired or rebuilt more than 250 homes, utilized more than 11,000 volunteers (many hosted by our local churches), and raised more than \$16 million dollars for its mission. GNJ and AFWH made an indelible impact in those disaster hit shore communities.

Reflecting on the upcoming anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, The Greater New Jersey Conference, once again, finds itself in a position to respond to hurting communities due to the impact Hurricane Ida had on September 1, 2021. With devastating floods, winds, and tornadoes, the northeastern United States was one of the hardest hit regions. The scope of the damage is far reaching with over 85,000 FEMA registrations, disaster declarations in 12 counties, and the loss of 30 lives.

It’s been over a year since Hurricane Ida hit and work has yet to begin to help households recover and return home. Limited funding and changes in the FEMA process have protracted recovery for impacted households who need assistance from disaster agencies.

Thanks to a generous grant from UMCOR, GNJ is setting up its recovery program to assist impacted households through disaster case management, volunteers to repair homes, and resources to aid in recovery. The key to effective recovery in communities is the partnership between survivors and disaster case managers who coordinate necessary services and address complex disaster recovery needs. We are prioritizing households most in need of support, families with limited incomes, adults over the age of 65, and persons with access and functional needs.

If you are interested in learning about how you or your church can become involved with GNJ’s Ida Road to Renewal, please reach out to Andrea Wren-Hardin, Disaster Recovery Coordinator at awrenhardin@gnjumc.org or Cricket Denton, Volunteer Coordinator, at cdenton@gnjumc.org. 🇺🇸



Damage to Casino Pier in Seaside Heights, New Jersey.

Photo Courtesy Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/U.S. Air Force/New Jersey National Guard



Tornado on the horizon during Hurricane Ida in New Jersey.



Aerial views of Mantoloking, New Jersey, show damage from Hurricane Sandy during an Army search and rescue mission, Oct. 30, 2012. *Photo Courtesy Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/U.S. Air Force/New Jersey National Guard*

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WE ARE:

The United Methodist Church is a worldwide connection—*we are the person next door, the church on the other side of the country, and the worshiping community across the globe.* We are more than 12 million members in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States. Together, we share a legacy of living as disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing God’s love both in what we say and how we serve our neighbors.

We are present in more than 100 countries, speaking many languages and representing diverse cultures, but our 43,000 local congregations all share:

- A 238-year history that has been hope, healing and salvation for millions,
- A mission and ministry that is heart inspired and hands on,
- A commitment to show up when there is a disaster and pray for one another in our daily challenges,
- And a passion for following Jesus through worship, prayer, service and the study of Scripture.

WE BELIEVE:

God—God, who is one, is revealed in three distinct persons.

Jesus—We believe in the mystery of salvation through Jesus Christ. God became human in Jesus whose life, death and resurrection demonstrate God’s redeeming love.

The Holy Spirit—The Holy Spirit is God’s present activity in our midst. When we sense God’s leading, God’s challenge, or God’s support or comfort, it’s the Holy Spirit at work.

The Bible—We believe that the Bible is the primary authority for our faith and practice.

God’s Reign—The kingdom or reign of God is both a present reality and future hope and experienced by living the stories and teachings of Jesus.

The Church—The church is the body of Christ, an extension of Christ’s life and ministry in the world today.

Grace—We understand grace as a gift from God—the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence. God’s grace is at work throughout our spiritual journeys—it prepares us, redeems us, and continually shapes us into the people we are created to be.

Sacraments—We recognize two sacraments, baptism and communion. Baptism marks the beginning of our lifelong journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. Communion nourishes and sustains us on the journey.

Inclusiveness—All are welcome to participate in the life and work of the church. No distinction is made because of racial or ethnic background, national origin, language, gender, age, handicapping condition, or social status.

How we make a difference:

- 43,000 congregations throughout the World.
- 5,541,338 Church School students.
- 309 Hospitals/Clinics.
- More than 350 missionaries in the United States and 350 other countries.
- United Methodists and UMCOR respond to hundreds of disasters every year in communities like yours.

Does the UMC teach and affirm the full divinity of Jesus?

Yes. from ¶104, Confession of Faith Article II) “We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged.”

Does the UMC teach and affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus?

Yes. from ¶104, Articles of Religion, Article III) “Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.” Yes. from ¶106, Articles of Religion, Article III) “Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.”

Does the denomination teach and affirm the historic Christian creeds?

Yes. from ¶102) “Faced with diverse interpretations of the apostolic message, leaders of the early church sought to specify the core of Christian belief in order to ensure the soundness of Christian teaching. The determination of the canon of Christian Scripture and the adoption of ecumenical creeds such as the formulations of Nicaea and Chalcedon were of central importance to this consensual process. Such creeds helped preserve the integrity of the church’s witness, set boundaries for acceptable Christian doctrine, and proclaimed the basic elements of the enduring Christian message. These statements of faith, along with the Apostles’ Creed, contain the most prominent features of our ecumenical heritage.”

Together, we are The United Methodist Church, making a difference in your community and around the world.

Introspections of those in New Appointments this Year

Bishop Schol, in his letter to GNJ at the beginning of appointment season writes “I continue to be inspired by the ways GNJ congregations are faithfully and effectively serving in the midst of change. You are seizing new opportunities and adapting ministry to connect during these times. Thank you”.

He states “Essential to congregational ministry and vitality is lay and clergy leadership. I give thanks for our clergy and congregations who faithfully engage in an itinerant system. Our Wesleyan itinerant system is built on Isaiah 6:8, *I heard the Lord’s voice, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am. Send me.”*

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newcomers to the community do not know where we are. Relationship building during this new season is important, which is why our congregation is working towards building a holy relationship that is bi-directional.

GNJ provided transition workshops and resources during my transition. The congregation at Belford United Methodist Church and neighbors were very helpful in the moving process. The District Superintendent also showed support as relates to mentoring and my wellbeing. A few Pastors reached out to me too.

I would preach on the topic of biblical translation. We don’t have a worldwide language. Even if we stick with English, the language varies considerably from one area to another.

Senior Pastor Han Kim

Morganville UMC

I am excited that the Holy Spirit inspires me to share many visions that God has given for this new opportunity with my congregations.

We are known as “the church on the hill” because our church building was literally built on the top of a hill. During my leadership at the church on the hill, I would like to invite all church members to build the church on “healing.” We will be the church where healing (reaffirming) our faith, healing (serving) our community, and healing (transforming) the whole world. God will work with us, in us, and for us!

I participated in transition workshops that GNJ prepared for all pastors and congregations who are supposed to face a new transition this year. Through these workshops, I was able to meet my “future” church leaders and build a good connection before the transition began. I also had a lot of resources that I can now apply to my new season. For example, when I have small group house meetings, I can utilize questions of good quality that I learned from the workshops. GNJ guided me to understand the church and its context and listen to the voice of the congregation and their expectations. I look forward to seeing what God will do through Morganville UMC.

Even though this is just an outline of what I want to study more, I would like to preach about the relationship between the Bible and Lookism. When I read the bible, I often find several verses which seem like lookism. Exodus 2:2 says, “She saw that he [Moses] was a fine baby.” One of the Korean translations says, “he was a ‘handsome’ baby.” Also, we can read Job 42:15, which says “In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daugh-

ters.” That’s not the whole story. The Bible says, Daniel is a young man “without physical defect and handsome...” (Daniel 1:4) Is the Bible saying most people who were beloved by God were beautiful and handsome? Does the Bible foster lookism? I do not think so. I guess there must be deeper reasons that the Bible used the words. I want to study this topic more and develop it for the most FUN sermon.

Pastor Iraida Ruiz de Porras

Butler UMC

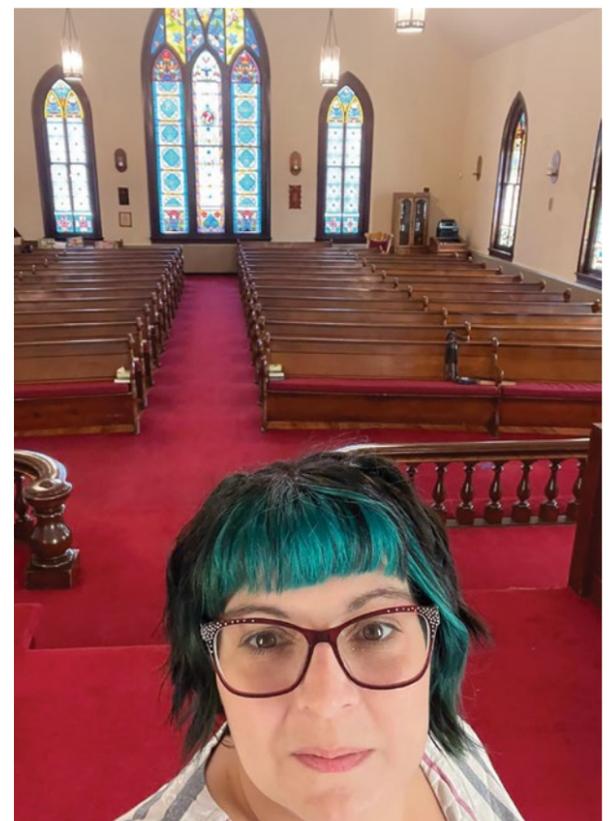
Butler UMC offers two services on Sunday, an English service at 9:30 am, and a Spanish service at 11:30 am, with weekly Bible studies and ministry opportunities in both languages, in person and with a virtual option through Google Meet. Sunday services are also live streamed through Facebook. It has been an exciting summer meeting with passionate and engaging church leaders with servant’s hearts, learning the names of faithful members, and the mission and ministries serving the community. Fun fact, my daughter, Alexandra (who is now 27 years young) sang during a children’s event in 2006, championed by DS Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega-Perez, then associate pastor at Butler UMC. Church leaders and volunteers are very committed to their roles and embrace every opportunity to serve and serve well. One of the most inspiring acts I have experienced at Butler UMC is the engagement with the community. Their service surpasses the definition of volunteer; it is servant leadership.

Last month during September, we celebrated Rally Sunday at a local park, filled with games, food, fellowship, and the Good News. The theme for the September sermon series was “Spiritually Fit: You’ve got to move, move it!” inspired by the movie Madagascar. This series was a FUN sermon series in which we explored how it is that the Holy Spirit moves us to the next steps in our spiritual journey and missional purpose! With this series, we learned to keep a healthy pace and balance between the spiritual and the secular responsibilities we all have. In October, we will begin a new sermon series on stewardship, and we will explore biblical stories that bear witness that inspires giving from grateful hearts!

I am grateful for GNJ’s transition training and Butler UMC’s transition team. Former Pastor Mike McKay and Pastor Lourdes Matos, along with the staff administrator, team members, committee chairs, and congregation, collaborated to make this transition a success! I am very excited to see what God has in store for us as a congrega-



Pastor Iraida Ruiz de Porras in front of Butler UMC.



Pastor Tiffany B Travia in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church of Hammonton.

tion, community, and leaders called by God to serve with grateful hearts at such a time as this!

Pastor Mark Schol

The United Methodist Church in Madison

So much! The people I’ve had the opportunity to meet with are kind, welcoming, and excited about trying new forms of ministry. Being located close to three college campuses— including our own Drew University—it opens avenues to share our mission while also creating a space for students to explore their faith. The congregation is also investing in online ministry and welcoming international students into leadership.

To grow our relationships with Drew, focus on creative ways to do online ministry, and live into our vision of being a teaching congregation.

Both the conference as well as my clergy colleagues have been encouraging during my transition. Several clergy (active and retired) reached out to me via text,



Pastor Jung Ung Moon of Calvary Korean United Methodist Church preaching for Korean Students at Drew Theological Seminary Chapel.

phone, email and Facebook to offer their support and welcome in this new appointment. GNJ has also been helpful by offering a “best practices” approach to the transition. We’ve set up small group meetings in people’s homes (a great recommendation by GNJ!) which has allowed us to have informal conversations about our love of the church and how we can share Christ’s message in a new season.

During the month of October, we’ll be creating a sermon series based on the Apple TV+ show Ted Lasso called “Believe”. Ted Lasso is a show about a football coach who is hired by a struggling English Soccer team. Ted’s sunny disposition and optimism is in stark contrast to the dry, cynical personalities which greet him in England. This was a great show to watch during the pandemic as it was the opposite of the True Crime (Tiger King anyone?) type shows which filled the void while we waited to get out of quarantine. We’ll host watch parties to catch people up with the show’s premise and offer scripturally based conversations starters.

Pastor Jung Ung Moon

Calvary Korean United Methodist Church

Calvary UMC has many good lay leaders. We can change the world with spiritual leaders!

I have started the new small group operation and textbook with Living Through the Bible, a year-based Bible reading program.

Bishop encourages new ministries and District Superintendents guide and concern the church’s needs. I am grateful for this great leadership supporting our church.

In a previous sermon, I explained the taste of sweet donuts and I distributed donuts to the congregation. It was a very enjoyable time for everyone!

Pastor Marissa van der Valk

Parsippany UMC

Parsippany UMC is a loving, caring, and welcoming community of believers. I am excited about the opportunities for the congregation to grow in their faith and reach out to the greater community.

Engage in active listening, discover opportunities for growth, and learn about the congregation’s gifts.

GNJ provided materials as well as a seminar that helped both me and the congregation in the transition.

The theology of the TV show Stranger Things. The show has so many great themes of redemption, reconciliation, restoration, hope, and what it means to be community.

Pastor Tiffany B Travia

First United Methodist Church of Hammonton

I am excited to have the opportunity to serve in the town where I grew up. I know this town, and it’s a different kind of work than walking into an appointment in an area you know nothing about. It’s a joy I never expected to have.

Right now, I am taking the time to get to know our leadership teams and congregation. I believe in honoring everyone in the room from the youngest to the oldest, and it isn’t about my way of doing things, it’s about finding our way together. I am also looking for all the ways

God is already moving in this fellowship and how I can best serve alongside them as we move forward.

This transition has been very different than my first one. I began my previous appointment in the beginning stages of the pandemic, so this transition has been entirely different. I am grateful that my DS and the regional team have been very efficient in setting up meetings so we can get to know each other. It is good to feel supported stepping into a new church as we emerge from pandemic restrictions and navigate these days ahead.

The most FUN sermon I would love to preach now would be themed around the movie Encanto. I love finding the Gospel message and biblical truths in arts and entertainment. Encanto has many beautiful themes, but at its core, it is

a story about how we each have different gifts but are part of the same family. It reminds me of a verse in 1 Cor. 12 about how we are one body with many members. If we give each other the space to shine using the gifts God has given us, we can impact our community. With the Spirit’s help, we can create disciples for the transformation of the world.

Pastor Javier Barroso-Rodriguez

Manasquan UMC

It’s a new beginning for me and my family in a new environment, a new mission and ministry, and a new opportunity to serve amidst a great community with an awesome and creative church. As a family, we are very excited about this new appointment!

We plan to grow, to serve God in new and different ways. To grow with the church as an integral family, as leaders, and as part of this community that has received us with love and enthusiasm. Explore new frontiers in ministry and continue working with our health and personal care. Always be ready to go where there is a need to share Christ.

GNJ has provided us with the tools for a healthy and organized transition. We have received many resources that lighten the load and have helped us get to this new appointment in an organized manner and it has been a great blessing.

I would do a series of stand-up comedy sermons or teach the congregation how to do theology using comedy movies as a base. 🇺🇸

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Election Nov. 2 - Nov. 17



VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS ARE SET FOR:

Oct 19 at 11:30 a.m. & Oct 19 at 3 p.m. for Active Clergy & Lay Employees

Oct 25 at 10:00 a.m. & Oct. 27 at 2:00 p.m. for Retirees

Learn more at: www.gnjumc.org/2022-open-enrollment-healthcare/



IGNITE 2022 Conference

By Mekan Payne

IGNITE 2022 from September 30 – October 2 was described as “the best one yet,” “an amazing relaunch,” and “just what my youth group needed to come back together.” Youth from Greater New Jersey gathered alongside friends from New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, and Upper New York Annual Conferences! When asked to describe the weekend, students declared IGNITE 2022 to be: “powerful”, “exciting”, “a new experience with my youth group”, “interesting” and “mind-blowing that I can connect with God outside of Sunday morning church”.

The young people of IGNITE 2022 participated in a concert with artists Angie Rose and Hulvey, both of whom shared their powerful testimonies through the ministry of music. They were led through the weekend by DJ and emcee El Vow and worship leader Sean Curran. Youth heard powerful messages related to the IGNITE 2022 theme, *Limitless*, from speakers Eugene Cho and Aqueelah Ligonde. Pastor Eugene reminded us that no matter what challenges we have faced, we have deep value and are loved by God. Rev. Ligonde invited us to remember that we’re connected with others and not to forget that we’re all part of the Body of Christ.

At IGNITE 2022, youth groups had the opportunity to participate in meaningful missional initiatives. Groups spent time before the IGNITE event collecting coats for the First Spanish UMC “The People’s Church” (Bronx, New York) and diapers for The Maker’s Place (Trenton, New Jersey). Youth and leaders also spent time participating in interactive and engaging workshops.

Leaders of young people spent time analyzing, learning and discussing the potential for youth ministry in a post-pandemic world, while youth spent time interacting with topics such as worship, mental health, racism, mission and leadership.

During IGNITE 2022, the Holy Spirit radiated throughout the activities, worship, conversations, and the space. Youth and adults alike expressed acknowledgement and deep appreciation of the opportunity to come together again in community. One adult church leader shared that they chose to attend IGNITE for their own faith journey but that the experience they had for the weekend clearly is leading them to “start a youth group in my church for the three students who are there.” Throughout the weekend of IGNITE 2022, youth groups were rebuilt, grown, and even started!

The ministry of IGNITE has grown and evolved over the years but the mission and purpose has remained the same: to provide space for young people to connect through relationships, grow in their faith, and develop as leaders. The IGNITE team is beyond blessed and grateful for the team of faithful volunteers, including our mighty young adult “IGNITE Squad”, who made sure that every detail was in place for the IGNITE 2022 weekend. Our team has witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit and we are overwhelmed with the stories, testimonies and experiences that have been shared with us from IGNITE 2022. We are already praying and planning for IGNITE 2023 and we can’t wait to see what our limitless God will continue to do in the lives of young people. 🇺🇸







A Sustainable Future

By Gina Yeske

I am not super “outdoorsy”. Sure, I like to garden and take a nice walk, or maybe a short hike, but I like to head indoors after a while. So it was definitely way outside my comfort zone to take a group of youth to a music festival that required camping outdoors for a week. After my first time at this event, I quickly learned some important survival skills for living in the great outdoors, especially amongst a few thousand people.

Lesson One: To have an enjoyable experience, you needed a good base camp. Aside from the tents where everyone would sleep, the campsite needed a place for people to gather, eat, chill out and play games, and sit around the campfire. Over the years, we worked hard to continually improve our basecamp, which resulted in our campers having a great experience.

Whether you are attending a music festival or developing and delivering ministry and mission to a local community, there needs to be a base camp where supplies are stored, where people can gather, rest, and strategize from where resources are deployed. For the local church, your “base-camp” includes your facilities and resources that provide space and the budget for people to gather, hold classes and worship, and a platform for engaging the community as well as your people.

Has your congregation experienced trouble in maintaining your facilities? Are you struggling with finding new leaders? Have you stripped your budget to the bare minimum? Now is the time to address these base camp concerns before they become an obstacle to your mission and ministry.

Lesson Two: Be resilient and flexible. If you are living in the great outdoors there will be storms, bugs, dirt, and



burnt food. There will be times when congregations will struggle to meet financial and administrative obligations and attract new people. But healthy teams can take on challenging problems with great resilience, they adapt, adjust, and move forward.

I would like to introduce *Pathways: A Sustainable Future*. This process will allow your congregation to

work on a plan to care for your basecamp for ministry and mission. *Pathways: A Sustainable Future* will also build on your resilience as you address and strengthen the five areas of sustainability: facilities, finance-revenue, spending, debt, and faithful folks.

“A SUSTAINABLE
CONGREGATION CAN
CARRY OUT THE MISSION
IN THE COMMUNITY AND
BE BEARERS OF HOPE
IN THE WORLD.”

Congregations that engage in this module will develop a plan to reduce the risk factors and set forth on a path toward long-term health. A sustainable congregation can maintain its buildings and properties and support its leadership and ministry budget so it can carry out the mission in the community and be bearers of hope in the world.

Pathways: A Sustainable Future is one of four follow-up modules available for churches who have completed *Pathways Part 1: Assess and Discern*. Over the next few months, I will be sharing more about our other modules on Organization, Growing Congregational Health and Fruitfulness, and Community Engagement.

To learn more about Pathways see <https://www.gnjumc.org/pathways>. Or contact Congregational Resource Champion, Gina Yeske at gyeske@gnjumc.org.

Visiting Harp Prayer and Chant Circle

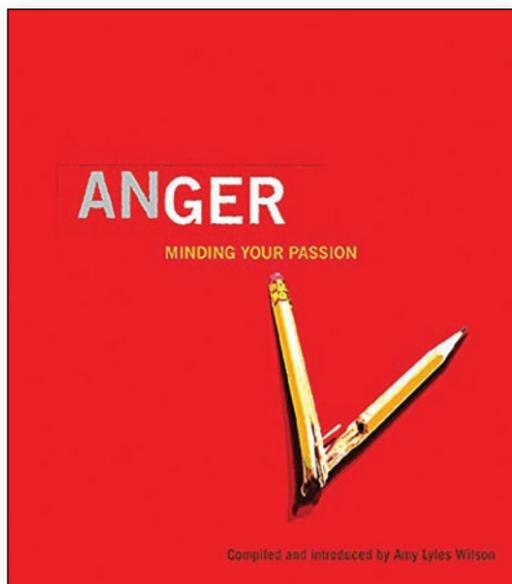


Each *Prayer and Chant Circle* will begin with a harp meditation on a classic hymn to calm our soul and focus our mind on the presence of God in our midst. Scripture, chanting, and prayer will then draw the circle closer together and grow the Light of God within and among us.

Contact for booking
609-577-3604

Email: pastorfkb@GodHQ.net
<http://www.prayersong.net/VisitingHarp.php>

OCTOBER BOOKSHELF



Anger

Minding Your Passion
Amy Lyles Wilson, compiler
and editor

Anger is a common human emotion, yet it often leaves us squirming with discomfort and worrying that we're not spiritual enough.

In *Anger: Minding Your Passion*, you'll find a collection of writings that explore the constructive use of this powerful emotion. Sometimes we have every right to get good and mad. It's what we do with our anger that matters.

As you read and ponder thoughts from such noted au-

thors as Frederick Buechner, Sue Monk Kidd, Madeleine L'Engle, and Thich Nhat Hanh, you'll find validation for your feelings, as well as suggestions for handling anger. You'll discover that you can cope with anger while still believing in and having a relationship with God.

On Our Way

Christian Practices for

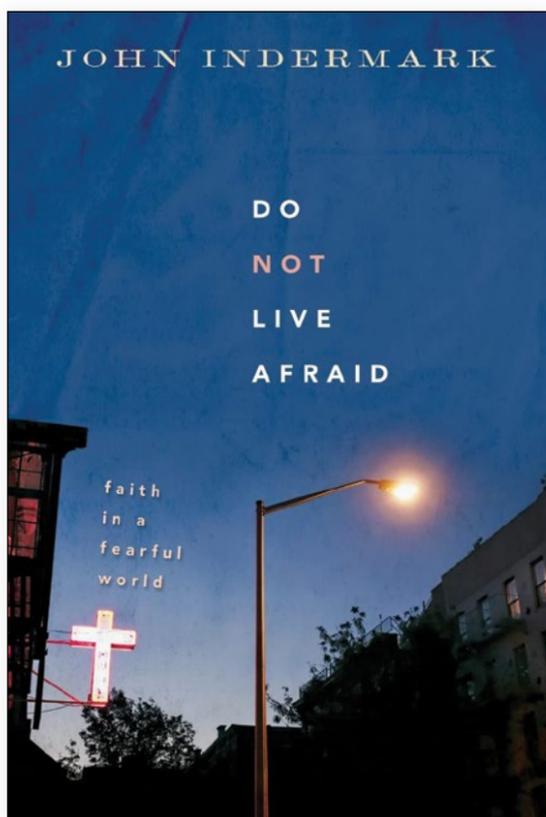
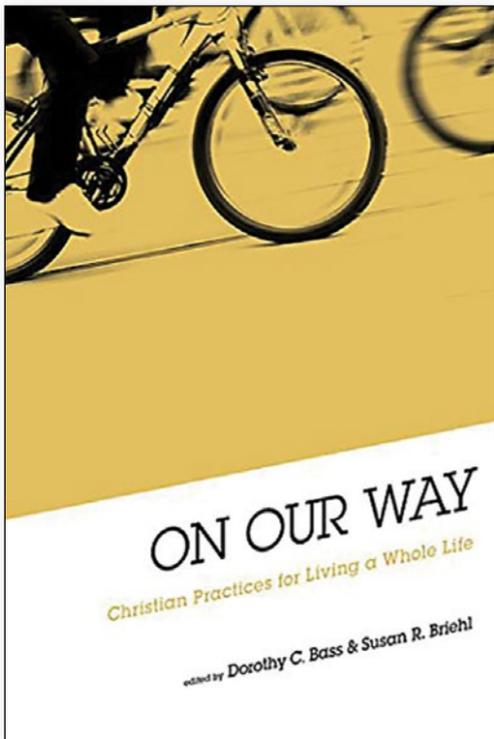
Living a Whole Life

Susan Briehl, Dorothy Bass

Early adulthood is a time of possibility, uncertainty, decision, and hope. During these years, individuals determine how they will approach life challenges and opportunities. In *On Our Way: Christian Practices for Living a Whole Life*, writers from a variety of backgrounds address topics of particular relevance to young adults.

As young adults move away from the confines of home, school, and church youth group, this book will serve as an excellent resource. While it speaks from a Christian perspective, its broad approach makes it appealing both to Christians and to those who consider themselves "spiritual but not religious."

Well-suited for individual reading or group discussion, *On Our Way* is an excellent companion for young adults seeking their place in today's world.



Do Not Live Afraid

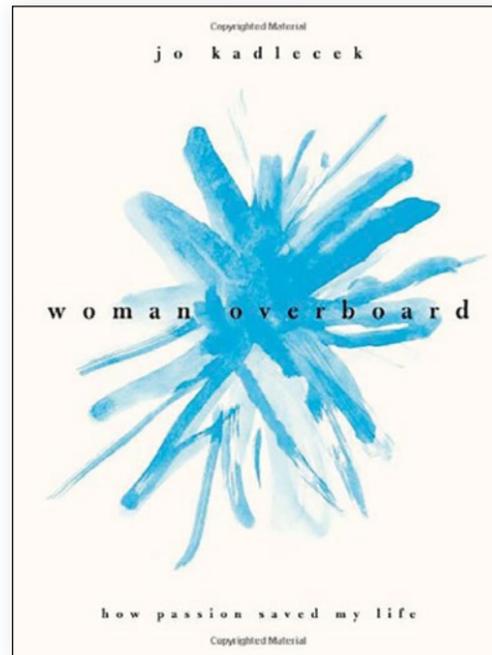
Faith in a Fearful
World

John Indermark

In scripture, the opposite of faith is often fear.

With remarkable frequency, the first thing God says to those poised at the edge of momentous decisions or holy encounters is, "Do not be afraid." What God intends is not simply an attitude adjustment but empowerment.

Each chapter considers a theme that explores what God's message of "do not be afraid" makes possible in our lives: trust, vocation, witness, justice, and transformation. After each chapter, Indermark includes spiritual exercises that invite readers to move deeper into the words on the page.



FAB: Woman Overboard

How Passion Saved My Life
Jo Kadlecik

Do you long for more passion in your life? How do you define passion?

Many people associate passion with intense romance, adventure, creativity, vocation, or calling. If you ask a pastor or priest to define passion, he or she would likely link the word to the passion of Christ, to the events of Holy Week.

The definition of passion has evolved over the years. Originally the word came from the Latin *passio*, which means "to suffer."

The passionate life isn't easy, Kadlecik says. Suffering can

come when we pursue our passions. We have to take risks; we must jump overboard. We need to recognize that jumping overboard could be hard, scary, and dangerous. But consider how dangerous it would be to just stay where you are.

When we anchor our identity in the passion of Christ, we are free to jump overboard. We are free to take the risks we've always wanted to take, to pursue the things we've always wanted to pursue.

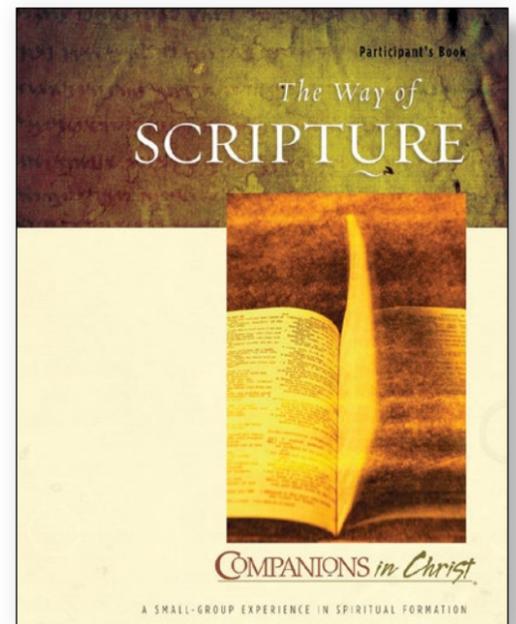
Companions in Christ: The Way of Scripture Leader's Guide

Marjorie J. Thompson

Do you search the scriptures to validate your own beliefs and decisions, or do you allow the Word to search you? If you're looking for a deeper experience of God's Word, this study will support you in going beyond simple Bible study. You'll find ideas to help you lay aside preconceived notions and daily worries, creating a place for a transforming encounter with God.

The Leader's Guide for the 8-week small-group study provides the following:

- The structure of each weekly 2-hour group meeting
- A list of materials for all meetings
- Simple worship suggestions for opening and closing the meetings
- Instructions for facilitating shared insights and learning
- A variety of practical approaches to lectio divina



The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation

Creating a Culture
of Justpeace

Thomas Porter

Transforming conflict into a positive rather than a negative force is a spiritual pursuit and needs to be grounded in biblical principles: love of God, neighbor, and self. This book is a resource for leaders, ministers, mediators, facilitators, and conflict transformation consultants who want to approach the work in this way. Part 1 explains how we can prepare ourselves for the work of engaging conflict. Part 2 explores how we engage others in conflict transformation, outlining specific processes. Interwoven with the practical instructions are stories that illustrate the potential for this new "justpeace" approach.

CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Disaster Case Manager

A Future With Hope

AFWH, seeks a Full Time, Limited Term Disaster Case Manager. 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. 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 related field is required.

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

Bookkeeper

A Future With Hope

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/.

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/.

Piano/Organ/Keyboard Player

Browns Mills UMC, Browns Mills, NJ

The Browns Mills United Methodist Church has an immediate opening for a Piano/Organ or Keyboard player.

If you are interested, please contact the church office for details (609-893-8347) or Harry Bishop (609-206-5363).

Administrative Assistant

First UMC—Toms River

First United Methodist Church of Toms River is seeking an Administrative Assistant to work Monday through Friday from 9:00am – 2:00pm. The Administrative Assistant is the first person a visitor encounters when visiting First Church therefore it is important to have excellent communication skills, understanding of the need for utmost confidentiality. A complete job description is available by contacting the office (during office hours) at office@fumctr.com.

Please send your cover letter and resume' to SPRC Chair Fred Muller at fmuller6@comcast.net by September 23, 2022.

Children/Youth Program Director

Teaneck UMC, Teaneck, NJ

Teaneck United Methodist, located in Teaneck, NJ, is looking for a person who will oversee its children/youth program. A seminary degree is not required, but candidate must be a professing Christian with good knowledge of the Bible and have the experience of leading children's program in a church Sunday school. The person will be working closely with the pastor, planning, coordinating, and providing spiritual nurture and guidance to the children and youth. The compensation will be negotiated based upon experience and effectiveness.

If interested, please submit a resume to Teaneck United Methodist Church C/O SPPRC, 201 DeGraw Ave. Teaneck, NJ or teaneckunitedmethodist@gmail.com.

JOB OPENINGS

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

*“Let us not become weary
in doing good,
for at the proper time
we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.”*

GALATIANS 6:9

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Rev. William Wilson and spouse Ashley Wilson celebrate their children's baptism.

Each month we will highlight one photo sent in from our congregations that really exemplifies the wonderful ministries they are doing. If you would like to submit a photo, please email Laura at lcansonier@gnjumc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Leadership Academy Course:</i> Youth Ministry Fundamentals
Nov. 2, 9, 16 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Leadership Academy Course:</i> Building A Healthy Church Culture
Dec. 6 (2 sessions)	<i>Leadership Academy Course:</i> Statistical Reports Training
Nov. 2 – 17	Health and Dental Insurance Annual Election

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

BSA and Congregation Agreements Extended

The BSA and UMC have agreed that all present agreements currently in place have been extended to **December 31, 2022**. This includes charters, affiliation agreements and facilities use agreements. It is possible the agreements will be further extended due to the unanticipated delay in the final approval of the BSA reorganization plan. Please ensure conference leadership and congregations with BSA troops are aware of this extension.

OBITUARIES

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families and friends.

Joseph P. Breig, Retired Local Pastor, passed away on September 3, 2022. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be made at Poland Village Baptist Church 79 Hill Dr. Poland, OH 44514. Expressions of sympathy may be sent at www.beckerobits.com.

Alma Y. Dobson, Retired Local Pastor, passed away on September 8, 2022. A memorial service was held on September 15, 2022. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to The Dobson Family, 659 Howard Ave. Atlantic City, NJ 08401.

Judith Marshall, Spouse of Retired Full Elder, W. Howard Marshall, passed away on September 21, 2022. A memorial service will be held on October 8, 2022 at First UMC 116 Columbia Ave, Newfield, NJ 08344. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to: First UMC, 116 Columbia Ave. Newfield, NJ 08344. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. W. Howard Marshall 700 Violet Rd. Millville, NJ 08332-7191.

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”

1 JOHN 3:2

DO YOU KNOW ALL THE BENEFITS OFFERED BY A DUAL SPECIAL NEEDS PLAN?



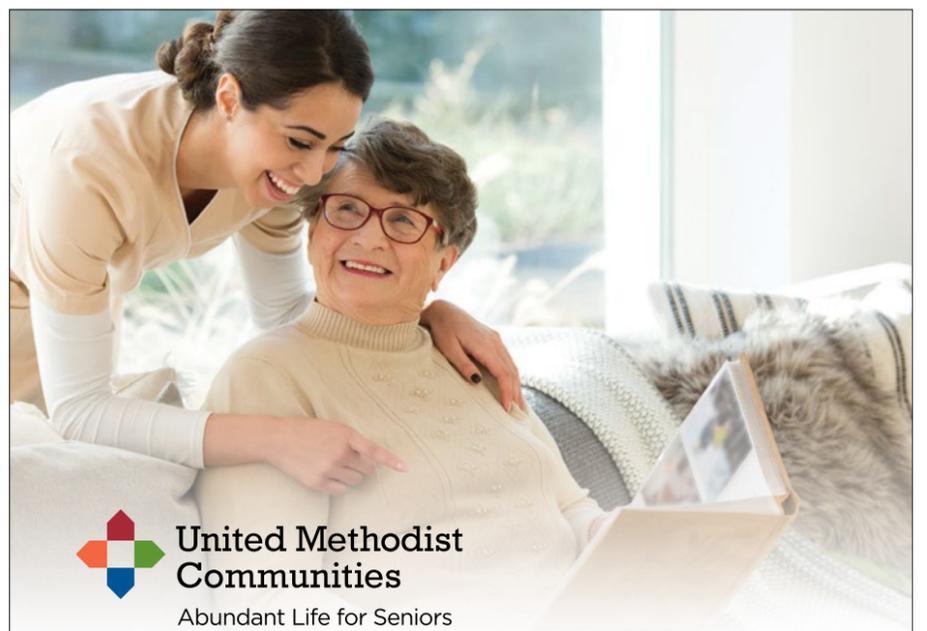
YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL IN A PLAN WITH BENEFITS INCLUDING **DENTAL, VISION, & HEARING** AS WELL AS **OTC AND MORE**

Have you recently turned 65, new to Medicare, losing coverage or qualify for a SEP
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This is a solicitation to sell insurance. Don Medley is a licensed agent and is not a government entity. Plan availability varies by region and state. Enrollment in the described plan type(s) may be limited to certain times of the year unless you qualify for a special enrollment period. We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options. For a complete list of available plans please contact 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a day/7 days a week or consult www.medicare.gov.

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 **United Methodist Communities**
Abundant Life for Seniors

Tapestries®: A Better Approach to Memory Care

United Methodist Communities' Tapestries Memory Care residents receive care on their own terms, replacing control with choice and decision-making. Tapestries, housed in our communities' Assisted Living neighborhoods, offers a safe, attentively supported and happy environment specially designed to care for your loved one.

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

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



BRISTOL GLEN | COLLINGSWOOD | PITMAN | THE SHORES

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

A Future With Hope is looking to expand, with many open positions. 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/>

To learn more about A Future With Hope's Ida Relief Fund, go to:

www.gnjumc.org/afwh/ida-relief-effort



A FUTURE WITH HOPE
UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY