

February Church Newsletter Willistown Umc

By the late 1870s, sports started to play a key role in the small boroughs of Conshohocken and West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. In 1905, the Conshohocken professional basketball team became the country's first world champions, noted in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Conshohocken's 1919 football team went undefeated, winning the eastern seaboard title, and that team's photograph hangs in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The Conshohocken Soap Box Derby, Little League baseball, and the Fellowship House have also provided an assortment of sporting events. Conshohocken and West Conshohocken Sports is a pictorial tribute to this region's storied sporting past.

The United Methodist order of deacon represents the ever-evolving understanding of ordained ministry. But because of the continual changes, there is confusion about the call, roll, identity, and tasks of deacons. With vivid examples, this book gives a clear understanding of the order of deacon, beginning with a discussion of how its unique call sets apart persons for ordained ministry. Contents include: A Deacon Is Called and Sent A Deacon Is Connectional A Deacon Is Missional A Deacon Is Examined and Equipped The Meaning of Ordination A Deacon Is Appointed Deacons Lead the Church Epilogue: A Snapshot of Deacons and Their Ministry

Many sincere Christians dismiss evangelism due to enduring evangelistic caricatures.

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This book helps readers move beyond those caricatures to consider thoughtfully and practically how they can engage in evangelism, whether it's through one-on-one conversations, social media, social justice, or the pageantry of worship. At once biblical, theological, historical, and practical, this book by a seasoned scholar offers an engaging, well-researched, and well-organized presentation and analysis of 8 models of evangelism. Covering a breadth of approaches--from personal evangelism (one-on-one) to media evangelism (global) and everything in between--Priscilla Pope-Levison encourages readers to take a deeper look at evangelism and discover a model that captures their attention. Each chapter introduces and assesses a model biblically, theologically, historically, and practically, allowing for easy comparison across the board. The book also includes end-of-chapter study questions to further help readers interact with each model.

If you are responsible for managing digital communications in your parish, staying current with trends in the rapidly changing world of social media can seem like an overwhelming task. Which social medium platforms make sense for your church community? How can you make them an effective tool for ministry? As a veteran social media expert, author, and sociologist, Meredith Gould has helped answer these questions and more in her best-selling book *The Social Media Gospel*. In this second edition, Gould provides an easy-to-understand, step-by-step guide to digital ministry for those wishing to embrace new technologies to build community and deepen faith. In

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this expanded edition, Gould delivers new content with humor, helpful tips, and counsel anchored in practical experience. She focuses on key topics for effective church communication, including:

- Building and ministering to online communities
- Privacy and self-disclosure in the digital age
- Integrating communications across digital platforms
- Managing and monitoring social media
- Faith storytelling with visual social media
- Hashtag development and live-tweeting

This ten year anniversary edition of the bestselling Safe Sanctuaries series brings together-in one volume- the transformative and foundational information found in the Melton's previous two volumes. Safe Sanctuaries remains the only resource of its kind that offers the tools necessary to train leaders of the church to keep the children and youth safe. This volume is updated to include information on the growing concern around the internet and predators as well as a new section on vulnerable adults.

History of pastor's ministry in one place.

Everyone is being discipled. The question is: what is discipling us? The majority of Christians today are being discipled by popular media, flashy events, and folk theology because churches have neglected their responsibility to make disciples. But the church is not a secondary platform in the mission of God; it is the primary platform God uses to grow people into the image of Jesus. Therefore, as church leaders, it is our primary responsibility to establish environments and relationships where people can be trained, grow, and be sent as disciples. There

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are three indispensable elements of discipleship: Learning to participate in the biblical story (the Bible) Growing in our confession of who God is and who we are (theology) Regularly participating in private and corporate intentional action (spiritual disciplines) Deep Discipleship equips churches to reclaim the responsibility of discipling people at any point on their journey.

Many local churches are stuck in a rut, have reached a plateau, or - worst of all - are declining. The temptation is to serve up the same exact ministry models that worked in another time and space, but ultimately feel safe to existing churches. Like ordering from a menu at the franchise chain restaurant and expecting the meal to be palatable in the local context, many churches try and start something new by serving up the same old thing, failing to discover what their local community is actually hungry for. From Franchise to Local Dive explores what it means to multiply ministry by cooking with local flavor. Whether you want to start a new service, or a brand-new campus, this workshop will help you discover how to make a ministry recipe that will keep people coming back for more. The local church is not called to settle for the fast food chain mentality that cranks out disciples with slick slogans, flashy trends and regurgitated practices. Rather the call is to be a local, homegrown, farm-fresh, organic ministry that uses authentic ingredients to win people for Jesus. In Franchise to Local Dive, Jason Moore and

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Rosario Picardo offer an important resource designed to help congregations multiply their ministries by learning how to perfect their winning recipes. Not long ago, most white American Christians believed that Jesus blessed slavery. God wasn't bothered by Jim Crow. Baby Jesus had white skin. Meet Plantation Jesus: a god who is comfortable with bigotry, and an idol that distorts the message of the real Savior. That false image of God is dead, right? Wrong, argue the authors of Plantation Jesus, an authoritative new book on one of the most urgent issues of our day. Through their shared passion for Jesus Christ and with an unblinking look at history, church, and pop culture, authors Skot Welch and Rick Wilson detail the manifold ways that racism damages the church's witness. Together Welch and Wilson take on common responses by white Christians to racial injustice, such as "I never owned a slave," "I don't see color; only people," and "We just need to get over it and move on." Together they call out the church's denials and dodges and evasions of race, and they invite readers to encounter the Christ of the disenfranchised. With practical resources and Spirit-filled stories, Plantation Jesus nudges readers to learn the history, acknowledge the injury, and face the truth. Only then can the church lead the way toward true reconciliation. Only then can the legacy of Plantation Jesus be replaced with the true way of Jesus Christ.

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This new edition of the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy is a revised and extended version of the first edition, which was published in 2003 by the Convocations of the Clergy. It is not a formal code of conduct, but a reflection by the Convocations on the words of the Ordinal, addressed to the clergy at the time of their ordination to the ministry of the Church. It draws on the wide experience of the clergy who belong to the General Synod, with contributions from the House of Bishops and the House of Laity. The Guidelines are offered as a means of sharing the fruits of accrued wisdom and experience with colleagues, especially those beginning a new life as ordained ministers, and with all engaged in the mission and ministry of the Church. This new edition takes account of significant developments since 2003, including the publication of a new Ordinal, the new Clergy Discipline Measure, new terms of service for the clergy via Common Tenure, and most recently the comprehensive work which is being undertaken throughout the Church with regard to Safeguarding.

Are you looking for a health plan that is biblically based and scientifically proven? The Maker's Diet is just that. Using a truly holistic approach to health, this groundbreaking book leads you on a journey that will change your life. The Maker's Diet will help you: Boost your immune system Attain and maintain your ideal weight Have abundant energy Improve your physical appearance Improve

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digestion Reduce stress Discover how Jordan Rubin's faith-based journey from near death to vital health led him to uncover the timeless principles of the world's healthiest people. By following The Maker's Diet, your health dreams can become a reality.

Every year, we say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration. This Christmas, cut through the hype that leaves you exhausted and broke at the end of the year. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us. In five short, engaging chapters, Pastor Mike Slaughter inspires readers to approach Christmas differently, and be transformed in the process.

50th Quadrennial Session of the AME Church

The Max Lucado Life Lessons series continues to be one of the bestselling study guide series on the market today. This updated edition of the popular New Testament and Old Testament series will offer readers a complete selection of studies by Max Lucado. Intriguing questions,

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inspirational storytelling, and profound reflections will bring God's Word to life for both individuals and small-group members. Each session now includes a key passage of Scripture from both the NIV (formerly NCV) and the NKJV, and the guides have been updated to include content from Max's recent releases (2007–2016).

Carpools and car crashes, job switches and joint custody, moves and motionlessness. Is there a cohesive storyline to the chaos, confusion, and clutter of your daily life? According to well-loved author Max Lucado, the answer is a resounding yes! So what is the text of your life? With his unequalled warmth and honesty, Lucado plumbs the depths of your storyline and comes up smiling. “Your story indwells God’s,” writes Lucado. “This is the great promise of the Bible and the hope of this book ... Above and around us God directs a grander saga, written by his hand, orchestrated by his will, unveiled according to his calendar. And you are a part of it ...” Join Max for an unforgettable journey woven with New Testament stories and contemporary examples of God’s beautiful story-making skills. The beginning of the narrative is legendary, the middle unfolds with surprises still in store, and the ending of your final earthly chapter ushers in a reunion that almost defies description. It’s time to see what your life looks like when God’s story becomes your story.

The Abingdon Worship Annual is lectionary-based and follows the calendar year (January - December). It offers fresh worship planning resources for all who plan and implement weekly worship. Worship leaders "need to offer prayers, prepare an order of worship, select music, and even prepare a sermon. Into that weekly task, we offer this resource to strengthen your ability to lead creatively and prepare consistently." Liturgies and prayers are also included for New Year’s Day, Ascension Day, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Eve.

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Using a theme based on the lectionary readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, each week's offering of prayers and litanies follows a basic pattern of Christian worship: Invitation and Gathering Proclamation and Response Thanksgiving and Communion Sending Forth The Abingdon Worship Annual is a must-have source book offering countless opportunities for planning meaningful and insightful worship.

Top-notch biblical scholars from around the world and from various Christian traditions offer a fulsome yet readable introduction to the Bible and its interpretation. The book concisely introduces the Old and New Testaments and related topics and examines a wide variety of historical and contemporary interpretive approaches, including African, African-American, Asian, and Latino streams. Contributors include N. T. Wright, M. Daniel Carroll R., Stephen Fowl, Joel Green, Michael Holmes, Edith Humphrey, Christopher Rowland, and K. K. Yeo, among others. Questions for reflection and discussion, an annotated bibliography, and a glossary are included.

Hempton explores the rise of Methodism from its unpromising origins as a religious society within the Church of England in the 1730s to a major international religious movement by the 1880s.

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR From the New York Times-bestselling author of *The Cloister Walk*, a book about Christianity, spirituality, and rediscovered faith. Struggling with her return to the Christian church after many years away, Kathleen Norris found it was the language of Christianity that most distanced her from faith. Words like "judgment," "faith," "dogma," "salvation," "sinner"—even "Christ"—formed what she called her "scary vocabulary," words that had become so codified or abstract that their meanings were all but

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impenetrable. She found she had to wrestle with them and make them her own before they could confer their blessings and their grace. Blending history, theology, storytelling, etymology, and memoir, Norris uses these words as a starting point for reflection, and offers a moving account of her own gradual conversion. She evokes a rich spirituality rooted firmly in the chaos of everyday life—and offers believers and doubters alike an illuminating perspective on how we can embrace ancient traditions and find faith in the contemporary world.

One day in 1986, Laura Schroff, a busy ad sales executive, passed an eleven-year-old boy panhandling on the street. She stopped and offered to take him to McDonald's for lunch. Twenty years later, at Laura's fiftieth birthday party, Maurice Mazyck gave a toast, thanking Laura for her act of kindness, which ended up changing the course of his life. In that toast, Maurice said that when Laura stopped on that busy street corner all those years ago, God had sent him an angel. Laura's invisible thread journey has deepened her belief that angels -- divine and otherwise -- are all around us. After her previous book was published in 2011, readers from around the country and world began sharing with Laura their own stories about how chance encounters with strangers have changed their lives. From a woman who saved a life simply by buying someone a book, to a financier who gave a stranger the greatest gift of all, to a teacher who chose a hug over discipline and changed a lost boy's future -- *Angels on Earth* will introduce a series of remarkable people whose invisible thread stories will move, surprise, and inspire readers.

Quiet Courage for Leadership offers practical guidance to leaders--both lay and ordained--on leading churches today. It encourages leaders to focus on their mission and purpose--what is ultimately motivating their work. It also urges a shift in perspectives on resources, discusses

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models of change, and offers suggestions for avoiding common pitfalls.

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. The Youth Study Book interprets the Grinch, his struggles, and his redemption in a way that youth can relate to and understand, using humor, down-to-earth discussion, and examples from contemporary culture. For young people grades 6-12. Includes leader helps with discussion questions that can be used with the adult-level DVD.

Profoundly moving, fearlessly honest, and relentlessly hopeful, New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans offers this must-read for anyone on the journey of doubt, deconstruction, and ultimately faith reborn. Eighty years after the Scopes Monkey Trial made a spectacle of Christian fundamentalism and brought national attention to her hometown, Rachel Held Evans faced a trial of her own when she began to have doubts about her faith. In *Faith Unraveled*, Rachel recounts growing up in a culture obsessed with apologetics, struggling as her own faith unraveled one unexpected question at a time. In order for her faith to survive, Rachel realizes, it must adapt to change and evolve. Using as an illustration her own spiritual journey from certainty to doubt to faith, Evans challenges you to disentangle your faith from false fundamentals and to trust in a God who is big enough to handle your tough questions. In

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a changing cultural environment where new ideas seem to threaten the safety and security of the faith, *Faith Unraveled* is a fearlessly honest story of survival. This book was previously titled *Evolving in Monkey Town*.

They were the most famous men in America. They came from separate countries, followed different philosophies, and led dissimilar lives. But they were fast friends. No two people did more to shape America in the mid-1700s. Benjamin Franklin was the American prototype: hard-working, inventive, practical, funny, with humble manners and lofty dreams. George Whitefield was the most popular preacher in an era of great piety, whose outdoor preaching across the colonies was heard by thousands, all of whom were told, “You must be born again.” People became excited about God. They began reading the Bible and supporting charities. When Whitefield died in 1770, on a preaching tour in New Hampshire, he had built a spiritual foundation for a new nation—just as his surviving friend, Ben Franklin, had built its social foundation. Together these two men helped establish a new nation founded on liberty. This is the story of their amazing friendship.

In this six week video study, Adam Hamilton explores the key points in his new book, *Making Sense of the Bible*. With the help of this Leader Guide, groups learn from Hamilton as his video presentations lead groups through the book, focusing on the most important questions we ask about the Bible, its origins and meaning.

Acknowledgment should also be made that my observation of the lives and examples of many who do not profess to be Christian has made me realize the

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blessings of God's love, and what kind of person I could have been, except for God's hand working in the lives of those who have surrounded me.

This book is a compilation of information about the call to ministry and the avenues The United Methodist Church offers to embody that call. It is based in the concept of servant ministry and servant leadership presented by the Council of Bishops.

National Jewish Book Award Finalist "Rosner's exquisite, heart-rending debut novel is proof that there's always going to be room for another story about World War II....This is an absolutely beautiful and necessary novel, full of heartbreak but also hope, about the bond between mother and daughter, and the sacrifices made for love." —The New York Times In Poland, as World War II rages, a mother hides with her young daughter, a musical prodigy whose slightest sound may cost them their lives. As Nazi soldiers round up the Jews in their town, Róza and her 5-year-old daughter, Shira, flee, seeking shelter in a neighbor's barn. Hidden in the hayloft day and night, Shira struggles to stay still and quiet, as music pulses through her and the farmyard outside beckons. To soothe her daughter and pass the time, Róza tells her a story about a girl in an enchanted garden: The girl is forbidden from making a sound, so the yellow bird sings. He sings whatever the girl composes in her head: high-pitched trills of piccolo; low-

throated growls of contrabassoon. Music helps the flowers bloom. In this make-believe world, Róza can shield Shira from the horrors that surround them. But the day comes when their haven is no longer safe, and Róza must make an impossible choice: whether to keep Shira by her side or give her the chance to survive apart. Inspired by the true stories of Jewish children hidden during World War II, Jennifer Rosner's debut is a breathtaking novel about the unbreakable bond between a mother and a daughter. Beautiful and riveting, *The Yellow Bird Sings* is a testament to the triumph of hope—a whispered story, a bird's song—in even the darkest of times.

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