



# Wentz's United Church of Christ

January 2019



**Jesus the Game Changer**  
Beginning Sunday, January 20  
9:00 am in Fellowship Hall  
Art Bustard—Leader

This documentary series brings to our attention how the life and teachings of Jesus Christ have impacted our western democracies: the equality of all, servant leadership, care for the poor and marginalized, dignity of women and children, education, to name just a few.

In this series, host Karl Faase travels to the UK, USA, Singapore, India and Australia, interviewing authors, academics and modern-day game changers about how the life and teaching of Jesus changed the world and why it matters."

In a secular society that is increasingly ignorant of its cultural heritage and increasingly anti-Christian, it is important to be able to converse knowledgeably about the faith and the importance of it to our way of life.

The video has ten lessons on subjects as diverse as Equality, Leadership, Forgiveness, Women and Children, Reason and Science, etc. We will expand on the topics to make them more relevant to our immediate daily life while understanding the Christian message and how our life is guided by Christian beliefs that are under assault in today's secular world. It is a thought provoking series that should provoke interesting discussion and understanding of the role of Christian faith in our daily lives.



## Sunday Gatherings in January

10:00 am

|            |   |             |        |
|------------|---|-------------|--------|
| January 6  | — | Humility    | Lovaas |
| January 13 | — | Forgiveness | Lovaas |
| January 20 | — | Six Words   | Lovaas |
| January 27 | — | Bravery     | Lovaas |

# Intersectionality

-Scott Lovaas



When people came to Jesus for teaching, healing or advice he knew their context and their background. It did not matter if the person was a woman, Gentile, slave, or tax collector, he knew the complex systems that offered either privilege or oppression. He also understood the complex ways those people had to interact within their society.

Today we face similar social structures in which people are identified—race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, religion, etc... Moreover, there is no universal experience of oppression or suffering. For example, looking at race: white

women make about 78 cents for every dollar a man makes, black women make 64 cents, while Hispanic women make 54 cents. As a result, it is vital for people of faith to fully understand the complexity and myriad ways that oppression interrelate.

This has been called—intersectionality. In short, intersectionality—refers to the social, economic, and political ways in which identity-based systems of oppression and privilege connect, overlap and influence one another.

Each month we will look at a different lived reality through books, movies, videos, websites, or articles. Toward the end of the month, we will come together to talk about a specific intersection, or what is called intersectionality. It is helpful if people look at the material before the discussion. Here is the lineup for the beginning of 2019:

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| January  | Race             |
| February | Class            |
| March    | Legal Status     |
| April    | Ability          |
| May      | Religion         |
| June     | Gender/Sexuality |

January Resources for a discussion on race

## **Books**

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow*  
Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*  
Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*



## **Movies**

13<sup>th</sup> Movie showing and discussion January 22 7:00 pm Guild Room

## **Videos**

Bryan Stevenson. 'Justice in an Era of Mass Imprisonment' 1:15 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoydTc-l4a4>

Michelle Alexander. 'The New Jim Crow' 1:10 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gln1JwDUI64>

## **Websites**

Black Lives Matter [www.blacklivesmatter.com](http://www.blacklivesmatter.com)  
The Movement for Black Lives <https://policy.m4bl.org>  
Say Her Name <http://www.aapf.org/shn-campaign/>

## **Article**

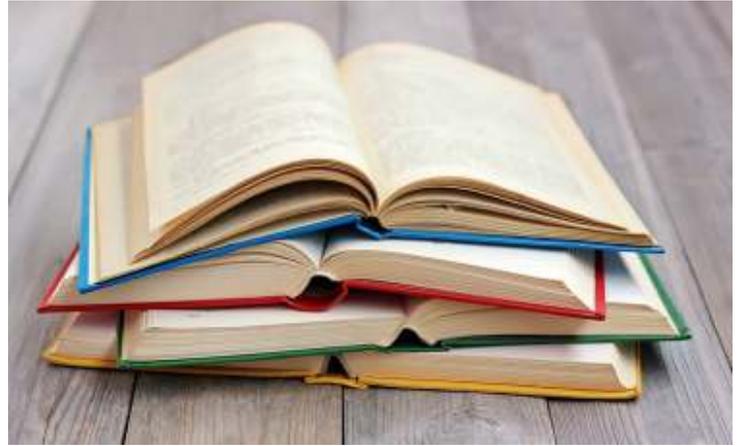
'People In Me.' Robin Kelly. July 5, 2003, ZNet. <https://zcomm.org/znetarticle/people-in-me-by-robin-kelley/>

## **Race Discussion:**

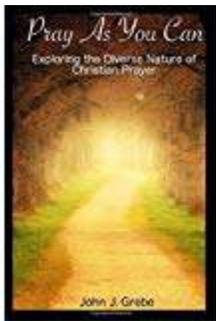
Wednesday, January 30  
7:00 pm Guild Room

## January Reading Suggestions

I would like to call your attention to two new books for the New Year.



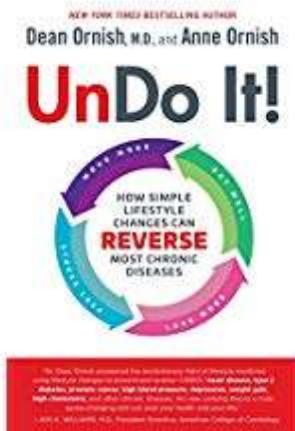
First, our own John Grebe has written a book that can be purchased on Amazon.



***Pray As You Can: Exploring The Diverse Nature of Christian Prayer*** by John Grebe

This book aims to fill the gap in adult prayer education. The reality is that prayer is simpler than most people realize and most of the struggles are rooted in unrealistic views about prayer. There are many ways to pray and different people will naturally connect better with different types of prayer. The good news is that Christianity contains a lot of diversity when it comes to prayer. This book gently walks the reader through various types of prayer in simple straightforward language. The range of topics include Jesus's teachings on prayer, various ways of praying with the Bible, gratitude, guidance on public prayers and much more. Each chapter ends with open ended questions for reflection and discussion.

Second, Dean Ornish has a new book in early January called,



***UnDo It! How Simple Lifestyle Changes Can Reverse Most Chronic Diseases***

Dean and Anne Ornish present a simple yet powerful new unifying theory explaining why simple lifestyle changes can reverse so many different chronic diseases and how quickly these benefits occur. They describe what it is, why it works, and how you can do it:

- *Eat well*: a whole foods, plant-based diet naturally low in fat and sugar and high in flavor. The “Ornish diet” has been rated “#1 for Heart Health” by *U.S. News & World Report* every year from 2011 to 2017.
- *Move more*: moderate exercise such as walking
- *Stress less*: including meditation and gentle yoga practices
- *Love more*: how love and intimacy transform loneliness into healing

Happy Reading



## Wentz's on Tap

Tuesday, January 15 at 7:30 pm  
Justin's Carriage House in Skippack

Reaganomics, Southwest Airlines, Pet Rocks, the Protestant Reformation. All these things can trace their origins to a good conversation in a pub. Join us at this month at Justin's Carriage House in Skippack and see what we come up with next.

Come in for a pint and good conversation.

## Website

Gillian Rader, a member of Wentz's UCC, and a recent graduate of Chapman University, will be working with the staff to update our church website, Facebook page, and logo. Any changes will be vetted through Consistory.



## Sunday Gathering—New Time

Worship will be at 10:00 am beginning on January 6.

Church School will begin at 9 am.

## Security



The church is in the process of evaluating its security. Office staff attended a three-hour training at Montgomery County Public Safety.

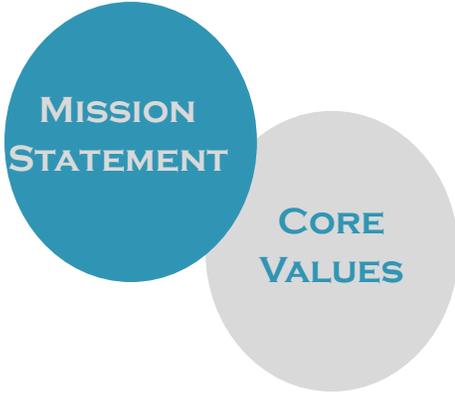
Pennsylvania State Police will come to Wentz's to evaluate our building and make recommendations.

We will keep you informed as the security measures are rolled out.

## Help Wanted



We are looking for a group of volunteers to help record the Sunday morning worship service. No experience is needed. We will train. Please contact the church office if interested.



MISSION  
STATEMENT

CORE  
VALUES

## Mission Statement

For the last several months, Bob DuBree, Gillian Rader, Tiffani Todd, Connie Fretz, Ginny Politz and Scott Lovaas have been crafting a new Mission Statement for Wentz's. They are also identifying Core Values of Wentz's. In December the Consistory provided comments and wanted to share a draft of the new Mission Statement and the Values we lift up at Wentz. We welcome comments.

[DRAFT]

### Wentz's Mission Statement and Values

Wentz's mission is to put faith into action:

Exploring faith

Building community

Growing gratitude

Sharing peace and kindness

#### Values we lift up:

**Community:** We believe that the key to a thriving church is an atmosphere of accepting relationships—where people are building authentic connections. We believe that people need a safe place where they have a sense of belonging, experience healing, find forgiveness, receive support and encouragement.

**Focus on Yes:** The word yes opens up doors. At Wentz's we believe in a spirit of possibility. We try and find ways to say yes—to new models, new ideas, and new patterns. For us, the spirit of God is about saying yes to new experiences, new relationships, and new avenues of growth. We just need willing hearts.

**Inclusive:** No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. As followers of Jesus, we believe that all persons are children of God. We affirm the inherent value, worth, and dignity of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, without regard to one's family structure, faith, economic and social standing, mental and physical ability, civilian or military status, or citizenship.

**Music:** Music and art are avenues in which God reaches out and touches our spirit. Art and music have the ability to arouse, illicit, and sooth our soul. Music can be transformative for individuals, families, and communities. Wentz's invests in and cherishes a wide variety of music for all ages. We value the performance of live music.

**Wisdom:** Wisdom comes from living. As a multi-generational church wisdom comes from the old to young and young to old. Community elders possess a unique perspective on life—they are living human documents. The young are on the frontier of change and possess emerging knowledge and wisdom. Wentz's respects, honors, and cherishes the lives and teachings from all. All individuals possess considerable value to our community—we are all teachers and all learners.



## Bridgebuilder Action Planning Team Update

Dear Members of Wentz's UCC,

Our church means many things to many people. The past few months have made us think about what those things should be.

As we approach a time of transition, we have a choice. A choice to be the architects of what we want our church to be or to simply give up. Change can be frightening, but also an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the future of our church.

The Action Planning Team has discussed the major issues facing our church, found by Peter Steinke through the Bridgebuilder Project. Our next step is to share the results at Focus Groups to which all members are invited. The same information will be presented at all the Focus Groups. Many dates and times are scheduled so that we can accommodate as many members as possible.

Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm  
Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am  
Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am  
Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

You will be asked to fill out a Healthy Systems questionnaire. It includes the seven indicators for healthy systems. The results will then be compiled and reported back to the congregation.

*Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration,  
wonderful things can be achieved.*

-Mattie Stepanek

Reading this letter is the first step towards the future of Wentz's. Be a part of what comes next.

Thank you,  
The Action Planning Team

☼ 10 am Worship Service  
 9:00am Sunday School 9:00 am Saxophones  
 Cherub Choir/Junior Choir/following Children's Message  
 9:45am Prelude chimes & Allegro Ringers  
 ☼Summer Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

# January 2019

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
|  |  | <b>1</b><br>Happy New Year!<br>Office Closed<br>7:30pm AA   | <b>2</b><br>8pm AA   | <b>3</b><br>6:30pm Journey Band<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir<br>7:30pm AA  | <b>4</b><br><b>2pm Focus Group</b><br>8pm AA (Men) | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>6☼</b><br><b>11am Focus Group</b><br>6:30pm Youth Group Meeting | <b>7</b><br>6:30pm AA (Women Only)<br><b>7pm Focus Group</b> | <b>8</b><br><b>9:30am Focus Group</b><br>6pm Flute Choir<br>7pm Resounding Ringers<br>7:30pm AA   | <b>9</b><br>6pm Elders Meeting<br>7pm Consistory Mtg<br>8pm AA | <b>10</b><br>6:30pm Journey Band<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir<br>7:30pm AA | <b>11</b><br>8pm AA (Men)                          | <b>12</b><br><b>1pm Focus Group</b>   |
| <b>13☼</b>   | <b>14</b><br>6:30pm AA (Women Only)                          | <b>15</b><br>6pm Flute Choir<br>7pm Resounding Ringers<br>7:30 Wentz on Tap<br>Justin's Carriage House in Skippack<br><b>Articles for February Newsletter Due</b> | <b>16</b><br>8pm AA  | <b>17</b><br>6:30pm Journey Band<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir<br>7:30pm AA | <b>18</b><br>8pm AA (Men)                          | <b>19</b>   |
| <b>20☼</b><br>9am Jesus the Game Changer<br>6:30pm Youth Group Mtg | <b>21</b><br>6:30pm AA (Women Only)                          | <b>22</b><br>6pm Flute Choir<br>7pm Resounding Ringers<br>7pm Movie & Discussion "13th"<br>7:30pm AA  | <b>23</b><br>8pm AA  | <b>24</b><br>6:30pm Journey Band<br>7:30 Chancel Choir<br>7:30pm AA   | <b>25</b><br>8pm AA (Men)                          | <b>26</b><br>Consistory/Action Planning Team—<br>Bridgebuilder Meeting<br>TBD |
| <b>27☼</b>   | <b>28</b><br>6:30pm AA (Women Only)                          | <b>29</b><br>6pm Flute Choir<br>7pm Resounding Ringers<br>7:30pm AA   | <b>30</b><br>7pm Race Discussion<br>8pm AA                     | <b>31</b><br>6:30pm Journey Band<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir<br>7:30pm AA |  |   |