



Andy Rowell

@AndyRowell



23 minutes ago, 15 tweets, 6 min read

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Thread below on the story that made the rounds yesterday:
"Cottage Grove church to usher out gray-haired members in effort to attract more young parishioners."



People I really like were rightly upset about older people being disrespected. See:



John Fea

@JohnFea1

A Minnesota Church Tells Older Members of the Congregation to Leave and Not Come Back

thewayofimprovement.com/2020/01/20/a-m...



8 6:08 PM - Jan 20, 2020

16 people are talking about this

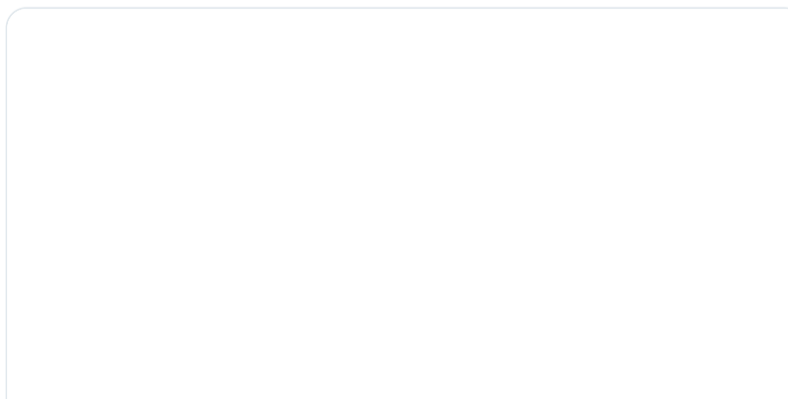


Drew Dyck

@drewdyck

Taking the expression "Out with the old" a bit too literally imo.

twincities.com/2020/01/18/cot...



Cottage Grove church to usher out gray-haired members in eff...

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47 6:52 PM - Jan 20, 2020

[45 people are talking about this](#)



Ruth Graham
@publicroad

"The older members will not be physically barred from attending. ... But the expectation is that they will not. 'We are asking them to let this happen.'" twincities.com/2020/01/18/cot...

Cottage Grove church to usher out gray-haired members in eff...

The church wants to attract more young families, so the present members, most of them over 60 years old, will be invited to worship twincities.com

47 6:49 AM - Jan 21, 2020

[71 people are talking about this](#)

twitter.com/MelissaFloBix



Mimi Haddad
@Mimi_CBE

Replying to @ChesnaHinkley

I agree--toxic! Heard of another church gloat in their leadership being "40 under 40." What happens on your 41st b-day?

12:54 PM - Jan 21, 2020

[See Mimi Haddad's other Tweets](#)



Emma Green
@emmaogreen

The cult of attracting the youths to revitalize religious communities reaches a new extreme--at this small church, the older folks are being kicked out. h/t [@kelsey_dallas](https://twitter.com/kelsey_dallas) for the linkduluthnewstribune.com/lifestyle/fait...

Best path to a younger flock? Church asks older members to ...

COTTAGE GROVE, Minn. — A prayer for survival rose from the back of the church last Sunday. "I pray for this church, getting through this duluthnewstribune.com

8 11:42 AM - Jan 21, 2020

[See Emma Green's other Tweets](#)

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 **John Wilson**
@jwilson1812

Replying to @drewdyck

At first, I was sure that this must be a parody! (I'm still holding a faint hope that it is.)

7 6:55 PM - Jan 20, 2020

[See John Wilson's other Tweets](#)

 **Michelle Van Loon**
@michellevanloon

Replying to @drewdyck

This is blatant, but this happens in all sorts of lesser ways in many churches as older members are ignored, marginalized, patronized, or treated as obstacles in the way of Growth. It is the opposite of Deut 6:4-9. 😞

12 7:01 PM - Jan 20, 2020

[See Michelle Van Loon's other Tweets](#)



I too thought some of the original communication about the changes sounded harsh and insensitive.

The church and denomination both responded with clarifications:

 **Emily McFarlan Miller**
@emillerwrites

Replying to @emillerwrites


Here's the response from The Grove:
s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloverside.org/



And the Minnesota Annual Conference:
minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/responses-to-the-grove-statement/

4 4:05 PM - Jan 21, 2020

[See Emily McFarlan Miller's other Tweets](#)

And today this story with additional reporting was published:

 **Sarah Pulliam Bailey**
@spulliam

 New story about religion and age 

A church allegedly asked older members to leave. Leaders say that didn't actually happen.

Here's the back story: [washingtonpost.com/religion/2020/01/21/cottage-grove-church-asked-older-members-to-leave/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2020/01/21/cottage-grove-church-asked-older-members-to-leave/)

A church allegedly asked older members to leave. Leaders say...
The head pastor said allegations of age discrimination unfairly represented the strategy for a church that has been on the decline for [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

27 7:40 AM - Jan 22, 2020

[See Sarah Pulliam Bailey's other Tweets](#)

The United Methodist Church has the fourth oldest median age of any denomination according to CCES 2018 data.

Ryan Burge @ryanburge

The graph is ordered with the oldest median age at the top to the youngest at the bottom. It sorted into basically three categories: mostly mainline, mostly evangelical, then the other faiths/nones.

I really just wanted to make a ggchicklet #dataviz @hrbmstr #rstats

18 9:52 AM - Jul 5, 2019

[See Ryan Burge's other Tweets](#)

And here is another chart from 2014 Pew Research with the United Methodist Church being the 5th oldest:

Pew Research Religion @PewReligion

Which U.S. religious groups are oldest and youngest?
pewrsr.ch/2eHTyMq

Age structure and median age of U.S. religious groups
 % of U.S. adults in each religious group who are ages 18-29, 30-49, 50-64 and 65 or older

Religious Group	Ages				Median age	Category
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+		
Presbyterian Church in America	11%	18%	32%	39%	59	Evangelical
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	8	24	30	38	59	Mainline
United Church of Christ	10	23	36	31	59	Mainline
Anglican Church	8	30	28	33	57	Mainline
United Methodist Church	9	29	30	32	57	Mainline
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	10	32	28	30	56	Evangelical
Episcopal Church	9	26	31	35	56	Mainline
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	12	27	30	31	55	Mainline
Southern Baptist Convention	13	28	33	27	54	Evangelical
Church of the Nazarene	14	29	38	19	53	Evangelical
Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.)	12	32	40	16	53	Evangelical
National Baptist Convention	11	30	36	23	53	HBP*
Assemblies of God	14	32	31	23	52	Evangelical
American Baptist Churches USA	21	28	32	19	50	Mainline
Jehovah's Witness	15	34	29	23	50	
Jewish	22	27	26	26	50	
African Methodist Episcopal Church	16	33	23	27	50	HBP*
Unitarian Universalist	17	32	28	22	50	
Catholic	17	33	29	20	49	
Churches of Christ	20	32	27	21	48	Evangelical
Church of God in Christ	23	35	29	13	47	HBP*
All U.S. adults	22	34	26	18	46	
Seventh-day Adventist	28	35	17	20	45	Evangelical
Mormon	22	40	22	16	43	

71 7:09 PM - Sep 10, 2017

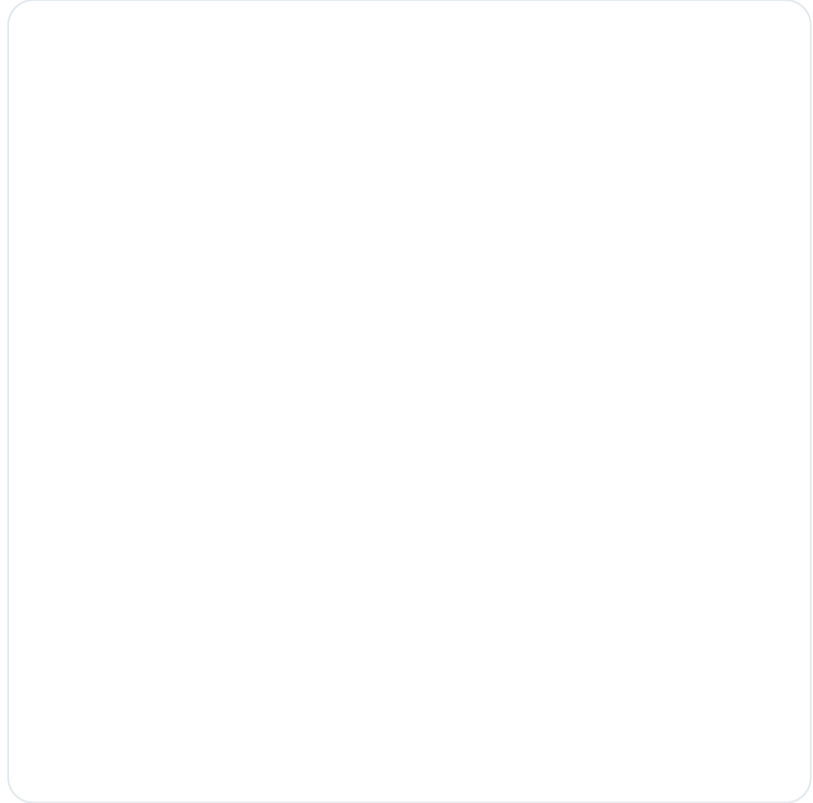
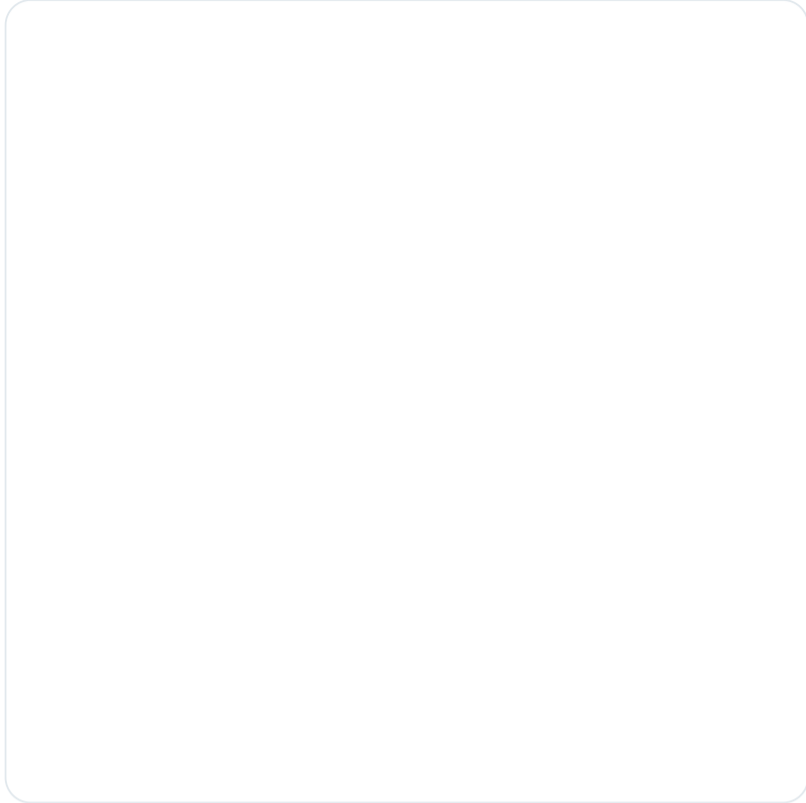
[80 people are talking about this](#)

The United Methodist Church has for many years struggled with what to do with all of the small churches it subsidizes. (Baptist churches are different. They are independent so are not subsidized by the denomination). The United Methodist Church is "connectional" (tied together).

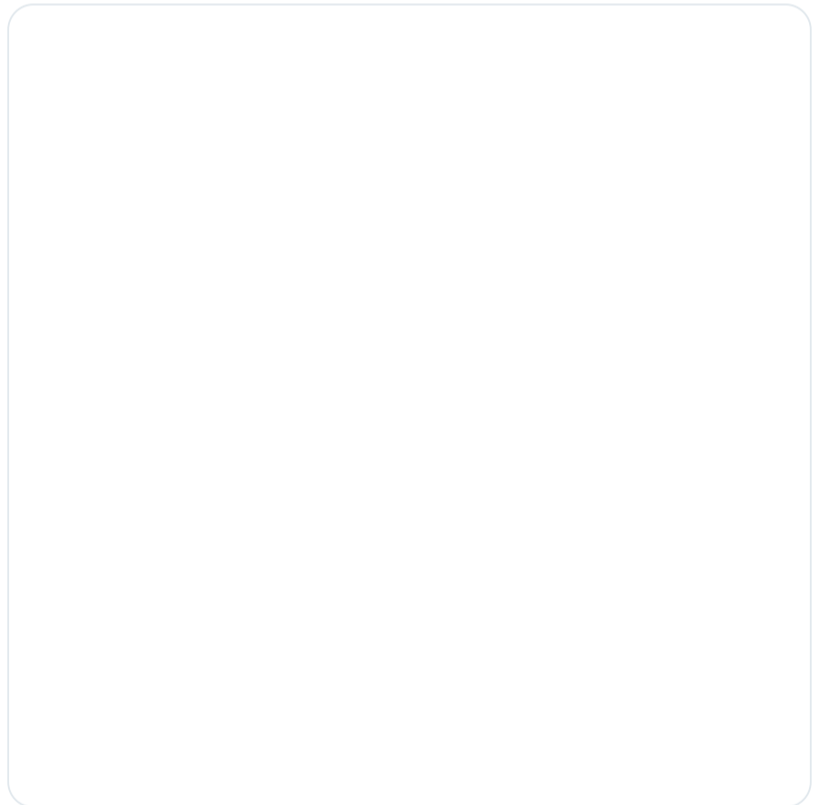
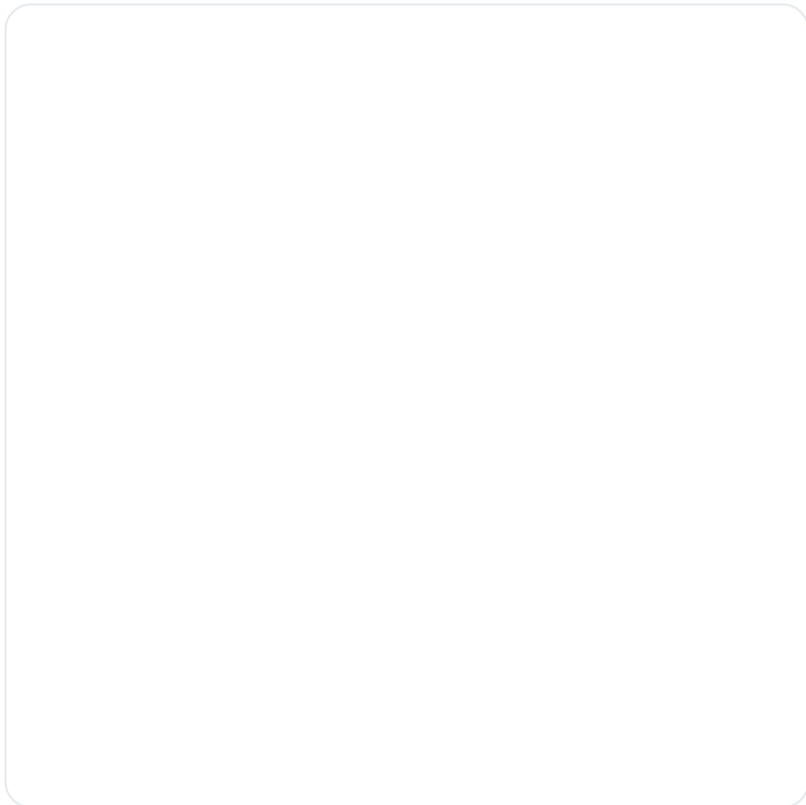
In the United Methodist Church, the regional "Bishop" appoints a clergy person to each congregation. (In

Thread by @AndyRowell: Thread below on the story that made the rounds yesterday: "Cottage Grove church to usher out gray-haired members in effort to attract more y... has little say about who they get."

Will Willimon writes about the UMC, "We have more small membership churches than any other denomination ... We have allowed small, declining, insular congregations to dominate our denomination." in "Bishop: The Art of Questioning Authority by an Authority in Question" (2012).



Will Willimon writes about the UMC: "our church subsidizes and produces small, unproductive, static congregations ...Equitable compensation and other subsidies ought to be abandoned in favor of offering short-term, accountable seed money." "Bishop," 2012.



"The annual mortality rate for religious congregations is 1 percent, which is among the lowest mortality rates ever observed for any type of organization." Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, (2008).

[jstor.org/stable/20486915](https://www.jstor.org/stable/20486915)

"The unusually low mortality rate probably indicates an organizational population whose weakest members live on in a weakened state."

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, (2008). [jstor.org/stable/20486915](https://www.jstor.org/stable/20486915)

There are far more restaurants, stores, and businesses that close than churches because a congregation can continue existing as long as one person mows the lawn and pays the electricity and water bill. Discernment is needed on whether a small congregation should keep a building.

Declining congregations often rent their building out to growing congregations and the congregations meet at a

Unlike Baptist and other independent congregations where the local congregation just muddles through by themselves, the United Methodist Church works as an institution to try to have all of its congregations thrive, and this involves decisions about the allocation of resources.

My take:

- Denominational officials must be gracious, patient, and forthright.
- A denomination, if its procedures permit, can withdraw subsidies or subsidize a replant.
- People can still keep gather elsewhere if they like or join the replant.
- All should be gracious.

See also my twitter friend Michelle Van Loon writing about not especially this story as much as the general disrespect for older people in churches:

Michelle Van Loon
@michellevanloon

I'm at [@CTmagazine](#) today responding to a recent report of a church in MN asking older members to step away from their congregation so it can be rebooted. There are less-blatant forms of this happening in many congregations:
christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/januar...

Your Church Needs Boomers
How a hyper-focus on "attracting the young" can sideline the aging faithful.
christianitytoday.com

30 11:43 AM - Jan 22, 2020

[See Michelle Van Loon's other Tweets](#)



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The screenshot shows a Twitter thread by Matthew Ball (@ballmatthew) dated Dec 3. The top tweet is partially visible, showing a reply box with the text "Tweet your reply". The second tweet in the thread reads: "2/ Netflix reportedly holds the right to keep renewing these shows, irrespective of Disney's preferences. Disney may be entering Netflix's territory with Disney+, but that didn't drive the cancellations. Netflix was making a rationale decision based on quality, cost, viewership". The third tweet reads: "3/ To point, the shows will remain NETFLIX ORIGINALS for years, Disney would have to buy them back (and says they don't fit with Disney+'s positioning and".

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`@threadreaderapp unroll`

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More from @AndyRowell

see all



Andy Rowell
@AndyRowell


Jan 10th 2020

1/ There should be a more nuanced discussion about abortion. (a) Late-term abortion is morally wrong. (b) Republican pro-life efforts do not reduce the number of abortions but increase them(!) because they do not encourage access to contraceptives.

2/ Pro-life people say: "I cannot vote for anyone who permits late term abortion. Their moral judgment is deficient because late-term abortion is similar to infanticide."

3/ But there is a some consensus about late term abortion

Read 13 tweets




Andy Rowell
@AndyRowell

Jan 10th 2020

1979: "Jim Bakker feels misunderstood and persecuted by the Christian community at large. Some criticize his down-home unsophistication, some the show's excessive emphasis on charismatic gifts and healing, and almost everybody criticizes his use of money."

1979: Televangelists "Jerry Falwell and Oral Roberts both have yearly revenue that is expected to top \$50 million and Bakker's PTL may surpass them." 2020: Falwell Jr. and Bakker promote Trump. Oral Roberts University alum

Read 3 tweets



Andy Rowell
@AndyRowell

Jan 10th 2020

On nepotism: Family businesses have been standard practice throughout human history. The family farm or trade was passed down. But if you run a nonprofit or are in government, you have a heightened moral obligation to demonstrate frugal stewardship for the cause over your family.


Evangelicals for Trump: A family business. "Jerry Falwell Jr. informed several university executives that his son, Trey Falwell, was 'starting a new company to do the management'

Read 12 tweets

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 **Tweep Des Vanderlands**
@superjan

Dec 24th 2019

#thread 13 Rules for Twitterlife. A Christmas Twitter series based on the adventures of a twitter-addict, who made all the mistakes personally. And learned the rules the hard way. Basic idea is obviously and conveniently stolen from the eminent Doctor @jordanbpeterson.

To be honest. I myself don't follow these rules perfectly. But at least I know I should do better. I had 16 rules turned it down to 13, simply because Twitter wouldn't allow more. Here we go!


[Read 25 tweets](#)

 **Dr. Nyri A Bakkalian (浪人歴史家)**
@riversidewings

Sep 3rd 2019

#Thread Ever since visiting Beallsville and my partner's Civil War ancestor's grave, I've been pondering what *my* family has lost, in known history, because of the Genocide.

[Read 14 tweets](#)

 **Sotiri Dimpinoudis**
@sotiridi


Jun 18th 2019

#Thread: of a Real #Story of my grandmother in #Greece close at the Turkish Bulgarian borders encountering illegal refugees yesterday night at her home outside.

1/ Yesterday Last night my grandmother in the #Greek state of #Ebros what is close to the Turkish and the Bulgarian borders, encountered three #Algerian illegal migrants outside her home in a silent town in the dark and rainy day.

2/ The three illegal migrants from #Algerian decent were outside the home of my grandmother and grandfather. The o

[Read 12 tweets](#)


 **AeroDynamic Women**
@AeroWomen

Jan 4th 2019

#Thread of responses from women in aerodynamics to the question, 'what would you like to see in order for women's career progression in your field to be sustained and better supported?' Responses incl. career flexibility, mentoring and more women in leadership roles #WomeninSTEM

1. "I think young female engineers need to see more female role models and mentors in my field. Having a visible example of someone that looks like you and is succeeding in their field is important. Having an opportunity to meet with a


[Read 68 tweets](#)

 **tolu ogunlesi**
@toluogunlesi

Nov 27th 2018

Yesterday the papers reported that Kano Gov donated money to EFCC. EFCC has since refuted. Read story closely & you'll find the donation was for a "National Anti-Corruption Marathon" (12/10/18). Google search throws up website (screenshots below) nationalanticorruptionmarathon.org.ng #Thread

[Read 12 tweets](#)

 **Jikku Varghese Jacob**
@jikkuvarghese

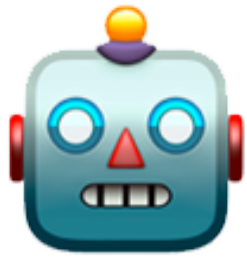
Aug 24th 2018

#Thread #KeralaFloods Detailed thread to document the historic efforts of various online groups in rescue and relief operations. Trust me, Whatsapp and Google sheets were the powerful weapons we had. Pic: An online control room set by NRKs in house at Abu Dhabi (1/n)

[Read 26 tweets](#)

Trending hashtags

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- #Neo4j
- #SecularMaldives
- #Story
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- #BobMarley
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- #SDF
- #Wow
- #Trump
- #legislativas2019
- #Europe
- #Ebros
- #PowerShopNG
- #Mises
- #TechQuest
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