

2017 Older Adult Recognition Day Resources

Following in the Footsteps of the Faithful



Edited by

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Following in the Footsteps of the Faithful

As children, we loved trying on our parents' clothes because we admired our parents and loved them so much that we wanted to be just like them. We wanted to try out new identities. We wore their shoes, hats, dresses, or ties, simply to be more like the grownups.

As we grew and developed our own identities, the memories and impressions of our parents and other adult companions remained with us. They influenced our values, beliefs, and choices in life. We also inherited the communities, lifestyles, and institutions they built.

The footsteps and paths that older adults have left for us have encouraged us to continue on our way and to blaze new trails for the future.

Our elder mentors and models have conquered many mountains and traversed many dark valleys to reach the levels of faithfulness they possess. Older Adult Recognition Day recognizes these elders for their faith journeys and for their willingness to share their experiences and growth with those of us who are not as experienced. We welcome the opportunity to walk in their shoes.

(Older Adult Recognition Day may be observed annually, preferably during the month of May. The day is to recognize and celebrate the gifts, talents, and contributions older adults make within and beyond the local church. The day should also provide congregations with the opportunity to learn more about the issues and concerns related to aging and older adulthood.)



Older Adult Recognition Day Materials



Worship Resources. (The following worship suggestions may be used in planning a worship service for Older Adult Recognition Day, whether observed on a Sunday or another day.)

Proclamation: The message is the place to help people hear from God what the future has in store for them as they age and mature in faith. The message could be the occasion to paint a picture of a vibrant and inviting ministry with retired adults, which calls forth people to leave a legacy to those who follow them. The message should be memorable and challenge those who receive it to continue to think about and proclaim God's promises as they live faithfully into old age.

In addition, help people dream about what they will be like in old age. Tell the stories of pioneering elders of your faith community and noted elder biblical characters.

Large multi-staff parishes may want to consider inviting a retired former pastor to deliver the message. If a retired pastor is not available, then someone who works in older-adult ministry is an obvious choice. A young person could speak about his/her experiences in relationship with an older adult.

In planning the message, it is important that the proclaimer can name the gifts of age— faith, friendship, history, loyalty, experience, and wisdom. These gifts should be lifted up not only throughout the message, but in the choice of songs and prayers.



Selected Scripture and Sermon Starters for Traditional Worship

Deuteronomy 32:7: “Remember the days of old, consider the years long past; ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you.”

Proverbs 17:6: “Grandchildren are crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their parents.”

Psalm 71:9-10: “Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.”

Psalm 139 (selected): “You have searched me and known me... For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.... In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.”

Luke 1:36: “And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.”

(God is able to do the impossible, even with older adults.)

John 15:1-5: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit... Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

Acts 2:17-20: “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”



Selected Scripture Texts with Models of Faithfulness

Genesis 25:8, NASB – *“Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people.”* This text speaks of the great figure of Abraham in old age as he died faithfully. It speaks of his being satisfied with life, of faithful aging.

Genesis 33:1-15– Jacob and Esau are reunited as older adults and they experience God’s presence in grace and forgiveness. *“No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favor.”* (Genesis 33:10-11, NRSV).

Exodus 7:7 – This passage speaks to never being too old to start something new or to reinvent one’s life. *“Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three, when they spoke to Pharaoh.”*

Luke 5:1-10; 27-32 – Simon Peter and Levi (Matthew), as two older adults, are called as disciples. Although the passage isn’t explicit that these two disciples were older at the time of their call to discipleship, it is implied by their positions as boat owner and tax collector. *“After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me’ And he got up, left everything, and followed him. Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them”* (Luke 5:27-32).

Acts 14:22-24 – Every church or community needs those with experience to serve as models. The faithful recognize they will still be tested. *“And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.”* (Acts 14:23).

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Contemporary Worship

While some older adults prefer traditional worship, not all older adults do. Many baby boomers prefer contemporary or blended worship services. Moreover, because some pastors lead multiple worship services of different formats and must plan one common homily for all, this guide also includes contemporary message formats and music.

Contemporary proclamations generally start with an idea and then provide supporting Scriptures.



Servanthood
Fearlessness
Courage
Patience and Longsuffering
Wonder and Admiration
Loyalty

Selected Contemporary Themes for an Older-Adult Recognition Sermon

Gratitude
Altruism
Mentoring
Joy and Optimism
Tranquility and Peacefulness
Honesty and Trustworthiness
Forgiveness and Tolerance

Possible Contemporary Message Titles

1. **When I Grow Up Old**- A juxtaposition of childhood desires to be older with the reality of growing old and growing upward spiritually toward God.
2. **The Advantages of Being Older Than Before**- A look at the positives of growing old and the gifts of being older– insight, tradition, wisdom, and spiritual orientation.

3. **It Takes a Lifetime to Grow Up**—A first-person account of the significant experiences of a lifetime, growing up, going to war, graduating, having children and grandchildren, coming to faith.
4. **Last Lessons**—Advice that an older person would offer younger people about life, faith, and spirituality, and about serving the community and God.
5. **Questions I Now Can Answer**—This is a question and answer session about coming to terms with aging. The questions should be submitted at least a week in advance. The proclaimer answers about four or five of the best questions, sharing how his or her perspective has changed with age.
6. **The Measure of Days, All 25,550 of Them (70 Years x 365 Days)**—This is a life review or legacy sermon in which five of six days of an older adult's life are examined for how God has changed or used him/her through good times and bad. It should speak to the faithfulness of God.
7. **What It Means to Be a Grandparent**—This is a positive look at the Grandparenting experience. This topic is a great approach for intergenerational relationship building, and the topic is appreciated by boomers who are becoming grandparents.
8. **Not Yet Old Enough**—What would happen if one did not grow older (like the mythical Peter Pan)?
9. **The Secrets Lives of Retired People**—This playful message would explain how retired adults live out their Christian heritage in their daily lives.
10. **Becoming** —This message addresses leaving the performance-oriented world behind (the world of doing) and embracing the world of becoming, which allows God to mold and shape us into the people we were created to become.
11. **A New Way of Being Old**—This is an opportunity to acknowledge how aging and retirement are changing radically with boomers retiring. It is also an opportunity to paint a picture of how retirement can be the most spiritual time of life for older adults.
12. **Dreaming New Dreams**—In this sermon, retirees can speak about pursuing lifetime dreams now that they are retired, including the dream of becoming more Christlike and better in their faithfulness.

For information about preaching to older adults, see [*Graying Gracefully: Preaching to Older Adults*](#) by William J. Carl Jr. (Westminster John Knox Press, 1997).

Music Resources

Traditional Music

The United Methodist Hymnal

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"	UMH 140
"This Is My Father's World"	UMH 144
"I Love to Tell the Story"	UMH 156
"It is Well with My Soul"	UMH 377
"I Am Thine, O Lord"	UMH 419
"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"	UMH 557
"Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above"	UMH 709

Hymns in Other Hymnals

"And Now, My Soul, another Year"	Simon Browne
"Lord, Give Me Strength for Golden Years"	James R. Webb

Traditional Hymns Written by Older Adults for Older Adult Recognition Day

["They Found Purpose for Their Living"](#) by F. Richard Garland

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/they-found-purpose-for-their-living>

(Sung to the tune Nettleton # 400, "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing," *The United Methodist Hymnal*)

"*God of Generations*" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Sung to the tune of Nicaea, "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty") found in [*Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor*](#) (available from Upper Room Books)

"*We Will Not Always Walk This Earth*" by Dan Damon, available from Hope Publishing, separately or in *New Hymns of Hope, Contemporary Worship Book*.



Contemporary Music

The Faith We Sing

"You Are Mine"	TFWS 2218
"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"	TFWS 2153
"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"	TFWS 2051

Worship and Song

"A Place at the Table"	W&S 3149
"All My Days"	W&S 3011

Contemporary Music for Older Adult Recognition Day

Currently there is not a lot in contemporary catalogs under Boomer or Older Adult subject lines. If there is a talented Musician within your congregation then they can produce pieces based upon the themes listed for the message. They can even produce pieces like "Half a Century In" and "Joshua" listed below.

"Half a Century In" by Rev. Eric Park, (lyrics available from Office on Aging or from the author at pewboy@gmail.com or from <https://pewboy.net/2017/01/24/half-a-century-in/>)

Joshua, by Rev. Eric Park (lyrics available from Office on Aging or from the author at pewboy@gmail.com or from <https://soundcloud.com/pewboy/joshua-1>)



A few contemporary pieces while not exploring aging themes or a maturing faith perspective lend themselves well to our Older Adult Celebration.

"Dear Young Me" by Mercy Me, available through Simpleville Publishing of Brentwood Benson Publishing Company.

Other Worship Elements Litanies

Contemporary Litany for Older Adults: As I Grow Up

Older-Adult Man: As a part of your creation, Lord, we are born and grow up and grow old just as the rest of creation does. As Christians, we are taught by Christ to grow more like you by growing in love.

Small Child with a Parent Who Reads for the Child: Yes, we were created to grow up and grow old– not the other way around (to grow young).

Child Who Reads: However, we begin and end life the same, as the same children of God we were created to be.

Middle-Aged Woman: When we are older (well, oldish), we still need our children to remind of us of the child within and how to love.

Young Teen: As we grow up, we are loved by you always, even when we do hurtful things to others, ourselves, and you.

Older Teen: In life, we grow up loved by many–parents, family, friends, but most of all by God. In being loved, we learn how to love.

Young-Adult Man: As we experience the love for others and from others, we learn through faith that love is a gift from God, and it changes us so we grow more loving and Christlike.

Middle-Aged Man: There are those around us who have been grown longer and who have had deeper and richer experiences in life. These are our more mature friends, family members, church family members, neighbors, and teachers.

Older-Adult Woman: Teachers, yes they are teachers, for they teach us to love and teach us about love. They help us to grow more loving like Christ. They are the older children of God, all grown up.

Congregation: Today, we celebrate the gift of our most grown-up children of God, our older adults, as those who share with us a little piece of God's love and their wisdom about how to love. In them, we see God's kingdom, come.

Traditional Litany of Thanksgiving for Older-Adult Recognition Day

Leader: We have gathered in gratitude for the gift of years with which God has blessed our community through our older adults. We celebrate who they are as a part of our faith community and honor them today before God.

Children of All Ages Who Have Parents Who Are Living: Older adults are our parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends. They are our past, and we are their legacy.

Parents of all Ages: Older adults are sages, mentors, teachers, and models in faith. They are the keepers of wisdom, experience, and tradition; and we grow in faith as a result of knowing them.

Leader: Older adults are what we one day will become. Will we be like them?

Children: Beloved by others.

Young Adults: Admired by others.

Middle-Aged Adults: Faithful before God.

Leader: We give thanks to God for the gift of years, for forming older adults before our very eyes.

Older Adults: We give thanks to God for creating us and crafting in us the people we are becoming. We give thanks, God, for your expressing love for us and for our faith community throughout our lives.

Rest of Congregation: We give thanks for the faith of older adults that guides our faith and has enriched our relationships.

All: In gratitude, we honor our older adults and give thanks to you, O God.

Blended Litany

Leader: People: Dear Lord, we do need time to grow.

People: We pray that the long years will be good years.

Leader: Give us strength and experience.

People: Remind us to ask, and teach us to listen.

Leader: Day by day, we strive to be more holy.

People: We are grateful for parents who teach and nurture in love.

Leader: We love to tell the story of Jesus and his love.

ALL: We must look past the wrinkles and see the soul. Yes, we too will soon know and understand....give us wisdom so that we may serve others as we have been served. Amen.

Prayers of Invocation

Contemporary Prayer of Invocation:

God of all ages, we give thanks for our lives here on earth. We give thanks for all ages that we become on the way to growing old. We especially give thanks for our elders. Today, we recognize the gifts that come in elderhood: wisdom, memory, and spirituality. Help us today not to compare generation to generation, but to recognize your creativity in each stage of life. Help us to learn from all generations and to celebrate the life we have together. Help us also to celebrate what we are becoming by celebrating our older adults who are further along in becoming what we are created to become. Amen.

Traditional Prayer of Invocation:

“O God beyond all our years: Help us to remember long life is a gift given for your whole church and not to just those who receive it. Help us to properly honor the gift of our elders who have taught us to live lives of faith. More important, through our worship, help us to honor you as the giver of this gift, in which you have made your love present and real throughout the lives of our old. We offer ourselves in thanksgiving and worship for your many blessings. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for Older Adults

Contemporary Prayer of Thanksgiving:

God in Heaven, we give thanks for those with the gift of years and for the footprints they have left in the sands of time that we now follow. We give thanks for the opportunity to travel in their footprints as we continue their efforts to build the kingdom that Christ shared with us all. We are grateful for the vision they had already in following the way, so we do not get lost. Your presence with them serves now as a beacon to show us the path to return to you and heaven. We give thanks for our path and their companionship along the path. Amen.

Traditional Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Creator God of us all, we give thanks for our older adults. We give thanks for the joy they have brought us, the laughter and the tears we have shared with them. We give thanks for their compassion, for their teaching, mentoring, and friendship. We name memories we have made with them, both the happy and joyous ones and the painful and lonely ones that have bonded us closer together



and to you. We name service we have shared with them that has allowed us to be a community, drawn from an amazing array of talents, and shaped us for your kingdom. We name learning moments where their insights inspired ours and our thoughts inspired their learning to even greater heights. We have been richly blessed by your loving generosity in sharing

these older adults with us, and we name them in our hearts and give thanks for them in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Benedictions

Go as beloved of God to grow old in Christ. Be blessed in years and be a blessing to God's kingdom. Remember, you are God's children, even into old age. Amen.

Go forth to scatter the darkness of our world through our Everlasting One. Celebrate daily the blessings of experience, knowledge, and wisdom that come with age. Keep alive the gifts of years received from older friends and become the gift of years for those who follow. Amen.

Traditional Call to Worship

Minister: Lord God, we are running the good race of our lives, and we follow the way home to you to fight the good fight for faith.

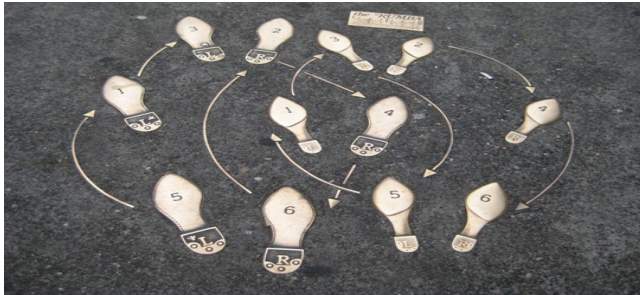
People: We journey with a cloud of witnesses to your kingdom, come. We serve with others who are also running the race.

Minister: Old, middle-aged, youth, children. Some have run longer and farther than others, and we count them as older adults.

People: We thank you for those who have gone before us and for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith today.

ALL: We thank you for our sages and pioneers, for those who have run before us and for their example. We remember them as parents, friends, teachers, neighbors, fellow church members, and a cloud of witnesses to us. We celebrate your abiding presence with us through their friendship, sacrifice, and leadership.

Movies with Older-Adult Characters to Mine for Video Clips



Many churches now employ video clips as a part of the proclamation followed by an elaboration of how the video clip reflects a highlight aspect of faith.

AARP has a series titled “Movies for Grownups” online (www.aarp.org/entertainment/movies-for-grownups), updated frequently, surveys maturity themes and can be easily employed as a source for videos. Check their review of film highlights to locate a clip.

A selected message clip should portray themes such as sacrifice, hope, joy, peace, learning to love self, grace, courage, healing, and forgiveness. A list follows of movies containing scenes in which older characters reflect these themes.

(Note: This is not the time to examine heavy subjects such as dementia, elder abuse, or poverty in aging, unless these are subjects the church has already been actively discussing.)

Preview the video clips for appropriateness before they are shown. Seeing as there will be worship participants of all ages present, it is suggested that mature situations and language be left out of the clips. Be sure to verify that the church’s video license allows the use of the video beforehand and give proper attribution. If commercially produced clips are neither available nor desirable, a church could produce its own videos. One church filmed older adults providing volunteer service in their community.

About Schmidt (2002)
The Age of Adaline (2015)
Away from Her (2006)
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011)
The 2nd Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2015)
The Bucket List (2007)
Buena Vista Social Club (1999)

Cocoon (1985)
Cocoon: The Return (1988)
Collateral Beauty (2016)
Dad (1989)
Driving Miss Daisy (1989)
Fences (2016)

Five People You Meet in Heaven (2004)
Get Low (2009)
Gran Torino (2009)
Grumpy Old Men (1993)
Grumpier Old Men (1995)
Happy Tears (2009)
In Her Shoes (2005)
Local Color (2006)
Manchester by the Sea (2016)
My Old Lady (2014)
On Golden Pond (1981)

Quartet (2012)
Redwood Highway (2013)
Robot & Frank (2012)
St. Vincent (2014)
The Straight Story (1999)
Strangers in Good Company (1990)
The Sunshine Boys (1975)
Tuesdays with Morrie (1999)
Waiting for God (1990)
Young at Heart (2007)



Ideas for Congregations for Observing Older-Adult Recognition Day

Advocacy – Pick an issue that affects older adults, such as dementia, depression, grief, or security, and invite experts, civic leaders, and government officials to an information session on the chosen issue.

Panel Discussion – Form a panel discussion with older adults sharing their memories, either free form or with standard questions. This can be a guided discussion. A unique way would be to pair multiple generations together answering the same questions to reveal how age changes our faith and perspective. Include homebound members through video.

Planned Visitation (During the week of Older Adult Recognition Day)– Make lists of all older adults in the church who are willing to visit along with older adults who are interested in being visited, and match together as visitors and visited. (Include drivers, as needed, so those who do not drive can participate.) Matching may be random or intentional.

Day of Service – Organize a project or special day of service to benefit older adults directly or to honor ministries served by older adults. This can be a perfect

opportunity to find a project that addresses older-adult poverty in the community.

Plant an Honor Tree—Designate an area on the church campus for planting honor trees (spruces, pine, cypress, magnolias, or other evergreens work best). Through a local nursery, take orders for trees to be planted in honor of older adults in the church. At the conclusion of the worship service, have participants move to the garden area for planting of the trees. Make a plaque available for each tree.

Sponsor Families – Match each older person in the congregation to a volunteer hospitality family for the coming year. Ask the older person to pray for members of the hospitality family. Provide the older adults with cards with pictures of the Family members for whom they will pray. Have the families and older adults gather for a get-acquainted meal. Have an exchange sheet with information about significant events or days in the lives of the older adults and the volunteer hospitality family members: wedding days, birthdays, and so on. At the end of the year, have the sponsor families and older adults write notes about what they enjoyed most about one another.

Spiritual Biographies - Interview older adults with a list of questions, such as “Who has been influential in your faith life?” “What are your favorite Scriptures or passages?” From the interviews, develop spiritual biographies. The use of video or audio recording is a good way to do this, but every displayed biography should be in the same format. Display a timeline of the older adults lives with pictures on bulletin boards or monitors in the church. You could feature the biographies as a group at one time, or feature them individually once a month. Publish a biographical book at the end of the year. Make sure the older adults approve their biographies before publishing them. Be sure that each featured older adult gets a copy of the publication.

Safe Sanctuaries® Check – Make sure there are no accessibility issues in your church that limit full participation for those with some disability. Consider the acoustics for those with hearing impairments. Use large fonts on projected screens, hymnals, and bulletins for those who are visually challenged. Look at the number of steps into buildings. Consider other provisions such as special parking, wheelchair-friendly restrooms, and pew space for wheelchairs or walkers.



Specialized Classes - Invite older adults to share their hobbies and crafts with others by asking them to teach introductory classes, either as a periodic (weekly or monthly) class or a one-time demonstration class; for example, a cooking class. This is a great intergenerational way of celebrating Older Adult Recognition Sunday.

Widow Support Groups – Develop programs to meet the needs of widowed older adults. Many older adults have lost significant others, this is an important way to honor and support older adults. Discipleship Ministries has a free webinar about how to develop a widowhood ministry located on our website at the link below. We have other resources as well.

[https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/blessing-those-who-mourn-ministry-with-widows-and-widowers.](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/blessing-those-who-mourn-ministry-with-widows-and-widowers)

Selected Resources

(Consider giving these as gifts to leaders with older adults, to your church, or to older adults.)

Older Adults

[At the Edge of Life: Conversations When Death Is Near](#) by Richard L. Morgan. (Upper Room Books, Revised edition, 2014). Conversations about death and dying are difficult but necessary conversations to have with loved ones. This short book makes those conversations easier through its icebreaker questions.

[Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life](#) by Richard Rohr. (Jossey-Bass Publishing, 2011). Fr. Rohr examines how the later years are different from the first half of life. He presents a new way of thinking about old age—not as frailty or decay, but as a time of drawing closer to the Divine.

[Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life: 7 Gateways to Spiritual Growth](#) by Jane Marie Thibault, Richard L Morgan (Upper Room Books, 2012). More than a spiritual guide to navigate the waters of retirement, this book is one of the best books to help older adults think about their legacy.

[Spirit Boosters for the Journey of Aging: Daily Calendar of 366 Devotions](#) by Missy Buchanan (Upper Room Books, 2016). This daily devotional calendar is well

suiting for recent retirees. It includes brief daily devotions and Bible verses, easy-to-read enlarged-print text, a gift presentation page, and space to record birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, and other celebrations.

[*A Widow's Prayer: Finding God's Grace for the Days Ahead*](#) by Nell Noonan (Upper Room Books, 2015). This book ponders what it means to be alone but never away from God. This amazing collection of reflections is designed to help those who have lost their mates journey through grief.

Baby Boomers

[*At the Crossroads: Leadership Lessons for the Second Half of Life*](#) by Clayton Smith and David Wilson (Abingdon Press, 2016). Baby boomers are changing our understanding of older adult ministry and aging. However, the church has a history of failure to engage with them. This book is great resource to help church leaders reach out to boomers.

[*Baby Boomer Spirituality: Seven Values for the Second Half of Life*](#) by Craig Kennet Miller (Discipleship Resources, 2017). This is an important book for those in ministry with baby boomers. As the boomer generation ages, spirituality and outlook on life is different from that of other older adults. This is the very best book to guide leaders into knowledge and understanding of this generation of adults.

[*Parents & Grandparents as Spiritual Guides: Nurturing Children of the Promise*](#) by Betty Shannon Cloyd (Upper Room Books, 2000). The highlight of many older adults' life is when they have and establish relationships with grandchildren. This book helps grandparents be spiritual mentors and guides for their grandchildren.

[*Questions of the Spirit: The Quest for Understanding at a Time of Loss*](#) by Brent Green (Amazon Digital Services, Print on Demand, 2017) This book from a leading expert on baby boomers and marketing is a voice for the boomer generation as it begins to struggle with the existential questions of suffering, loss, death, purpose and meaning, and what it means to grow old.

[*Voices of Aging: Adult Children and Aging Parents Talk with God*](#) by Missy Buchanan (Upper Room Books, 2015). Older adults and their children discuss their fears and frustrations of aging.



Other Available Guides for Older Adult Recognition Day

The Virginia Annual Conference has prepared a guide for Older Adult Recognition Day. Here is the link to the 2015 guide:

http://www.vaumc.org/ncfilepository/OlderAdult/2015Older_Adult_Sunday_2015_Sermon_notes.pdf

The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network, POAMN, provides an annual Older Adult Resources Guide that includes worship suggestions for a celebration of Older Adult Recognition Day. It may be ordered as a separate printed guide or viewed online.

January 2017- PDF-PDS# 23304-17-001 (\$3.00 + S&H). Order from: Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS) (800) 524-2612 www.pcusa.org/marketplace

<http://www.poamn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017-Planning-Guide.pdf>

2016 PDF- PDS# 23304-16-001 (\$3.00 + S&H). Order from: Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS), (800) 524- 2612, www.pcusa.org/marketplace or view online for free at:

<http://www.poamn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/16-Planning-Guide.pdf>

2015 PDF- PDS# 23304-15-001-(\$3.00 + S&H). Order from: Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS), (800) 524- 2612, www.pcusa.org/marketplace or view online at:

<http://www.poamn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/15-Planning-Guide.pdf>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a web guide located at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/blessings-of-age-english.cfm>

Resolution 3023. Older Adult Recognition Day. *Original Resolution authorizing Older Adult Recognition Day as a special day observance and renewed by General Conference 2016.*

WHEREAS, special observances in The United Methodist Church are intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the church and are celebrated annually, and

WHEREAS, special observances are placed on the calendar to make clear the calling of the church as the people of God; and

WHEREAS, both the population in the United States and throughout the world is increasingly aging and growing older as more people are living longer; and

WHEREAS, the average age of the membership of The United Methodist Church is comprised of persons 60 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, older adults make significant and important contributions in the life of The United Methodist Church and to spreading the gospel throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the scripture commands us to “honor your father and mother,”

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church observe an annual Older Adult Recognition Day; and

Be it further resolved, that an Older Adult Recognition Day may be observed annually, preferably during the month of May. The day is to recognize and celebrate the gifts, talents, and contributions older adults make within and beyond the local church. The day should also provide congregations with the opportunity to learn more about the issues and concerns related to aging and older adulthood. The Committee on Older Adult Ministries will have responsibility for the supervision and promotion of the observance of this special day.

From THE BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2016
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Note: While the resolution suggests that Older Adult Recognition Day be held in May to coincide with Older Americans Month, it may be and is observed by churches at other times of the year. Here are some alternatives.

- The Sunday following Labor Day, which is recognized as Grandparents’ Day.
- During the month of November, which is recognized as National Family Caregivers Month by the U.S. Administration on Aging (and especially On All Saints Sunday). In conjunction with United Methodist Women’s or Men’s recognition services.