



**Methodist**  
Healthcare  
Dennis H. Jones  
Living Well Network



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: SCOTT RIDGWAY**  
**SRIDGWAY@TSPN.ORG**  
**(615) 945-5558**

**March 15, 2019**

### **TSPN Responds to Passing of Reverend Dr. John T. Kilzer**

**Memphis, TN** — The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) wishes to convey its sympathies on the loss of Reverend Dr. John T. Kilzer, who died from an apparent suicide. We urge the community to take note that research shows responsible reporting (<http://tspn.org/for-the-media>) can help save lives.

As this death will impact innumerable individuals in the Memphis area and beyond, TSPN has teamed up with Methodist Healthcare's Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network, Church Health and St. John's United Methodist Church to provide help and hope for those grieving after this loss.

Reverend Dr. John Kilzer served as St. John's Associate Pastor of Recovery Ministries. In this capacity, he led and counseled countless individuals through their recovery journey. As John would tell those at The Way, a service of recovery every Friday at St. John's, we are all part of a vibrant and abundant family rooted in grace, hope, and unconditional love. With the tremendous love and support of those John has inspired, The Way will continue John's work to provide sanctuary and community for those in recovery.

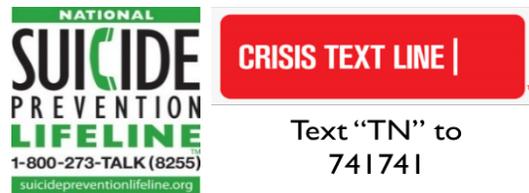
The Way service will be held tonight (March 15) at St. John's, located at 1207 Peabody Avenue, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and local counselors will be on hand to provide support.

During this time, please be aware and spread awareness of the numerous resources in this area, including the Memphis Crisis Center (901-274-7477), the Statewide Crisis Telephone line (1-855-274-7471), as well as the Crisis Chat/Text Line (text 'TN' to 741741). To find many more local resources, visit [www.thelivingwellnetwork.org](http://www.thelivingwellnetwork.org) or call the Living Well Network at 901-762-8558 to talk with a counselor who can connect you to resources in the community and visit the Memphis/Shelby County Resource Directory on the TSPN website, <http://tspn.org/memphis-shelby-co>.

Current research suggests that each death by suicide affects an average of 147 people who knew or were close to the deceased. Scott Ridgway, MS, TSPN's executive director notes that "an average of 25 of these survivors will experience a major life disruption. These survivors, often family members and close friends may be impaired in basic day-to-day functioning, with an increased risk of developing depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. They are also at higher risk for considering or attempting suicide."

TSPN recommends that everyone familiarize themselves with the warning signs of suicide (listed at <http://tspn.org/warning-signs>) so they can get help for themselves and those around them as needed. TSPN is also available to provide suicide prevention and awareness trainings across the State; to request a training visit <http://tspn.org/request-training-now>.

The American Association of Suicidology offers *SOS: A Handbook for Survivors of Suicide*, a free guide written by a survivor for survivors that addresses the complicated aspects of suicide grief and loss (available at <http://tspn.org/for-survivors-of-suicide>). Additionally, many communities have a support group dedicated to suicide grief, providing additional insights and support sometimes not available in conventional grief support groups. TSPN maintains a list of such groups across Tennessee at <http://tspn.org/for-survivors-of-suicide>.



TTY line: 1-800-799-4TTY (4889)

For non-emergency information on suicide prevention, contact the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network at (615) 297-1077 or [tspn@tspn.org](mailto:tspn@tspn.org). More information about TSPN is available at the agency website ([www.tspn.org](http://www.tspn.org)).

### **About Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN)**

TSPN is the statewide public-private organization responsible for implementing the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention. TSPN and its volunteers work across the state to organize activities & projects promoting suicide prevention awareness, providing suicide prevention & crisis intervention training to community organizations, and conducting postvention sessions for schools & organizations after suicides occur.

### **About the Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network**

Dedicated to the memory of Dennis H. Jones, the Living Well Network, offered through Methodist Healthcare, provides tools and resources to help those with depression, anxiety and alcohol abuse. Whether you need advice for yourself or a loved one, the website - [thelivingwellnetwork.org](http://thelivingwellnetwork.org) – is here to provide you with information and applications you can use to brighten your outlook.

### **About Church Health**

Church Health is a faith-based, non-profit organization located in Memphis, Tennessee that provides comprehensive healthcare and health services to individuals with little or no access to healthcare. In the past year alone, Church Health had more than 54,000 patient encounters. In addition, Church Health has extended training, education and outreach to countless individuals

and organizations with the goal of fostering physical, emotional and spiritual well-being among patients, participants, families and the community at-large.

**About St. John's United Methodist Church**

St. John's is a vital, urban, progressively leaning United Methodist congregation. Our welcome to all is genuine. Our desire to be sanctuary for those pushed to the margins is formed out of our understanding of the Gospel mandates of Jesus. Our commitment to nurture hearts and minds in the Christian faith is true.

The guiding mission of who we are comes from the "Method" of the Methodist movement. John Wesley crafted a rule of life calling us to do the inner work of the Spirit through prayer, study, and worship as a means to empower us to go into the world to demonstrate God's love in our service to others.

For us, the adapted words of one of the great preachers of the 20th century, Rev'd William Sloane Coffin, empowers us in our life together and our outward service:

# # #