

December 2020



Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.

Find more at www.neumc.org.



Join online Bible Study for Advent

The New England Conference Cabinet invites you to participate in online (via Zoom) Bible study during Advent led by Many Waters District Superintendent Karen Munson.

We will encounter scriptural insights about human relationships that help identify and unpack our current experiences of corporate bias and individual pre-judgment.

The resource for this study is "It is Enough: A Racism Bible Study" written by Rev. Michael C. Johnson from the Eastern PA Conference.

See our online calendar to get the link: www.neumc.org/events

SESSION 3: The Grace of Kindness
7-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

SESSION 4: The Risk of Speaking Up & The Grace of Inclusion
7-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13

Cabinet Bible Study for Advent

"It is Enough: A Racism Bible Study"
by Rev. Michael C. Johnson



Join the 2021 pilgrimage to Taizé July 23 to Aug. 2

All youth and young adults between the ages of 16 and 30 are invited to join a life-changing pilgrimage to Taizé, France, a place which is filled with deep Christian spirituality and broad ecumenism.

This week-long experience will be led by Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar.

We fly into Geneva, spend the night and take a bus to Taizé Sunday morning. In Taizé, we will either stay in dormitories with bunk beds or large tents, sleeping on bedrolls. Food, showers, and other accommodations are simple. There is no use of electrical appliances. Special dietary requests cannot be accommodated, but a vegetarian menu is available.

Daily routines include Bible study, worship, prayer, silence, workshops, reflection, faith sharing, camp chores, and fellowship with 3,000 pilgrims from around the world.



Approximate Cost: \$2,200*

Includes:

- Roundtrip airfare
- Lodging in Geneva and Taizé
- Meals in Taizé
- Transportation in Europe

Registration deadline is Jan. 15

Payments will be due Jan. 15, March 4, and April 15, 2021.

** Does not include meals, optional sight-seeing/incidentals in Geneva.*



LEARN MORE AND GET REGISTRATION MATERIALS
www.neumc.org/taize

Conference staff news — Read more on all of these at www.neumc.org/news

Welcome, farewell, congratulations

John Cardillo began his work as CFO/Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020. Cardillo, who served in this post in the Greater New Jersey Conference, was elected the New England Annual Conference on Oct. 17.



John Cardillo

Please join us in welcoming John.

You can reach Cardillo at treasurer@neumc.org or at 978-682-8055 ext. 110.

New England Conference Disaster Response & Mission Coordinator **Barbara Burnside** will retire on Dec. 31, 2020. She started working with the Conference on disaster response and mission in 2012. Her husband, Bill, served as Conference Treasurer; he retired in August.

The Disaster Response & Mission Coordinator is responsible for resourcing, equipping, encouraging and training teams, and helping teams of volunteers form and connect with mission or disaster response opportunities. This part-time position will not be filled immediately.



Barbara Burnside

We asked Burnside why she is called to this ministry:

"I mean, it's a well-worn phrase, but I like helping people. But I like helping people in specific ways: training them to be better prepared, training them how to work with survivors so that we don't impose more hurt in the process ..."

Please join us in congratulating **Lawrence Jay**, executive director of [Rolling Ridge](#)

[Retreat and Conference Center](#), who has earned his credentials as a Certified Conference Center Professional (CCCP) from the International Association of Conference Center Administrators (IACCA). Jay came to Rolling Ridge in January 2017:



Lawrence Jay

Jay and four others in the certificate class of 2020 were part of an online ceremony on Nov. 12. Jay participated from Rolling Ridge along with IACCA faculty member and mentor Jess Shload, who presented Jay with his certificate.

"As a new director, IACCA provided me with the skills and information I needed to lead in all aspects of retreat ministry," Jay said. "The network also created a supportive community of colleagues whom I could reach out to. ..."



COVID-19

As we face another surge of COVID-19 infections, the New England Conference Re-Entry Team wants to reiterate that while many states have been hesitant to set limits on religious gatherings, even as they impose them on other establishments, that does not mean church gatherings are any safer. We continue to urge our congregations to err on the side of caution.

We encourage our churches to consider the *spirit* of the laws and regulations around in-person gathering amid COVID-19 — in other words, the rationale behind them — rather than the letter of these laws when evaluating whether it is appropriate to resume or continue in-person worship.

In addition, the team has added the following resources to our COVID-19 information page

<https://www.neumc.org/virus-reentry>

- A decision tree: Reversing the decision to meet in person
- Positive COVID-19 test protocol
- Sample letter to the congregation in case of possible exposure to COVID-19

Visit the website to find more resources and to submit any questions to the Re-Entry Team.

Jan. 17, 2021

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

“God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6, CEB

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Let's Connect

Questions or comments about this publication?
Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications,
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