

September 2021



**New England Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

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](http://www.neumc.org).



### Jewelry sale will benefit youth ministries

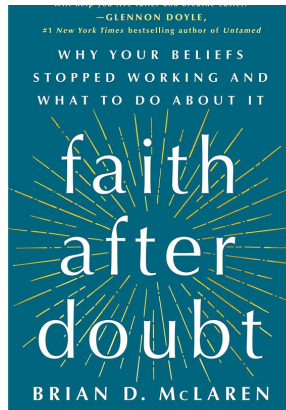
With trust and hope for an in-person Annual Conference in June 2022, Prema Devadhar and Lori McKinley are making plans for another jewelry sale to benefit youth ministries, such as [Taizé](#) and the [Mission of Peace](#). (You can learn more about these on our website – [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org)). Donations of new or gently used jewelry will be happily received! You are invited to set up a box for donations at your church. Thank you for your generous support! Donations can be made by:

- Bringing donations to a district event.
- Bringing donations to the Bishop's Day on the District (Find the schedule on page 2).
- Bringing or mailing directly items to the conference office at the address below (Please keep in mind that shipping jewelry can be expensive because of the weight.)

New England Conference  
411 Merrimack St., Suite 200  
Methuen, MA 01844  
Attn: Brenda Cayer



## 'Faith After Doubt': Join an online book discussion with the author



This series is for everyone – clergy and laity. We especially encourage pastors and church members to participate together.

Each session takes place from 8-9 pm Mondays. The sessions will be recorded.

In his 2021 Episcopal Address, Bishop Devadhar recommended the book *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It* to clergy and laity of the New England Conference.

The bishop is pleased to welcome the book's author, Brian D. McLaren, to the NEAC for a four-session online discussion of this book that the bishop called "important and insightful."

In his address Bishop Devadhar said, "McLaren invites us to a future of hope. He invites us to transform our weariness into constructive collaborations with fellow Christians. He invites us to invest in the church of the future."

- Sept. 13, 2021 – Session One: An overview of Faith After Doubt
- Sept. 20, 2021 – Session Two: Spiritual life, a personal perspective
- Sept. 27, 2021 – Session Three: Liturgy and spiritual formation, a congregational perspective
- Oct. 4, 2021 – Session Four: Outreach and evangelism for congregations

Registration is open until Sept. 9. Space is limited.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EVENT AND REGISTER AT  
[www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events)

# Journey with Bishop Devadhar in 2022

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar plans to lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in February and to travel to see the Oberammergau Passion Play in late June. You are invited to join him on these amazing spiritual journeys.

**The pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be Feb. 14-24, 2022.** Clergy and laity are welcome and encouraged to register for 10 days of amazing sites and experiences following the footsteps of Jesus. Learn more and find registration info at <https://www.neumc.org/holy-land>

**The journey to Germany and Austria to see the Oberammergau Passion Play will be June 27 - July 5, 2022.** After the plague left their small village some 380 years ago, the grateful people of Oberammergau promised God that they would show their gratitude by putting on a Passion Play, which they present every 10 years (this event was postponed in 2020). Learn more and find registration info at <https://www.neumc.org/passion-play>



## District Days

Join conversations with Bishop Devadhar

In 2021, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar will resume his annual practice of visiting each district in the New England Conference. These visits are an opportunity for clergy and laity to engage in dialog with the bishop.

The dates for the bishop's visits are below. Some of these gatherings will also be livestreamed.

Check your district calendar on the Conference website ([www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events)) to find details (some may not yet be posted as of this writing).



We update this information as details solidify, so watch the Conference e-news, your district news, and our events calendar for more.

Katahdin – September 2  
 Many Waters – September 9  
 Commonwealth East – September 16  
 Commonwealth West – September 23  
 Seacoast – September 30  
 Granite – October 7  
 Green Mountain – October 14

## Digital Ministry



In 2021, the Conference Office of Congregational Development is putting a new focus on digital ministry.

Director Rev. Rick McKinley curates and creates resources to help congregations use digital/online technology in all aspects of church life: from powerful transformative worship experiences and spiritual formation to study, meetings,

small groups, discipleship, evangelism, and more.

Rev. McKinley is producing a new webinar on the third Monday of each month.

You can find information about what's coming up on our events calendar and find recordings of past webinars here: <https://www.neumc.org/digital-ministry>

### Let's Connect

Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question to ask? Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, at [communicate@neumc.org](mailto:communicate@neumc.org) or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150