

### The Beacon

First United Methodist
Church Of
North Andover

**MARCH 2024** 

#### From the Pastor's Desk

As a baseball fan I am glad spring training is beginning. In baseball, as in life, there is the notion of sacrifice. A batter is said to sacrifice when the batter makes a play that results in being put out, but also creates an opportunity for a runner to advance. For the team's sake, it is better to have one more out and a runner at second instead of first, rather than a batter swinging for an unlikely home run. For the good of the team, the batter makes an almost certain out. Would you believe that managers are having more and more trouble getting players to sacrifice? They want the glory of getting a hit and scoring themselves, rather than looking to the needs of the team.

During the season of Lent Christians focus on the sacrifice of Christ and its meaning for our lives. We remember the death and resurrection of Christ as God's great sacrifice on our behalf. But I wonder what that word "sacrifice" means to us? What do we know of sacrifice in our daily lives?

We sometimes forget that the word "sacrifice" is essentially a religious term. It is based on the Latin words "sacer" (holy) and "facere" (to do or make). A sacrifice is literally "a holy act or deed" and hearkens back to the times when live animals were slaughtered (or "sacrificed") on an altar as an offering to God. But the broader meaning of sacrifice in our world is "the destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else (or someone else)." To make a sacrifice is to place someone else's well-being above your own; to give up something for the good of another. We Christians believe that is exactly what God did in sending Jesus to die on the cross for you and me.

Like those baseball players, for many of us the entire notion of sacrifice is foreign. Especially in our country, and especially in our times, the emphasis of our culture is on each of us satisfying our own needs and wants. For many of our grandparents it was an article of faith that the present generation should forego pleasures and luxuries so that their children might have a better life than they themselves had. In today's world, particularly among immigrant families, we still see that ethic practiced. But more and more, our culture suggests we live for ourselves, for our immediate wants. If the choice is between taking a vacation or saving for our children's college education, there are very few voices in our culture encouraging us to save for the future of the children instead of spending on ourselves in the present. The path involving sacrifice for others is less and less common.

If we are hesitant to sacrifice even for our children, then what chance is there that we will do so for the sake of our faith? Jesus said that those who would follow Him must deny themselves, pick up their cross, and follow Him. Jesus is in the perfect position to ask that we sacrifice ("deny ourselves") for His sake; the one making that request knows all about sacrifice, for he gave up His life for you and me. Who among us can say no to Jesus? Who among us can say to Jesus that our own wants are more important than the work Jesus has for us?

Rev. Mack



First
United Methodist Church
57 Peters Street
North Andover, MA 01845
Rev. A. Mack Hagins, Pastor

#### **Church Office Telephone:**

978-682-5305

#### Email:

firstunitedmethodist@comcast.net Website:

www.northandoverumc.org

#### Worship with us:

Youth Christian Education 8:45 AM Service Time 10:30 AM in Sanctuary or via Zoom Child Care available during worship

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#### **WORSHIP IN MARCH/COVID INFORMATION**

**COVID UPDATE** — As COVID is still with us, while we are not requiring masks, those who prefer to wear them are welcome to do so. We continue to ask that you stay home if you are not feeling well, until you are better or have a negative COVID test. The service will still be offered on Zoom if you choose to remain at home. The same Zoom login will be used every week at 10:30 AM.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84390216459

Or dial 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 843 9021 6459



We will share in Holy Communion on March 3. In the church we will receive by safe and distanced intinction. Those who are worshiping at home are invited to prepare some bread and juice for yourself and your family.

**SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT YOUTH CHRISTIAN ED:** For the next couple of months (or more) the Sunday Christian Education Class will be held in the Nursery. PLEASE BE SURE to call or text Carrie Mazza at 617-257-1780 before your first week of attendance.

#### HOLY WEEK AT FIRST UMC



Maundy Thursday Worship—we will join with the Intercultural Mission Church in our sanctuary at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 to remember Jesus' Last Supper. All are welcome to this special service.

Easter Offering—we will receive a **special offering** on Easter to benefit our General Fund. Envelopes will be in the bulletins, or you may bring or mail a check to the office.

Easter Flowers—Easter flowers will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter morning. Order forms are in the Narthex and have been emailed as well. DEADLINE TO ORDER is March 10.



#### **Community Lenten Opportunities**



#### REMAINING SERVICES THROUGH COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Communities Together, Inc. is holding their Lenten noontime worship/luncheon series on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon. A light luncheon follows worship.

March 6 - Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, St. Theresa Church - 22 Plymouth Street, Methuen Homilist: Deacon Lou Piazza, St. Augustine's Parish, North Andover Host Pastor: Fr. Gregory Voto

March 13 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 390 Main Street, North Andover

Homilist: Rev. Lewis Floyd, 3rd Baptist Church, Lawrence Host Pastor: Rev. Eleanor Prior

March 20 - St. Michael Parish - 196 Main Street, North Andover

Homilist: Fr. Daniel Madden, Merrimack College Host Pastor: Fr. Kevin Deeley

#### LENTEN EVENTS AT ROLLING RIDGE

Rolling Ridge (UM) Retreat & Conference Center, 660 Great Pond Road, North Andover, will hold the following Lenten events focusing on embodied spiritual practices this year:

Sundays 2/18-3/31 6-7 p.m. online—Lenten Prayer Journey

Wednesday 3/6 9:30-3:30- Faith & Art: Painting Ukranian Easter Eggs

Wednesday 3/13 9:30-3:30—God and Yoga

Wednesday in Holy Week 3/27 9:30-3:30— Tai Chi Rhythm in the Paschal Mystery

Register or get more info at www.rollingridge.org/lent



#### Praying for General Conference

General Conference will be held in North Carolina this spring, from April 23-May 3. Our District Superintendent has suggested daily prayer for all the conferences, bishops, and NEUMC delegates involved. Here is her list beginning last Saturday and continuing through March. April-May will be included in next month's Beacon.



February 24– Pray for Members and conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

February 25- Pray for Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, Ist clergy delegate to General Conference.

February 26- Pray for Bonnie Marden, Ist lay delegate to General Conference.

February 27- Pray for Interim Bishop Peggy Johnson.

February 28-Pray for The General Board of Archives and History

February 29- Pray for The Africa Central Conference.

March I- Pray for the New England Conference.

March 2- Pray for the Interpreters and translators at General Conference.

March 3- Pray for Rev. Dr. Becca Girrell, clergy delegate to General Conference.

March 4- Pray for Amanda Bonnette-Kim, lay delegate to General Conference.

March 5- Pray for Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi.

March 6- Pray for Discipleship Ministries

March 7- Pray for the Congo Central Conference.

March 8- Pray for the Western Jurisdiction

March 9- Pray for the seminarians attending General Conference.

March 10-Pray for Rev. Effie McAvoy, clergy delegate to General Conference.

March II- Pray for Ralph Oduor, lay delegate to General Conference.

March 12- Pray for Bishop Thomas Bickerton.

March 13- Pray for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

March 14- Pray for the West African Central Conference.

March 15- Pray for the Greater New Jersey Conference.

March 16- Pray for the Bishops' spouses.

March 17- Pray for Rev. René Pérez, first clergy alternate to General Conference, and clergy delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

March 18- Pray for Ana María Rodríguez Alfonso, first lay alternate to General Conference, and lay delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

March 19- Pray for Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball.

March 20- Pray for the General Board of Global Ministries.

March 21- Pray for the Central and Southern Europe Central Conference.

March 22- Pray for the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

March 23- Pray for the Pages and Marshals at General Conference.

March 24- Pray for Rev. Leigh Goodrich, clergy delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

March 25- Pray for Noah Spicer, lay delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

March 26- Pray for Bishop LaTrelle Easterling.

March 27 Pray for Wespath.

March 28- Pray for the Germany Central Conference.

March 29- Pray for the West Virginia Conference.

March 30- Pray for Sandra Bonnette-Kim, clergy delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

March 31- Pray for Claire Holston, lay delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.



#### **UMCOR Sunday March 10**



Every year we are called to support the efforts of the United Methodist Committee On Relief to provide a broad array of aid to people around the world. In 2023 we were able to send \$416 to UMCOR to use for this support.

This year we can help UMCOR support the displaced people due to the conflict in the Gaza war. Like other humanitarian agencies, UMCOR has found it difficult to get relief into Gaza. This is a well-publicized issue we are all aware of through the media reports.

By working with long time local or regional agencies, UMCOR is helping the people involved in the on-going conflict:

A long-time Global Ministries' partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Near East Council of Churches, has staff in Gaza that have been working with what they have, but under difficult conditions.

UMCOR made an emergency grant to provide 14,000 people with emergency food rations made it to the DSPR in Gaza early in the conflict.

UMCOR supports partners that serve marginal and vulnerable Palestinian communities. Though many of these have specific areas of service to specific populations, they now find their communities need emergency help. Two grants to Hope Secondary School have helped Palestinian children and families affected by the repercussions of the war in Gaza.

A grant to Princess Basma Centre in Jerusalem served an urgent need for the development of a telemedicine program for Palestinian children with disabilities whose families confronted closed check-points when they tried to take their children to their medical appointments at the center. Another grant is in the works for the Four Homes of Mercy for Disabled Children.

A grant to the Al Quds Foundation provided counseling to children and youth in the Palestine Shufat Refugee Camp.

My appeal to you is that we as a congregation can provide some significant support in our collection on Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> for UMCOR.

Submitted by Paul Carlotto Missions Team

Special offering envelopes will be in the bulletin on March 10, or you may send or bring your offering to the office, or give directly online at https://www.umc.org/en/content/umcor-sunday-ministry-article



#### Lenten "Undie Sunday" Diaper Drive Continues Through Easter, March 31 Pop Your Trunk on March 23

During Lent (February 14 through Easter, March 31) we will once again be participating in the diaper drive for Communities Together. As you may know, **Communities Together** has been collecting diapers, pull-ups and underwear for children in the Greater Lawrence area during the Lenten season since 1998— **that's over 25 years!** 

The 147,273 diapers plus underwear collected in Lent and throughout the year were distributed local social agencies who serve families in need such as:

Lazarus House, St. Vincent's Ministry, Horizons for Children Family Shelter, Si Se Puede, Bread and Roses, Pregnancy Care Center, Fina House/YMCA, People's Pantry, Emmaus House, Neighbors in Need.

#### Why are diapers so important?

Many moms make significant sacrifices just to afford diapers for their babies. *Diaper need* remains a common and hidden problem of poverty, made worse by job losses and social isolation. Keeping infants and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy is key to building a solid foundation for all children to reach their full potential. But one in three families struggles to provide clean diapers for their baby. Though diapers are essential for babies, they are not systematically covered by safety-net policies. Neither WIC nor food stamps cover diapers.

Most-needed items: diapers and pull-ups of all sizes and NEW children's underwear in small sizes. Diaper wipes are also needed. You may bring your donations to church (narthex) at any time during Lent or take them to any Wednesday noon Lenten service. For pickups call Andrea Vannett 978-305-7589 or for large deliveries of diapers and undies call to make an appointment to meet at church on Thurs. and/or Fridays.

We are also holding a **Pop Your Trunk Event on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m.-noon in our parking lot.** PLEASE INVITE your friends and neighbors to help contribute to this important effort.

You may also donate money by check made payable to "Communities Together" with "diaper/underwear drive" in the memo line, and mail to PO Box 428, Lawrence, MA 01842.

Thank you, Andrea Vannett, Communities Together Diaper Queen



#### **Bread & Roses Sandwiches March 30**









Again in 2024 we are supporting Bread & Roses, the grassroots non-profit organization Lawrence, in their work in addressing food insecurity, hunger and poverty. We will have 4 opportunities in 2024 in March, June, August, and November to support the great work of Bread & Roses.

On Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> we are preparing 144 bagged meals for distribution. We will do the preparation at the church from 9AM to 11AM (we often finish sooner!). Please plan on joining in the sandwich making and meal bag assembly. We are asking for cash donations, rather than food contributions, toward the purchase of the deli turkey and ham. Please see a member of the Missions Committee (Paul C, Paul R, Ave, Andrea, or Lynn) if you would like to contribute. We are handling things this way since we need to ensure each meal has very specific food items and are purchasing many of the items online. The ingredients for the sandwiches (bread, cold cuts, lettuce) are purchased at Market Basket just before the meal prep day.

Please keep eye out for a meal prep volunteer sign-up sheet in early March. Please remember to wear a hat/hair covering. Thank you in advance for helping with this outreach! - Lynn Satriale

#### Thank You for Your Support of Missions

February 12, 2024
"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a neverfailing stream!" Amos 5:24



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



I want to thank you and your congregation for having hearts that seek and fight for justice. Your financial support of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) is evidence of your commitment to some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

As you know, JFON provides reliable and free legal aid to low- and no-income immigrants, specializing in humanitarian -based cases. Their clients include unaccompanied minors, asylum applicants, and victims of violence.

In our society that is quick to judge the immigrant, your support says these neighbors of ours are loved, valued and worthy. Your giving is a tangible witness to the love of Christ, and your light is shining brightly to reduce the darkness and stigma that surround these persons.

I am grateful for your sacrificial giving and compassionate love. As your gifts bless this ministry, may God also bless each of you in your continued ministry with your communities and beyond. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Sincerely,

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson



#### PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY



Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Martha Scheipers, faithful member of this church since April 1946, who died on February 27, 2024 just a few days after her 90th birthday. Calling hours for Martha are Monday, March 4, 2024, from 9 am to 11 am at Conte Funeral Home, 17 3rd Street, North Andover, MA with services starting at 11 am. Interment will follow at Ridgewood Cemetery.

Full obituary is at https://www.contefuneralhomes.com/obituaries/obituary-listings

#### **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AT PANERA**

You are invited to join the monthly gathering at the corner table at the Panera across the street from the church for Coffee & Conversation. This informal time of sharing is held on the **second Tuesday of each month**, so our next gathering will be **from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on March 12.** Stop by to exchange ideas or just to visit.



#### **HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS**



In March we have five birthdays that we know of:

4 - JoAnn Carlotto

8 - Rev. Mack Hagins

15 - Garrett Melick

28 - Valerie Zablocki

31 - Jeff Kress

Happy birthday to all! If you also are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month, congratulations and best wishes to you.

If we don't have your birthday/anniversary and you'd like to have it published in the Beacon, please send or phone your special day(s) into the office ASAP but certainly by March 26 for the April newsletter. Thank you!

#### COCOA COLLECTION REPORT

Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need again this year by donating cocoa and hot chocolate during the winter. You contributed nearly 50% more than last year! This year's total is 1180 packets/servings, compared to 785 last year.



## 4

#### Summer Camp Registration Now Open!



#### Wanakee's 2024 Summer Schedule is Here!

Can't wait for summer? Neither can we! With programs like **You n' Me**, **Senior High, Sports and Games**, and **Wanakee: Heroes Unleashed**, we have options for all ages and interests.

You can <u>view our summer schedule</u> on the Wanakee website wanakee.org, and <u>online registration is</u> <u>open</u>.

Wanakee's camper fees operate on a **tiered** "pay what's right for you" plan. Information is available **on our website**. We are proud to keep camp affordable for families; a week at Wanakee starts at 50% less than the national average, and scholarships are always available. For 2024, we are again offering **#CountdownToCamp** and **Multi-Week discounts**.

We can't wait to make new memories with your family in the months ahead. <u>Sign up now</u> or take a look at the **2024 schedule**, and we will see you soon!

Find camp information and how to register at www.wanakee.org. A copy of the catalogue is also **in the rack in the Narthex**.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR LENT

# DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- · Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- · Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- · Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- · Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

  Though my hairis white as s
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- · Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com

## SENIOR VERSION OF "JESUS LOVES ME"

Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow Though my sight is growing dim, Still He bids me trust in Him.

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow, With my hand in His I'll go On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way.

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near."

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

When my work on earth is done, And life's victories have been won He will take me home above, Then I'll understand His love.

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

I love Jesus, does He know? Have I ever told Himso? Jesus loves to hear me say, That I love Him every day.

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME..
YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.
-author unknown



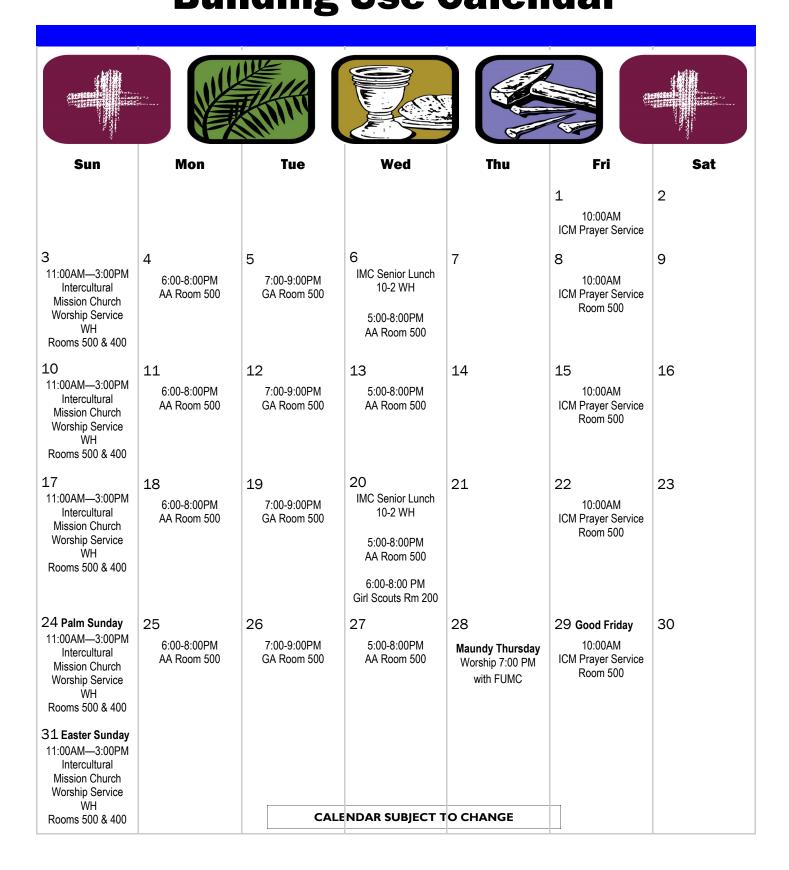


Sent in by Andrea Vannett

# March 2024 Church Activity Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
Every Sunday:	8:45 a.m. Youth Christian Education	Coffee Fellowship following worship			1	2		
3 3rd Sunday in Lent Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10 4th Sunday in Lent Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. UMCOR Sunday	11 Missions Team 7pm via Zoom	Coffee & Conversation @ Panera 10am-12noon Church Council 7pm	13	14	15	16		
17 4th Sunday in Lent Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22	23 Community Pop Your Trunk for Diapers 10-12 a.m. Parking Lot		
Palm/Passion Sunday Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m.	25	26	27	Maundy Thursday Worship 7 p.m. with ICM Sanctuary	29	30 Bread & Roses meal prep. 9-11 a.m. Kitchen.		
31 Easter Sunday Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Special Offering								
CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE								
CALLITOR SOUJECT TO CHARGE								

# March 2024 Building Use Calendar



#### March 2024



#### **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.



# Annual Conference 2024

Registration opens this month

Registration for the 2024 New England Annual Conference session, June 20-22, will open in early March.

The hybrid session will be via Zoom and at the DoubleTree Boston North Shore in Danvers, MA. The session will be live streamed.

Visit our AC webpage at





# Bishop Johnson urges us to speak out to end visa backlog

Throughout the United States, many religious workers, including some clergy in the New England Conference, and migrant children are having to live in limbo due to a visa backlog.

This has and is creating great harm to the security of those subject to the backlog.

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

In a Nov. 16, 2023,

message to the Conference, Bishop Peggy Johnson urged United

Methodists in New England to support for the Protect Vulnerable Immigrant Youth Act, which would exempt special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS youth) from EB-4 visa caps and release visas for religious workers supporting vital work in our community.

We encourage you to write to your representatives and ask them to support this much-needed legislation. Without measures to address this backlog, some of our own pastors may lose their path to citizenship and may even be forced to leave the United States.

Let's raise our voices and be heard on this vital issue of justice.

You can join the effort to support of religious workers and migrant children by

writing your representatives asking them to vote for this legislation.

You can write your own letter or use one of the templates posted on our website.

Use the QR code to access the templates and a link to find contact infor-

mation for your federal representative.





# In case you missed it

#### Northeastern Jurisdictional events come to NE

Two jurisdictional events will be coming to New England over the next couple of months. Registration for both events is open now.

#### **NEJ United Women in Faith**

In April, the Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) United Women in Faith will gather in Providence, RI, for their quadrennial event.

Come feel the energy and joy as hundreds of faith-filled sisters GET TOGETHER! in person to worship, to renew, to celebrate, and to make an impact!



we convene the Northeastern Jurisdiction United Women in Faith!

Keynote speaker will be Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is President/General Secretary of the National Council of Churches. Find more on both events at www.neumc.org/events

#### **NEJ Commission on Archives & History**

From May 13-16, 2024, the NEJ Commission on Archives and History will meet at Rolling Ridge, the NEAC retreat and conference center in N. Andover, MA.

The New England Conference Commission on Archives and History looks forward to welcoming you to this meeting of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History. Come join with siblings in Christ for three days to learn more about New England Methodist pioneers and their innovations (preview below). This will be a time of connecting, not only with our Methodist roots, but with one another, as together with draw strength from the Communion of Saints and are refreshed and inspired to minister to our present world.





# 'Ableism' topic of Pre-Lenten Gathering

Bishop Peggy Johnson's Pre-Lenten Gathering focused on ableism with special guests Dr. Lisa and Rev. Justin Hancock. Like racism and sexism, ableism is a bias — in this case against people with disabilities. There is much we in the church can do to improve our outreach and inclusion of people with disabilities.

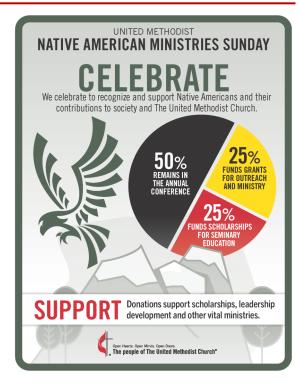
The webinar, which was sponsored by the Conference Commission on Religion and Race and Conference Disabilities Committee, includes a short devotional by Bishop Johnson followed by the presentation by Rev. and Dr. Hancock, who took questions from participants.

The Hancocks are co-founders of The Julian Way, an organization focused on empowerment and discipleship with, for, and by persons with disabilities.

Justin is the Lead Instigator of <u>The Julian Way</u> and spends his days engaging with the members of The Julian Way through one-on-one discipleship and advocating with the church and the wider community for the integration and participation of disabled persons.

Lisa is the Director of Worship Arts for Discipleship Ministries, an agency of The United Methodist Church where she writes liturgy and creates resources to help local churches engage in and make disciples through worship.

Find the recording and more at www.neumc.org/news



Native American Ministries Sunday is **April 14, 2024**, but you are encouraged to celebrate on a day that works best for your church. For more info and worship resources visit resourceumc.org, click the churchwide tab and go to UMCGiving then click Special Sundays.

#### Let's Connect



#### First United Methodist Church

#### 57 Peters Street North Andover, MA 01845

Church Telephone: 978-682-5305

E-Mail: firstunitedmethodist@comcast.net

Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:30AM - 11:30AM

Youth Christian Education Sundays 8:45 AM—Please call or text Carrie at 617-257-1780 before your first week of attendance

Choir Practice 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary

Sunday Worship 10:30AM in the Sanctuary and via ZOOM

Child Care available during worship

#### **March** 2024











A Reconciling Congregation