

February 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.



Bishop Johnson will visit each district

Don't miss Bishop Peggy Johnson's visits to the districts in February and March.

Folks attending are encouraged to read *Being United Methodist Christians: Living a Life of Grace and Hope* by Any Langford.

Attend any session that's convenient.

Find the schedule at www.neumc.org



Pre-Lenten webinar topic is 'ableism'

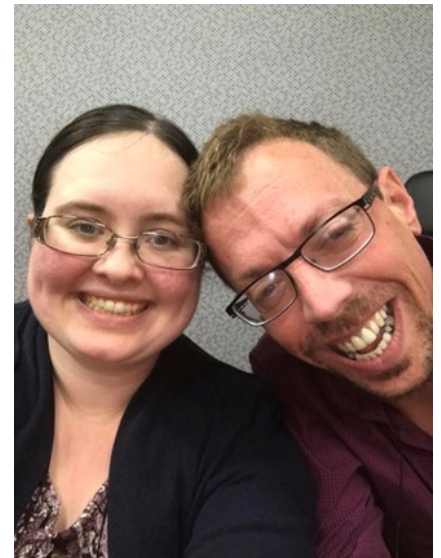
Bishop Peggy A. Johnson invites the laity and clergy of the New England Conference to a Pre-Lenten webinar focused on "ableism" at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024.

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 evening, which is sponsored by the Conference Commission on Religion and Race and Conference Disabilities Committee, will begin with a short devotional followed by a presentation by Rev. Justin and Dr. Lisa Hancock.

The Hancocks are co-founders of The Julian Way (<https://thejulianway.org/>), an organization focused on empowerment and discipleship with, for, and by persons with disabilities.

Justin is the Lead Instigator of The Julian Way and spends his days en-



gaging 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.



GET DETAILS AND THE ZOOM LINK AT
www.neumc.org/events

Fourteen churches complete disaffiliation process

As of Jan. 11, 2024, Director of Administrative Ministries Kerry Patles reports that all churches that had been approved for disaffiliation by the Annual Conference in June 2023 had completed the process and made the required payments.

In 2023, 14 churches sought to disaffiliate under the provisions of Book of Discipline ¶12553. The total of disaffiliations under this paragraph in New England is 18 (see list at right). As of the last statistical report in Dec. 31, 2022, there were 561 churches in the Conference.

“As a connectional covenant community, the whole is most certainly affected when any part chooses to separate,” said Bishop Peggy A. Johnson. “But we, as United Methodists in New England, trusted the discernment process. We acknowledge that we remain connected in Christ and

sought to engage in a process that was prayerful, offered grace, and minimized harm.”

See full story at neumc.org/news

2020	Brackett Memorial UMC, Peaks Island, ME	Christ UMC, Lawrence, MA
		Cressey Road UMC, Gorham, ME
		CT Central Korean UMC, East Hampton, CT
2021	Chebeague Island UMC, Chebeague Island, ME	Exeter (NH) UMC
	Hope Gate Way, Portland, ME	Faith Community Church, Plymouth, MA
	Tuttle Road UMC, Cumberland, ME	Lyndonville (VT) UMC
2023	Ballardvale United Federated, Andover, MA	North Woolwich UMC, Woolwich, ME
	Brownsville (VT) Community UMC	Nueva Vida UMC, Chelsea, MA
	Bryantville UMC, Pembroke, MA	South Middleboro UMC, Middleboro, MA
		Vida Abundante, Providence, RI
		Wesley UMC, Wareham, MA

Build your church's stewardship muscles

The Conference Board of Discipleship is pleased to offer congregations in New England “A Year of Stewardship with Ken Sloane.” The series of online sessions began in January and continues through August 2024. Sloane, Director

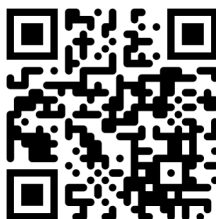


of Stewardship and Generosity at Discipleship Ministries, will be leading monthly online workshops on stewardship that will be available to our church leaders (Use the QR code below to see the schedule and topics).

The Board is pleased to offer some additional benefits to those churches that participate in the workshops: Those who attend two of the first five workshops will be able to have lunch with Ken during the

2024 Annual Conference session in June. Attend four of the eight workshops and receive a free copy of three great books on stewardship:

- Generosity, Stewardship and Abundance: A Transformational Guide to Church Finance
- Money Talks: A Biblical Take on Earning, Saving, Spending, and Giving
- A Spirituality of Fundraising by Henri Nouwen



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 or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150

Special Sunday

The UMC will celebrate UMCOR Sunday on March 10, 2024. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response

and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable. Get resources at umcsgiving.org

SPECIAL SUNDAY

UMCOR SUNDAY

“Indeed, God is transforming the world now — through us — because God loves us.”

— BISHOP DESMOND TUTU, *GOD HAS A DREAM: A VISION OF HOPE FOR OUR TIME*

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