



January 7, 2021

Dear friends,

The season of Epiphany blesses us with the gift of manifestation and discovery. God has revealed something decisively sacred, truthful, and life-restoring at Christmas. Epiphany invites those who believe in such revelation to open both their inner and outer eyes to seek and discover what God has unveiled. It neither asks us to create nor empowers us to manufacture such gifts. All we are blessed to do is to seek, find, and share the gifts of sacredness, truth, and redemption that are in and around our daily lives unveiled by the grace of God in Christ Jesus.



As we begin the ministry in the New Year, it is my prayer that you are blessed with the gift of faith to see and celebrate all the gifts of life that are in and around you and your community. Yesterday, on the day of Epiphany, it has become ever so manifest that this nation is in desperate need of new Epiphany. People need to discover more than ever the gift of the sacredness that is greater than any partisan ideology and politics, the gift of truth that can save all from the destructive temptation of falsehood, and the gift of redemption that can heal the ever-polarized hearts and minds. May we as a district be encouraged by the Holy Spirit to discover and share the gifts of ministry and mission that are in and around each of our clergy and laity to bring the gifts of sacredness, truth, and redemption that people and our nation are searching for.

May the delight of Epiphany be your daily gift and calling today and always.

In Christ,

We Hyun Chang

NEAC Leadership Training scheduled for SPRCS, Trustees and Treasurers

The New England Conference is offering online leadership training for SPRCs, Treasurers, and Local Church Trustees. Presenters are Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (SPRC) and Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services John Cardillo (Treasurers and Trustees). You will have the opportunity to ask questions and join a breakout discussion for your district.

The workshops, which will be offered via Zoom, are scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. on:

- [Jan. 20, 2021 for SPRCs](#)
- [Feb. 3, 2021 for Treasurers](#)
- [Feb. 24, 2021 for Trustees](#)

Click the event link to get more information and the Zoom link.

If applicable, please share with the NEW chairperson in your congregation.

A Gift for You - Our Mission Shares at Work

Recognizing the difficulties of planning worship during a pandemic, the New England Annual Conference is pleased to offer the chance to participate in Dr. Marcia McFee's highlighted programs below. These webinars are available at no cost.

- **Epiphany Series: “*God is Holding up your Life*”**
 - "God Is Holding Your Life" is a fully scripted worship series from the Worship Design Studio for Epiphany that offers a seven-week journey through the Psalms. After the rush and activity of the holiday season (even in a pandemic), the new year can offer us a time of slowing down, simplifying, and leaning on reflection and prayer to help us sustain the journey toward a time when we can move to the rhythms of life for which we yearn. It is difficult to be patient in the midst of difficult times. The Psalms can help us with that.
 - [Sign up for this FREE series with materials HERE](#)
- **Journey to Lent 2021**
 - Participation gives you access to three live webinars to help you prepare for Lent (also recorded for your archives) with Dr. McFee, a renowned worship designer, consultant, and educator (www.marciamcfee.com).
 - *Jan 6 - Planning Session* - Explore historical and theological themes of Lent.
 - *Jan 12 - Deep Structure* - Develop a design model to help plan and foster collaboration.
 - *Jan 19 - Spiritual Depth* - Highlights techniques for leading meaningful and memorable worship experiences.

- All you need to do is register (at no charge) to receive the emails. You can invite unlimited members of the worship team (or potential worship team members) to receive these communications as well. We encourage you to take advantage of this free offer (usually \$49.99 per church) made possible through our area's registration. **These webinars are tailored to approach worship practices during the pandemic and will explore the basics of sensory-rich worship design while emphasizing safety protocols and getting creative for online expressions without burning out.**
- [Register HERE](#)

Available through our Conference's partnership with Dr. Marcia McFee and the Worship Design Studio. Visit worshipdesignstudio.com/life to learn more before signing up.

Morning star photo by Evie Doyon.

Our District Contact Info

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