



February 4, 2021

Join Conference-wide Lenten Bible Study 'Roll Down, Justice'

This study, titled "Roll Down, Justice," was written by the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR). Study sessions will be held from 7 to 8:30 pm on Sundays from Feb. 14 to March 21, 2021 via Zoom. The study will be led by Rev. Megan Stowe, Commonwealth West District Superintendent. Using biblical passages and Mark Miller's amazing hymns, this study will offer guidance to us as Christians and as United Methodists on how to be an anti-racist and inclusive church. The study is part of the Conference and Commonwealth West District's renewed commitment to engage in anti-racism work that was reinforced by the 2020 [discovery of KKK materials in the historic cornerstone of the former Fairlawn Methodist Episcopal Church](#). Registration is required; the registration deadline is noon on Feb. 12, 2021. You will be sent the Zoom link when you sign up. You only need to register once to attend all the sessions. [Register](#).



Online Training Opportunities for Clergy and Laity

The events listed [here](#), which include District Resource Days, are opportunities for laity and clergy to hear from gifted speakers and workshop leaders from across New England and around the nation. Experts will offer big ideas and practical tools that can be implemented in the local church context. These Leadership Training Opportunities are offered as a way to help strengthen the work of your church. As United Methodists and members of a connectional church, we know we are stronger together. You are encouraged to take full advantage of the gifts and knowledge of our presenters.

Church-During-Pandemic Think Tank: Lay Leadership Development (Feb. 9, 2021; 11:00 am - 12:30 pm OR Feb. 10, 2021; 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm)

The pandemic has demanded new skills and leadership from both clergy and laity. We'll discuss

several aspects of lay leadership during this Think Tank, sharing successes, concerns, needs, and ideas: How have lay members been empowered for ministry during this time? How can this continue after the pandemic? How can lay leadership be developed in the coming months to prepare for future ministry? How can difficult behavior be managed when we can't be together in person?

No need to register. Attend via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86970460346?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86970460346?pwd=QVd1bkpPaTVqNmhHakU4ZXMyTFFUUT09)

[pwd=QVd1bkpPaTVqNmhHakU4ZXMyTFFUUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86970460346?pwd=QVd1bkpPaTVqNmhHakU4ZXMyTFFUUT09); For more information, contact Barb Lemmel, Parish Consultant Coordinator (barblemmel@mac.com or 802-881-3267).

[Making the Most of Facebook Live](#) (Feb. 15, 2021)

As we continue to offer online worship experiences, the platforms we use continue to evolve, helping us offer worship experiences that are more meaningful, relevant and interactive than ever before.

The media team from First UMC in Bangor ME offers what they've learned, things that have helped them reach more people than before the pandemic!

[Turning Mission Dreams into Ministry Realities](#) (Feb. 24 or 25, 2021)

What Could You Do With \$5,000? Did you know that the Foundation *wants to be a partner in ministry* with your faith community? Planting your vision requires many hands and resources. Find out how we might help make it a reality by funding up to \$5,000. This webinar will walk you through the grant application process from beginning to end.

[NEAC Leadership Training scheduled for Trustees](#) (Feb. 24, 2021)

The New England Conference is offering online leadership training for Local Church Trustees. Presenter is Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services John Cardillo. Many Waters District Superintendent Karen Munson will facilitate the question and answer portion. The workshop is scheduled for 6:30-8 pm. If applicable, please share with the trustees in your congregation.

[Telling the Old Story a New Time](#) with Jason Moore (Feb. 27, 2021)

In the same way a book has to be consolidated and adapted for the screen in movie form, so must the worship we offer virtually. Join author, creative worship and guest readiness coach Jason Moore for a two-hour webinar for how to face these unique challenges to worship.

[Both/And](#) with Jason Moore (March 13, 2021)

Maximizing Hybrid Worship Experiences For Online and In-Person Audiences: As we move back into our buildings, we mustn't return to making people at home observers. We also can't take an approach where we treat the in-person crowd as the studio audience. Neither audience should feel secondary.

NEAC plans Eastertide worship service

The Extended Cabinet is preparing a pre-recorded video Eastertide worship service with a sermon by Bishop Devadhar. This service is designed to assist pastors and church leaders with online worship planning by providing a complete service with adaptable parts (sermon only, for example) that can be

used during the Easter season. The service will be available by Palm Sunday and can be used on Easter Sunday but is appropriate for use any time during the season – particularly to allow pastors to take a break.

Share your worship materials: We would like to incorporate contributions from around the conference. If your church recorded music, a children's message, or other special readings/presentations for Easter 2020 and is willing to share those recordings and/or if you are working on something new for 2021 that you can have ready early, please contact Director of Connectional Ministries Erica Robinson-Johnson at erica@neumc.org.

Churches encouraged to apply for new round of PPP loans

As of Jan. 11, 2021, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) reopened the [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#). Churches that did not apply for PPP in 2020 can apply now for a First Draw PPP Loan. Local churches that received a First Draw PPP loan in 2020 may apply for a Second Draw PPP loan if they will or have used the full amount for authorized uses, have no more than 300 employees and can demonstrate at least 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020. Conference Treasurer John Cardillo encourages churches to apply for PPP loans (first or second draw as appropriate). Wespath and GCFA have compiled an FAQ about the second draw process. Find that and more information here: www.neumc.org/cares

PPP lending available through Interfaith Federal Credit Union

Churches with membership accounts at Interfaith Federal Credit Union (formerly United Methodist FCU) can apply for PPP lending. The IFCU blog <https://interfaithfcu.org/ifcu-blog> provides updates on information regarding the PPP lending program. Questions? Email SBAinfo@interfaithfcu.org or call IFCU (800-245-0433). If your church is not yet a member of Interfaith FCU your New England Branch can provide a membership application. Email sandra@interfaithfcu.org

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