

March 2021



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).

### Thank You!

#### Conference pays 100% of apportionments

Despite the challenges of 2020, through your commitment and generosity, we have paid 100% of our apportionments.

Read the thoughts shared by Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar:

Through the mighty grace of God and with the generosity of each of you, we have been able to close the year having fulfilled all our financial obligations. We have paid all our bills and fully participated in our connectionalism and worldwide ministries and missions.

Despite the challenges of 2020, all these things were made possible through your commitment to the budget, steady generosity and participation in my special appeal, the faithful stewardship of the CCFA, and unwavering support of the District Superintendents. Additionally, many of you contributed to the Zarephath Emergency Relief Fund through the United Methodist Foundation of New England. The fund provided support for struggling congregations during the pandemic.

In celebration of your generous spirit, I wholeheartedly share my gratitude to each of you.



## AC 2021 will be online

The health of our members and communities remains our priority, and it is uncertain that we will be able to gather safely in June, so we have made the decision to hold the 2021

Annual Conference Session online. While we would like to meet together, we cannot ensure that we will have access to all the services required for an in-person gathering at that time.

All clergy and lay members should hold June 10-12 for the online session.

Tentatively, clergy session will be June 10 with the service of Ordination and Commissioning on June 12 for the classes of 2020 and 2021 (with a limited number of participants). The service would be livestreamed.

More information about registration and a detailed schedule will be announced later this month. Watch the e news and website for updates.



#### Download PDF of 2020 Journal

The 2020 Journal is available as a PDF to download for free (along with past years). Download the complete publication or any of the individual sections listed under each year. [www.neumc.org/annualconferencejournal](http://www.neumc.org/annualconferencejournal)

#### Purchase a bound Journal

You can purchase bound, printed copies of the 2020 Journal from lulu.com. ([www.lulu.com/spotlight/neumc](http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/neumc)). The 2020 Journal is \$17.11. Books ordered will be shipped directly to you. Price does not include tax/shipping.

NOTE: Due to concerns about privacy, we are no longer publishing a Directory.



FIND ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION AT  
[www.neumc.org/acsessions](http://www.neumc.org/acsessions)

## Digital Ministry

### Congregational Development offers resources, trainings

New England Conference Office of Congregational Development 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.

The topic for the March 15 Digital Ministry webinar is helping churches invite, welcome, and connect with newcomers in these days of COVID. Your Easter worship, which is likely to be well-attended, is an important opportunity to put these ideas into practice. Watch the e news for time and registration info.

Visit our Digital Ministry page to find more including recordings of past webinars on:

- Missioninsite — Demographic tool for churches
- Facebook Live — Go deeper into how to use this platform



<https://www.neumc.org/digital-ministry>

## Coming up ...



### Conference Resource Day hosted by Seacoast District

This online Resource Day will feature Jason Moore's "Both/And: Maximizing Hybrid Worship Experiences For Online and In-Person Audiences." Moore says, "If we fail to think about how to create a BOTH/AND scenario as we go back to in-person worship, we will lose so much of what we've gained in these last months." The event will 9 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday, March 13, 2021. All are invited. Visit [www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events) to register.



### Video services inspired by Taizé available for Lent

You are invited into a simple, meditative prayer service with Taizé chants as part of your Lenten journey.

These pre-recorded services will be available on this page <https://www.neumc.org/taize-lent> each Wednesday from Feb. 24 to March 31, 2021.

The services will be 30-35 minutes. Author, educator and spiritual director Kate Young Wilder will be our host. You will find a short biography of her on the webpage.

### 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