

April 2021



**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](http://www.neumc.org).



## Special Sunday

### Native American Ministries Sunday

The United Methodist Church includes approximately 18,000 Native Americans. These members represent many tribes and customs. Our gifts on this Special Sunday enrich local church and conference Native American ministries as well as seminary education. As we celebrate, we recognize the unique gift and voice of this community within our United Methodist Church. We also recognize the journey toward healing and reconciliation that we continue to travel as a church.

## Camping & Retreat Ministries

### Summer 2021

New England's camping ministry sites are hard at work planning for a summer filled with faith, laughter, swimming, and community.

Wanakee, Aldersgate, and Mechuwana have been engaged in the wonderful work of outdoor ministry for over 60 years, but this past year has certainly been one of the most difficult; and we are preparing, again, to rise to the challenges presented by COVID.

Each of our sites is unique: they operate in different states with significantly different guidelines for re-opening during the pandemic.

Each camp's infrastructure is different, and each has distinct factors to consider in determining which camping programs can be offered safely and legally this summer.

Here's what's happening:

#### Camp Aldersgate North Scituate, RI

Based on current state guidelines



Aldersgate will be hosting both overnight and day camps this summer. Learn more on their website: [www.campaldersgate.com/](http://www.campaldersgate.com/)

#### Wanakee, Meredith, NH

Wanakee leaders continue to evaluate and formulate their plans for summer 2021.

Visit [www.wanakee.org/faq](http://www.wanakee.org/faq)

Continued on page 2



FIND LINKS TO ALL OUR CAMP WEBSITES  
[www.neumc.org/CRM](http://www.neumc.org/CRM)

# Digital Ministry



## Monthly webinar

The Digital Ministry monthly webinar for April is "ZOOMING God: The Presence and Process of Online Spiritual Formation." If you are wondering how "God encounters" can occur with people connecting via a computer, join us for this live webinar as we explore how the online platform can strengthen your ministry in spiritual formation.

**1 pm Monday, April 19, 2021.** Session will be recorded.

Find past webinars at [www.neumc.org/digital-ministry](http://www.neumc.org/digital-ministry)

## Grant opportunity

The *Together For Tomorrow* grants offered through the Office of Congregational Development support to both new congregations and existing congregations that have emerging opportunities for growth. These are one-time matching grants for up to \$3,000. The 2021 round of grants will specifically help congregations increase their ability to reach their communities through technology. The types of funding requests that meet this year's criteria include the purchase of new equipment: cameras, laptops, video capture cards, audio equipment, projection equipment, tech accessories; funding for technology training or to pay fees for online meeting platforms such as Zoom. (Note: This list is not exhaustive). The deadline to apply is May 15, 2021.

Questions? Contact Director of Congregational Development Rev. Rick McKinley at [rickm@neumc.org](mailto:rickm@neumc.org)

## Camping & Retreat Ministries

Continued from page 1

### Camp Mechuwana, Winthrop, ME

After much prayer, discussion, and thought Mechuwana has opted suspend overnight camping for one more summer. They are instead concentrating on the expansion of their day camp program.

Learn more on their website: [www.mechuwana.org/](http://www.mechuwana.org/)

### Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, Andover, MA

Rolling Ridge has been a ministry of hospitality and spirituality of the New England Conference since 1948. During this time of COVID-19, Rolling Ridge has moved many of its programs and events online.

Find the latest at [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org)

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."



**1 Corinthians 6:14**

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## 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