September 2020

Celebrating small churches

As part of our District Resource Days, the Green Mountain District will be hosting a Zoom webinar focusing on small churches. Everyone, no matter what district you are in, is invited to join this online workshop from 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 10, 2020.

Many New England Conference churches are small and have part-time pastors. In his book, Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving without Full-time Clergy (Available from Amazon, Cokesbury), pastor and author G. Jeffrey MacDonald affirms that a part-time pastor, along with lay leadership, is more than adequate to accomplish “full-time ministry.”

During this workshop, MacDonald and three Vermont local pastors (Kerry Cameron, Michael Thorpe, and Ami Sawtelle) will share their experiences and knowledge they have gained through service and observation of small churches served by part-time clergy.

They will cover topics such as:
• what do small churches do well?
• what advantages do small churches have over large ones?
• how can small churches manage both pastoral and lay needs and expectations?

The panel will take questions.

Annual Conference 2020
The 2020 New England Annual Conference will take place as a one-day online session on Oct. 17, 2020. Members should plan to reserve the entire day for the session. The session will be livestreamed on our website.

During this shortened session, we will care for the necessary business of the Annual Conference as outlined in the Book of Discipline. The Agenda Committee will set the day’s schedule.

Some events and traditions that are part of our time together at Annual Conference will simply not be able to happen in 2020. Others have been or will be cared for in new ways.

The Laity Session will be an online event beginning at 10 a.m. on Sept. 26; watch e-news and our website for more details about how you can watch.

Find all the info you need at www.neumc.org/acsessions

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www.neumc.org/events
African American history in the New England Conference

The invisible made visible

Beginning in August, New England Conference Historian Rev. Patricia J. Thompson is making available updated versions of some materials and stories that were originally published in the early 2000’s as “The Invisible Made Visible: A Brief Overview of African American History in the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church.”

Three installments have been published so far:

- An overview of African American history
- Information about Rev. Samuel Snowden, a preacher and anti-slavery activist who was the New England Conference’s first African American pastor.
- Information about how Rev. Snowden’s children carried on his legacy.

Visit www.neumc.org to read this powerful history series.

Raising up new leaders to transform the world

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

On World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4, we will receive a special offering to support scholars in their education. Because of our giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.

In The United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday is one of six Special Sunday offerings. On the first Sunday in October, our designated gifts benefit students around the world by providing scholarships, mentoring and training.

World Communion Sunday began in 1936 as a way to recognize our ecumenical oneness in Christ and to bring Christians together in a spirit of unity and peace.

As we come together to receive Holy Communion along with Christians around the world, we recognize our unity and shared commitment to building God’s kingdom on earth. Together, we help raise up new leaders around the world, equipping them to be agents of change.

Daily Prayer

During these difficult days, members from across the New England Conference, as well as the Preachers’ Aid Society of New England and the United Methodist Foundation of New England, are sharing a daily prayer based on the Revised Common Lectionary for the week. You are welcome to use these in worship or in your own devotions.

You can find all of the prayers on our website at www.neumc.org (link on our homepage) or go to our news tab and click conference publications to subscribe to receive each day’s prayer via email.

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