

January 2023



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.



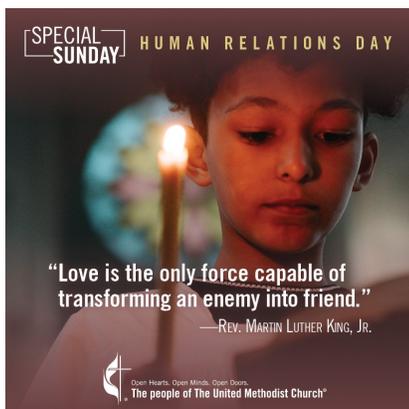
Human Relations Day is Jan. 15

Resources are now available to help churches celebrate Human Relations Day.

The prophet Isaiah stresses that it is in the restored community that we find salvation. We are redeemed from the worst parts of ourselves because we see the humanity in our neighbors. That is part of what United Methodist Human Relations Day is about. Restoring a sense of community with one another so that God shines through each one of us.

This special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through community developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and works with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Find resources at www.resourceumc.org



Bishop will pray for our districts

During her tenure in New England, Bishop Peggy A. Johnson will pray for a different district each week, beginning Jan. 8, 2023. She writes:

One of my favorite hymns that the Deaf Choir of Christ UMC of the Deaf signed while I was their pastor was “Standing in the Need of Prayer.” Simple and repetitive, it stressed the importance of prayer with an emphatic sign “need” with a large sweeping motion. All of us most definitely are “standing in the NEED of prayer.”

I am strongly convinced that prayer is the most important resource we have for life and ministry, and I can testify to its power a hundred times over. It is with that conviction that I will be praying for a different district every week. I will be lifting up the names of churches, pastors and lay leaders and I invite you to email to me your joys and concerns if you wish. This will enable to me to pray even more specifically.

We live in challenging times, and we need to “take it to the Lord in prayer.” The overwhelming good we experience from God’s gracious hand also needs celebrating as well as the many answered prayers. Please join me in prayer for the conference, for our churches, for our witness in the world.



Bishop Johnson
prays for
our districts



From Jan. 8-14, Bishop Johnson will pray for the Katahdin District, then the other districts in the order below:

- Katahdin District
- Many Waters District
- Green Mountain District
- Granite District
- Commonwealth West District
- Commonwealth East District
- Seacoast District

Send your joys and concerns by Friday for the following week to bishopjohnson@neumc.org.

We will include a reminder in each week’s e news.



GET ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND INFO ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.neumc.org

Upcoming training opportunities

Fresh Expression Imagination Day



REV. DR. MICHAEL BECK

- Director of Fresh Expressions UM
- Fresh Expressions Author and Cultivator
- Director of Fresh Expressions House of Study at United Theological Seminary
- Director of Fresh Expressions Florida



REV. HEATHER JALLAD

- North Georgia Fresh Expressions Cultivator
- Fresh Expressions NA Trainer and Mission Strategist
- Currently pursuing a Doctorate in Church Renewal and Fresh Expressions

A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of those who are not yet part of any church. When these congregations commit to reaching new people, in new places, and in new ways, revitalization and communal transformation are taking place. This workshop helps people envision a distinctly Wesleyan Spirit-led movement of new Christian communities that serve the present age.

Join Rev. Dr. Michael Beck and Rev. Heather Jallad **9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Participate online via Zoom or in person at Wesley UMC, 79 Clinton St. Concord, NH.**

Find the registration form: www.neumc.org/events

Questions? Contact Director of Congregational Development Rev. Rick McKinley at rickm@neumc.org

Across the United States, congregations with long histories, deeply rooted in their traditions, are experimenting with cultivating "fresh expressions" of church.

The intersection of racism and multi-faith communities

New England Conference Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships Board (CUIRB) has invited the Rev. Dr. Harold "Dorrell" Briscoe, writer and pastor of [THE SIX:EIGHT CHURCH](#) in Durham, NC, to speak about the intersection of multi-faith communities and racism.

This online workshop will be 6:30 pm on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023. It is free and open to clergy and laity. Visit www.neumc.org/

Workshop



[events](#) to get the Zoom link.

Dr. Briscoe is the author of "[There's A Storm Comin': How the American Church Can Lead Through Times of Racial Crisis.](#)"

He is a graduate of the University of



North Florida where he earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science and History. Dr. Briscoe earned his master's degree from the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A & M University, and a doctorate from Duke University.

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