

# Opus Christi Works of Christ

**St. James United Methodist Church**  
646 Daniel Webster Highway  
Merrimack, NH 03054  
Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy, Pastor  
Robin House, Office Administrator

**Contact Us:**  
Office phone: (603)424-7459  
Email: [stjamesmrmk@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesmrmk@gmail.com)  
[Stjames-umchurch.org](http://Stjames-umchurch.org)  
Facebook: St. James UMC  
Prayer Request email: [sjprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:sjprayerchain@gmail.com)

## Building Christian Community Within and Beyond the Church



### *On the Inside*

Pastor's Message	Page 2
Worship	Page 3
NEAC "Connected" Newsletter	Page 5
What's Happening in the UMC?	Page 7
News from Committees & Teams	Page 7
Outreach	Page 8
Christian Education	Page 9
Fellowship	Page 11
Community Connections	Page 13
Kids Page	Page 14
Calendar -----	Page 15

## Pastor's Message

### Happy Pride Month to our LGBTQIA+ Siblings in Christ!



From the Global Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church:

“Since 2000, the United States recognizes June as LGBT Pride Month. The month was chosen in memory of the 1969 riots at Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, widely considered one of the touchstones for the history of the LGBTQ rights movement.

In the midst of such festivities, however, this month also marks continued struggle for the protection of LGBTQ rights. According to the United Nations, 76 countries criminalize consensual same sex relationships and in seven countries the penalty may be death. Bullying and threats of violence against persons who are, or are perceived to be, LGBTQ contribute to cultures of fear and shame...

As a church we ‘deplore acts of hate and violence against groups or persons based on ... sexual orientation [or] gender identity.’ (Social Principles, ¶162). We seek that every person is recognized and seen as valued.”

---

In 2020, my spouse and I were leading a virtual Pride worship service for the churches we served. We used liturgy and music written by persons who are part of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and more) community. We decided to introduce ourselves using our pronouns and by naming our sexual orientation. Right before worship went live, I turned to my spouse and said, “ok so I will say my pronouns are she/her and that I am straight?” I paused for a moment and then said, “but wait, that doesn’t really feel...right.” My spouse looked at me, laughed, and said, “well we are going live so you have two whole minutes to figure out your identity!” After some soul searching and processing, I realized after that Pride service, that I was not straight, and had never actually been straight, but straight had always just been the default.

I am bisexual+ meaning that I am attracted to persons of my same gender and other genders.

Pastor message continued on next page



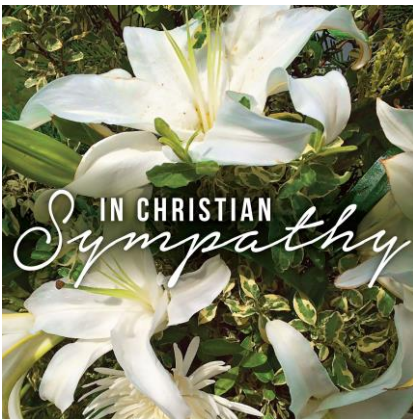
## Pastor's message, continued

You might hear me use shorthand and say "I'm queer" which is a term that was derogatory that many people in the LGBTQIA+ community have reclaimed as their identity and made it a positive word. My spouse, John (they/them), is non-binary (which falls under the trans umbrella) and is also bisexual+.

I share this with you because as someone who often "passes as straight," I recognize that I have a lot of privilege I can use to help folks in the LGBTQIA+ community, especially within the church. I also share this because I am PROUD of who I am and I think it is so important as a person of faith to live authentically as God created me. So thank you for loving me for me, and for welcoming my queer family with open arms. May we celebrate and work for justice not just during Pride month, but every day for all beloved children of God.

Pastor Annie

## WORSHIP



### Shirley Brown

Our church family mourns the loss of Shirley Brown who passed away on May 14. Shirley was a long-time resident of Merrimack and had been active at St. James since the 1960's. Her funeral service was held here at St. James Church on May 20 officiated by Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy and was laid to rest at Last Rest Cemetery in Merrimack. We are praying for her son Daniel, daughters Deborah, Wendy and Cynthia and six grandchildren in their time of mourning.

### Leona Wilson

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Leona Wilson, who passed away on May 15. Leona and her daughter Sharon had attended St. James in the summer and fall of 2019 and have been worshipping online with us since the COVID-19 pandemic. Her memorial service was held at the Farwell Funeral Home in Nashua on Friday, May 19 officiated by Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy. She leaves behind four children bill, Steve, Linda and Sharon.



### Summer Coffee Hour

We need volunteers to make coffee and provide refreshments for coffee hour after church during the summer months. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office if you would like to help.



# New England Conference

The United Methodist Church

## New England Annual Conference

Submitted by Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy

**The New England Annual Conference** will be meeting June 8-10 in Manchester, NH. Pastor Annie and our Lay Leader, Cheryl Barb, will be attending as delegates. David Jenkins and Joyce Hawkins will also be attending as equalization members. If you would like to tune in for worship and the plenary sessions you can stream the conference online at: [New England Conference UMC Youtube Channel](#).

### Schedule of Livestream (subject to change)

#### **Thursday, June 8th**

9am- Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

9:30am- Worship & Episcopal Address

11:00am-12pm Plenary

1:30pm- Memorial Service

3pm-5:30pm- Plenary

7pm- Plenary

#### **Friday, June 9th**

8:30am- Worship

9:30am- Plenary

10:45am-12pm Historic Questions/Passing the Mantle

1:30pm-4:30pm Plenary

7pm- Service of Commissioning & Ordination

#### **Saturday, June 10th**

8:30am- Worship

9am-12pm- Plenary

1:30pm-3:30pm- Plenary

---

### **New to our Newsletter: *Connected* Insert from the New England Conference**

On the following 2 pages, you will find “Connected,” a monthly insert provided by the New England Conference designed to put Conference news directly into the hands of the congregation.

June 2023



**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).



**Leadership Training**

### 2023 NEAC leadership training – follow up

Each year the Conference hosts training sessions for local church members serving in some critical leadership positions.

If you missed the online training sessions for conference leaders, you can find videos, materials and links to other resources on our website. [www.neumc.org/news](http://www.neumc.org/news)

Training for Trustees was held March 29, 2023

Training for SPRCs was held April 12, 2023

The training for finance teams will be 7 pm, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023. Watch the news for more about the upcoming training.



## 2023 Annual Conference

Our theme this year is "Draw the Circle Wider Still ..." and our guiding Scripture is Philippians 4:4-9, CEB.

The 2023 Annual Conference session will be held **June 8-10, 2023** online and in Manchester, NH.

The Laity Session will take place beginning at 7 pm on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023**.

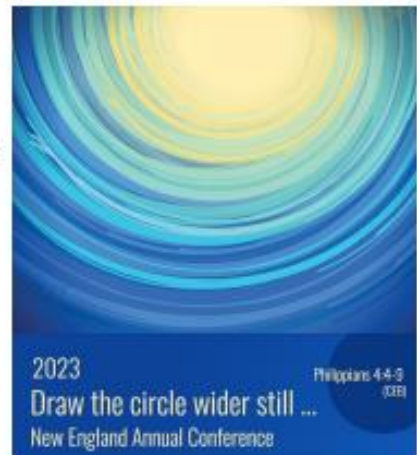
### Schedule

Find the full schedule of events on our website at [www.neumc.org/acschedule](http://www.neumc.org/acschedule)  
The schedule will be updated throughout the session.

### Watch live



Plenary sessions, worship services, including the Service of Ordination and Commissioning will be



streamed live on our YouTube channel.

A link to our channel will be posted on the Annual Conference page: [www.neumc.org/acsessions](http://www.neumc.org/acsessions) closer to the date or you can scan the QR code at left.

### Social media

Follow #NEAC23 social media

See more AC news on page 2



GET ALL THE NEWS AND INFO  
[www.neumc.org/ACsessions](http://www.neumc.org/ACsessions)



## Learn about proposed legislation

# Read the Pre-Conference Materials, addenda

The Pre-Conference Materials include proposed legislation, the proposed budget for 2024, reports from Conference boards and agencies, and others as well as other information about the Annual Conference session.

You can read or download the materials as a free PDF.

An Addendum to the original materials was published on May 7, 2023. This is available on the same page. Any additional addenda or items published during the session are posted on this page as well.

Two pre-conference briefings were held in May. You can watch recordings and find support materials from those information sessions here as well.

[www.neumc.org/preconferencematerials](http://www.neumc.org/preconferencematerials)



Members during a plenary session at the 2019 Annual Conference in Manchester, NH.

## Contribute to the offerings received at Annual Conference

offerings

**The Ministerial Education Fund** is one of seven apportioned funds of The United Methodist Church. The 13 United Methodist seminaries help students to discover their calling through challenging curriculum. The Ministerial Education Fund enables the church to increase financial support for recruiting and educating ordained and diaconal ministers and equipping annual conferences to meet increased demands.

Annual conferences retain 25 percent of the amount they raise for their programs of ministerial education administered through the Boards of Ordained Ministry.



**The Justice In Our Time Fund.** The Annual Conference approved authorization of the United Methodist Foundation of New England to create and establish the fund to support anti-racism work.



**Camperships.** These funds will be used to offer scholarships to campers in need at the NEAC's Camping and Retreat Centers.

You can make your offering online any time until and throughout Annual Conference using [this form](#) or scan the QR code.

## 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

## What's Happening in the UMC?

About 30 people stayed after church on Sunday, May 21 for an information session about the churches that are disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. Pastor Annie started with an explanation of the structure and hierarchy of the church and then delved into the recent developments stemming from divisiveness of the language in the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* stating that “the United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” (§ 161G)

Pastor Annie provided a hand-out of FAQs regarding disaffiliation in the UMC. Copies of the handout are available in the church office. Here is a summary what we learned:

- What does disaffiliation mean?  
§ 2553. Disaffiliation of a Local Church Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality.  
Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.
- At New England Annual Conference 2022, four churches disaffiliated from the UMC. This year, at NEAC 2023, there is legislation for 14 more churches requesting to disaffiliate from the UMC. **St. James UMC does not have plans for disaffiliation.**
- In 2022, The New England Conference of the UMC adopted a resolution called “The New England Declaration” which states that the NEAC declares itself to be rooted and structured in God’s unconditional love that leads to liberation, freedom, and full inclusion of all. The NEAC is committed to dismantling individual and systemic injustice, oppression, and discrimination including in the structures and actions of our denomination.
- Where can I find out more?  
Go to [neumc.org/Disaffiliation-FAQ](https://neumc.org/Disaffiliation-FAQ) to find out more, or use the “Ask a Question” feature on the UMC’s website: [umc.org](https://umc.org). The Book of Discipline can be found online for free via Cokesbury. Google “UMC Book of Discipline 2019 online free” or go to [cokesbury.org](https://cokesbury.org) to search. Any further questions? Ask Pastor Annie in person or via email ([rev.anniebs@gmail.com](mailto:rev.anniebs@gmail.com)). If she doesn’t know the answer, she will do her best to help you find it!

## NEWS FROM COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

### Save the Altar Flower Containers

Submitted by Debbe Walter

The Worship team would like everyone to know that the green plastic containers that the altar flower arrangements come in are reusable! After the flowers have been thrown away, you can bring the containers back to the church and we will return them to Merrimack Flower Shop where they can be reused.

### Church Work Day: Saturday, June 3

**9:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Church work days are a great way to give a helping hand and enjoy spending time with your friends from church. This month we will work on indoor and outdoor projects, weather permitting. Please consider lending a hand. No special skills or experience necessary.

## OUTREACH

### ST. JAMES UMC OUTREACH TEAM

#### UPCOMING PROJECTS

JULY 2023: SCHOOL SUPPLIES & BACKPACKS  
AUGUST 2023: BROOKE'S PURSES DONATIONS  
SEPT. 2023: ASSEMBLE BROOKE'S PURSES 9/10  
OCT. 2023: CROP WALK FOR HUNGER  
NOV. 2023: HATS & GLOVES FOR SCHOOLS  
DEC. 2023: GIVING TREE  
JAN. 2024: SOCKS & UNDERWEAR COLLECTION  
FEB. 2024: FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION  
MARCH 2024: UMCOR DONATIONS  
APRIL 2024: UMCOR/HUB HYGIENE KITS



**LIVE UNITED**



**United Way  
of Greater Nashua**

#### United Way's Community-Wide Food Drive

Volunteers are needed to help collect food donations at United Way's "Kevin Slattery Memorial Community-Wide Food Drive" on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 & 4. This is a community effort to stock many local food pantries during a time of year when donations are often low. This will take place at stores all around Greater Nashua between 10am and 2pm on both days.

Register to help at the link below or contact United Way at [info@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:info@unitedwaynashua.org) or (603)882-4011.  
Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/KSFoodDrive>



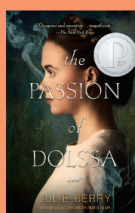
# Virtual Summer Book Club

Summer with  
**ST. JAMES UMC**

*Read along with us and then join us for a virtual book discussion on the last\* Wednesday of each month at 7pm*

- June: The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd
- July: The Book of Nature by Barbara Mahany
- August\*: The Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry

\*August's meeting will be on the 23rd



## SAVE THE DATE

with *Carter Heyward*

**Tuesday, August 29th**  
**@Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**Concord, NH**

**10am-4pm Seminar**  
**6:30pm Lecture**

**REGISTRATION**  
**COMING SOON**

**SPONSORED BY THE**  
**New Hampshire Council of Churches**  
**& NH Ministry Partners**

**A Free Daylong Seminar  
& Evening Lecture**

*"An absolute tour de force!"*  
*—Susan Thistlethwaite,*  
*Chicago Theological Seminary*

**The 7 Deadly Sins of**  
**WHITE**  
**CHRISTIAN**  
**NATIONALISM**  
**A CALL TO ACTION**

**CARTER HEYWARD**



### **VBS 2023**

**Friday July 21 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm and  
Saturday, July 22 from 9 am to 3 pm**



At Stellar VBS, kids will discover what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life. Stellar is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see hear and touch! Sciency-fun Gizmos, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life.

Online registration for volunteers and participants: <https://vbspro.events/p/50a03c>

### **Supplies needed. Bring your donations and loaned items to church starting July 2.**

Plastic greenery or potted plants  
3 laser pointers  
black wrapping paper  
granola bars (about 20 count)  
pretzel rings  
snack-size and sandwich size zip-loc bags  
apples or prepackaged apple slices (20 prepackaged)  
black landscaping plastic  
plastic greenery and potted plants  
plastic table cloths 4 each of tan, green, blue  
white poster board  
3 disposable pie plates  
24 oz water bottles with flip top caps (about 6)  
1 case of bottled drinking water  
Purple, blue and green food coloring (2 containers of each color)

## FELLOWSHIP



*St. James UMC*  
*attends*

Summer with  
**ST. JAMES UMC**

*Joseph & the Amazing  
Technicolor Dreamcoat*

SUNDAY JUNE 25TH | 1:45 PM | THE PALACE THEATER, MANCHESTER  
TICKETS: \$35  
RSVP WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JUNE 1ST  
603-424-7459 | STJAMESMRMK@GMAIL.COM



### **Fisher Cats Baseball Faith & Family Night** **Saturday, July 15**

Organized by the Nurture Team

Join us with other faith communities for a great night of baseball! At 5:30 pm, hear from the Fisher Cats' chaplains and players about their faith. Then watch the game beginning at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$10 each. RSVP and payment due to the church office by June 4.





## Monthly Breakfast



The St. James United Methodist Men (UMM) would love to have you join them for breakfast on the first Saturday of every month. RSVP to George Fisher at [fishergf@comcast.net](mailto:fishergf@comcast.net) so he knows how many people to expect.

Date: Saturday, June 3

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Mary Ann's Diner (formerly Joey's Diner. Same place, new owner) 1 Craftsman Lane, Amherst



## Harvest Fair Update

Submitted by Lesley Fallu

**Help Wanted:** The good news is that we have most chairperson positions filled. However, we are still looking for a co-chair for Books, a chairperson for Breakfast, a chairperson for Jewelry.

**Collections:** More good news...We are collecting certain items all year.

- We are going to have a jewelry table this year. Take a look in your jewelry boxes for items you no longer wear. Bring us the items and any jewelry boxes you have.
- Bring in your books and puzzles as you complete them.
- We can take your completed crafts any time.

**Craft Workshops:** Dates will be announced for evening craft workshops. Watch for future bulletin and newsletter announcements. Let us know if you have a craft idea for a workshop.

**Silent Auction:** One of our best-selling areas is the Silent Auction. Can you donate a gift card, a new item, or a themed-basket to the auction?

**Yard Sale:** It's spring-cleaning time. Remember to set aside items for the giant yard sale. We cannot take electronics, clothing, or large furniture. In August, we will begin collecting yard sale items in the undercroft.

**Questions:** Contact Lesley Fallu, [lfallu@comcast.net](mailto:lfallu@comcast.net), or Brenda DuLong at [bsdulong@gmail.com](mailto:bsdulong@gmail.com).

Thanks for your help. **Saturday, October 21, is going to be a great day!**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



### **Wanakee Welcomes Hannah Cote as Interim Executive Director**

On behalf of the Wanakee Board of Directors, I am excited to welcome Hannah Cote as Interim Executive Director for the coming summer season of 2023. Hannah has previously served as the Assistant Director of Wanakee and brings a great deal of enthusiasm and years of experience to this important work. We know that the Wanakee community joins us in welcoming her into this role!

Rev. Dr. John Whitley,  
Chair, Wanakee Board of Directors



**END  
ALZ**

### **Hot Dogz for Alz**

"The Longest Day" is a national event honoring those who face Alzheimer's disease with strength, heart, and endurance. All proceeds go to the MA/NH Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Purchase 2 grilled hot dogs, chips and a drink for \$5 to support this worthwhile cause.

Place: Our Lady of Mercy Church, 16 Baboosic Lake Rd, Merrimack

Date: Thursday, June 22, 2023

Time: 11 am -7pm

## A timeless timeline

Explore your history while compiling this family timeline.



### What you need:

- Paper
- Clear tape
- Ruler
- Pencil

### What you do:

1. Tape together at least 3 sheets of paper horizontally.
2. Draw a straight line across the center of the long paper. Label dates at regular intervals to keep the information organized. For example, each page you add could represent 10 years.
3. Gather information for the timeline. Start with your birth year and memorable events in your life. Interview family members to learn what year they were born and when key things in their life happened. Include notes and photos.
4. Add pages as needed. Carefully roll up the timeline to keep for generations to come.

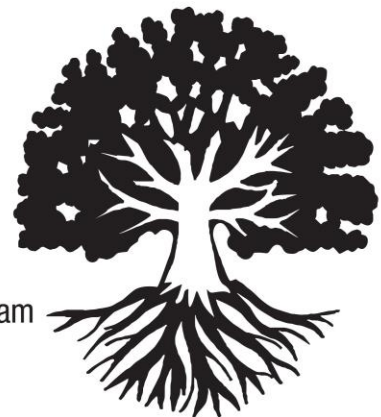


## JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

*Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.*

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



**How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Answer: FOURTEEN





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> Pentecost 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>29</b> Memorial Day	<b>30</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong	<b>2</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 8:00am Monthly Breakfast 9:00am Church Work Day
<b>4</b> 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am New England Annual Conference	<b>9</b> 8:30am New England Annual Conference 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:30am New England Annual Conference
<b>11</b> 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 1:00pm Dress sewing group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 11:00am Hot Dogz for Alz	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30am Worship 1:45pm Palace Theatre Outing 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Trustees Meeting	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Summer Book Club	<b>29</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 8:00am Monthly Breakfast