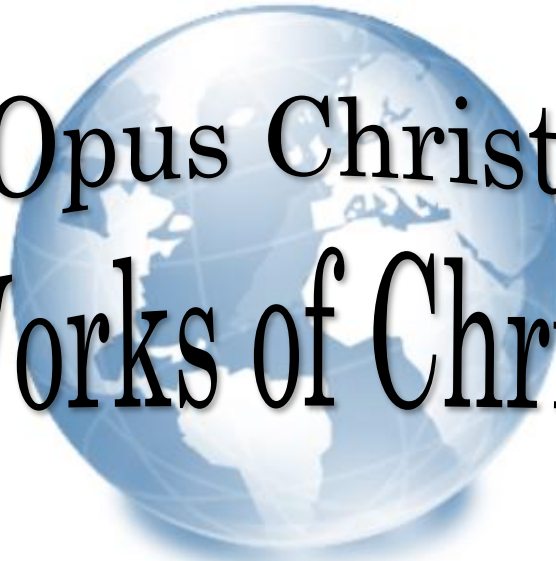


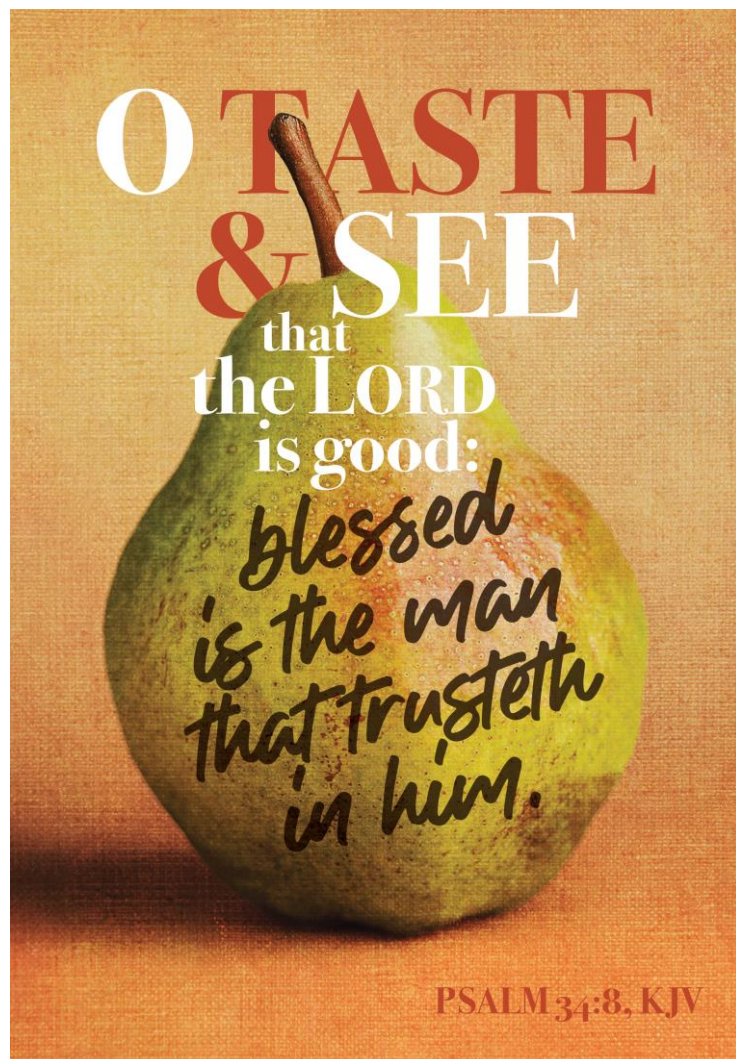
# Opus Christi Works of Christ



**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**



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## Pastor's Message



“...when two or three of you are together because of me,  
you can be sure that I’ll be there.” — Matthew 18:20 (MSG)

Growing up, the “kitchen table” was where everyone gathered and everything happened: meals, afterschool snacks, craft projects, prayers, homework, celebrations, plans, important conversations, etc. Our kitchen table was not just a place where our own family of five gathered, but where friends could find a place, too. It was a sacred space of connection, love, and relationship.

In our September Worship Series, “Come to the Table”, we hear the call to dine with Jesus— an invitation that means much more than a simple eating experience. It never was with Jesus. The table was the place where he fed people, and also challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God’s way. When we say “yes” to the place at Christ’s table, we accept a way of life that embraces God’s definition of love, peace, grace, and joy. Let us celebrate the depth of communion to which we are called.

Here is your official invitation to “come to the table” this month through worship, prayer, study, and fellowship. We hope you will join us!

Pastor Annie

*You’re Invited...*

### **Come to the Table Worship Sundays at 9:30am**

9/3- Table of Hospitality

9/10- Table of Love

9/17- Table of Peace

9/24- Table of Grace

10/1- Table of Joy/World Communion Sunday

## **Come to the Table Virtual Book Study Wednesdays at 7pm**

Read and Discuss "Take this Bread" by Sara Miles

9/6- Chapters 1-4

9/13- Chapters 5-9

9/20- Chapters 10-14

9/27- Chapters 15-19

10/4- Chapters 20-25

## **Come to the Table Weekly Devotional Journal**

Attached to your newsletter email. Participate on your own weekly.

## **Come to the Table Sunday School for Kids at 9:45am**

Children start in worship at 9:30am and then move to the Sunday school classroom following the children's message.

## **WORSHIP**



We extend our deepest sympathy to Nancy Burt and her family in the loss of her mother, Patryce Cosgrove, who passed away on August 16 following a long period of declining health. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Church on August 23.

### **Changes to Prayers of the People during Worship**

Starting in September, we will not pass the microphone around during Prayers of the People. Instead, there will be prayer request sheets available which will be collected during the offering. Pastor Annie will share the prayers as part of the Pastoral Prayer.

### **Refreshments Schedule for Coffee Fellowship**

Starting in September, we'll resume our regular schedule for committees and teams to provide refreshments after church. Here is the schedule for the rest of this year:

September: Nurture Team

October: Outreach Team

November: Church Council

December: Trustees





## **Church Office Closed for Office Administrator Vacation**

The church office will be closed the week of October 2-6 for the House family vacation in the beautiful San Juan Mountains of Colorado. In this photo you can see Robin trying to keep up with daughter Sarah on the Bear Creek Trail near Ouray, CO in September 2021.

Photo by David House



## **ST. JAMES COMMITTEES AND TEAMS**

### **Help Us Make a New Logo!**

Submitted by Kyle Sanborn

The Digital Outreach Team is looking to update our church logo to help us stand out from other Methodist churches online. We are looking for creative minds to submit ideas for the new logo! If you feel up to the challenge, start creating! We want a logo that is simple, easy to see, and represents our core values at St James UMC. Please keep logos no more than 3-4 colors and no text should be submitted on the logo. Please submit your logo no later than September 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are submitting a physical drawing of the logo, please drop it off in the "Videographer" mailbox in the church office. If you are submitting electronically, please email a png file of your logo to [glassofmilkmedia@gmail.com](mailto:glassofmilkmedia@gmail.com).

### **Church Work Day - Saturday, September 9**

Submitted by Lesley Fallu

Get your cleaning supplies ready. The next all-church work day is on Saturday, September 9, from 9:00 – 12:00. We will focus on cleaning the undercroft, the hallway, and the stairways to get this area ready for the fall. We also have some painting jobs to be done: the undercroft floor and some doors. If you have time prior to that day to work on something, see Dick Wallace.

### **QCD Information Session – Sunday, September 24**

If you are age 70.5 or older and give to charities like St James church, did you know there is a way to avoid paying taxes on the money you give?

Finance Committee member and Private Wealth Advisor Nancy Burt will explain the process of charitable giving through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an IRA. Stay after church in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 24 for information and get answers to any questions you may have.

## OUTREACH

### Join UMCOR in Support for Hawaii

Wind-driven wildfires on Maui prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) awarded an emergency grant to the California-Pacific Annual Conference, which includes the Hawaiian UMC, to provide shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings.

As first responders continue to provide initial aid, please join UMCOR in prayer and by making a gift to this and other disasters in the U.S.

Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.

### Brooke's Purses



### Brooke's Purses Enters Its Eighth Year

Submitted by Betty Ann Dudziak

Help fill the purses. Take a tag from the Brooke's Purses bulletin board in Fellowship Hall so you know what items are needed, then place your contributions in the box.

This year's purse filling event will take place in Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, September 10. We also need drivers to deliver the purses to agencies in Nashua and Manchester. Please see Betty Ann Dudziak for details. Deliveries can be made Sunday, September 10 through Tuesday, September 12.

### News from the Clothes Closet

Submitted by Christine Kiss

Attention fashion lovers! Come join the volunteer team in the Clothes Closet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am to noon. We need people to sort, fold, and hang clothing and to help clients make their selections. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with clients and the other volunteers and help make a difference in the community. Contact Joyce Hawkins or Christine Kiss if you are interested.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

## Greater Nashua CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 22, 2023

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Join our Crop Hunger Walk Team

This year's Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 22. Join us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need for today and sustainable food security for tomorrow. Register to walk with the St. James United Methodist Church team or make a donation on the Greater Nashua Crop Hunger walk website:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/nashuanh>.

Place: beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua.

Time: Registration is from 12 to 1pm with opening ceremonies at 1pm and stepping out at 1:30pm followed by a celebration under the tent at Temple Beth Abraham.

If you can't walk, be sure to sponsor a walker, or make a team donation. We can also always use volunteer help at the event if your feet aren't made for walking!

For any questions or to volunteer please contact Becky Green at [nashuacropwalk@gmail.com](mailto:nashuacropwalk@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!

In 2022 we had 29 faith communities or teams and some unaffiliated folk as well. We were unable to count the number of people present at the walk, but more than 300 for sure. We are a very large walk now that we have merged with Souhegan. ***We ranked #1 in New England and # 11 in the country!***

We raised \$63,623.68 which resulted in \$3197.21 to each of our 5 local recipient agencies.

They are:

Corpus Christi food pantry

Nashua Soup Kitchen

St John Neumann Food Pantry

Merrimack Community Food Pantry at St. James

Share Inc of Milford

Remaining funds are donated to Church world service, a faith based humanitarian agency. To learn more about Church World Service, visit their website: <https://cwsglobal.org>.

### Thank You from the Outreach Team and the Merrimack Schools

Submitted by Christine Kiss

The Outreach Team would like to thank everyone who donated school supplies. The supplies were delivered to Merrimack schools on Monday, August 21 just in time for the beginning of the school year. We have also received thank you notes from the schools expressing their appreciation.

## Shriners Can Tab Program

There is a blue collection bin in Fellowship Hall for aluminum can tabs. The tabs are sold to a recycling company and the money collected is used to fund transportation for needy children to and from Shriners Hospitals. Please save only aluminum can tabs. Pull tabs from soup cans, canned fruit, pasta, etc. are steel and have to be separated out.

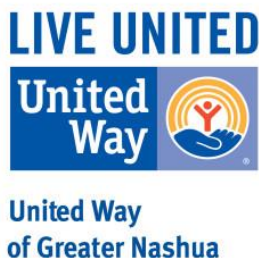
Shriners Hospitals for Children is a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to age 18 with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay. Any child, regardless of race, religion or national origin is eligible for care at Shriners Hospital. There is no need to have an affiliation with a Shriner or be related to one. For more information about the Shriners and Shriners Hospitals for Children, visit [www.shrinersinternational.org](http://www.shrinersinternational.org).

## Stamps for the Wounded

Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) is a service organization dedicated to providing comfort and stimulating activity to US veterans through stamp collecting. SFTW sends donated postage stamps and other philatelic material and supplies to wounded, ill, and isolated veterans. When clipping stamps from envelopes and packages, leave a least a quarter inch of paper around the stamps. Place your donations in the blue collection bin in Fellowship Hall.

## Volunteer Tutors Needed

Submitted by Sara Ceaser, United Way of Greater Nashua Director of Volunteer and Community Engagement



United Way of Greater Nashua is looking for volunteer tutors! Tutoring of students in grades K - 12 takes place primarily during afterschool hours at youth-serving organizations in Nashua. Tutors may select the subject, grade level, and time they'd like to tutor. Background checks are required. Contact [tutoring@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:tutoring@unitedwaynashua.org) or (603)882-4011 to sign up or to register your child for tutoring.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



### Sunday School Starts September 10

We are looking forward to another fun year of Sunday school. The Whole People of God Sunday school curriculum is no longer available since the publisher is going out of business, so we will be using a combination of religious education resources this year. Online registration is on the church website [www.stjames-umchurch.org](http://www.stjames-umchurch.org) or contact the church office. Volunteers needed: If you would like to share your love of God with children, volunteer as a Sunday school teacher! Contact the church office so we can have you fill out a background check form.

### September Virtual Study Group

Pastor Annie will lead us in a 5 week worship series "Come to the Table" by Worship Design Studio creator Dr. Marcia McPhee beginning on September 2 and culminating in World Communion Sunday on October 1. Our September study group will read the book "Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion" by Sara Miles which will complement the "Come to the Table" worship series.

*"Early one morning, for no earthly reason, Sara Miles, raised an atheist, wandered into a church, received communion, and found herself transformed embracing a faith she'd once scorned. Take This Bread is rich with real-life Dickensian characters: church ladies, millionaires, schizophrenics, bishops, and thieves all blown into Miles's life by the relentless force of her newfound calling. Here, in this achingly beautiful, passionate book, is the living communion of Christ."*

Please join us at 7 pm via Zoom on 5 Wednesday evenings September 6-October 4. Sign up by contacting the church office or on the sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board to receive your reading guide and Zoom invitation. Please purchase or borrow your own book.

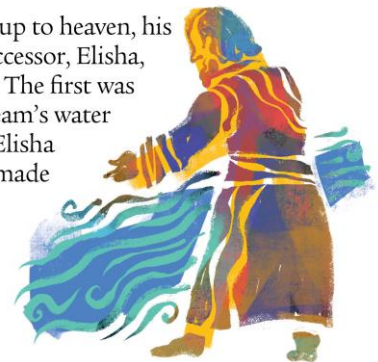
### Going to School with Jesus

In *Faith Takes a Name*, Dwight E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."

### Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt





## **A Message from Bishop Johnson – Holy Land Pilgrimage**

It's not too late to register for the New England Conference-led pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Jan 29 to Feb 8, 2024. I urge you to consider joining this truly life and ministry transforming experience. Retired Katahdin District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen, and my administrative assistant, Brenda Cayer, will be your hosts for this journey arranged by Educational Opportunities (EO).

After walking in the footsteps of Jesus, the liturgical seasons will come alive for you as never before. Imagine standing on the Shepherd's Field hearing angels proclaiming Jesus' birth, kneeling before the birthplace of our Lord, or renewing our baptismal promises on the Jordan River where John the Baptist baptized Christ.

You will find yourself sitting on the actual steps where Jesus taught. I imagine you picturing Jesus walking on the water to you while sailing on the Sea of Galilee or praying in the Garden of Gethsemane while his disciples slept. You will be able to enter the tomb to discover it is indeed empty!

Each site will deepen your faith and evoke new emotions as you pause to reflect on the corresponding scripture and tour guide's explanations.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar's Holy Land pilgrimages always included a social justice aspect not available from the media. In addition to the Holy sites, this pilgrimage includes visits to Bethlehem Bible College and Walled-Off Hotel, dinner with Palestinian families, and a tour of Yad Hashem, Holocaust History Museum.

Since his passing, many people have shared memories of this and other pilgrimages Bishop Devadhar led. We know how he touched or lives. His love and care moved the staff and students at Hope School. To continue that support, we will be taking a collection for the Hope School at his memorial service on October 28. The gift will be presented to the school during your visit.

More information is available on the conference website [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org), but for those of you who would like to be able to ask questions, Jackie and Brenda are also hosting an informational meeting at 7 pm on Thursday, September 7. You do not need to preregister for the informational meeting. The Zoom link and information is below:

<https://zoom.us/j/93524321019?pwd=YlhsVjJpTTNCY1UzalVKWW5kdkErZz09>

Meeting ID: 935 2432 1019

Passcode: 465948

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/93524321019?pwd=YlhsVjJpTTNCY1UzalVKWW5kdkErZz09>

If you want to know more, please contact either Jackie ([jbrannen1957@gmail.com](mailto:jbrannen1957@gmail.com)) or Brenda ([bishopsoffice@neumc.org](mailto:bishopsoffice@neumc.org)).

I hope that you will consider making this amazing journey.

Sincerely,

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

## FELLOWSHIP



### 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, September 2

Time: 8:00 am

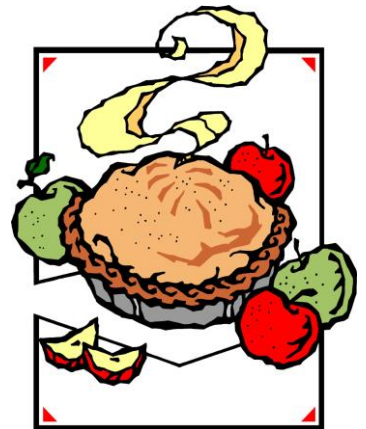
Place: Mary Ann's Diner, 1 Craftsman Lane, Amherst

### Harvest Fair Workshop

On Thursday, September 14, there will be a "fair prep" workshop from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the Wesley Room. We will be working on all of the signs, pricelists and packaging for the fair. Everyone can help. We hope to avoid some of those last minute details that always come up the night before the fair. Please let Lesley Fallu, [fallu@comcast.net](mailto:fallu@comcast.net), or Brenda DuLong, [bsdulong@gmail.com](mailto:bsdulong@gmail.com), know if you can attend.

### Help Wanted: Apple Pie Assembly Line

On Saturday, September 30, from 8:00 to noon, we will be assembling the apple pies for our annual sale. The pies will be frozen and ready for sale on Sunday, October 1. We will start taking orders on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Can you help? No experience needed. Please let Lesley Fallu, [fallu@comcast.net](mailto:fallu@comcast.net), or Brenda DuLong, [bsdulong@gmail.com](mailto:bsdulong@gmail.com), know if you can be there.



### Roast Pork Dinner

It's back! Mark your calendars for the Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday, October 28, from 5:00 – 7:00. Tickets are \$15. Tickets will be available soon. We need people to set-up, to work in the kitchen, to serve, and to clean-up. Sign-up near the church office if you can help. See Lesley Fallu if you have any questions.



**St. James Harvest Fair**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2023    9:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
Submitted by Lesley Fallu

Are you ready? Have you finished your crafts? Did you try out some new recipes for baked goods? Have you done your fall cleaning for the yard sale? Have you saved all of your books and puzzles? What about your baskets for the Silent Auction? Don't worry, there's still time...but not much!

This year, we are finally moving part of the fair inside. Baked Goods and Candy will be in the Wesley Room. The silent Auction will be in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast and Lunch will be in Fellowship Hall. Outside, we will have the Yard Sale, Books, Crafts, Jewelry, and Kid's Corner. We do have a plan for inclement weather but let's pray that we don't need to use it.

Starting on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, after church, we will be signing people up to work at the fair, to set up and break down the fair, to lend pop-up tents, to bake, to make candy, and to donate baskets and gift cards for the Silent Auction, and everything else we can think of.

***Chairpersons:***

- Welcome Booth: Joe Marrone
- Yard Sale: Linda and Doug Wilson; Debbe and Jim Walter
- Books, DVDs, Puzzles, Records: Kyle Sanborn
- Crafts: Lisa Sanborn and Lucille Fisher
- Baked Goods: Carol Marrone and Lynne Snow
- Candy: Linda Dolley
- Jewelry: Betty Ann Dudziak
- Kid's Corner: Real Fallu
- Silent Auction: Brenda DuLong and Lesley Fallu
- Breakfast: Susan Cooke
- Lunch: Cheryl and Richelle Barb

***Collections:*** We are collecting NOW! Bring in everything but food as early as you can. Sundays after church is a great time. We have space in the Undercroft and in closets for crafts, books, puzzles, and yard sale items. Remember, we cannot take electronics, appliances, clothing or bedding. If you bring any large furniture donations, you need to be prepared to take them back if they don't sell.

***The Silent Auction*** has been a very successful table for the past several years. Can you donate to this table? Gift cards, themed baskets, other new items are all welcomed. This is a great way to recycle those presents you have never opened. However, all items must be new.

***Bake! Bake! Bake!*** Much of our profit will come from food. We will need muffins, candy, cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, breads, fudge, and more. Jellies, jams and relishes are always welcomed.

**Questions or Suggestions:** call or email Lesley Fallu (497-4060; [fallu@comcast.net](mailto:fallu@comcast.net)) or Brenda Dulong (493-5945; [bsdulong@gmail.com](mailto:bsdulong@gmail.com)). We would love to hear your new ideas. Thanks for your help. It's sure to be a great success!

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



**Sunday, September 24, 2023** is a big day for Rolling Ridge. We will celebrate 75 years of transforming lives as a ministry of the Methodists, and we will celebrate 100 years of the mansion which was completed in 1923. Join us from 10 am to 2 pm as artists, authors, and musicians fill the gardens with a celebration of the arts. Tours of the house, grounds, and gardens will be offered. Food will feed the body with SoulCare workshops feeding the spirit.

At 2:00 pm, the official program will begin as we highlight the "diamonds" that have sparkled in the 75 year history of the Ridge. Scheduled speakers include:

- Naomi Kooker, daughter of Ridge Director, Franklin Kooker (1967-76)
- Julie Todd, daughter of Ridge Director, Jim Todd (1976-1987)
- Rev. Beth Garnaas-Holmes, recipient of the Loaves and Fishes Award
- Rev. Fred Small
- Bishop Peggy Johnson
- Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jay, current Ridge Director

We will also have a dedication of the Memorial Garden benches and pavers, and launch a Jim Todd Memorial with the new Todd Hall.

RSVP by [registering for this free event](#). And when you register, please consider a 75th anniversary donation in celebration of our ministry.

We hope that you will [join us September 24th](#) as we remember the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a bright future together.

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Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center  
660 Great Pond Road, North Andover, MA 01845  
978-682-8815 [thestaff@Rollingridge.org](mailto:thestaff@Rollingridge.org)  
[www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org)



September 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).

### Welcome Jodi Morris

The New England Conference is pleased to announce that Jodi Morris has joined the Conference staff as Regional Administrator. She supports of the centralized district ministries and the office of Connectional Ministries.



Based at the Conference Center in Methuen, MA, Morris began on July 17, 2023.

"Jodi comes to us with excellent experience and qualifications. Please join me in welcoming her to our Conference team," said Clare J. Chapman, treasurer/director of administrative services.

Morris joins Regional Administrators Allyson Printz, serving the Commonwealth East and Commonwealth West districts; Phyllis Riviere, serving the Green Mountain and Granite districts, and Lori Umberhind, serving the Katahdin and Many Waters districts.

Morris has worked as an executive assistant and administrative assistant for nearly 20 years.

"I am super excited to be a part of the New England Conference team," Morris said. "I am a proud graduate of Katharine Gibbs School in Boston, and looking forward to putting my skills to use in this role."

A native New Englander, she enjoys working out and outdoor activities.

Reach Morris at (978) 682-8055 ext. 201 or [admin-support@neumc.org](mailto:admin-support@neumc.org)



## Celebrating 75 years



By Jarod Richmond, Mechuwana Site Committee

Two of the NEAC's camp and retreat centers are celebrating 75 years in ministry this month, and you're invited to join the celebrations.

### Mechuwana

Noon Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023  
Camp Mechuwana  
Mechuwana Lane  
Winthrop, ME 04364

Come any time after 12 pm; worship service (and freewill offering) begins at 2:30 pm outside the Commons, followed by an early supper. Please RSVP [campmechuwana@gmail.com](mailto:campmechuwana@gmail.com)

### Rolling Ridge

10 am Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023

Rolling Ridge  
Retreat and Conference Center  
660 Great Pond Road  
North Andover, MA 01845

Join us as artists, authors, and musicians fill the gardens with a celebration of the arts. Tours of the house, grounds, and gardens will be offered. Food will feed the body with SoulCare workshops feeding the spirit.

At 2 pm, we highlight the "diamonds" that have sparked in the 75-year history of the Ridge. We will also have a dedication of the Memorial Garden benches and pavers, and launch a Jim Todd Memorial with the new Todd Hall. Visit [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org) to RSVP



FIND MORE ABOUT ALL THESE ITEMS ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org)



## Katahdin and Commonwealth East welcome new superintendents

Rick McKinley



### Katahdin District

1 pm Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023

Bangor First UMC

703 Essex St.

Bangor, ME 04401

Rev. Rick McKinley will be installed as Katahdin District Superintendent in an in-person service. There will be refreshments following the installation. Questions? Contact [kadistrict@neumc.org](mailto:kadistrict@neumc.org)

### Commonwealth East District

1 pm Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023

Wilmington UMC

87 Church Street

Wilmington, MA 01887

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan will be installed as Commonwealth East District Superintendent in an in-person service. There will be refreshments following the installation. Questions? Contact [cedistrict@neumc.org](mailto:cedistrict@neumc.org)

Nizzi Santos Digan



## Special Sunday

# World Communion Sunday is Oct. 1

One of The United Methodist Church's Special Sundays, World Communion Sunday provides racial and ethnic students with scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. In 2022, you gave over \$457,000 to this offering.

Your donations provided scholarships for undergraduate or graduate level studies for both international and U.S. students. Your generosity allows those unable to afford an education to become leaders who embody the mission of The United Methodist Church. Learn more and get resources at [www.resourceumc.org](http://www.resourceumc.org)

## Webinar

### Ministry with those in recovery



Mark Bebee

This month, the NEAC will host a webinar on being in effective ministry with those who are in recovery from addictions.

In her August newsletter, Bishop Peggy A. Johnson writes, "There is a pandemic of addiction in our society, and it affects everyone on some level. ... September is National Recovery Month, and an excellent time to take up this call to action. There is much that our churches can do."

Read the bishop's full message in the [email archive](#) on our website. Our guest speaker will

be Pastor Mark A. Bebee, executive director of Recovery at [Cokesbury Network](#), which provides a Christ-centered, biblically oriented recovery program based on the 12-Step program of meetings and accountability.

**7-8 pm Monday, Sept. 18, 2023**

Webinar ID:

913 9532 1311

Passcode: 219206

SPECIAL SUNDAY

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

"Make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

—PHILIPPIANS 2:2, NRSVUE



The people of The United Methodist Church



### 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



## SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

### What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

### What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sand-box or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.



## A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

*Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.*



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA



\_ R \_ G \_ S \_ Z \_ M \_ P \_ N \_ B \_ T \_ L \_ W \_  
 \_ V \_ E \_ V \_ I \_ B \_ G \_ R \_ N \_ V \_ R \_  
 \_ I \_ V \_ N \_ V \_ N \_ Y \_ V \_ I \_ B \_ L \_ F \_  
 \_ R \_ M \_ Z \_ O \_ O \_ N \_ B \_  
 \_ K \_ I \_ Z \_ B \_ V \_ I \_ H \_ U \_ L \_ I \_ Z \_ O \_ O \_  
 \_ L \_ U \_ B \_ L \_ F \_ , \_ R \_ Z \_ O \_ D \_ Z \_ B \_ H \_  
 \_ K \_ I \_ Z \_ B \_ D \_ R \_ G \_ S \_ Q \_ L \_ B \_  
 \_ K \_ S \_ R \_ O \_ R \_ K \_ K \_ R \_ Z \_ M \_ H \_

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV



# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 9:30am Worship & Potluck Picnic at Watson Park 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00am Monthly Breakfast
<b>3</b> 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>4</b> <b>Labor Day</b>	<b>5</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Take this Bread book study	<b>7</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong	<b>8</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 9:00am Church Work Day
<b>10</b> 9:30am Worship 9:45am First day of Sunday school 10:30am Brook's Purses Assembly 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Take this Bread book study	<b>14</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 6:00pm Harvest Fair prep workshop	<b>15</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Take this Bread book study	<b>21</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 1:00pm Dress sewing group	<b>22</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am QCD Info Session 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Trustees Meeting	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Take this Bread book study	<b>28</b> 8:00am Fit & Strong	<b>29</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 8:00am Apple Pie assembly line