



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

United Methodist Church

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Union Rider March, 2019 Newsletter



Join our post- General Conference 'Courageous Conversations'

'Courageous Conversations'

In March 2019, Districts, of our New England Annual Conference will host gatherings for all in our congregation to attend to learn firsthand of the events and decisions of the 2019 General Conference and allow us to process our feelings and experiences together.

You are welcome to attend the Mid-Maine District session being held on **March 24 Mid-Maine District 2-4 p.m. Brunswick, ME** Pastor Joe will be attending.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar invites all clergy and laity in the New England Conference to join in "Courageous Conversations" following the special called session of the General Conference, that was held Feb. 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis.

At these "Courageous Conversations" sessions we will have an opportunity to unpack the events of General Conference 2019 and to process our feelings and experiences together.



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOR LUNCHEON

Soups, sandwiches, desserts and more!

**Thursday,
March 14, 2019
from 11:30 to 1pm.**

Pastor Joe
will have
some
Trivia
Questions
for You.





Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

a United Methodist Church

February 27, 2019

Dear faithful in Christ,

Regarding the outcome and results of our 2019 General Conference of the United Methodist Church that has just concluded in St Louis; please read the attached messages from our Bishop Devadhar, and the press release from the College of Bishops.

I write with a saddened heart for a grieving and now further divided United Methodist Church. I write with the strength of hope and resolve towards a new day that through this action is now being readied to be revealed by our gracious and loving God.

The Way Forward Commission put forward three plans for consideration. The College of Bishops then in their leadership capacity came to recommend the One Church Plan that was hoped to foster unity and space for all.

The 2019 General Conference of the global United Methodist had 864 voting delegates (half laity, and half clergy). These delegates are elected by their home Annual Conferences, such as ours here in New England.

The option known as the Traditional Plan passed with a vote of 438 to 384, or 53% to 47%. This will make our Book of Discipline more restrictive towards

clergy and churches as related to the topic of human sexuality, marriage and ordination.

I believe I am correct in saying that this vote result nor the proportion of votes in favor does not represent the church body here of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. We here in New England are aligned well with many other Annual Conferences here in the United States and globally. To say that this vote represents the will of The United Methodist church as a whole, I believe would be an overstatement in that this passed by only 4%.

I believe in the Resurrection. Just ahead of the first Easter morning, there was weeping at the foot of the cross and fear in the upper room. We know well how those days ended, or what was to become a new beginning. With the third day the power of God's glory was evident in the Resurrection. We are Easter people.

I hope that within three years we will have such a new day in a resurrected United Methodist Church.

For me, I refuse to let fear, and what-ifs rule my heart.

Pastor Joe



**SYMBOLS OF
VICTORY**
Jose Aparecido
(Minas Gerais,
Brazil)

Revelation 21:1-7

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God." ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring." ⁷ Those who emerge victorious will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my sons and daughters.

The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that ^[1] person from the book of life. -
Revelation 3:5 (NIV)

I have always followed stories of Olympic athletes with enthusiasm, but the stories of

doping and accusations of unfair judges and manipulated results have made me look for other examples of victory.

Today I prefer to contemplate the small but significant victories that often go unnoticed. I am struck by the effort of a mother who awakens at dawn, uses precarious public transportation, and takes long journeys to support her children. I admire the effort of a person who has lived with addiction for many years to start life anew. I'm inspired by the life of a bricklayer in the hinterlands of São Paulo who had both legs amputated and was abandoned by his wife as I learn how he has resumed his profession, remarried, and finds his work in high demand.

Whether in sports or in life, I enjoy stories of overcoming challenges through dedication and courage. Perhaps that is why the author of Revelation uses some of the symbols of victory of his day — robes, crowns, etc. — to encourage persecuted Christians to persevere and find victory through faith. When we look to God, we can persevere and find victory over any obstacle.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Obstacles are an invitation to persevere in faith.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear God, encourage us when we face challenges. Help us to persevere so that we may find victory in you. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER FOCUS

Everyday heroes

Our 2018/2019 Global Mission Initiative is happening right in our backyard with the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Township, Maine

<https://www.umeconomicministry.com/>

**Joys & Celebrations Total
As of 2/24/18: \$486.50**

**Our First Quarter Goal is
\$625 by 3/31/19; Our
December 31st Goal is
\$2,500**



Thank you for helping exceed this!

Following Worship, keep a watchful eye out for the big screen TV slide presentation that highlights this ministry

United Methodist Economic Ministry Program Include:

Salem & Solon Thrift Shops
Salem, Solon and Howland Food Cupboards
Maple Syrup
Backpacks and Sneakers
Emergency Heating Assistance
Fire Victims Assistance
Warming Center (Jan – April)
Prom Shop
Christmas Shoppe
Community Garden

Summer mission groups provide home repair, accessibility ramps and winter weatherization with efficient windows and doors.

Their vision is to support healthy communities that adapt to the changing environment in the region. They are providing both educational and material support towards self sufficiency in this region of severe economic challenge. With dignity and grace, they are working to build sustainable communities.

Monthly we will provide updates to the various programs of their ministries.



The United Methodist Women-UMW-will be providing their outline for their 2019 activities soon.

Their regular meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 9AM to 10:30AM in Friendship Hall.

March 16th @ 9 a.m.

All Welcome!

2019 MEETINGS

March 3rd Sunday Celebration - UMW Women will conduct our Worship Service

April 13th Bring a Friend - Spiritual Meeting

May 18th Celebrating MOMS-with a special breakfast (Cathy - Kelly)

June 28-29th ANNUAL YARD SALE-set up the day before! (Bobbi)

July 20th Spiritual Program

September 21st Harvest Festival preparations in Bobbi's workshop

October 19th Spiritual Program

November 16th Thanksgiving program and community food drive (Barbara) - Day's Store Turkey Bucket

December 14th Home party - Book Review @ Bobbi's. Spiritual gift exchange - under \$10.00



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Join the
Birthday
Celebration
150 Years
and
Counting

Saturday, March 23, 2019 Boston
University, Boston, MA
8:30 am to 4:00 pm



Hosted by:
New England
Conference
United
Methodist
Women,
Commission

on Archives & History, Boston University
School of Theology Guest Speakers: Harriett
Olson (UMW CEO), Pat Thompson (NEC
Historian), Dana Robert (BUSTH), and Bishop
Sudarshana Devadhar (NEC) Celebrate: fun,
fellowship, worship, remember our history,
share our stories, and hear about our future
Highlights: See stained glass windows from the
Tremont St. Methodist Episcopal Church (our
birthplace). Learn more about our founders and
first missionaries. See exhibits of our founding
and history in Boston. What you need to know:
Outside walking will be required between
venues (approximately 1/4 mile). Access to
buildings requires some steps or outside entry
ramps. Space is limited. Reservations are
required (no walk-ins allowed): Reservations
will be honored on a "first received" basis by
envelope cancellation and must be mailed prior
to Friday, February 1st. To make reservations,
mail this form with a nonrefundable fee of
\$100.00 per person to: Marcia Hoyt, 8 Bacon
Street, Natick, MA 01760. Make checks
payable to NECUMW All reservations will be
confirmed via email or phone.



Meetings at a
Glance:
March 2019

Prayer Shawl: 3/11 and 3/25 @ 1 p.m.

Trustees: 3/11 @ 6:30

Mission & Outreach: 3/19 @ 10 a.m.

Church Council: 3/17 @ 10:45 a.m.



**Our Mission
Ministries**

Through the year in this Newsletter we
highlight our mission projects and programs
where we serve God through Christlike
compassion, mercy and transformation;
reaching out, lifting up, building up. ***Here is a
listing of some of the ways so far during
2019 and those shared during 2018 you
contributed to missions through your support
received in our weekly worship offerings,
pledges and special giving.***

The Good Shepherd Food Bank

With a gift of **\$500 during September 2018** we
will support this work that provides food to local
food banks throughout Maine. "Feeding
families living with food insecurity makes an
impact that goes beyond a nutritious meal."

The Belgrade Rome Food Pantry with special
monthly "Wish List" donations; January through
August we've been fillin' our shopping cart. -
Many thanks.

Ever notice the sign at the **Belgrade Ball Park**? **\$150 during April 2018** supports this local youth program and shares our active presence in the community in Christ's service.

Maine Justice Foundation, Augusta, Maine. With a gift of **\$500 in March 2018** we supported this work that serves the LGBT, gay community those of whom are among the poor and vulnerable among us, facing issues of employment and housing discrimination, domestic violence, homelessness. In this manner we extend our church Welcoming Statement into the community beyond our own worship doors.

Messalonskee High School -Each year their empty Bowls project supports our local Food cupboards and the Food Cupboard at the High School we contributed **\$50 towards this in March 2018**. In June we look to provide leadership and participation in their Baccalaureate program for new graduates.

United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Township (UMEM); Weekly Joys and Celebrations contributions, **\$2,658**. 2018 began our two-year **Global Mission Initiative** here in Maine our annual goal is \$2,500.

We will again have Pints and Quarts of Maple Syrup this year for your Summer enjoyment and purchasing. With Fair Trade pricing 100% of the purchase price goes to assist their ministry programs that transform lives in here in Maine; \$600

Bread of Ministries. Through the year, each month we provide a Tuesday evening meal for the residents of the temporary Shelter Program. It's been a blessing to meet folks there and see how this ministry gives them both shelter and a boost to what is next as they move forwards in life by God's grace. With a gift of **\$500 in February 2018** we equip there program there.

Maine Adaptive Sports received \$50 during February 2018 as an affirmation of their annual Ski-A-Thon that supports programs that

empower adaptive athletes towards a healthy, active and rewarding life.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors, this local ministry program serving to help folks who would be otherwise home bound is supported with our **\$500 gift in January 2019** and through the engagement of those offering to serve as drivers, and part of the programs leadership

Winthrop, Maine: United Methodist Camp Mechuwana. Scholarship support of campers in the amount of **\$500**. This donation was sent in **May 2018**. The year-round camp and youth programs happening there transforms lives of children and youth.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund – With generous donations we have been able to assist 5 families with urgent housing needs; **\$2450 during this winter season**. Each specific in their own way where we were able to be a means of God's Grace in troubling times.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – In **February 2019** we supported this ministry with \$100. This group meets twice a month and distributes prayers shawls to both women and men who are dealing with health issues and or hospital stays.

The Mission Committee met on Tuesday, February 19th and are beginning to work on our mission giving funding and support. We developed a schedule of monthly mission giving. We will update the above listing monthly as these occur. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 19th @10 a.m.



Bread Of Life Ministries

Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter Dinner is scheduled for March 19th.

We would like to encourage 3 to 4 volunteers to help donate items for this dinner

There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those wanting to designate their participation in this ministry. Signing up is important so that we are aware of what you will bring so that we can complete planning for whatever else needs to be prepared and donated. Thank you!



We are joining our members Hollie and Kevin Webb in support of Bread of Life's Homeless Shelter Ministries.

They are using their business to raise funds and collect bedding for the shelter. We will join with them in this endeavor with your support financial contributions and bedding.

For example; pillows can be purchased at Walmart and Target for less than \$10. A Bed in a Bag (Twin Size only) can be purchased at Walmart or online through Amazon for \$30-\$40.

Just ahead of Christmas we had guest speaker Molly Sirious from Bread of Life Ministries speak to us of their ministries. One of her highlights illustrated how new bedding is given to each new resident for them to have and then take with them to their next residential setting as they transition to bright new days of life through their life coaching and resource connecting programs.



United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM) launches 50th anniversary activities, new website

Starting in November 2018 through November 2019 we'll rejoice in our work while we continue our mission with an event or activity every 50 days!

This month, the United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM) is kicking off a year of events and activities to celebrate its 50th anniversary. UMEM has unveiled its new logo (above) and [updated website](http://umeconomicministry.com), and is planning a celebration activity or event every 50 days from now to November 2019! Events will occur around the Conference to support this important economic justice mission in western Maine.

Check out the UMEM's website umeconomicministry.com and [Facebook page](#) for information and updates and throughout the year!



March 10, 2019

Set you clocks

ahead Saturday night so you aren't too early for church; if you are, please start the coffee



Five questions to ask: “Is He FIRST in my life?” Is He FIRST in my life? Ask these five questions. The answers to these five questions will give you an indication of where He is in the car of your life.

F-I-R-S-T, “Is He first in my Finances?” I, “Is He first in my interests?” R, “Is He first in my relationships?” S, “Is He first in my schedule?” T, “Is He first in my troubles?” If you can say, “He’s first in my finances. He’s first in my interests. He’s first in my relationships. He’s first in my schedule. He’s first in my troubles,” then that’s a pretty good sign He’s first.

But if you can’t say that, then it might be that Christ is in your life, but He’s probably not positioned in the right place. I want to urge you and I want to encourage you this morning, step back. Get a bigger perspective. Be prayerful, always prayerful. Realize the potential that God has put into you is huge. Be positive. Realize it’s all God’s provision. I’m just a steward. And make sure - make sure that Jesus Christ is always in the driving seat of the car of your life.

Messalonskee High School Empty Bowls Project 2019



(Belgrade)

Raising Money to Support Local Food Pantries (at the High School, and for Oakland, Sidney, Rome, Belgrade)

Our Missions & Outreach Committee will match any monetary donations you generously provide for this important event during March.

Friday March 8, 5-7 PM

**\$10 - adults \$8 - students/seniors
Meal includes Soup, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage**

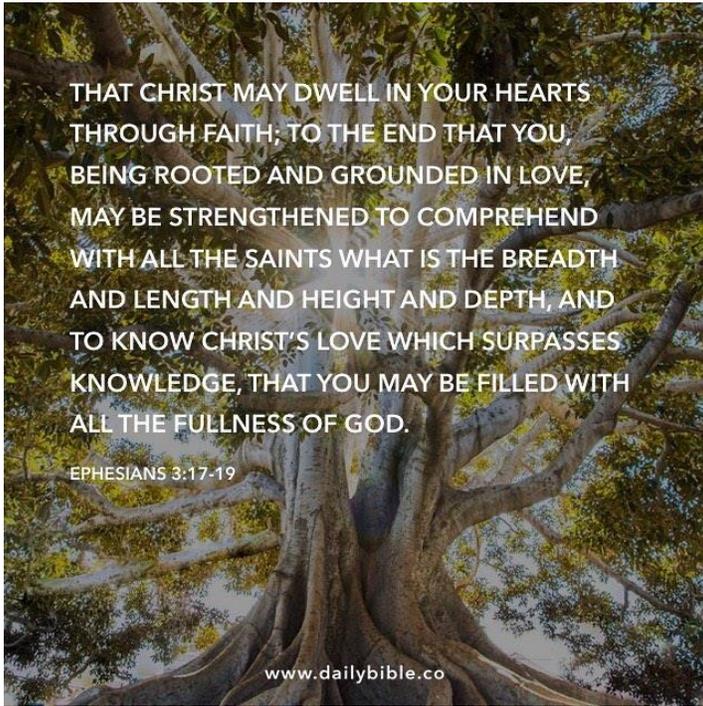
- The Pottery class is making bowls to serve the meal from.

The only thing missing from this place setting is YOU!

You are invited to participate by attending and, or providing soup, or a cash donation

- + Attending or Donating Cash
- + Bringing a Crock Pot of soup -or a Dessert
 - a. To the front office of the school, Between 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., or
 - b. to the dinner by 4:30 PM

Questions? Contact: W Susan Perrino, 465-9135, sperrino@rsu18.org
[Or Wendy Burton at 1-207-561-0905](tel:1-207-561-0905)



THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH; TO THE END THAT YOU, BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE, MAY BE STRENGTHENED TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL THE SAINTS WHAT IS THE BREADTH AND LENGTH AND HEIGHT AND DEPTH, AND TO KNOW CHRIST'S LOVE WHICH SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE, THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD.

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

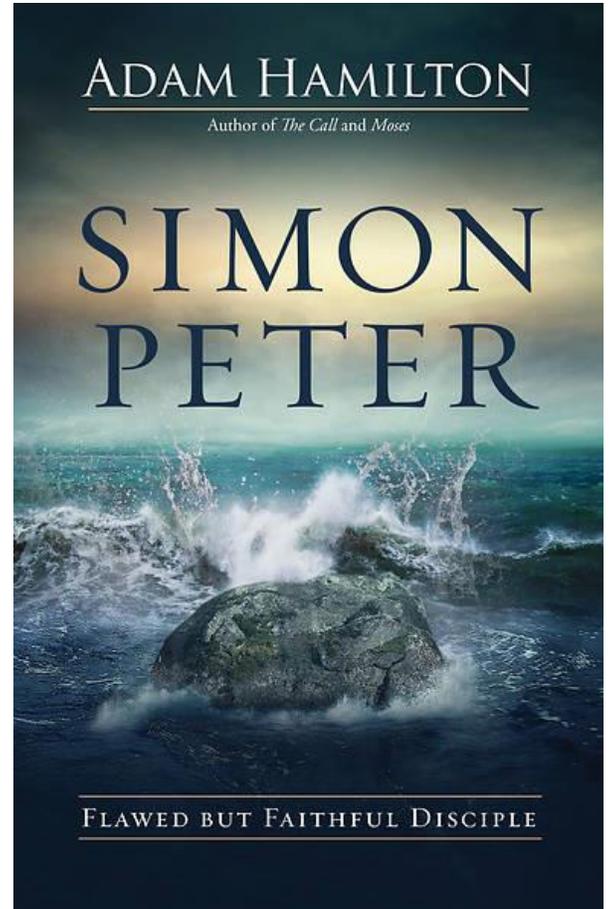
www.dailybible.co

“Filled With All The Fullness of God”

You are invited to participate in our Ash Wednesday Evening Service, March 6th at 6 p.m.

Let's begin our pre-Easter Season with a time of prayer. Perhaps we may be able to create some more open space for God to enter into our lives.

Simon Peter Flawed but Faithful Disciple By Adam Hamilton



**Come join us on Wednesdays @ 11 a.m.
March 13th through April 17th**

Simon Peter—an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call.

He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of *Simon Peter*, a six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.

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Our Mission is to live our experience of God's love
in all that we say and do...

Our Vision is to be a growing spiritual faith community in the manner of
Christ, where all are welcome and cared for...