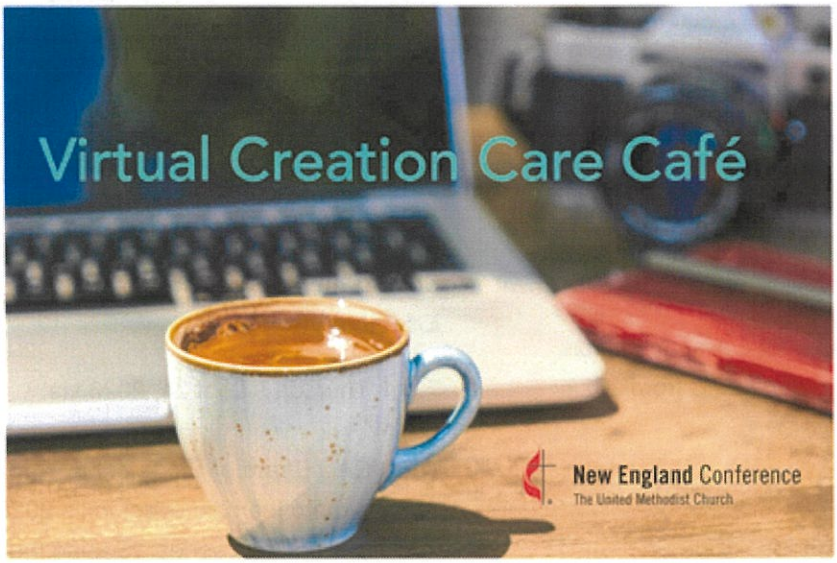
UMCatalyst

Weekly newsletter for the New England Conference

Sept. 16, 2026

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS



Green Church Journey resource topic for this month's Creation Care Café

Grab a cup of your favorite beverage and join members of the Creation Care Circle 7 pm, **Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026.** We'll explore our brand-new **Green Church Journey Resource** that provides over 150 ideas of ways local churches can engage in Creation Care and Climate Justice.

The Café convenes every fourth Tuesday with a different topic at each gathering, coming up:

New England Conference
The United Methodist Church

Facebook

Contacting Us

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communicate@neumc.org

Deadline to Submit

Monday at 4 p.m. to communicate@neumc.org

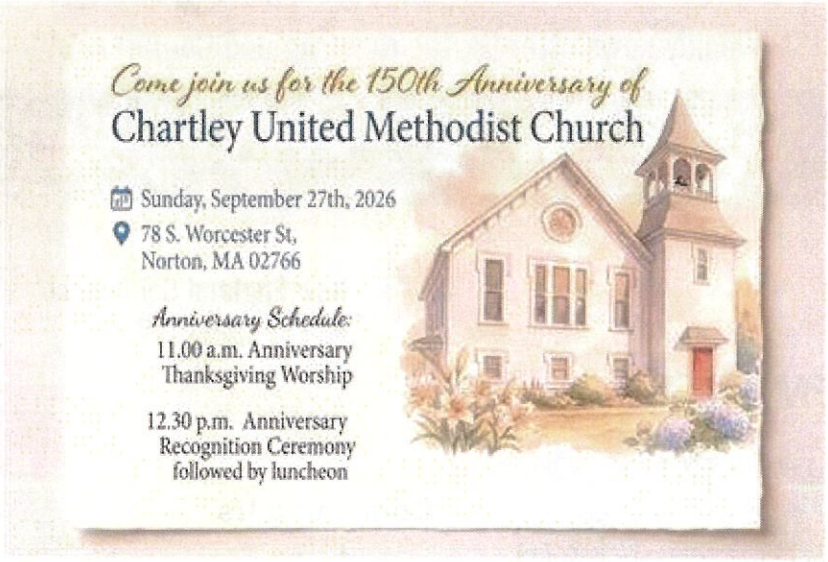
EVENTS

Sept. 19

Join conversation about accessibility, future

The Association of Ministers with Disabilities invites United Methodists with disabilities to a virtual Community Conversation at 1 p.m. Sept. 19 to discuss the Leadership Gathering in October and hopes for the future United Methodist Church. The association wants to hear about ways

Oct. 27, 2026, noon
Nov. 24, 2026, 7 pm
Dec. 22, 2026, noon
Register for the Café
Same link for each event. No need to re-register if you've done so before.



GCORR's Great Thanksgiving – Communion liturgy celebrates cultural diversity

The General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) celebrates our diversity with a Communion liturgy written by Rev. Mary Johnson, whose spouse, Bishop Peggy Johnson, served the NEAC from 2023-2024.

Find it here

Get suicide prevention resources

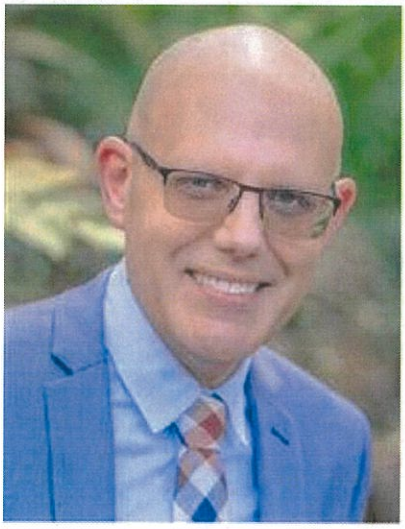
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. United Methodists can help reduce the stigma around suicide and connect people in crisis with professional help. People of faith who want to learn more are invited to take Suicide Prevention Training for Faith Leaders and Faith Communities, a free video training resource developed by the E. Stanley Jones Foundation in partnership with the United Methodist boards of Global Ministries and Higher Education and Ministry.
Learn more
Access training

DON'T FORGET

the church can become more accessible, welcoming and supportive of people with disabilities and their leadership.

Learn more
Register for webinar

Sept. 24



2026 Resources for Worship: Seeing the Sacred: Creating Effective Visuals

7 pm, Thursday, Sept.24, 2026 via Zoom
The NEAC Board of Discipleship invites you to the next event in its 2026 worship resources series: "Seeing the Sacred: Creating Effective Visuals," a Zoom session with Rev. Todd Pick, an elder in The UMC and an award-winning graphic designer, to learn about how to enhance the visual aspect of worship for your congregation!
Learn more and get the link

Bethany Church Public Park opening Sept. 19

You're invited to a celebration of community at the formal opening of the Bethany Church Public Park on Saturday, September 19, 2026 (100 Cummins Highway, Boston). The Park Dedication Ceremony will begin at 12:30 pm, followed by food, fellowship, games, and musical performances as part of Roslindale Porchfest. We hope the park will be a space where neighbors can gather, rest, celebrate, make music, and build community — together! For more information and to reserve this public space, please visit bethanypark.org. The opening of the Bethany Church Public Park also marks the re-launch of Bethany Church, which has been largely shuttered since the boiler failed, pipes froze and burst, and the ground level flooded in December 2022. With new plumbing and mechanical systems, we are now ready to resume worship and community activities in our beautiful sanctuary. Bethany Church is now part of the Union Combined Parish, following merger votes in June — you can learn more at unionboston.org. We look forward to seeing you on the 19th as we celebrate this new beginning!

Webinar: The Moral Urgency of Voting Rights

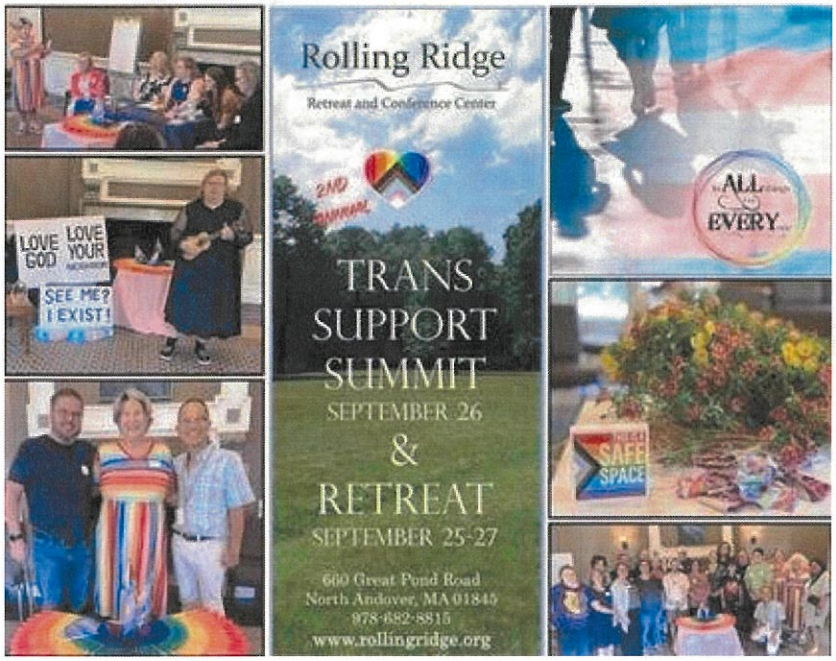
As we enter the midterm general election season, the NEAC Board of Church & Society invites you to join us at 7 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026, for a special webinar featuring Chavis Jones (pictured), Counsel at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Chavis will share with us the current threats to voting rights in our country and how we are called to work for change as people of faith.

Learn more and register

Oct. 15-18

The Crossroads Emmaus of NE 2026 Walk is Oct. 15-18

When: Oct. 15-18, 2026 - 72-hour Walk
Where: Christian Conference Center, Alton Bay, NH
Learn more and register
Have you participated in a Cursillo, Tres Días, Chrysalis, Kairos, or Emmaus Retreat? If so, do you remember the fourth day? The world looked different. Even now, no matter



Trans Support Summit and Retreat

Click the image to learn more and register.

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how long ago it was, that different perspective remains within you. Reflect on the ways your life is now different because someone loved you enough to sponsor you. Who in your life now needs the depth and beauty the *Walk to Emmaus* provides? Whose life might now be forever changed because you care enough about them to sponsor them as an Emmaus pilgrim? **Find an event flyer (PDF)** Questions? Contact Community Lay Director Wade Ewing wademewing@aol.com

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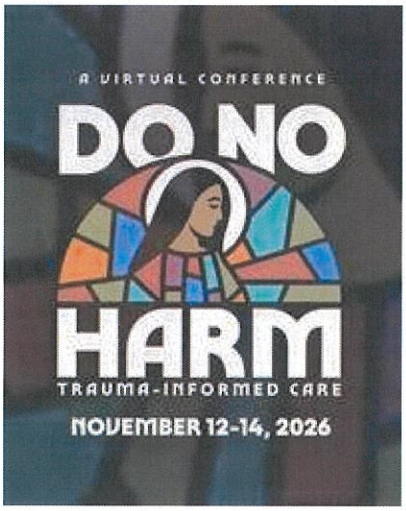
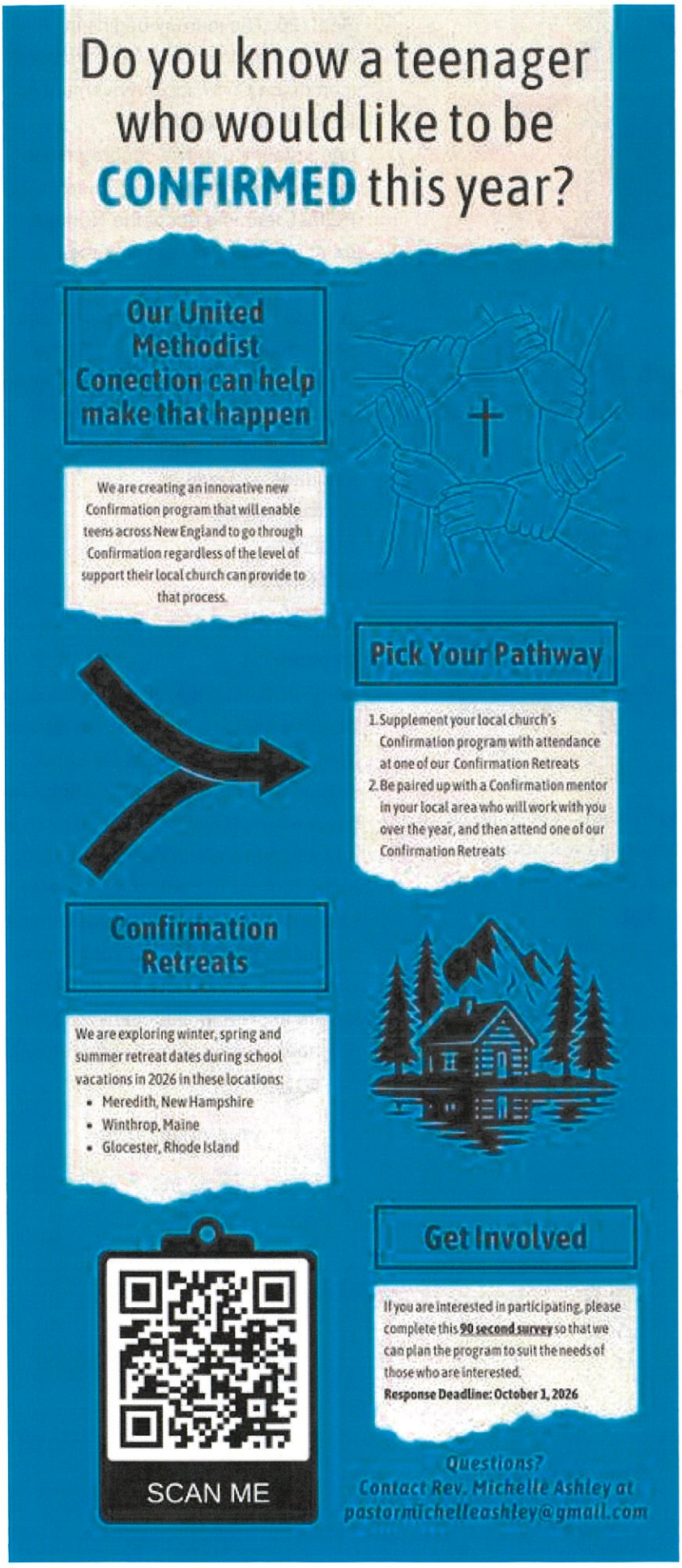
Nov. 12-14



GCSRW hosts virtual conference: 'Do No Harm'

ATTEND FOR FREE: *Thanks to the NEAC Response Team offering one of the presentations, Conference folks who want to participate can do so for free. Simply click the first option on the registration form (see an image).*

This November, The General Commission on Status and Role of Women, GCSRW, invites the whole connection to *Do No Harm* — a virtual conference equipping individuals and the Church to prevent sexual harm and foster trauma-informed care. For the first time since its inception in 2006, the gathering is fully online. Thursday



and Friday offer professional development for those who lead prevention, response, and training; Saturday is a public witness for everyone, centered on truth-telling, healing, and solidarity, offered on a sliding scale. Ashley Judd and Rachael Denhollander headline. Nov.12-14, 2026.

Learn more and register

Check out our Local Church Events calendar and add your upcoming events

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Find our newsletter archives here

CLASSIFIEDS

Counseling Referrals (MA)

Director of Children and Youth Ministries - Needham, MA

Sunday School Director, Part-Time, Wilmington UMC - Wilmington, MA

Church Musician and Choir Accompanist - Augusta, ME

Music Director/Organist for Shelburne United Methodist Church (Shelburne VT)

Nursery Childcare Provider - Niantic, CT

UMC News

UM News podcast season coming soon

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UM News) — Season one of "Signs of Life," an original podcast from UM News celebrating how church members are finding unity in diversity, will launch

Click the graphic to find the survey

2026 Church Conferences

Church Conference season is here! Everything that you need to know to get started is on the updated 2026 Church Conference webpage. Pastors and select leaders can access the forms through your church's dashboard. Online live help sessions begin on Sept. 15.
Read a Aug. 20 email on 2026 Church Conferences (this was sent to all districts)

Sept. 28. The journey begins in Atlanta, hearing how a book from an icon of the Civil Rights movement is fostering relationship and understanding to two congregations seeking to bridge divides. Then to Belfast, learning about the Northern Ireland Peace Process and the Methodist connection that was — and is — an essential part of healing and peacemaking. Finally, at the Global Young People's Convocation in Dublin, explore the world of translation and interpretation through diversity, language and culture.
Apple Podcasts
Spotify
UMNews.org

Pastor's credentials restored after 32 years
LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. — With a heartfelt apology, a wrong was righted during the Western North Carolina Annual Conference in June. Thirty-two years after coming out to the church as gay and surrendering her credentials at the request of her bishop, the Rev. Lauren Grace Scruggs was readmitted into full connection in the conference. Credentials or not, she has devoted her life to serving God and loving her neighbor. Ken Garfield has the story.
Read story

WWW.UMC.ORG

NEW HOPE EPISCOPAL AREA

THE NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCES

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH