



The Beacon

**First United Methodist
Church Of
North Andover**

MAY 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

In this Easter season we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ. But that Resurrection was more than the transformation of our Lord from death to life; it is our transformation as well. Something fundamental changed in God's relationship with humanity. Now we, too, can be transformed by the power of the Resurrection.

We say we know that, but do we really? Jim Wallis, a leader of the Sojourners Christian community in Washington, has said, "We don't know something, really know something, until it changes our lives." If you know that you are transformed by God's grace through the Resurrection, how has it changed your life? Do you see the world differently? Do you treat the people in your life differently? Does your faith change your values, your priorities and your behavior?

These are probing questions all Christians need to ask themselves. For the transforming power of the Resurrection spreads largely through the lives of those who call themselves Christians. Elaine Roulet has said, "Our changed lives may be the only gospel some people will ever read." What kind of gospel is your life? What do others learn about Jesus Christ by seeing how you live?

As we celebrate the Easter season and prepare for the Pentecost season may we ask these questions of ourselves. And may we be transformed by the power of the Risen Christ at work in our lives.

Rev. Mack



First

**United Methodist Church
57 Peters Street
North Andover, MA 01845
Rev. A. Mack Hagins, Pastor**

Church Office Telephone:

978-682-5305

Email:

firstunitedmethodist@comcast.net

Website:

www.northandoverumc.org

Worship with us:

Youth Christian Education 8:45 AM
Service Time 10:30 AM
in Sanctuary or via Zoom
Child Care available during worship

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	Pg 1
Worship Information/ General Conference/Thank You	Pg 2
Christian Education News	Pg 3
Parking Lot Collections for Missions	Pg 4
Peace With Justice Sunday	Pg 5
Quilts/Bread & Roses	Pg 6
Coffee & Conversation/ Happy Birthday	Pg 7
Note from Bishop/ Ridgewood Cemetery Association	Pg 8
Food for Thought	Pg 9
Church Activity Calendar	Pg 10
Building Use Calendar	Pg 11
Connected	Pg 12- 13



WORSHIP IN MAY/COVID INFORMATION

COVID UPDATE — As COVID and other respiratory viruses are still with us, while we are not requiring masks, those who prefer to wear them are welcome to do so. **We continue to ask that you stay home if you are not feeling well**, until you are better or have a negative COVID test. The service will still be offered on Zoom if you choose to remain at home. **The same Zoom login will be used every week at 10:30 AM.**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84390216459>

Or dial 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 843 9021 6459



We will share in Holy Communion on May 5. In the church we will receive by safe and distanced intinction. Those who are **worshiping at home** are invited to prepare some bread and juice for yourself and your family.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT YOUTH CHRISTIAN ED: PLEASE BE SURE to call or text Carrie Mazza at 617-257-1780 before your first week of attendance.

General Conference Continues Through May 3



Please continue to keep our United Methodist Church and our NEAC delegates in your prayers during these closing days of General Conference. For more info follow links at neumc.org.

Thank you from People's Pantry

Dear Andrea and Congregation of First United Methodist Church,

Many thanks for your recent donation of hot chocolate to the People's Pantry. During the dreary late winter, the hot chocolate was a welcome treat to our guests. We appreciate your generosity.

With gratitude, Fran Rohr, Coordinator



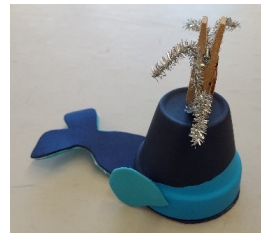
Christian Education News for April

We took a break for Easter and school vacation week. In between those two Sundays, we did a Scripture Escape Puzzle called Unrest in Egypt. Youth needed to find clues hidden throughout the room and solve different kinds of puzzles to determine: (1) the name of each brother in the picture line up; (2) what food is in each one of 11 sacks; and (3) which sack belongs to which brother. This was a multi-layer puzzle that was much more challenging than previous escape puzzles we've done, but the Youth successfully completed this challenge. Congratulations on a job well done!!

This picture was taken shortly before the Youth completely solved the puzzle:



Later in April we did a lesson on Jonah, emphasizing the importance of obeying God and that God's grace, compassion, and forgiveness extends to *all* people. The craft was made with a mini terracotta flowerpot, paper or craft foam, and pipe cleaners. A big thank you to Barb and Joe, who helped create the whale prop for this lesson!



Carrie Mazza



Parking Lot Missions Collections May-June

There will be TWO opportunities for community (and congregational) missions participation in May: **Christmas Pop Up Shop fundraiser** collections in the rear parking lot of goods in conjunction with Savers Secondhand Stores, and a **Pop Your Trunk event to benefit People's Pantry**. Here are some the details:



SATURDAY, MAY 18 10-12 A.M. POP YOUR TRUNK FOOD COLLECTION FOR PEOPLE'S PANTRY—FRONT PARKING LOT

The People's Pantry serves the food insecure in the Merrimack Valley community and is hosted at the North Parish Unitarian Universalist in North Andover. This past year was a milestone for the Pantry as we served nearly 5,000 families which is more than ever before. Our efforts have been strengthened through partnerships with the Giving Garden at Rolling Ridge and with Boston Gleaners who help supply fresh produce. Through Communities Together and Neighbors in Need we've also provided diapers for families with little ones.

The People's Pantry is open twice monthly on Tuesdays from 7:30-10:30 AM. Much of the food we distribute is obtained from the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, but we rely on food drives and donations, as well. None of what we do would be possible without the heart and hard work of our volunteers, over 45 strong, as well as all the people who generously donate food. We are always in need of non-perishable staples such as rice, beans, tuna, and peanut butter, mac and cheese, and pasta. PLEASE encourage your friends and neighbors to participate in this food drive!

CHRISTMAS POP UP SHOP FUNDRAISER WITH SAVERS—BACK PARKING LOT

We are collecting items you no longer use and Savers will pay us per pound for all we collect! Here are examples of things we can use:

- Clothes: for all genders and ages clothes, coats, shoes, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, backpacks, etc.
- Household textiles: bedding, blankets, comforters, sheets, towels, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.
- Small household goods: kitchen items (pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces, hand-held appliances), home decor items, knick knacks, toys, games, small electronics, etc.
- Books and Media: paperback, hard cover, all genres; movies (VHS/CD), etc.

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack average-sized boxes of small household goods. Separate books from household goods and media. All items must be clean and in sellable condition. Our goal is to raise \$2000—500 large yard bags (avg. 20 lbs), 150 medium boxes.

We have 3 more collection dates:

Friday, May 10th, 6:00-8:00pm

Saturday, May 18th, 10:00am-12:00pm (same time as Pop Your Trunk)

Saturday, June 1st, 3:00-5:00pm

We will need folks to volunteer to be at the church during these times. Let us know if you're available! Thank you! --- Patti Coffill





Peace With Justice Sunday May 26

This special offering supports programs and ministries to educate, equip, and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Envelopes will be in the bulletin that morning, or you can bring or mail your offering to the church if you can't make it on Sunday.

Half of the funds collected on Peace with Justice Sunday will remain in our New England Conference. These funds go to the Church and Society Board of New England conference to provide educational resources, building and sustaining relationships, and help mobilize networks to engage in social advocacy and action.

The other half funds national and international peacemaking ministries and grants. We pursue peace with justice efforts by working with the World Council of Churches, interfaith and ecumenical bodies, and secular organizations for social-justice policies and programs that seek the wholeness of shalom for all of God's people.

Our church community's participation in peace-justice organizations:

JFON: Justice For Our Neighbors works with immigration issues by providing guidance through the legal system by providing legal consultants, Lawyers, translators, safe places to meet, and Christian hospitality.

Communities Together: works closely with many social service agencies that provide assistance in the Greater Lawrence area such as Neighbors In Need, Aron's Presents, Andover Breadloaf, Lawrence Art House, Lawrence Boat House, YWCA, and YDO.

Reconciling Ministries: provides support and resources for people of all folks who identify as Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Non-Binary, Queer and those who support them.

Individuals in our church community have carried banners for peace with justice, donated to social justice organizations such as Methodist Federation for Social Action, Doctors without Borders, Merrimack Valley People for Peace, Anti-Defamation League, etc.

“As disciples of Christ, we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We must insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them.”

— **United Methodist Social Principles, ¶165.C**

Submitted by JoAnn Carlotto
Missions Team Member



CALL FOR QUILTS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Don't forget that on **Mother's Day, May 12th**, we will gather what you've **created** and they will be blessed during our worship service. The quilts and blankets will be distributed to Fina House and Heading Home (formerly Horizons for Children). Each and every quilt and blanket that we had available in November were distributed so **we are starting fresh** with collecting more. We are focusing on **smaller sized quilts which are appropriate for newborns to 5 years** old. Please bring your creations to church **by May 12th**.



Your help is needed! If you want to try something new, here's your chance. We do have fabric, sewing machines, sewing tools, etc available for use if you want to learn to sew a quilt cover. It is as simple as cutting some fabric and sewing straight lines. If you want to try crocheting a quilt edge with some simple stitches we have some fleece and yarn available so you can try it. Please **reach out to Lynn or Ave if you are interested in learning** a new craft that will give you a chance to support our Quilt and Blanket outreach efforts.

Thank you, Lynn Satriale

Bread & Roses Report

On March 30th a group of 6 of us gathered and prepared 144 bagged meals for distribution at the Bread & Roses soup kitchen. The scheduled time was 9AM to 11AM but we were finished by 10:30, which was super! Here are a few photos of the team who made the work go easily and smoothly. My big thank you to Ave, Paul R, Evangeline, Franklin and Melanie! The staff at Bread and Roses shared their big THANK YOU to all who contributed and participated in the meal prep. The next meal prep will take place on June 29th, 2024. Please consider joining us if you can.—Lynn Satriale





COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AT PANERA

You are invited to join the monthly gathering at the corner table at the Panera across the street from the church for Coffee & Conversation. This informal time of sharing is held on the **second Tuesday of each month**, so our next gathering will be **from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on May 14**. Stop by to exchange ideas or just to visit.



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS



Lots of birthdays in May!

- 3 - Eric Miller
- 4 - Bob Banks
- 8 - Samson Rajaiah
- 9 - Cheryl Miller
- 16 - Samlet Samson
- 18 - Melanie Miller
- 26 - Kathy Ward
- 28 - Paul Rabs
- 29 - Judy Birtles

Happy birthday to you all! If you also are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month, **congratulations and best wishes to you**.

If we don't have your birthday/anniversary and you'd like to have it published in the *Beacon*, please send or phone your special day(s) into the office ASAP but certainly by May 17 for the June newsletter (early due to vacation). Thank you!



Food for Thought

The pastor says they sit front and center. The gay boys. Sometimes they hold hands. And some folks have said he should address the issue. But the pastor tells me he doesn't know what to say.

There is the couple who are pregnant and not married. Walks in shame as her father, a "Man of God", physically slaps her legs while she is having morning sickness and the Boyfriend who is not wanting to marry her. But the pastor tells me he doesn't know what to say.

And then there's the man who sneaks in the back door. Fresh off the street. After the service starts. And leaves before the altar call. The people sitting close complain about how bad he smells. Of beer and smoke and sweat. But the pastor tells me he doesn't know what to say.

And then there's the young mama who wears dirty clothes and lets her four children come in and eat all the donuts and drink all the watered-down juice. Some church staff say they "...eat like little pigs. Like they haven't eaten in weeks." While the Mama just stands there and lets them. And the elders say something must be done and said. But the pastor tells me he doesn't know what to say.

And there's the whore sitting among the faithful. And everybody knows her. She sits with a painted-up face, cheap perfume, and a broken heart. And those who sit close, well, they all treat her for what they think she is. And at the last staff meeting, her name came up. Something must be done about her. But the pastor tells me he doesn't know what to say.

The pastor is a good man. Holy and just. And he wants to do the "right and loving" thing. And he wants to "look like Jesus". And he asks me if I have any thoughts on anything he could say.

Yes, sweet Pastor. I do. Start with this and say it Louder than any other words:

"Welcome to Church. This is a place of love and hope and safety and forgiveness. There will be food for the hungry. Living water for the thirsty. We are so glad you are here. You are invited. You are loved. Come on in—we've been waiting on you. Welcome here. We are the church."

Say that. To the called and to the called-out. To the leaders and the greeters. To the dirty and the clean. We are all the same. We are. May we blow the dust of religion out of our souls and choose affection instead. May our words and actions and reactions be a sanctuary for all.

Jesus broke many laws to love. So, Jesus, be our voice. Be the only words we should ever speak. I believe this with all my heart... It takes us all. We have to do better at looking out for each other instead of breaking each other down.

Another post I copied from Facebook-thought provoking indeed—Andrea Vannett





Thanks from the Bishop re: Accessibility Survey

Dear Members of North Andover: First UMC:

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Conference Disabilities Committee has been working hard this year to raise awareness of how important accessibility is to being an all-inclusive church. As part of their efforts, an accessibility survey was added [last fall] to the church conference forms.

Your church scored 83.04% in the Copper (Honorable Mention) category. I commend you for taking the survey and earning copper status. It is our hope that you are now more aware of the less accessible areas of your church campus and are striving to improve your facility for full accessibility.

Since 2001, The United Methodist Church's slogan has been "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." The word *open* was used to communicate the state of our hearts, minds, and doors to represent our welcoming spirit to all. I invite you to spend time in prayer and discussion about the ways your church could be more accessible and therefore more welcoming to all of God's children.

Thanks again for your support thus far. May God continue to bless your ministries to bring God's kin-dom here on earth.

Sincerely,
Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Ridgewood Cemetery Association

The annual meeting of members of Ridgewood Cemetery Association will be held:

Tuesday, May 7, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.
Ridgewood Cemetery—177 Salem Street, North Andover

Items of business to be considered include:

Review of annual auditor's statement of the association's finances
Election of Trustees, Treasurer and Clerk for the following year

Email is ridgewood.cemetery@verizon.net and the phone number is 978-682-5786.

Respectfully,
Joseph Pelich, President

We receive this notice annually to notify owners of lots within Ridgewood Cemetery, all of whom are members of the association and eligible to participate, of the annual business meeting, per the bylaws, which specify, "Notice of all member's meetings... shall be given... by sending notices to all churches..."

May 2024

Church Activity Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Youth Christian Education	Coffee Fellowship following worship	1	2	3	General Conference concludes	4
5 6th Sunday of Easter Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion	6	7	8	9 Ascension Day	10 Pop-Up Shop/ Savers Collection 6-8 pm Rear Parking Lot	11
12 7th Sunday of Easter Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Mother's Day/ Blessing of Quilts	13 Missions Team 7pm via Zoom	14 Coffee & Conversation @ Panera 10am-12noon Church Council 7pm	15	16	17	18 Pop-Up Shop/ Savers Collection AND Pop Your Trunk for People's Pantry 10-12 am Parking Lots
19 The Day of Pentecost Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. 	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Peace With Justice Offering	27	28	29	30	31	
CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE						

May 2024

Building Use Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 IMC Senior Lunch 10-2 WH 5:00-8:00PM AA Room 500	2	3 10:00AM ICM Prayer Service WH	4
5 11:00AM—3:00PM Intercultural Mission Church Worship Service WH Rooms 500 & 400	6 6:00-8:00PM AA Room 500	7 6:30-7:30PM Septemberfest Committee Room 200 7:00-9:00PM GA Room 500	8 5:00-8:00PM AA Room 500 6:00-8:00PM Girl Scouts Room 200	9	10 10:00AM ICM Prayer Service WH	11
12 11:00AM—3:00PM Intercultural Mission Church Worship Service WH Rooms 500 & 400	13 6:00-8:00PM AA Room 500	14 7:00-9:00PM GA Room 500	15 IMC Senior Lunch 10-2 WH 5:00-8:00PM AA Room 500	16	17 10:00AM ICM Prayer Service WH	18
19 11:00AM—3:00PM Intercultural Mission Church Worship Service WH Rooms 500 & 400	20 6:00-8:00PM AA Room 500	21 7:00-9:00PM GA Room 500	22 5:00-8:00PM AA Room 500	23	24 10:00AM ICM Prayer Service WH	25
26 11:00AM—3:00PM Intercultural Mission Church Worship Service WH Rooms 500 & 400	27 6:00-8:00PM AA Room 500	28 7:00-9:00PM GA Room 500	29 5:00-8:00PM AA Room 500	30	31 10:00AM ICM Prayer Service WH	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE </div>						

May 2024



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.



General Conference continues through May 3

The postponed 2020 General Conference is taking place April 23 to May 3 in Charlotte, NC.

Use the QR code to visit the denomination's page that includes all the news and information about this important event in the life of The United Methodist



Church. The page also includes a link to the live stream. Find #umcgc on social media.

Our website www.neumc.org also has links and info.



NEAC Scholarships



Apply now for undergrad support

Each year the New England Conference Scholarship Committee seeks applications from adults or recent high school graduates who are pursuing undergraduate education at any accredited two- or four-year college, university or technical school.

Applicants must be United Methodist Church members

and are eligible to apply every year until they complete their undergraduate degree. In 2023, \$29,101 in scholarships was awarded to 23 students.

Online application form and instructions can be found on our website at the address below.

Application period for 2024-25 support continues through May 24, 2024.



GET THE APPLICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

www.neumc.org/scholarships

Online training opportunity

Safer Sanctuaries

Safety is a fundamental requirement if people are going to be at their best. Without a safe environment in our churches we cannot worship, learn, grow, or serve. Please join your fellow United Methodists in New England — clergy and laity — learn more about how to provide not just safe, but safer sanctuaries for all who come to your church: members, children, and vulnerable adults.

While your church may have a safe sanctuary policy in place, this new information will help you to expand your understanding of how to keep everyone safe in a new era — both digital and in person.

Who should attend?

All clergy currently serving or taking an appointment in July are mandated to attend. Laity are highly encouraged to attend — even if there are no children currently in your congregation.

Participants should plan to share this training with the leaders in their church/es who work with children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults. The PowerPoint used in this training will be provided.

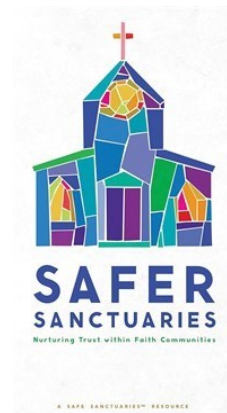
Materials

Each church will be asked to upload an updated Safe Sanctuaries policy in Church Dashboard in preparation for the 2024

Church Conference.

The book “Safer Sanctuaries: Nurturing Trust within Faith Communities” is available via [Amazon](#), [Cokesbury](#), [Upper Room](#)

It is recommended that each church have a copy of this valuable reference guide. If your church cannot afford a copy, contact Brenda Cayer at bishopsoffice@neumc.org



Training sessions

May 4 Granite District 9 am to noon
 May 6 Many Waters District 5-9 pm (includes breaks)
 May 7 Seacoast District 6-9 pm
 May 8 Green Mountain District 6-9 pm
 May 18 Commonwealth East 1-4 pm
 May 20 Commonwealth West 6-9 pm
 TBD Katahdin District

There are multiple opportunities to attend this online training; you are welcome to join any session that's convenient.



LEARN MORE & REGISTER:
www.neumc.org

Heritage Sunday

Celebrate Heritage Sunday

Heritage Sunday is a time for United Methodists to reflect on their legacy and consider their own place in the story of The United Methodist Church.

It is traditionally recognized on the third Sunday in May (May 19, 2024), but congregations may choose to commemorate the special Sunday at any time. This year's theme is “Rooted and Grounded in Love.”

The underlying message of all Heritage Sunday observances is that history is an essential part of the church's ministry, and that all members of the church family can celebrate our shared heritage.



Learn more at resourceumc.org, Archives and History.

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



**First
United Methodist Church**

**57 Peters Street
North Andover, MA 01845**

May 2024

**Church Telephone: 978-682-5305
E-Mail: firstunitedmethodist@comcast.net**

Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:30AM - 11:30AM

**Youth Christian Education Sundays 8:45 AM—Please call or text
Carrie at 617-257-1780 before your first week of attendance
Choir Practice 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary
Sunday Worship 10:30AM in the Sanctuary and via ZOOM
Child Care available during worship**



A Reconciling Congregation