

“Write the vision clearly on the tablets, that one may read it on the run.” – Habakkuk

THE VISION

March 2020



Youth Ambassadors in Jamaica

The NYAC team brightened up the walls and playground at the Jamaica National Children’s Home during their February 15–22 trip. Story and more photos on Page 4.



Remembering to Give For 2 Special Sundays

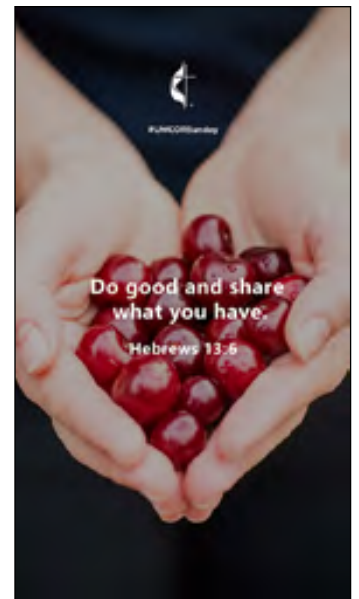
March 22: UMCOR Sunday

Spring brings great potential for new hope, generosity and compassion.

[UMCOR Sunday](#), one of the most popular churchwide special Sundays with offering, is on March 22. The special offering taken that day will support the United Methodist Committee on Relief by helping to cover the agency’s operating budget. That makes it possible for UMCOR to direct 100 percent of all other contributions to the projects that donors specify, instead of using this money on administrative or fundraising costs.

The need for donations is even more critical as the world copes with the continuing spread of the novel coronavirus.

“The presence of the church in the midst of a disaster—and this pandemic, by definition, is a disaster—is a critical part of the response and overall well-being of individuals, the local church, and wider-community,” said Tom Vencuss, NYAC missions coordinator.



We read or watch on the news and see communities overwhelmed by natural disaster. We hear about humanitarian crises arising from civil unrest and war. We know that famine and drought are caused by climate change and see in our own community signs of food insecurity. And, of course, when

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For the latest letter from Bishop Bickerton and resources for pastoral care, virtual worship and meetings, and more, go to the NYAC website [coronavirus page](#).



Note: The New York Conference office in White Plains is closed until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak. Organizations and groups are encouraged to conduct meetings through video conferencing options. You can still reach any staff member via phone or email.

5/3 Recognizing Older Adults

Choose this Sunday, or any Sunday in May, to honor the older adults in your congregation. Resources are available on the UMC Discipleship [website here](#).

7/31 Blueprint for Wellness Deadline

Participants in the HealthFlex insurance program may register to take the Blueprint for Wellness (BFW) screening before July 31 at a Quest Diagnostics lab or at the New York Annual Conference. Register by calling 855-623-9355 and indicating one's employer group as HealthFlex or the United Methodist Church. To register online for either the lab screening or the annual conference option, go to www.wespath.org; click on "Health & Wellness Benefits" and log into the HealthFlex WebMD site, then select: "Quest Blueprint for Wellness." Choose your desired location, day and time. Any questions should be directed to [Sally Truglia](mailto:Sally.Truglia) by email, or by calling 914-615-2220.

Vision Deadlines for 2020

The Vision is a monthly online publication of the New York Conference. Deadlines are always the first Friday of the month, with posting to the web site about 10 days later. The remaining deadlines for 2020 are April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4. Please send any stories, photos, ideas, or questions directly to vision@nyac.com.

The Vision
The News of the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church

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Remembering to Give For 2 Special Sundays

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we are also in the midst of our own suffering, it is hard to see beyond our own needs to help someone else.

But the reality is that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Just as Jesus invited the disciples into the work saying, "We must do the works of him who sent me."

Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), we can make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upended by disease, storms, wars, climate change, and displacement. Through UMCOR, we see the impact of extravagant grace through the generosity of United Methodists.

To give, make a check out to your local church and write "UMCOR Sunday" on the memo line and then mail it to your church, or give through your church's electronic giving program. To make an online donation directly to UMCOR, [click here](#).

April 26: Native American Ministries

Native American Ministries Sunday is celebrated on the third Sunday of Easter, or April 26 this year.

The historical record of the assault and resulting devastation imposed upon Native Americans by the United States, and in many instances, religious communities, requires that today, the people called United Methodists endeavor to create environments of redress, understanding, and cooperation with Native Americans in our communities and nation. The New York Conference's Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) is committed to this purpose.

The conference's offering for the Native American ministries supports scholarships to equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture. The NYAC support empowers local churches and annual conferences to find new ways to minister to, and with, Native American communities.

One half of this annual offering is retained within the NYAC and allows CONAM to highlight the important Native American history within the conference boundaries. A connection with the Northeast Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries provides additional resources and encouragement.

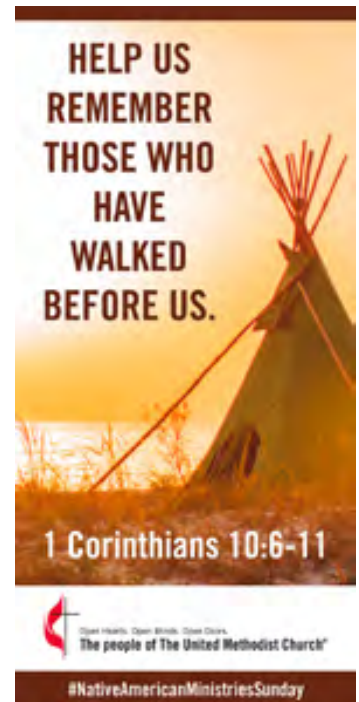
In 2019, a new collaborative ministry developed with Camp Quinipet on Long Island as CONAM provided funds to support a week of camp for children and youth from the Shinnecock Nation in nearby Southampton, N.Y. The success of that venture has led CONAM to promise program support for another week of camp for children and two retreats for youth in 2020. Through our Native American Ministries Sunday offering we seek a strong and faithful commitment from all of our New York Conference churches in support of this exciting, reconciling, restorative ministry.

CONAM also supports the [American Indian Community House](#) in New York City. They helped sponsor, "Reflections of Native Voices," a two-week festival of Native American playwrights, actors, producers, directors, and song makers" presented by the Safe Harbors Indigenous Collective.

Resources—like videos, stories and offering envelopes—for Native American Ministries Sunday can be found at umcsgiving.com. To learn more about CONAM, email [Rev. Doug Osgood](mailto:Rev.Doug.Osgood).

If you would like to give, you can make a check out to your local church and write "Native American Ministries" on the memo line. Or to give online, [click here](#).

—Doug Osgood



How Can We Livestream Worship Legally?

EXCERPTED FROM ASK THE UMC

Many congregations are considering livestreaming worship services in this time of concern for the health of vulnerable people. There are a number of copyright considerations in order to legally livestream your worship service.

Copyright Permissions or Licenses

All copyrighted content must have specific written permission from the copyright holder(s) or a streaming license that includes that particular copyrighted material in order to be live streamed. Hymns in the United Methodist Hymnal and ritual in the United Methodist Book of Worship (both copyrighted resources) can be used in United Methodist worship services, but cannot be reproduced or livestreamed without written permissions or the appropriate licenses. The [ritual resources](#) in The United Methodist Hymnal (the standard Sunday service materials, Psalter (but not music), funeral, wedding, and morning and evening prayer) are approved for livestreaming for a limited time (until April 30) by The United Methodist Publishing House.

A word to the wise: It can sometimes take weeks or months to track down and obtain written permissions from copyright holders. If you want to begin livestreaming this Sunday or as soon as possible, purchase a streaming license that covers materials you want to use, and then use only the materials covered by your license in the ways your license permits.

Streaming License

A streaming license is needed in addition to a standard license your congregation may have from CCLI or OneLicense to reproduce the copyrighted works covered in their catalogs. The standard licenses from CCLI, Song Select, or OneLicense do not permit livestreaming. A separate streaming license is required to livestream the copyrighted songs in their catalogs and is only for congregational singing. These licenses do not cover choir anthems.

CCLI and OneLicense will not sell a streaming license without the purchase of the basic reproduction license for congregational singing. However, [now through April 15](#) OneLicense offers its basic reproduction with streaming package free to new subscribers.

License Coverage

A streaming license covers only the materials in the company's catalog. Before deciding which license to purchase, know exactly which content is actually covered.

CCLI covers only songs for congregational singing in its catalog. It does NOT cover anthems or other songs not for congregational singing. (See [permitted and non-permitted](#) activities.)

The same is true for the [OneLicense.net streaming license](#). It covers only the songs in its own catalog.

Christian Copyright Solutions has a bigger catalog but, even here, it does not include all possible copyrighted songs. Livestreams cannot be made available for download nor can copies be made for distribution by any other means. This means you can't provide a DVD or a flash drive version for homebound members, for example. Only viewing it online from a streaming platform is covered.

None of these licenses permit you to stream pre-recorded copyrighted music.

Other options

The only way to avoid needing a streaming license for your worship service is if all material is in the public domain or is created solely by you.

This is why many congregations who livestream choose to stream only the sermon. Assuming the pastor has not used [copyrighted materials from others](#) in the sermon, the congregation owns the rights to the sermon and therefore may stream it.

Public Domain Options

1. The entirety of the [1979 Book of Common Prayer](#) of The Episcopal Church is in the public domain. You can use or adapt any part of it at any time.
2. ALL hymns, anthems, other musical works (texts and tunes) and all ritual published prior to 1925 is now in the public domain (as of January 1, 2020). You can use or adapt any of these (texts or tunes) and then stream them.

(The entire "Ask the UMC" resource can be found online by clicking [here](#).)

Conducting Worship Amid Social Distancing

The following recommendations from NYAC Communications will help churches think about and implement tools for continuity of service during the coronavirus "physical distancing":

- Churches with the need and foundational ability (wireless access, basic broadcasting equipment, conference call lines and volunteers) to conduct services or meetings using technology should plan to do so as soon as possible.
- Online Zoom gatherings can be an option for churches with wireless access who can contain their services to under 40 minutes, with 100 or less congregants.
 - Visit [zoom.us](#) and register for a basic account that includes video conferencing features, an unlimited number of gatherings, and group collaboration features.
 - If a basic Zoom account cannot meet your needs, the NYAC will offer a limited number of need-based, two-month grants to establish and pay for services and licensing. The grants should allow churches to pay for services needed during the two-week hiatus and up to two months.

- If your church has reliable wireless access but requires help establishing a means via Facebook Live, YouTube, Zoom, or Skype, please send a detailed email outlining your needs to communications@nyac.com.
- If your church does not have wireless access and wishes to use a conference call line, such as those offered by [Free Conference Call](#) or [GoToMeeting](#) websites, the aforementioned grants can also be applied.

Some companies have announced that they will provide gratis resources to churches:

[Amplify Media](#) is offering several resources for free for churches to participate in a church-wide or group study and children's content, including Lenten Bible and book studies and Deep Blue kids Spring 2020.

[One License](#) is providing two different free license options valid through April 15. A One License license grants churches permission to reprint or project music from any of their member publishers.

Additional resources and tips are available on the ["coronavirus outbreak" page](#) on the NYAC website.



Counter clockwise from above: A fun day climbing the Dunn River Falls in Ocho Rios; Makayla Beckford and a teammate paint a wall; Youth Ministries Coordinator Jenna Johnson cuddles a new friend.

YAMs Work, Learn and Play in Jamaica



The annual Youth Ambassadors in Mission trip took the team to Jamaica from February 15–22. The 18 youth and six adults were hosted by the Jamaica National Children’s Home in Kingston and stayed at the University of the West Indies.

While there, the team painted classrooms, bathrooms and playground equipment as well as attended worship and toured historical sites. They made fast friends with all the children they encountered.

As Makayla Beckford from St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC wrote in her trip journal on the next to the last day, “Today was a very sad day. I had to say goodbye to all the great friends that I made at the children’s home . . . seeing what had happened to the home/school for boys and girls hit me hard because they have been through a lot.”

The other youth and the churches they represent were: Jordan Butler, Bayport UMC; Emani Booker, Church of the Good Shepherd; Gabby Riley and Tyler Robinson, Crawford Memorial UMC; Tanisha Castello, Satya Brandon and Ezinne Nwosu, Fenimore UMC; Charity Veale and Camille King of New



Rochelle UMC; Aidan Draper, Village Church of Bayville; Angel Mensah and Kemaia Browne, Calvary UMC; Charlotte Grace Iler, Simsbury UMC; Deandra White, DeAnndra Dewar and Chelsea Nolan, Butler Memorial UMC; and Maya Campos, Coop City UMC. Chaperones were Gillian Prince, Fenimore UMC; Melissa Webber Iler, Simsbury; Andrea Harewood, New Rochelle UMC; Jenna Johnson, Tom Vencuss and Wendy Vencuss.

NYAC Mission Updates

Note: All mission activities are subject to any gathering size limits and travel restrictions due to the spread of the coronavirus disease. If churches have questions or need resources on developing a care team to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, contact contact [Wendy Vencuss](#).

Tennessee Tornado

The disaster response team of the Tennessee Conference is working with clergy, district superintendents and Bishop William T. McAlilly to assess damages. Several churches were severely damaged. More details are available on the [TNUMC website](#).

Missionary Support

Eleven churches have signed up to host a NYAC-supported missionary visit this summer/fall. Those missionaries serve in Russia, Philippines, Cambodia, and Ecuador, and are able to preach, meet with groups, attend an event, or be a guest speaker. A missionary visit provides an opportunity to better understand the global reach and impact of the UMC.

Some may be familiar with international missions through the NYAC connection in Cambine, Mozambique. The work there has continued under the leadership of John and Florence Nday; he is an agronomist and she is a nurse. They are supported by UM churches in Naugatuck, Mamaroneck and New Milford, which they visited during itineration last fall.

The mission advocate for the Northeastern Jurisdiction, Becky Parsons, is also available anytime a congregation would like a missionary as guest speaker.

Churches interested in inviting a missionary should contact the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries Jill Wilson via [email](#) or phone, 860-690-1853.

Mission U

Under the theme, “**Learning Together for the Transformation of the World**,” Mission U is scheduled to gather from July 24–26. This annual event—sponsored by United Methodist Women and the New York Annual Conference of Board of Laity—provides opportunities to study current issues impacting society with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church.

The event at the Hilton Stamford is open to all. There are rates for commuters and daily rates for those who cannot attend all three days. For more information and to register online, click here. For any questions, contact [Rev. Jeff Hooker](#) by email.

Prayer Devotional for GC2020 Available

A devotional guide, “Be Still and Know: 40 Days of Prayer,” is now available for use in the weeks leading up to the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis. The booklet, prepared by [The Upper Room](#) in partnership with the Council of Bishops and the General Conference worship team, is available in English, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili.

The devotionals, which are based on the daily lectionary texts, begin on March 26 and run through May 4. Each booklet includes guide for use as a small group study. The English version is available to [download here](#).



Upcoming Mission Opportunities

The Rehace recovery program in Puerto Rico has suspended its use of volunteer teams through the end of April in an abundance of caution concerning the outbreak. Also, the U.S. State Department travel advisory has been elevated to a level 4 for Haiti. No teams will be scheduled at this time.

Two trips planned for the fall are:

- **Antigua:** October 31–November 9, hosted by the Caribbean Mission Partnership
Cost: \$1,975–\$2,720 depending upon accommodations
Email [Rev. Dr. Gordon A.R. Edwards](#) for information.
- **Mozambique:** October 12–23, cost: \$4,000
Itinerary: Nampula refugee camp, Mozambique Island, House for Children in Lichinga and Dondo House for Children in Beira. Possible extension to Gorgonzola National Park. Email team leader, [Rev. Wayne Lavender](#), for details.

Summer Youth Mission

U.M. ARMY still has some opportunities available for the 2020 mission season. United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY) is a youth-based mission organization with more than 40 years’ experience. The advantages include:

- Offering mission weeks across the East Coast and Texas
- Mission trips structured for all size youth groups. Perfect for small to mid-sized groups
- Accept graduating 6th grade through college age in mixed-age camps
- Strong model for both experienced and inexperienced youth groups and participants.

Go to the [U.M. Army website](#) for more information.

Bishops Request Judicial Council Ruling on Protocol Legislation

The Council of Bishops (COB) of The United Methodist Church has asked the denomination’s highest court, the Judicial Council, to decide whether the legislation implementing The Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation is constitutional.

A diverse group of representatives from United Methodist advocacy groups and several bishops from around the world collaborated on the agreement for the separation of The United Methodist Church. The [Protocol](#) agreement was achieved on December 17.

The resulting [Protocol Legislation](#) has been submitted to the upcoming 2020 General Conference by several conferences including the Cavite Annual Conference in the Philippines, Sierra Leone Annual Conference in Africa and the Michigan Annual Conference in North America.

Cavite endorsed and forwarded the Protocol Legislation to the Commission on the General Conference as proposed legislation on February 13. The Sierra Leone Conference approved and forwarded the legislation on March 6 and the Michigan Conference followed suit on March 7.

The legislation was forwarded to the Commission on the General Conference pursuant to ¶ 507.6. That paragraph provides an exception to the deadline for the submission of petitions when an annual conference submits a petition from a session held between 230 and 45 days prior to the opening session of General Conference. The General Conference opens on May 5 in Minneapolis. The COB is also asking that the request for declaratory decision be expedited and decided by the Judicial Council during its term beginning on April 28.

Bishops' Support NYS Legislation Protecting Immigrants

Honorable Legislative Assemblypersons and Senators:

Greetings from the New York Annual Conference and Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. We are writing as Bishops and faith leaders for our denomination in NYS to express our support for continued funding of the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) for fiscal year 2021. This legislation is essential to defend immigrants from the undue harm inflicted by detention and to ensure clarity and fairness in immigration proceedings. We know anecdotally when immigrants are detained, they lose hope and are more likely to become complicit in their own deportation. By ensuring access to counsel for those who cannot afford an attorney, NYIFUP:

- Offers dignity to immigrants facing the permanent separation from their families, communities and possible to return to dangerous or deadly conditions in their home countries.
- Improves the chances detainees will be released on bond or parole;
- Allows immigrants to acquire essential understanding of their legal options; and
- Enables immigrants to make informed choices while navigating our complex legal system.

Our strong support and testimony is reflected in The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016, which clearly affirms the “preservation of due process and access to courts and to adequate legal representation for all migrants regardless of legal status.” In addition, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (our effort to provide a witness to the world of our beliefs) calls upon all United Methodists to actively “advocate for justice for all.”

John Wesley, founder of our particular faith tradition, admonished us in his own General Rules to “[d]o no harm.” The Hebrew Bible also compels Christians to speak out on behalf of immigrants. Leviticus 19:33–34 tell us: “When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat

them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.”

When Jesus was a child, he and his family fled to Egypt to escape persecution by King Herod. As an immigrant himself, Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25 that “when we welcome the stranger, we welcome him.” The Apostle Paul additionally admonishes us in Hebrews 13:2, that we “not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.” In addition to these biblical mandates, our commitment to the people of God we serve throughout New York State drives our call for continued funding of the NYIFUP for Fiscal Year 2021.

The immigrants and families impacted by NYIFUP are part of our congregations. Indeed, in the Upper New York Conference, some of the fastest growing new faith communities are comprised of recent immigrants and refugees. As the most diverse conference within the United Methodist denomination, members of New York Annual Conference churches can trace our ancestry to continents across the globe – North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. NYAC also has significant ethnic constituencies from South America, Africa, Central America, the Caribbean, Korea and China. Immigrants are our family, our neighbors, our colleagues and members of the communities who work alongside us daily. We respectfully ask that you please join us in our defense of immigrant New Yorkers by ensuring ongoing, full funding for NYIFUP in fiscal year 2021.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bishop Mark J. Webb

Resident Bishop, Upper New York Annual Conference of the UMC

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Resident Bishop, New York Annual Conference of the UMC

OBITUARIES

Rev. Emmett B. Johnson

The Reverend Emmett B. Johnson, 94, died on March 8, 2020.

Born in West New York, N.J., in 1925, he was a long-time resident of Waldwick, N.J. Before being ordained in the United Methodist Church, Johnson had a successful business career and a political career that included serving as mayor of Waldwick.

Rev. Johnson served in the New York Conference from 1978 until his retirement in 1991, leading the following New York churches: New Milford-Edenville, St. Mark's in Napanoch and Ulster Heights in Ellenville; and First and Lloyd in Highland. After retirement, he served Fort Montgomery UMC for 10 years.

Johnson is survived by his wife of 70 years, Elizabeth L. Johnson, a retired pastor who also served in the New York Conference. In addition, he is survived by three daughters: Linda E. (David) Hopson, Leslie A. (Anton) Straub, and Jennifer S. (David) Beekman; and 13 grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter, Susan L. Johnson, and two grandsons, Seth and Joshua Wasberg.

A funeral service was held March 14 at Waldwick UMC. Interment followed at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus, N.J.

Contributions in Johnson's memory may be made to Waldwick United Methodist Church, 25 Franklin Turnpike, Waldwick, NJ, 07463.

Training for Social Justice Ministry

The Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) invites local churches and their leadership to discuss social justice principles, Wesleyan theology, and ways to implement justice ministries in their communities. Those interested in scheduling trainers to meet with their congregation or leadership team should [email Erika Panzarino](mailto:erika.panzarino@umc.org), CBCS program coordinator.

Recent Appointments

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton announces the following 2020 appointments. All are effective July 1, 2020, unless otherwise noted:

Patrick G. Perrin to Janes UMC, Brooklyn (LIW)

Kyongmook Ryu to Korean UMC of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, effective March 1, 2020 (LIW)

Rev. Juhye Hahn to Christ UMC, Beacon, NY (NYCT)

Rev. Jessica Brooks, associate pastor to Butler Memorial UMC, Bronx (MET)