



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 4 - APRIL 2024

### At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ 8:30 am Early Informal Service
- ◆ 9:30 am Regular Service. This service also available live on Facebook and YouTube. The Church's website has the links.
- ◆ Sunday School & Youth Group—see inside for details

### Visit us on the Web:

[www.fumceg.org](http://www.fumceg.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FUMCEG](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCEG)

**Phone:** (518) 477-9693

**Fax:** (518) 477-4336

### Church Office Hours:

9:00 am to 2:30 pm M-F

**Email:** [office@fumceg.org](mailto:office@fumceg.org)

### BELL/Bulletin (only) Email:

[editor@fumceg.org](mailto:editor@fumceg.org)

### Youth Ministries Email:

[youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:youthleaderamber@gmail.com)

Rev. Danyal Mohammadzadeh  
**Pastor**

Gail Welkley  
**Administrative Assistant**

## Our Post Easter Color



On Easter, the world identifies us as Christians all clothed in white. However, the day after Easter, we choose a color that speaks to our hearts. We won't be naked, still covered by the Christian cloth, though the color is different. The theology of each denomination is the different color that we pick for our Christian cloth. The theology of each denomination distinguishes the followers of that denomination from the other denominations. We are Methodists which means we follow John Wesley's theology. Wesleyan

theology is based on four interrelated eye-opening sources: scripture, tradition, experience, and reason.

The sacred scriptures are the first source that opens our eyes to experience God in our daily life, in each moment that we breathe. The scriptures tell us that our God is the "God of events: the redeemer from slavery,"<sup>1</sup> the God of Mount Sinai, the God of Good Friday, the God of resurrection and Easter, and the God of salvation. The Old Testament and the New Testament present authentic testimonies of God's grace in different places and times. Hence, the Bible empowers us to talk about God in an authentic way. The Bible teaches us that God the Father is manifesting God's self in events of history through the Holy Spirit and the Son. Hence, as the Book of Discipline presents, Scripture is the first authentic source that illuminates the other resources: tradition, experience and reason.

The tradition is the second authentic source that covers all testimonies between the New Testament age and our own time. The tradition presents wonderful witnesses of our theological foundations. Therefore, tradition is a valuable source "for constructing our own theologies."<sup>2</sup> According to the Discipline, traditions lead us to "think about God in new ways, enlarge our vision of shalom, and enhance our confidence in God's provident love."

Biblical tradition teaches us the ways that others understood God's grace in their time. Tradition is a valuable source that invites us to learn from others' wisdom and others' mistakes. We learn from different people who sought Christ in their time, people with different nationalities, different ethnicities, different race, different gender, different sexual orientation, and different sexual identity.

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Experience is the third source in our systematic way of thinking or the Wesleyan theology. This source presents our experiences of encountering God within our particular social context. For John Wesley, experience is the combination of feeling and interpretation.<sup>3</sup> We express our new life in Christ through experience.

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Reason is the last source in our systematic way of thinking or the Wesleyan theology. In the Wesleyan theology, “reason reflects on the spiritual data presented to (heart).”<sup>4</sup> We use our reason in reading and interpreting the Scripture. We make a connection between God’s will and events that represent God’s grace in the world of creation.

Reasoning is our ability to observe the life events and then it is our scientific knowledge and our mental ability to use philosophy for interpreting God’s actions. We hope that interpreting God’s actions would lead us to God’s will. But “our reasoning and our experience are limited because of our human’s finitude. Our experience and reasoning need to be corrected by biblical norms.”<sup>5</sup> That’s why we put the Scripture at the beginning of our theological sources.

We made the right choice of color for our Christian cloth, didn’t we? Methodism looks great on us. What do you think?

1 The Sabbath, Abraham Joshua Heschel, the Noonday Press, 1975, page 8.

2 Radical love : an introduction to queer theology, Patrick S. Cheng, Seabury Books, 2011, page 45.

3 Theodore Runyon, *The New Creation: John Wesley’s Theology Today* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1998), 152.

4 Ibid.

5 Theodore Runyon, *The New Creation: John Wesley’s Theology Today* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1998), 161-167.

*Peace be with you,  
Pastor Danyal*

## SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR APRIL

**There are four Sundays in the month of April.**

**April 7 – Second Sunday of Easter**

**Pastor Danyal’s theme:** On this second Sunday after Easter, we turn our attention to the community. The readings from Acts 4 and Psalm 133 remind us that living in community means taking care of one another and sharing the abundant blessings of God. The readings from 1 John and John 20 give us a glimpse into the life of this new community of faith. In John, the resurrected Christ comes to a frightened community of his disciples and brings them peace. In 1 John, the community proclaims to be witnesses to life in Christ—that is, followers who live in the light of God. May these stories move us and the communities we serve, that we may walk with the resurrected Christ in the light of God.

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**THE BELL** is published monthly (with the exception of August) by the First United Methodist Church, 1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780. April 2024, Volume 26, Issue 4. **George Herrick**, Editor; **Shawna Lambert, Danyal Mohammadzadeh, Gail Welkley**, Editing Team; **Kathy Van Buren**, Production Leader; **Dave Caneen and Paul Deming**, Photographers; **Marian Smith**, Envelope Labeler; The Church Staff: **Danyal Mohammadzadeh**, Pastor; **Gail Welkley**, Administrative Assistant; **Lauren Lehmann**, Substitute Director of Children’s Christian Education; **Amber Telford**, Youth Leader; **Jacqueline Krahforst**, Organist; **Robert Thomsen**, Choir Director; **Cynthia McLaughlin**, Director of Bell Choirs; **Steven Green**, Custodian; **Helen de Leon Camarce**, Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, Treasurer of the agency’s Cambodia and Southeast Asia Missions and part of the Cambodia Women’s Livelihood Projects.

(Continued from page 2)

**April 14** – *Third Sunday of Easter* Native American Ministries Sunday

**Pastor Danyal’s theme:** Today’s scriptures remind us that witnesses to the mighty power of resurrection and new life in Christ Jesus are called to become instruments of God’s mighty power of resurrection and new life in Christ Jesus. We, who have witnessed God’s miraculous love and impact in our lives, are empowered and challenged to bring this love and impact to the world—even when the world rejects and doubts us.

**April 21** – *Fourth Sunday of Easter* Festival of God’s Creation

**Pastor Danyal’s theme:** The stone that was rejected becomes the building’s cornerstone in the Acts passage. Despite his crucifixion, Jesus is salvation for all humanity. In beloved Psalm 23, the Lord is represented as a shepherd, foreshadowing the Good Shepherd of the Gospels. The psalmist reminds us to seek comfort and restoration, since all are welcome to the table of the Lord. John 10 and 1 John 3 return us to abide in Christ’s resurrection—Christ laid down his life for us, so we must follow his lead. Following the model of Christ, we are to act with charity and love in the world.

**April 25** – *World Malaria Day* “...the theme chosen by the World Health Organization for World Malaria Day this year, “Zero malaria,” stresses the importance of reaching marginalized populations with the tools and strategies available to reduce and eliminate malaria.”



**April 28** – *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

**Pastor Danyal’s theme:** Today’s scriptures challenge us to remain in God. Christ promises to be the vine that will strengthen us, as long as we are connected to him. John’s letter clarifies that our connection is bonded by love. Remain in God, by remaining in love. Remain in Christ, by sharing the good news of God’s love, whether by witnessing and teaching, as Phillip did, or by caring for a brother or sister, as John advises. In this love, we remain in Christ and Christ remains in us.

Pastor Danyal will be preaching each of the Sundays in the month. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. As we head to warmer weather, the early service will now be held at the Chapel in the Woods, weather permitting. If you are not able to attend either Sunday worship service in person, the 9:30 service is live-streamed. For a link, go to our church website at [www.fumceg.org](http://www.fumceg.org).

## HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

**April 7** – Psalm 133; Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

**April 14** – Psalm 4; Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

**April 21** – Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

**April 28** – Psalm 22:25-31; Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

## A SPECIAL SUNDAY

Our Upper New York Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) is reminding our churches that **April 14, 2024** is Native American Ministry Sunday.

“This Special Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society.”

A couple of years ago our CONAM prepared a video to help explain Native American Ministries, especially in our Conference. It shows that Native Americans in Upper New York are more than just one or two people here and there. Take a look at it at:

<https://vimeo.com/751719026>.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy Spring!

Sunday School has been rocking and rolling - we have been busy celebrating how to "Walk His Way". The children enjoyed learning ways they can be better neighbors, ideas on what are wants and needs in our life, and how we can be helpers of our community.

April is here - and we cannot wait to get outside! For the month of April, the children will be getting outside every week during class time (weather permitting). We will be exploring the outdoors in a four-week lesson on how Jesus made OUR world a beautiful EARTH. Please have children dress appropriately for the outdoors.

**April 7** - "Going on a Prayer Hunt" - kids will be outdoors going on a bible verse scavenger hunt.

**April 14** - "This is how WE fly" - we will have a mystery guest (or 2!) in class.

**April 21** - Outside courtyard clean up - we will be making a place for our painted rock project and learning new songs of praise.

Bring a friend Sunday- bring a buddy today!

**April 28** - Outdoor crafting - we have a fun project planned about bringing nature indoors.

Prayers for warmth, rain free, spring Sundays!

Looking ahead: In May and June, Sunday School will experiment with a new class style. We have some creative ideas for how our Nursery, Pre-School and Sunday School program will run moving forward in the new school year in September. Stay tuned for details!

If you have a child, preschool — high school, who wants to participate in our youth programs, feel free to reach out with any questions, or come on any Sunday! We would love to have you join in our praise!

Lauren Lehmann— [llehmann@fumceg.org](mailto:llehmann@fumceg.org)

## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Spring has sprung! This April we will be collecting pocket change. Change for Change is a project we started in September. We will be collecting pocket change to be able to purchase items to help the environment.

**April 5-6:** We are off to Syracuse for our Mission Trip Organizing "Care Packages" in Mission Central, the Upper New York Conference Center. We will be leaving East Greenbush Friday, **April 5** around 4:30 pm.

**April 21:** All youth 5th -12th grade will meet on **April 21**. We will be walking the grounds of the church discussing possible eco projects that we can support with the Change for Change. We will be working with the ECO team on this project. We will then come to plan our project, write a letter to the trustees and eat snacks. Of course we will play a game. Youth Group will be 11:00 am—1:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

God Bless, *Amber Telford*  
[Youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:Youthleaderamber@gmail.com)

## RENSSELAER STREET SOLDIERS

Thank you to all who donated items for the Youth Group love kit service project. We set up a shopping experience for the community and partnered with the Rensselaer Street Soldiers under the Dunn Memorial Bridge. The people receiving the items lined up at 8:30 am for a 10:00 am shopping experience. Anyone can come shop who is in need, no questions asked, Some people even took three buses to get there. There were over 8 different groups who set up items from food to be cooked at home, hot dishes to eat then, sandwiches, cleaning products, Easter basket items, clothes and so much more. The Street Soldiers meet every third Saturday from 10:00—11:00 am.



## OUR SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY ART SHOW !!

The Art Show was a huge Success. We transformed our Sanctuary, Choir Room and Fellowship Hall into a gallery. There was a bake sale, and Made With Love By Hand and the Mission Seedling Tree were here selling items. We had over 100 different art entries with over 40 different artists ranging from the age of 2 years old - adult. Thank you to all who participated. All the artists did a wonderful job.

The First Place Winners for the kids art show: Ages 11-16 - Paige - With Gods Flower  
Ages 8-10 - Brayden - The Atomic Swirl  
Ages Pre-K - 7 - Adelee - Butterfly Party

The Second Place Winners: Ages 11-16 - Charles - Cabin on the Hill  
Ages 8-10 - Ben- White Birch  
Ages Pre-K - 7 - Grady -Heart Family

The Third Place Winners: Ages 11-16 - Ellie- Under The Sea  
Ages 8-10 - Leila - Space  
Ages Pre-K - 7 - Evelyn - Rainbow World

The Best In Show For Adults: Watercolor Paintings: Bleeding Hearts - Lynn Huntington  
Acrylic - Lazy Dog Day - Ruth Persons  
Photography- When Angels are Near - Jessica Bruce  
Sculpture - Pysanky - Kate Henson  
Oil - Cape Cod Sunrise - Cynthia Gillespie  
Drawing - A Day In the Flowers - Kris Hobert  
Mixed Media/ Mosaic - Octopus Garden -David Chinery  
Fabric- Poinsettia - Kathy Van Buren

We are taking the time surveying others to find out what they thought about the Art Show. If you would like to take the survey please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/ncPk7Qt67LRxxUyFA>

God Bless, *Amber Telford*

[Youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:Youthleaderamber@gmail.com)

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our Thrift Sale is on Friday, April 19 from 5:00 pm -8:00 pm and Saturday, **April 20** from 9:00 am -12:00 noon and this is Bag Day. A Snack bar will be open. Set-up for the sale is Sunday, **April 14** immediately following coffee hour. We need many hands to make our sale a success. Please stay after coffee hour to help set up the tables. Drop off starts Sunday, **April 14** from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. There are sign up sheets on the table in the foyer for those who can help during the week with putting out the merchandise we receive. Please think about giving an hour or so to make this a success. The youth are always welcome to help too, especially on Saturday when all has to be removed before the Sunday early service.



To date we have collected \$2,209 towards our kitchen repair. Thank you to all who have contributed. Earnings from the pie sale will be added to this amount and reported next month.

Our next meeting is **April 8** at 2:00 pm in room 16. We continue to have new faces at our meeting, yours could be one of them.

## STORYTELLING NIGHT CONTINUES



### MARCH'S STORYTELLING PROGRAM — GIRL SCOUTS

March 10-16 was National Girl Scout Week. Our Storytelling Night on March 6 gave us a history of Girl Scouting. Mom scout leaders shared their experiences as young girls and now as troop leaders. Girl Scouts are learning to use their abilities and opportunities while making forever friendships.

### APRIL'S STORYTELLING WILL FEATURE A TALK FROM DR. GUS KAPPLER

## STORYTELLING EVENING

DR. GUS KAPPLER  
Retired Trauma Surgeon & Author  
Will Speak About His Experiences  
in Vietnam, PTSD and Suicide Prevention



Wednesday, April 3, 7 PM  
First United Methodist Church  
1 Gilligan Road East Greenbush, NY  
518.477.9693  
All Are Welcome Refreshments

## MAY'S STORYTELLING — BRAVER ANGELS

On **May 1** at 7:00 p.m., we welcome Bruce France from **Braver Angels** as guest speaker for our monthly stories series. Mr. France is the Executive Director at Capital Area Council of Churches and a Certified Lay Speaker for the United Methodist Church. After the 2016 election, he was concerned about the amount of vitriol that was cropping up in conversations people were having. In former times, conversations between those who disagreed were often courteous and ended with a few things that could be agreed upon, but now disagreements were leading to entrenched political divides. What has changed? In 2018, he stumbled on two Braver Angels' workshops that affirmed his perception of the potential of political conversations and changed his life. Mr. France will share his journey with Braver Angels as a local moderator of workshops, alliance co-chair and national Organizer Co-chair. If you are tired of the current state of political conversations and would like to have those conversations with family, friends, and others, regardless of political leanings, you need to attend this story time.



## FROM THE ECO TEAM

**RECYCLING:** Our next Recycling Day is Sunday, **April 21**. We will be collecting the following items at the parking lot garage for ½ hour before and after the 9:30 am service:

- Clear, green and blue glass bottles and jars. They must be clean. Labels are okay.
- Household batteries. Large lithium batteries used for tools are excluded.
- Clean Styrofoam, free of tape and staples. Items that were used for food or drink, *no matter how clean*, are **not** accepted.



## MEDICAL AIDS

We have a small supply of medical aids available if you need them: walkers, shower chair, secure lock tub grips (lock to tub for person to hold on while entering and exiting the tub), crutches, and a seat used to raise a lower toilet to a more comfortable height.

Contact Kevin Conley ([e.kevin.conley@gmail.com](mailto:e.kevin.conley@gmail.com), 518.253.4907)

## ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

**March 18, 2024**

The First United Methodist Church Endowment Fund was started in 1996. Currently, three different funds comprise the Endowment Fund: The General Fund, the Music and Worship Fund, and the Education Fund.



Once each year interest and dividends from the previous year are transferred to the Church. Primarily, this money is directed toward beginning new ministries or expanding existing ministries. This year, at the beginning of March, the Endowment Fund transferred \$8,495.29 to the Church.

As you can see, gifts to the Endowment Fund give back each year and into the future of our church ministries. If you would like more information about the Endowment Fund or to make a gift, please talk with Pastor Danyal or Peter Larson.

## MISSION TRIP REPORT

My name is Kevin Clark, and on February 14th-24th I went on the **Mission of Peace to Puerto Rico**. The Mission of Peace, or MOP for short, is a spiritual journey of discovery and Shalom. The trip was created to allow youth to immerse themselves in new cultures to explore how others worship God and live their lives. The group consisted of nine youth and three adult leaders. Together, we were a tight, interlocked family. Also in our family was Johnny, our driver and guide, and Luis, a local pastor who also served as a guide. During our stay, we lived in the parsonage of a local church. The pastor had her own house and was happy to let us stay. Staying there was extremely lucky, as we were able to always be near each other and hang out in some of our downtime. During our stay, we did mission work, toured several parts of the island, went hiking in El Yunque National Rainforest, toured a local college's sustainable agriculture program, and spent time with local youth. Every part of the island was beautiful. I especially loved Yauco, a town on the southern coast that had been ravaged by relentless earthquakes and hurricanes. The locals had



Painted the buildings to be very colorful to draw in tourism to help support the local economy. Despite their adversity, they never gave up hope. On multiple days we hung out with local youth. We played volleyball, football, soccer, and frisbee games, and learned a new local game they play! I also wanted to thank all of those who donated money to help with the costs. It wouldn't have been possible without your help and I am forever grateful. I count myself very lucky to have gone on this trip and am excited to talk about it more. If you are intrigued and want to hear more, come to the Storytelling Night on June 5th to hear more about my exciting trip!



Kevin is on the bottom left of the pyramid



Kevin is 3rd from left in back by the flag

## THE LATEST FROM CORNERSTONE—SPRING BREAK

For spring break at UAlbany this past week, five students from Cornerstone Campus Ministry and Pastor Laurie piled into a minivan and headed to New Rochelle, NY to work with The Fuller Center for Housing of Greater NYC. There we were led by Steve B – project manager, UAlbany political science alum and teacher extraordinaire! We all had a great week learning new skills, connecting with new people, engaging in deep conversations about housing justice and working as part of a team to get various jobs done. We finished the experience with a day at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Our small but diverse team of 6 people claim heritages in 5 of the 7 continents so what a blessing to learn from each other in that setting! We came back to Albany tired but with all appendages intact! *Thank you for your prayers and support!*



**SAVE THE DATE:** Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez is celebrating District Days. He will be visiting with laity at Shenendehowa United Methodist Church on **April 9, 7:00 – 8:30PM**. All laity are invited.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** The Food Truck Festival and Community Fair will be **May 18** from 11:30 am -3:30 pm. Watch for more information. Livin' The Dream Food Cart will be back, as well as Hesinburger, Michele's Lemonade, and Nick's Lighthouse. We will have vendor tables, live music and more. Please bring your lawn chair and hang out with us for the day.





This coming May marks the eleventh anniversary of our church's participation in Change the World. What started in 2014 with a one-day event has now grown into a month-long series of events, all designed to share God's love with our neighbors. Originally planned as an attempt to get church-goers out of their pews and into the community to demonstrate their faith, the interest and excitement continues. Once again this year, activities are being planned throughout the month of May including some favorites from past years as well as some

new events. Our second Moonbee is currently being scheduled. A "Moonbee" is a sewing-bee where volunteers create washable menstrual management kits for distribution to girls around the world living in poverty. (No sewing experience is necessary.) We will once again participate in the Red Bird Shoebox Project all month long. Shoeboxes will be available beginning **May 1**. We will also have "Share the Love" May calendars available for those who are interested in sharing God's love with others. Contact the church with questions or for more information, visit our website at [fumceg.org](http://fumceg.org) There are jobs for everyone! Here's what the Change the World planning group has scheduled so far.

The final schedule will appear in the May Bell.

- May 5** — 9:00 am-1:00 pm — Food Drive — Church Garage
- May 11** — Time TBA — Bike Trail Clean Up — Bike Trail
- Date — Time TBA — Moonbee TBA
- May 16 or 17**, Time TBA Potting Plants & Delivery TBA
- May 18** — 11:30 am-3:00 pm — Food Truck Festival — Church Parking Lot
- May 19** — 10:30 am- 12:00 Noon — Card-Making — Fellowship Hall
- May 19** — 11:00 am-12:00 Noon — Reception — Van Rensselaer Heights
- May 19** — 12:00 Noon-1:00 pm — Luncheon — Fellowship Hall

*Kindness, combined with God's love, can change us and change the world.*

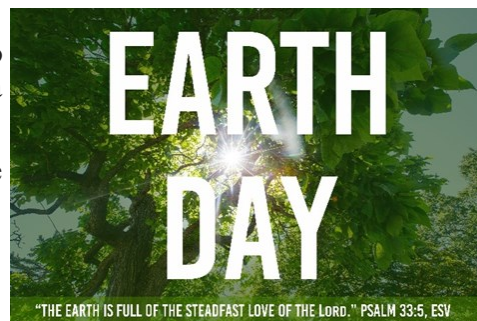
## EARTH DAY - FESTIVAL OF GOD'S CREATION

The United Methodist Church designates one Sunday each year, preferably the Sunday closest to Earth Day (**April 22** this year), as a **Festival of God's Creation**, celebrating God's gracious work in creating the earth and all living things.

The people of [EARTHDAY.ORG](http://EARTHDAY.ORG) have an "unwavering...commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040."

That's today. But how did this effort begin? We go back to 1970 and the famous newscaster Walter Cronkite on the CBS News. Click on the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbwC281uzUs> and get the story.

"The United Methodist Church acknowledges the importance of environmental protection as a part of Christians' call to be good stewards of God's creation while ensuring sustainability for future generations." What part can we play, as individuals, as a church, in the reduction of the use of plastics?



## GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEETS THIS MONTH

Planning a big family wedding with dozens of people coming in for a weekend is challenge enough.



But imagine trying to bring more than a thousand people together from four continents for a gathering that lasts two weeks.

They speak 10 languages, have various dietary needs, require multiple hotel rooms and must be able to come together to pray, worship and make decisions that affect millions of United Methodists. Hundreds of these visitors also need visas just to attend.

Making sure United Methodist delegates, bishops and others can come together for the denomination's top legislative assembly is the responsibility of the Commission on the General Conference.

The theme for the gathering will be "...and know that I am God" from Psalm 46.

Kim Simpson, the commission's chair, said that focus on God is critical, especially in this tumultuous time.

For the past three years, the commission's planning has been hampered by the COVID pandemic and resulting travel complications — leading the commission to postpone General Conference three times. The assembly, originally planned for 2020 in Minneapolis, **is now scheduled for April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina.**

The coming General Conference is to have 862 voting delegates — 55.9% from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church. Half are to be clergy and half lay. Bishops preside at General Conference sessions but do not have a vote...

Even under normal circumstances, General Conference often can be a grueling experience where people spend weeks far from home, relying on interpreters for communication and debating issues of faith that they hold dear.

But commission members, throughout their May meeting, remarked that they expected the coming General Conference — with a denominational separation already happening — not to be business as usual.

*The above are excerpts from a story by **Heather Hahn**, assistant news editor, UMNews.*

*This year's General Conference will have some difficult decisions to make. One of the major ones is how to relate to members of the LGBTIQ community. Also, what changes, if any, need to be made to the church following the disaffiliation of hundreds of congregations since the last General Conference session.*

*You can keep up to date with what is happening at General Conference plus all the rest of the latest church news. Enter "Subscribe to The UM News Daily Digest" on your computer and follow the directions to get on the list of those who want to keep informed.*

## NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

This conference, of which the Upper New York Conference is a part, will be held **July 8-12, 2024** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The theme of the conference is "Overflowing With Hope".

One of the important pieces of business at this conference is to elect persons to be a Bishop of The United Methodist Church, if there are any vacancies. The number of Bishops to serve in the jurisdiction will already have been decided at General Conference.

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## CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – CACC

The Council of Churches is now accepting nominations for their annual awards.

### **Rev. Dr. Caryle Adams Ecumenical/Interfaith Award:**

- Has worked to bring the message of unity
- Exemplifies the inclusive spirit of Dr. Adams
- Has been involved in some ecumenical or interfaith program or project

### **James and Pearl Campbell Peace and Justice Award:**

- A person who in his/her work has shown to be a friend of peace and justice
- Honoree need not be a member of the Council
- But must be active in the CACC service area, which includes Albany County and southern Rensselaer County

### **Rev. Joyce Steinkraus Giles Pastoral Service Award:**

- Actively participate in the Council or one of its programs
- Have done outstanding pastoral ministry
- Exemplify racial, gender, and denominational inclusiveness.

### **Ed Bloch Interfaith Youth Award:**

- College or high school age person
- Whose actions have helped build bridges within the interfaith community.

### **Micah 6:8 Award:**

- A person whose actions represent someone who does justice, loves kindness, and walks humbly with their God.

Do you have the name of someone you think should be considered for one of these awards? Make your thoughts known. The **deadline** for nominations is **May 31, 2024**. *For more information, contact our church office.*