

THE ATLANTIC UNION

JUNE 2021

# GLEANER

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# Mission to the Children

I recall a situation that occurred when my daughter, Aiyana, was a toddler; the memory of it will always stay with me. It was bath time, and I was assisting her with removing her clothes when, all of a sudden, she exclaimed, “I can do it by myself.” She then proceeded to put her clothes back on and immediately took them off again. I thought to myself, *Well, alright, then!* She showed me that she could do it all by herself. She made her independence known that day. Of course, from that point on, she “did it all by herself.”

That is what it’s all about, isn’t it? We are here as parents to train our children to handle things on their own so that they will become good and productive citizens in life. Likewise, as a church, we have the opportunity, when children are placed in our care, to make them a priority, nurture them, and prepare them, as best as possible, for the life to come.

Jesus made children a priority. John Mark’s account regarding Jesus blessing the children shows His love for them and us: “One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, ‘Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.’ Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them”—Mark 10:13-16, NLT.

We have a great opportunity before us to help care for God’s children. Psalm 127:3 says that “Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of

the womb is a reward” (NKJV). There is no question that God values children, and they are a gift to us.

Fast forward with the story of Aiyana. Just the other day, that little girl who declared her independence as a toddler and is now an adult, sent me a text asking for prayer. She had just finished a 12-hour shift at the hospital. Instead of heading home, she was on her way to assist a friend who was dealing with an emergency with a family member. Without any hesitation, she stepped right in to help, even though it meant that it would be hours before she could get some sleep. Her compassionate heart took over, and God was right there with them in the situation.

We have no way of knowing how things will turn out when the children in our care grow up. What we do know is that, in the time we have them as little ones, we need to do our part to impart wisdom and show them the love of God. God will take care of the rest.

“Too much importance cannot be placed upon the early training of children. The lessons learned, the habits formed, during the years of infancy and childhood, have more to do with the formation of the character and the direction of the life than have all the instruction and training of after years”—THE MINISTRY OF HEALING, p. 380.

In this issue of the GLEANER we take some time to highlight the vital work of Children’s Ministries. To all those out there who are working with children, we say “thank you,” and pray that God will continue to order your steps in this important work. ①

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*Ednor A.P. Davison is the communication director for the Atlantic Union Conference and editor for the Atlantic Union GLEANER.*



*“He said to them,  
‘Let the children  
come to me. Don’t  
stop them! For  
the Kingdom of  
God belongs to  
those who are like  
these children’—  
Mark 10:14, NLT.*





# Take Care of the CHILDREN

By Ednor A.P. Davison

**T**he work of Children's Ministries has been a focus in the Adventist Church for more than 150 years. It began back in 1863 when a woman named Adelia Patten wrote a two-year series of lessons for children that were published in a magazine for youth called the *YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR* from 1864 to 1888. Patten served as editor for the *YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR* (1864-1867), and was the first of three women who served as General Conference treasurer (1871-1873).

Over the years, different individuals utilized various means to develop the work of Children's Ministries.

Then as the work of the church grew, Children's Ministries was assigned to various departments of the church, including the Church Ministries department. The Sabbath School quarterly for children and Vacation Bible School emerged during that period of time. On July 4, 1995, at the General Conference session in Utrecht, a city in the Netherlands, delegates officially voted Children's Ministries as a separate department of the church.

Today, the Children's Ministries department is still going strong, but it, too, has felt the impact of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the many challenges, Children's Ministries is still essential to the core of the church's ministry. Thankfully, Children's Ministries leaders are discovering new and exciting ways to reach out to the children to help keep them connected with the church and each other in safe environments (See the article "Working with Kids Online" on page 6).

Let's look at some of the reasons why Children's Ministries is important to the church.

- **Children are important to Jesus.**—In Mark 10:14, NKJV, Jesus says, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God." There is no doubt from Scripture that all



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children matter to God. “Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, “Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me” —Mark 9:36, 37, NKJV.

- **Children’s Ministries connects children with Jesus.**—The primary role of Children’s Ministries is to help children to get to know Jesus and develop a relationship with Him as their King, thereby paving the way for them to become citizens of His kingdom.
- **Children’s Ministries is one of the greatest evangelistic endeavors.**—There is no doubt that when you reach children, you reach parents, family members, friends, and others connected with them. Almost always, children will have the support of their parents or guardians, so this ministry opens the door to a broader audience than just the child.
- **Children’s Ministries helps the church to pass on the faith.**—What a way to tell the story of Jesus to the next generation! Through this ministry, children will continually hear stories about Jesus, His love, how He died to save others, and that He will return soon.
- **Children’s Ministries helps train future church leaders.**—This is an opportunity to model good leadership and train children to be exemplary leaders in the church and the world.
- **Children’s Ministries creates the opportunity for children to showcase their talents.**—Perhaps

you remember the plays, recitals, and poetry recitations when you were a child. The church is an ideal place for children to learn to recognize and develop their talents and share them with others.

There are many Children’s Ministries leaders around the world church field who are to be commended for the work they are doing with children. They stand on the shoulders of the others who have paved the way before them. As we continue to do our best to model Christ to our children, regardless of what programs we have or what tools we share, there are a few core things that should always be considered:

- Show children Jesus’ love. Let them see Jesus in you.
- Reach children at their level. To be effective, we must reach them in ways that are appropriate to their stage of development.
- Involve them in the Sabbath School class, as well as other programs of the church. They must be more than a fixture in the room.
- Nurture them.
- Involve them in ministry to others.

One thing is sure, without prayer, none of what I shared would be possible. So, we must balance our ministry to the children with constant prayer for God’s guidance as we handle His most precious jewels. ①

*Ednor A.P. Davison is the communication director for the Atlantic Union Conference and editor for the Atlantic Union GLEANER.*

Sources: [children.adventist.org/our-history](http://children.adventist.org/our-history); [www.adventistarchives.org/gc-treasurers](http://www.adventistarchives.org/gc-treasurers); [www.adventistarchives.org/youths-instructor-editors](http://www.adventistarchives.org/youths-instructor-editors)

*“Whoever receives  
one of these little  
children in My name  
receives Me; and  
whoever receives Me,  
receives not Me but  
Him who sent Me”—  
Mark 9:37, NKJV.*



# Working with Kids **Online**

**C**urrently, ministries across the Seventh-day Adventist Church are working in new and creative ways to continue to serve their communities, members, and young people under extraordinary circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these efforts have moved online to stay connected and maintain some elements of normalcy. Our church's child protection policies apply to the online environment (cyberspace) as well. Keep in mind that cyberspace changes quickly, and we will need to update our practices and skills as we go.

Let's look at our policies and see how we can apply them to our work in cyberspace in practical ways. These policies can be found in the *CHURCH MANUAL* on page 175.

The first two concepts are really closely linked to what they are trying to accomplish.

- **Two-Adult Policy**—Have two adults present in children's classrooms or activities.
- **Open Door**—Discourage private or one-on-one contact and encourage an open-door policy in all situations. Where an open door is not possible, station a second adult at the door.

## **How do we do this online?**

Ensure that your "class" or "group" is led by at least two adult supervisors. Both should be copied on every communication. Meetings should include both adult supervisors, and one-on-one sessions

should not be allowed with minors. No individual contact should be allowed.

Ensure that you have permission from the parent or legal guardians to communicate with their minors. Copy parents on all electronic communication or ensure that parents can access emails or messages sent through other channels. Communicate to parents that they are expected to monitor, attend, and supervise any communications and meetings in which their child participates. Parents should be able to see everything that is going on.

Use systems such as Zoom, WebEx, or Microsoft Teams that allow for group meetings. Avoid the use of systems that allow for access to individual accounts and private communication, such as Facebook or WhatsApp. It is essential to define expectations with volunteers, parents, and minors that all communication must remain in the group and include both supervisors and a parent at all times.

This idea leads to a rule whereby volunteers are prohibited from independently connecting with children or youth on social media outside the group setting. Volunteers should be advised that this is not permitted, and parents/guardians should be informed of this rule as well. Obviously, this would not apply to a volunteer connecting with his own children. Violating this rule should



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form a basis for discipline, up to a dismissal of the volunteer.

### **What about having young people send in photos and videos?**

This is a fun way to stay engaged and helps to bridge the gap since we can't meet in person. However, we must understand the risk associated. Everything online exists forever. This is where parental supervision will be especially critical. From the ministry organization's perspective, it is crucial to be able to ensure that the files received do not contain viruses or other malware. The content must meet the group's code of conduct before it is seen by the group. It is also essential to have a photo/video release signed by the parent/legal guardian. Your organization should also have a document retention policy that addresses when the files will be destroyed.

### **Consent to participate in Cyberspace**

Some have asked if a new consent form would be appropriate to meet the needs of working with kids in cyberspace. You may find the example [at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5u38kck>] a good starting place. Still, we encourage you to work with your local legal counsel to meet your jurisdictional needs. This could be attached to your photo/video release.

### **Privacy and Personal Information of Minors**

In the U.S., a small number of states have legislation aimed at

protecting a minor's privacy and personal information for online activity. Also, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) attempts to prohibit the unauthorized collection of personal data and tracking of personal information of children 13 years old and younger.

Compliance with COPPA should involve thoughtful analysis of your online ministry. This analysis should include your information technology professionals, your conference attorney, management, and those performing the ministry. Initially, you must determine if you collect personal information from minors 13 or under. If so, COPPA applies. If it applies, you must obtain parental consent and post a COPPA-compliant privacy policy.

This is a developing area, however, so please watch for changes. You should connect with legal counsel in your state . . . to determine if there is applicable legislation.

### **Recording Meetings**

Many places require the consent of all parties to any recording. Whether your state . . . is an "all-party" state or not, it is best . . . to avoid the practice of recording group meetings.

### **Copyright**

Be aware that some information or media you want to use online may be copyrighted, and you need permission to use it. This article is not meant to fully address the issues surrounding copyright. If you are unsure about whether or

not something enjoys copyright protection, we recommend you consult with local legal counsel.

### **Back to the CHURCH MANUAL**

The next three concepts from the CHURCH MANUAL are still critical as we move to cyberspace. We need to be sure that any adults working in our Sabbath Schools or various children's or youth groups go through these processes, whether in person or online.

- **Volunteer Screening**—Have all volunteers complete a volunteer information form, check their references, and, if required by law, do a police background check.
- **Six-Month Policy**—Require a waiting period of six months for newly-baptized or transferring members who have indicated a willingness to work with children.
- **Training**—Provide regular training for teachers and volunteers to help them understand and protect children and how to nurture their faith.

Let's ensure that our young people continue to have adequate supervision in cyberspace with oversight that protects the volunteers as well as the minors we are trying to minister to. ①

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*Excerpt from the Adventist Risk Management SOLUTIONS Newsletter, April 29, 2020. Reprinted with permission.*





## NOW Is the Time!

**S**tudents are thinking, reacting, stressing, and praying during this pandemic. Everyone is talking about how students are coping right now, but is anyone listening to them? The Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education is listening and giving voice to our youth.

“NOW is an online video ministry led by the Atlantic Union academy students,” explains James Reid, Pine Tree Academy chaplain. “Through this evangelistic ministry, which has world-wide reach; students preach the Word, share testimonies,

with students who will become ‘gospel workers.’ They are working now!” Teachers are counseled, “It is not enough to fill the minds of the youth with lessons of deep importance; they must learn to impart what they have received”—*COUNSELS TO PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS*, p. 545.

When students accept the call to share their faith online, it can be intimidating. The whole world can see their witness, not just family and friends, but our students have accepted that challenge. NOW provides opportunities



Pine Tree Academy chaplain James Reid, top right, and three of his students discuss the importance of identity.

“The Jeremiah 29:11 Project.” Jerrell Gilkeson, Atlantic Union Conference education director, says, “This podcast contains short reflections on life and expresses their hope for a better future that God

continue to reach our nation and our world, our students want their peers and even adults to share NOW and the podcasts with friends and family.

We encourage church members to continue to be good stewards of the youth God has given us. Let us prayerfully encourage them as they work to reach people searching for safety in these perilous times. Pastor Reid says, “It’s a privilege to work with our youth and usher them into their lifelong ministry in [whatever way] the Lord leads them.” ①

*Office of Education team,  
Atlantic Union Conference*

\*YouTube: <http://tiny.cc/aoeltz>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/teacherbulletin>

**“When students accept the call to share their faith online, it can be intimidating. The whole world can see that, not just family and friends, but our students have accepted that challenge.”**

and praise the Lord through music. They do it to lead others to Christ.”

Academy chaplains from the seven senior academies are helping students speak of what they’re experiencing and their faith. Reid continues, “As an academy chaplain, I have been blessed and encouraged about the future as I work

for students to share their faith and, more importantly, for the truth of Jesus to spread faster and farther. Multilingual students are preparing episodes in English, Spanish, French, and Swahili.

In addition to the NOW videos, junior high students are getting involved by providing an audio podcast titled

has promised. This makes for an interesting 10-15 minute discussion of their faith.” The Atlantic Union Teacher Bulletin, an online ministry from the Office of Education, hosts the NOW videos and the junior high podcasts that reach several hundred subscribers every month\*.

As the academy and junior high students



## Nine Baptized Following “No Fear: Prophecy Edition” Evangelistic Series

Despite churches having to shift to online services and limited in-person attendance because of COVID-19, enthusiasm for evangelism has not dampened. In March, four churches—Somerset, Pembroke, Restoration Ministries, and Rockaway—united in delivering the “No Fear: Prophecy Edition,” which was live-streamed on YouTube, Facebook, and Zoom. The meetings, presented by three pastors—Rupert Bushner, Jr., Emil Peeler, and Gene Donaldson—focused on Daniel and the Revelation for three weeks.

Rupert Bushner, Jr., pastor and evangelist at the Patmos chapel in Orlando, Florida, and speaker of the “No Fear: The Lord Is My Rock” series back in November 2020, began the meetings. His excitement and energetic discourses from the book of Daniel combined history and prophecy and made it plain that:

- God wants us to be prepared for Jesus’ second coming;
- God is in control;
- The Bible is reliable and can be trusted;
- The great controversy revolves around worship. Our faith will be tested, but victory is in obeying God, no matter what.
- God must be acknowledged as the highest sovereign God in our lives.

“If it’s not in the Word, it doesn’t deserve to be heard; but if it’s in the book, we are going to take a look,” said Emil Peeler, senior pastor of the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., as

he began week two of the series. He said the book of Revelation does not provide “a shouting time. It’s not going to make you come to your feet, but it will make you come to your senses.” He showed how Revelation provides a new understanding of world history, reveals shocking events about to take place on the earth, and recognizes the centuries-long warfare between Christ and Satan as it affects the future and the devil’s plan to trap us. “When you know the devil’s plan to defeat and destroy



Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president and Somerset church pastor, top left; Michelle Hill, Pembroke church pastor and co-host of the “No Fear: Prophecy Edition,” top right; and Damon Hendrickson, Rockaway and Restoration Ministries pastor, bottom right, are in discussion with Rupert Bushner, Jr., pastor and evangelist at the Patmos chapel in Orlando, Florida, one of the speakers for the evangelistic series.

you, you can claim victory in the name of Jesus,” he said.

Gene Donaldson, ministerial director for the Allegheny East Conference and the final speaker in week three of the series, explained the relevance of Revelation’s metaphoric and symbolic language. In describing events that are happening now and those that will shortly come to pass, he stressed that it is later than we think in earth’s history. God’s final appeal, his last warning, is that it is time for people to respect Him and give Him honor and glory, because He is the

true God. Donaldson warned that God would pour out His wrath, without mercy, on anyone caught in Satan’s trap. And that He calls people from wherever they are to come out of Babylon into truth.

Michelle Hill, Pembroke church pastor and co-host of the “No Fear: Prophecy Edition,” (along with Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president and Somerset church pastor; and Damon Hendrickson, Rockaway and Restoration Ministries pastor) said, “Online evangelism is a definite shift for both mem-

seeds by saying a word, sharing encouragement, [or giving] an invitation. Exposure to the Word can, over time, bring fruit in due season.

“One of our newly-baptized members is the quintessential example. Words were deposited into her over the years. She was familiar with some of our beliefs. So when the pastors extended the invitation and the appeals made, she was receptive to God’s word and receptive to baptism. God took the tiny seed germinating, nurtured and watered it during the ‘No Fear: Prophecy Edition,’ and it brought forth fruit.

“As members of the church familiar with the Word, we sometimes take it for granted; we may even feel like [asking,] ‘This again?’ but those who have not heard it before are intrigued by what they hear. It’s new and fresh to them. Our message is urgent, while simultaneously being a message of hope. The Holy Spirit is leading, and it’s reflected in the reaping. We need to keep throwing out the net for whosoever will [come]. The harvest is ripe. In this season of the virtual experience, we can all be a part of proclaiming the gospel by being digital disciples and pressing the share button.”

The meetings, which resulted in nine baptisms, were held for only one hour every evening, except Thursdays, and twice on Sabbaths. UNDERSTANDING DANIEL AND REVELATION by Mark Finley was offered, free of charge, to those seeking a deeper understanding of Daniel and Revelation.

—Joi Tyrrell, communication director, Bermuda Conference





## Atlantic Union Academy Students Enjoy Virtual Academy Connect

The Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education looks forward to hosting the annual Academy Connect—a time for teens to connect with each other and to Christ. Last year, the coronavirus pandemic and the ensuing social distancing regulations dismantled their plans and left many students disappointed. Earlier this year, a student from Bermuda Institute commented to Jerrell Gilkeson, education director, about how much he missed Academy Connect and getting together with other schools. Gilkeson took this heartfelt sentiment back to his team and planted a seed. On Friday, April 16, the Office of Education hosted the first virtual Academy Connect.

“At its peak, 321 devices were connected [to Zoom], and by the end, more than 200 devices were still participating,” said Marlene Alvarez, associate education director. “We were so happy that so many students engaged [with us] and stayed engaged.” Through an invitation from Alvarez, students from Maranatha Academy located in the Turks and Caicos Islands also participated in the event. While not being able to engage with each other in person, Alvarez pointed out far more pros than cons by having the event online. More people were able to participate on a virtual platform, including many junior academy students,



Students from across the Atlantic Union and from Maranatha Academy in the Turks and Caicos Islands participate in the virtual Academy Connect.

school principals, and teachers who usually would not be able to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

Typically a weekend event, this year's Academy Connect provided a jam-packed morning on Zoom filled with music, games, prizes, as well as a chance to connect with each other throughout the day. Each of the seven academies within the Atlantic Union—Bermuda Institute, Greater New York Academy, Northeastern Academy, Pine Tree Academy, South Brooklyn Academy, South Lancaster Academy, and Union Springs Academy—provided a video presentation as part of the day's program. Student representatives from each academy also submitted a five-minute “Spoken Word” based on Jeremiah 29:11. Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, an Adventist licensed professional counselor, also

led out in an interactive presentation titled “Ten Ways to Survive a Pandemic: Digital Bullying, Internet Addiction, and Anxiety.”

Students attended a virtual college fair with representatives from Andrews University, Kettering College of Medical Science, Oakwood University, and Southern Adventist University. At the close of Academy Connect, students could visit breakout rooms hosted by school representatives to ask questions, receive information, scholarships, and school memorabilia.

No Academy Connect would be complete without the mass choir performing during the grand finale. This year, David Hunte, Atlantic Union Conference IT director and professional musician, coordinated the details for the students to participate in a virtual mass

choir. Students recorded themselves singing “Trust in You.” Hunte edited the submissions and prepared a video that was shown to close out the day's events.

“When Dr. Gilkeson came back to us with what the student had said to him, we were determined, by God's grace, to not let another year pass without an Academy Connect—even if it had to be virtual,” Alvarez said. At the conclusion of this year's virtual event, participant reviews and messages left for the Office of Education team included: “Wow! [The virtual] Academy Connect was wonderful! Hats off to your team!” and “Our students had a great time.” It seems that the Office of Education accomplished its mission.

—Debra Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference





## Seven Atlantic Union Pathfinder Clubs Take First Place in Virtual Division-level PBE

Eight clubs from the Atlantic Union Conference participated in the division-level Pathfinder Bible Experience hosted by the North American Division, April 16-18. They were among 135 teams from around the NAD, plus an additional 27 Pathfinder teams from the British Union, that participated in the three-day online event.

Seven of the eight clubs representing the Atlantic Union Conference received first place. They are, from the Greater New York Conference: First Ghana Day Dawn, Maranatha Lightbearers, Centinelas de Dios, and RAMS for Christ; and from the Southern New England Conference: Connecticut Cougars, Lincoln Lions, and Brooklawn Eagles.

Each year, teams made up of six club members study a book of the Bible (alternating Old and New Testament) to prepare for the PBE; often, they must memorize large portions of



David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, left, and Eliezer Ortiz, Pathfinder coordinator in the Southern New England Conference, welcome the Pathfinders and give instructions for the Pathfinder Bible Experience.

scripture. This year, participating clubs focused on the New Testament books of Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, and 2 Peter, as well as the SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY for those books. Placement is determined by the percent correct of the

top-scoring teams' score: first place—90 percent correct; second place—80 percent correct; third place—70 percent correct.

The eight clubs from the Atlantic Union Conference that made first place on March 27 at the union-level PBE and advanced to the division-level PBE, are, from the Greater New York Conference: Morning Stars, Day Dawn, Maranatha Lightbearers, Centinelas de Dios, and RAMS for Christ; and from Southern New England Conference: Connecticut Cougars, Lincoln Lions, and Brooklawn Eagles.

“The purpose of the Pathfinder Bible Experience is to promote and encourage in-depth Bible study and memorization by Pathfinders so their understanding of

Scripture will increase and their relationship to Christ will grow.” Congratulations to all the participating clubs in this year's PBE. You rose to the occasion even during a worldwide pandemic, and we are very proud of you. Special appreciation goes to the Pathfinder directors, parents, and volunteers who worked with the Pathfinder teams to reach this goal.

For more information about the Pathfinder Bible Experience, visit [www.nadpbe.org](http://www.nadpbe.org).

—Source: North American Division News and Atlantic Union Adventist Youth Ministries



Master Guides Loren Pruce and Jennifer Carmona handle Pathfinder Bible Experience questions and testing for the Pathfinders.



## Four Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

The North Bronx church, in Bronx, New York, hosted a first-of-its-kind ordination service on Sabbath, April 3, as pastors Nkarlo Alexander, Clavour Tucker, Sampson Appiah-Kubi, and Joseph Sarkodie were set apart for gospel ministry by the laying on of hands.

Nkarlo Alexander is married to Rochelle, and is head of the Religion department at Greater New York Academy in Queens, New York. Clavour Tucker is married to Yolande, and is associate pastor of the North Bronx church. Sampson Appiah-Kubi is married to Felicia, and serves as

pastor for Queens Ghana, Long Island Ghanaian, and Brooklyn Ghana churches. Joseph Sarkodie is married to Patience, and is associate pastor of the First Ghana and the Yonkers Ghana churches.

From the opening words, the tone was set for the anticipated sacredness of the occasion with a warm and spirited welcome by Greater New York Conference (GNYC) treasurer Ysaías Javier, as he invoked God’s presence to inspire joyous celebration in each heart.

G. Earl Knight, Atlantic Union Conference president, struck the keynote with the sobering sermon titled,

“Called and Chosen for Mission,” based on Acts 13:1-3. He delineated how God separates men and women for the particular work of using their gifts for the building up of His kingdom through humble and dedicated service. “You are slaves for the kingdom. You are servants of servants,” Knight said. He underpinned this conclusion by stating that the power to serving with excellence is directly rooted in a faithful prayer life.

The service was a hybrid of both in-person and online attendees. As in-person attendees arrived, they were greeted by the all-too-familiar ritual of temperature checks, along with submitting their contact information. The eyes of expectant saints bore the burden of capturing and expressing the emotion of the moment as the people wore masks and sat physically distanced in the pews.

More than 2,000 persons viewed the service online. The in-person gathering, though a comparatively modest number in comparison, reached the upper limits of the state-

imposed restrictions on gathering size.

Leading out in the program were GNYC representatives Henry Beras, president; Alanzo Smith, executive secretary; Ysaías Javier, treasurer; and Reginald Barthelemy, ministerial director. Special attendees from the Atlantic Union Conference who officiated in the service were G. Earl Knight, president, and Pierre Omeler, executive secretary.

“Ordination to the gospel ministry is a significant and solemn ceremony. I am very thankful and joyful that in April 2021, four new pastors of our conference were ordained. Attending an ordination allows you to experience a profound moment and understand the priesthood, which is exemplified in Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd ‘who came not to be served but to serve, and to seek out and rescue those who were lost.’ The Greater New York Conference is looking forward to subsequent ordination ceremonies of our pastors” said Beras.

The service, described by many as “beautiful and inspiring,” ended with the host pastor, Dedrick Blue, pronouncing divine benediction upon everyone. This marked another chapter of adapting to the unprecedented era of COVID-19 as God’s church continues to blaze the gospel torch by preparing men and women, even in difficult times.

—Donnieval Walker, communication director, Greater New York Conference



Nkarlo Alexander, head of the Greater New York Academy Religion department, and Rochelle, his wife.



Joseph Sarkodie, associate pastor of the First Ghana and the Yonkers Ghana churches, and Patience, his wife.



Sampson Appiah-Kubi, pastor for Queens Ghana, Long Island Ghanaian, and Brooklyn Ghana churches, and Felicia, his wife.



Clavour Tucker, North Bronx church associate pastor, and Yolande, his wife.





## Kingsbury School Is Growing in Jesus

The theme for the 2020-2021 school year at Kingsbury school in Hudson Falls, New York, is “Growing in Jesus” and it fits perfectly in multiple ways. First, and most importantly, the school has three students preparing for baptism. Second, Kingsbury was approved to expand from an 8-grade to a 10-grade school in the fall of 2021. The third way Kingsbury is growing in Jesus, and which is the focus of this article, is the piloting of the “Acquainting Agriculture: Grow to Know Him” curriculum developed by the Adventist Agriculture Association (AdAgrA).

The students at Kingsbury have had an opportunity to be involved in the whole gardening process. They picked the location based on the “Garden Location” lesson recommendations, prepared the soil, planted the seeds, assisted with raising the high tunnel hoop house, and even enjoyed the harvest.

Alicia Biek, Kingsbury’s principal/teacher said, “This curriculum is wonderful! Each lesson, from planting and



Kingsbury students are in the cold frame greenhouse with the winter crops.

weeding to harvesting and seed saving, includes a spiritual, science, and health component. I have learned a lot from the Acquainting Agriculture curriculum myself.” Board member Bonnie

Ballweber said, “It is vital that our kids learn these skills, especially now in the time [in which] we are living.”

In addition to the gardening lessons, Acquainting Agriculture covers units on caneberrys and fruit trees, bee-keeping, chickens and goats, community impact and missions, wild edible plants, and the list goes on. A wealth of information is presented with the mission to connect the students to their Savior and Creator through His first lesson book—nature.

The staff and students at Kingsbury school are excited about planting, growing, and reaping a harvest that, by God’s grace, will last for eternity. For more information about the new agriculture curriculum developed by the Adventist Agriculture Association, you can visit: [acquaintingagriculture.org](http://acquaintingagriculture.org) or email: [curriculum@adventistag.org](mailto:curriculum@adventistag.org).

—Cesilia Dean, volunteer, Kingsbury school

## Westvale Remembers Those Who Have Died Because of COVID-19

On Sabbath, April 3, (Easter weekend), a special part of the service at Westvale church in Syracuse, New York, included remembering those members, or relatives of members, who passed away in 2020 and 2021. The goal of the ceremony was to recognize the lives of those who fell victim to the coronavirus.

As each name of the deceased was read, someone



came forward and placed a tulip or daffodil underneath a cross. A total of 35 people were remembered on this special weekend in which everyone also remembered the death and resurrection of the Lord, Jesus. It was a Sabbath day of prayer and reflection.

—Joan Payne, faith community nurse, Westvale church





## New Adventist Community Services Truck Dedicated

Administrators from the Atlantic Union and Northeastern conferences joined together to dedicate a new truck that will be used by the Adventist Community Services (ACS). The truck will serve to enhance food delivery to a network of 58 food pantries operated by Northeastern Conference (NEC) churches.

“This new vehicle doubles our delivery capacity from six pallets to 12,” said Mario Augustave, Northeastern Conference ACS director.

“Furthermore, it is equipped with an automatic liftgate, making loading and unloading much easier for our volunteers.” A side door also makes deliveries more feasible to churches located on narrower streets.



Northeastern Conference administrators, directors, and staff, and Atlantic Union Conference representatives stand in front of the newly-dedicated Adventist Community Services truck that will serve to enhance food delivery to a network of 58 food pantries in the conference.

The \$96,000 acquisition was made possible thanks, in part, to \$40,000 from the Atlantic Union Conference for this purpose. Daniel Honoré, NEC president, was joined by his fellow officers in expressing gratitude to G.

Earl Knight, Atlantic Union Conference president, and Jose Joseph, Atlantic Union Conference ACS director, who both attended the dedication service. Knight offered the dedicatory prayer before a gathering of confer-

ence workers and volunteers, before cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

The need for a new truck is the result of increasing food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Northeastern Conference receives 56 pallets of food per month for distribution in urban neighborhoods. This food comes as a result of an agreement between the North American Division ACS department and City Harvest, one of the region’s largest food banks, in an effort to combat hunger in the northeast region of the country.

—President’s Office and Adventist Community Services staff, Northeastern Conference

## Conference Office Becomes Vaccination Site in New York City

Hundreds of community residents in New York City received vaccines at the Northeastern Conference office in Queens, New York. For three consecutive days (April 21-23) the regional church headquarters hosted the New York City Department of Health and Hospitals in administering the Moderna vaccine to local residents seeking immunization against the COVID-19 virus.

Recipients require a second dose that will also be administered at the conference office in the succeeding weeks. Before leaving the premises, each guest received a gift bag with sanitizer, five masks, a pen, and a pamphlet explaining the Adventist Community Service’s (ACS) mission.



The conference room at the Northeastern Conference office is set up to handle the flow of local residents from the community to receive the vaccine to immunize against the COVID-19 virus.

The initiative was coordinated by Mario Augustave, Northeastern Conference ACS director, with the support of the conference administration. Several conference office workers, wearing their bright yellow ACS shirts, served as volunteers, guiding guests through the facilities

for a seamless experience. New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer visited the premises and complimented the Northeastern Conference for its service to the local community.

New York City became an epicenter of COVID-19 from the onset of the pan-

demic. In the past year, more than 900,000 cases were diagnosed and 32,000 deaths were reported. “Our conference seeks to be an instrument of healing and restoration in our local community,” said Daniel Honoré, Northeastern Conference president. “We will use every tool at our disposal to be part of the solution.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Northeastern Conference on multiple fronts. Nearly 100 members died during the pandemic, and approximately 20 employees, including the president and treasurer, survived contracting the virus. Most of the churches and schools continue to function virtually.

—President’s Office and Adventist Community Services staff, Northeastern Conference



## Northeastern Conference ABC Opens Juice Bar

The Northeastern Conference Adventist Book Center (ABC) Health Food Store officially opened the Juice4Life Bar with a grand opening on April 14. The ABC, located in Queens, New York, began renovations to make way for the fresh fruit and vegetable beverage bar before the coronavirus pandemic began. With approval from the city, plans continued moving forward while adhering to safety and health protocols.

The Juice4Life Bar will serve as an additional tool for the ABC to share the health message with customers visiting the store. “We’re using the health message to introduce the people to the gospel,” says Stacy Dally, ABC Health Food Store manager. “When [customers] come in, they not only see the books, but they also see the practical



Northeastern Conference administrators, center, Robert Chandler, treasurer; Daniel Honoré, president; and Oswald Euell, executive secretary; stand with Stacy Dally, ABC Health Food Store manager, third from left; and her staff at the opening of the new juice bar.

things that can be done to help them along the way.”

“Fresh” is the focus of the new venture. The team purchases fresh fruits and vegetables to create their signature

juices and bottles them to sell. “We had an option of doing ready-made, prepackaged or frozen [juices], but we wanted everything to be fresh,” Dally explains.

Over the years, brick-and-mortar Adventist Book Centers around the country have seen a drop in book sales as they have struggled to compete with online vendors. Health food sales were also taking a hit. “Every store carries health food and health products now, so that was affecting our sales. Our store was becoming stagnant, and we wanted to do something fresh for the ABC,” Dally said. Northeastern Conference administrators attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony to offer official greetings and well wishes.

—JeNean Lendor, communication director, Northeastern Conference



The juice bar is the new addition to the Adventist Book Center located in the conference office in Queens, New York.





## South Lancaster Academy Makes Headlines Giving Blankets to the Homeless

Students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at South Lancaster Academy (SLA) in Lancaster, Massachusetts, participated in Blankets of Hope, a nationwide movement to help the homeless. Both Boston25News, a local television station, and THE ITEM, a local newspaper, featured their acts of kindness to their community.

The students raised \$1,370, surpassing their goal of \$1,200, and they distributed 240 blankets to three area homeless shelters. SLA was one of more than 200 schools across the country that participated in the movement on March 30.

In a year where it has been difficult to partici-



Fourth grader Myles Blake writes a note of encouragement to the recipient of a blanket.

Ginnie Hakes.

pate in many of the service projects the students typically do, such as visiting seniors in a nursing home, the students were eager to tackle this project. The students also participated

in a kindness workshop in which they were encouraged to think about what it might be like to be cold and homeless. Then the students wrote personalized notes of encouragement to go with

each blanket. Some of the messages included “You are loved,” “We don’t know what you are going through, but we want you to know that you matter to us and to God. God loves you!” and “We believe in you.”

Ginnie Hakes, SLA vice principal and registrar, who organized the effort, was quoted in THE ITEM as saying, “Our goal is for each student to learn empathy and to instill a love of serving others. And, we want to show our community that we care. Even small gestures can become meaningful moments in individual lives.”

—Adapted from an article that first appeared in South Lancaster Academy’s *FIAT LUX*, April 2021

## Worcester Pleasant Street Member Wins Liberty Bell Award

The Worcester County Bar Association in Worcester, Massachusetts, presented Margaret Rwaramba the Liberty Bell Award at the annual Law Day Celebration on April 30. Rwaramba is chief of the victim witness advocates in the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office, and she is an active member of the Pleasant Street church in Worcester.

The award is given each year to a non-attorney for their contributions to the legal community. Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr., nominated Rwaramba for the award. “Margaret is a tireless advocate for our court

system and for the DA’s office,” Early said. A 20-year veteran of the district attorney’s office, Early named Rwaramba to head the victim witness program in 2007. “As I like to say, she removes the anxiety, the tears, and the fears of people who are walking through the doors into our building who have been victims of a crime,” said Early.

During the virtual celebration on Zoom, Rwaramba thanked District Attorney Early, the Worcester Bar Association and its president, Terry McLaughlin, for the award. “I am humbled and grateful to receive this award,” Rwaramba said.

Rwaramba currently serves the Pleasant Street church as assistant Sabbath School superintendent. “Congratulations to Sister Margaret for being exemplary as a citizen and a person of admirable leadership qualities in her profession,” said Ernan Norman, Pleasant Street church pastor. “We are very proud of her for this great achievement.”

—Office of Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. and the Pleasant Street church communication department



Casey Shear/Worcester County District Attorney’s Office

Margaret Rwaramba, Pleasant Street church assistant Sabbath School superintendent, is the Liberty Bell Award recipient.





## Boston Temple Hosts “The Seventh-day Adventist Church: Diverse or Divided?”

The Boston Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, one of the oldest Adventist churches in the Boston area, currently pastored by Orlando Hall, hosted a special event on Sabbath, April 24, as part of the congregation’s year-long 150th anniversary celebration. The topic of the event was “The Seventh-day Adventist Church: Diverse or Divided?”

Since its inception in 1870, the Boston Temple has been

known for its diverse membership representing different ethnicities, age-groups, and social classes. Even the pioneers of the Adventist Church promoted this unified diversity by emphasizing Christ’s great commission to take the gospel “to every nation, tongue and people” (Matthew 28:19).

However, with the recent happenings around the world revealing the existing racial tensions within soci-

ety, the need of the hour was to learn from the successes and failures from the past and to apply them moving forward in order to truly fulfill our “remnant” identity.

An expert in this topic, David R. Williams, from Harvard University, preached during the worship service. His sermon outlined the racial history and divisions in the Adventist Church and the factors that led to the development of the system of divided conferences. He also gave a call inviting the congregation to come together in unity as described in John 17:21 in the prayer of Jesus.

During the worship service, the congregation listened to “Jordan’s Stormy Banks,” sung by a black Seventh-day Adventist choir, the oldest known recording of Adventists dating back to 1913. The recording was released to the public only this year.

The afternoon session resumed with an

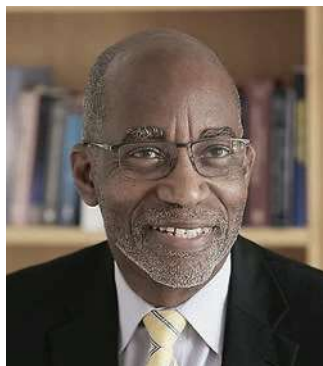
eye-opening presentation by Benjamin Baker, an Adventist historian and educator, who runs the website [www.blacksdahistory.org](http://www.blacksdahistory.org), a resource for further study about the topic. The presentation continued in the vein of the morning sermon with added illustrations, such as timelines, photos, and dialogue. Williams then moderated an engaging discussion on the topic, with more than 50 attendees who participated online.

The consensus from the discussions was that we, as the remnant church, a people who have been united by the Word, must seek to embrace the unity that Jesus desired based on John 17:21 and move into the true work planned for us—“the Lord [is] showing us a better way,” as Ellen White urged so many years ago. “Let us all prayerfully and humbly heed this call for unity,” said Hall. Zeinna Forbes, Boston Temple head elder, said, “Unity begins with the congregation at the local level” as each individual decides to love our fellow brethren as ourselves.

Boston Temple plans to hold similar events in the future, commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year jubilee. Information regarding upcoming events can be found at [www.bostontemple.sdaevent150.com](http://www.bostontemple.sdaevent150.com).

You can view the worship service and afternoon presentation on the Boston Temple YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/3ky8jv85>.

—Abhishek Thavamani and Sharon Hamel, members, Boston Temple 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee



David R. Williams, member of the Waymark church and professor of Public Health and chair of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, delivered the worship service message at Boston Temple.



Benjamin Baker, managing editor of the *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS* and founder of [blacksdahistory.org](http://blacksdahistory.org), is one of two presenters at one of Boston Temple’s anniversary celebration weekends.

**Title: “Proclaiming the Truth Where There is Race Antagonism”**

**Author: Ellen G. White**

**Date: October 19, 1908**

**Primary source: Manuscript 3, 1908, October 19, 1908**

“Let as little as possible be said about the color line, and let the colored people work chiefly for those of their own race. In regard to white people and colored people, worshiping in the same building, this cannot be followed as a general custom with profit to either party—especially in the South. The best thing will be to provide the colored people who accept the truth with places of worship of their own, in which they can carry on their services by themselves. This is particularly necessary in the South, in order that the work for the white people may be carried on without serious hindrance.

“Let the colored believers be provided with neat, tasteful houses of worship. Let them be shown that this is done not to exclude them from worshipping with white people because they are black, but in order that the progress of the truth may be advanced. Let them understand that this plan is to be followed until the Lord shows us a better way.

“The colored members of ability and experience should be encouraged to lead the services of their own people; and their voices are to be heard in the representative assemblies.”



Screenshot of Benjamin Baker, historian and educator, conducting a virtual seminar on Seventh-day Adventist history during Boston Temple’s anniversary celebration.

## Plainfield Church's Oldest Member Turns 100

Josephine "Josie" Bessie Stark was born in West Canaan, New Hampshire, on August 29, 1920, to Robert Stark, a sawyer, and his wife, Marian Ada Blake. Her mother, fondly called Maddie, subsequently bore two more children but died in childbirth with her second son, thus leaving Josie, at the age of 11, to largely care for her young brothers.

The young girl, heartbroken and devastated, was attending her mother's funeral when her mind latched firmly to a Bible promise that was quoted: "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you"—John 14:2. A seed that would sprout and grow over a lifetime had been planted.

In time, Josie's father, Robert Stark, married Frances Stone, who loved and cared for the children. Josie pitched in with the housework, especially as the family grew by two; Robert, Jr., and Lillian. Josie attended a small school in West Canaan through the eighth grade. Since the nearest high school was 18 miles away and there was no transportation available, Josephine remained at home after her grammar school graduation.

In time, Josie married and bore a son, Billy. Sadly, her first marriage, an abusive relationship, ended in divorce. She lived through much trauma with an alcoholic husband and recognized in later years that God had spared her life in so many instances, mercifully providing protection for her and her child.



Centenarian Josephine Bessie Stark Charbono is the eldest member of the Plainfield Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Around the time of her divorce, a Pastor Rice held tent meetings in Canaan, New Hampshire. Eugene and Valma LeBrun, a local Seventh-day Adventist family who owned and operated a dairy farm while raising five sons, also attended these meetings. Through this evangelistic effort and by joining other community ingathering events, they met Josie.

For Josie, this friendship with the LeBrun family was truly heaven sent. Being kind neighbors, they shared garden vegetables, love, and friendship. More importantly, the LeBrun family shared the Bread of Life with Josephine. Their love

of Jesus and precious gems of Bible truth were central to their home and life. Together, they explored the Scriptures, finding precious passages resonating reassurance, faith, and promise of a loving and returning Savior.

For over 12 years, their bond of friendship included a ride to church each Sabbath. As the children grew, these congenial neighbors even bought a second car just so that they could continue transporting this earnest mother and her children who now had become so endeared to them.

Years later, Josie married Earl Roy Charbono, and became a mother to his six

children. One child in the household, David, attended Plainfield church's Estabrook school. Josie remains very grateful for that precious year of influence for her stepson. In time, Josie earned her high school diploma and had raised a total of 11 children as the mother of a blended family. Attending Sabbath School regularly was a priority as was daily prayer, Bible study, and faithfulness in home responsibilities.

In August 1953, Josephine officially joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism in Washington, New Hampshire. To this day, she continues to actively share Bible studies with family, friends, and neighbors. This courageous centenarian, who has outlived all her stepchildren, remains a pillar of strength and courage, offering support and kindness to all.

Now a resident of Enfield, New Hampshire, for 35 years, Josephine Bessie Stark Charbono is the eldest member of the Plainfield Seventh-day Adventist Church. To mark her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, her many friends and family members recently came together to celebrate her remarkable life and to honor God's mercy and guidance to this beloved lady whose sparkling smile shines from a kind and grateful heart. Surrounded by friends, she summed up her life philosophy, explaining that "Jesus is everything to me."

—Ellen Busl, communication secretary, Plainfield church



# 2021

## Northern New England Conference Camp Meeting

**Theme:** *The Upper Room: Preparing Our Hearts for the Latter Rain*

**In-person Camp Meeting**

Pine Tree Academy, 67 Pownal Rd., Freeport, Maine

**Website:** [www.nnec.org/camp-meeting](http://www.nnec.org/camp-meeting)

**Phone:** (207) 797-3760 ext. 216

**July 9-11 (Friday-Sunday)**



**Featured Speaker:**

Shawn Boonstra

Speaker/Director

*Voice of Prophecy*

The services will be streamed live at: [www.nnec.org/camp-meeting](http://www.nnec.org/camp-meeting)

**Visit the conference's camp meeting page for more detailed information about the camp meeting and COVID-19 guidelines.**

**Stay safe.  
Stay connected.**

**Get up-to-date news and information  
at [www.atlanticuniongleaner.org](http://www.atlanticuniongleaner.org)**





# Massaged Kale Salad

Yell if you love kale! This hearty, healthy green has gained popularity in culinary circles and for good reason. Loaded with vitamins and fiber, this light, refreshing salad keeps well in the refrigerator and is a perfect accompaniment for dinner on a warm summer evening, packed in a lunch, or served at a Sunday brunch.

Serves 6-8

## INGREDIENTS:

2-3 bunches organic green curly kale

1 medium carrot, shredded

1 cucumber, sliced

½ cup red cabbage, shredded

2 tomatoes, chopped

1 cup Kalamata olives, sliced

1 cup microgreens

## DRESSING:

¼-½ red onion, thinly sliced

3 cloves garlic, minced

½ cup fresh lemon juice

1 ½ teaspoons salt

2-3 tablespoons nutritional yeast flakes

½ teaspoon onion powder

1-2 tablespoons za'atar seasoning

2-3 teaspoons pure maple syrup

½ cup extra virgin, cold-pressed olive oil

½ cup grapeseed oil



Zariah Wilbur

## ASSEMBLE:

- In a small bowl, gently toss the red onion and garlic with the lemon juice and let it marinate for 10 minutes. Remove the onion slices and set aside; keep the lemon juice and garlic in the bowl.
- In a separate small bowl, mix the salt, nutritional yeast flakes, onion powder, za'atar seasoning, and maple syrup together; stir until combined. Add the oils and the seasoning mixture to the lemon juice; whisk everything together until emulsified.
- Thoroughly wash the kale and remove the leaves from the stems. Tear into bite-sized pieces. Place the kale leaves into a large salad bowl.
- Slowly pour the dressing over the kale and, with your clean hands, gently massage the dressing into the kale until it softens. (Be careful not to over massage the leaves—just enough to tenderize them.) Volume will reduce by 30 percent after massaging.
- Add the marinated onion, carrot, cucumber, cabbage, tomatoes, and olives to the salad bowl; toss to combine. Top with the microgreens when serving.

"This simple recipe is a sure crowd pleaser. It's our best-selling salad," says Evita Wilbur, general manager of the Pulse Café, a center of influence located in Hadley, Massachusetts. Their mission is to "highlight and inspire holistic, plant-based wellness that is good for body, mind, and spirit." Learn more about this ministry at [www.pulsecafe.com](http://www.pulsecafe.com).

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**ADVENTIST HOME** an active senior community in upstate New York operated by the Greater New York Conference is now accepting applications for independent living units, single homes, apartments and mobile homes. Located on 90 acres in Livingston, N.Y. (100 miles north of NYC). A peaceful, country setting offering a healthy lifestyle and opportunity for service at the local church on campus. Contact Cecelia Graham, office manager, (518) 567-8004. Email: [office@AdventistHomeInc.org](mailto:office@AdventistHomeInc.org). Website: [AdventistHomeInc.org](http://AdventistHomeInc.org).

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NEW YORK**  
**Join Union Springs Academy in celebrating 100 years of ministry and service.** All alumni, former faculty, and staff are invited to celebrate God's goodness and leading at our centennial weekend September 17-19, 2021. Our Sabbath service speaker is Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference. Honored guests include Bill Knott, executive editor for the ADVENTIST REVIEW, and John Thomas, retired associate secretary for the General Conference. Visit our website for details and updates: [unionspringsacademy.org](http://unionspringsacademy.org).

**NORTHEASTERN**  
**The Northeastern Conference Global Prayer Hotline** is open 24 hours a day for prayer and study. The phone number for the prayer line is (605) 313-5169, access code: 888974#. For more information, visit the website at [www.globalprayerministries.com](http://www.globalprayerministries.com).

**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND**  
**Join the Northern New England Conference Morning Prayer Line** from 6:00-7:00 a.m., call (605) 468-8026 (toll charges apply), access code 310654#. For more information, visit the website at [www.nnecprayerministries.com](http://www.nnecprayerministries.com).

**OBITUARIES**

**BARROWS, Isaac M.**—89; b. May 7, 1931, in West Falmouth, Mass., d. Apr. 29, 2021, in Falmouth, Mass. He was a lifelong member of the Cape



Cod church in Osterville, Mass. He served as a deacon and was instrumental in forming the Brazilian church. He served in the Army and participated in the Operation Whitecoat medical research program. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Gloria L. Schuyler Barrows; his children, Kristina (Kevin) Andrade, Michael (Nancy) Barrows, and Darren Barrows; his grandchildren, Kristian (Stephanie) Andrade, Taylor, Michael Jr., and Olivia Barrows; great-grandchildren Halle, Caelyn, and Jillian.

**CUVA, Patricia-Ann**—56; b. Oct. 18, 1964, in Hanover, N.H.; d. Nov. 4, 2020, in Pownal, Maine. She was a member of the Brunswick church in Brunswick, Maine. She graduated from Pine Tree Academy in 1983 and later from Atlantic Union College in 1988. She is survived by her mother, Susan Swayze of Pownal, Maine; her brothers, John "Rocky" Cuva, Jr. of Gorham, Maine, and Michael (Michelle) Cuva of Gray, Maine; and her nephew Jackson Anthony Cuva of Gray, Maine.

**GOMEZ, Evaristo**—84; b. Oct. 24, 1936, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; d. Mar. 31, 2021. He was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Aug. 8, 1959, at the Central church in the Dominican Republic. He led the Adventist Youth Society, Sabbath School, and Lay Activities departments, and served as an elder. In 1966, he organized the church in San Luis, where he worked as a Bible worker. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1970 and served at the Intervale church in Bronx, N.Y., as elder and Personal Ministries director. He graduated from Antillean College in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in 1976. He worked as a colporteur (1973-1974) and obtained distinction as "Champion of Sales" of the Antillean Union. On Jan. 4, 1977, he returned to Santo Domingo where he worked in the districts of La Paz, Gazcue and also served as principal of the Metropolitan Academy. He

was ordained to pastoral ministry in Aug. 1980 and was called to serve as stewardship director, trust director, and auditor of the Central Dominican Conference. In April 1984, he was called to the Northeastern Conference to serve the Rochester-Buffalo Hispanic church district in New York. In 1987, he was transferred to the New England Region, pastoring churches in Massachusetts—Bethel, Salem, Lawrence, Worcester, Chelsea, Cambridge, Brockton, New Bedford, and a mission group in Allston. In Vermont, he led a small group of 20 people. On Sept. 15, 2001, he began his assignment as coordinator of the Northeastern Conference Hispanic Ministries where he remained until his retirement on Oct. 3, 2003. Under his leadership, the Hispanic churches in Chelsea and New Bedford were purchased and the Salem Hispanic church was newly-constructed. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nilda Gomez; his sons, Moses (Janet) Gomez, Pablo (Maria) Gomez, Michael (Betzaida) Gomez; his siblings, Ramon Gomez and Fredesvinda Gomez; five grandchildren, Erik, John, Austin, Derek, and Mariela.

**LONGMOORE, Sr., Donald M.**—97; b. Oct. 22, 1923, in Newbury, Vt.; d. Apr. 19, 2021, in Newbury, Vt. He was a long-time member of the South Newbury church in Newbury, Vt., where he served as a deacon and head elder for many years. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Powers Longmoore of Newbury, Vt.; daughter, Cheryl (Bill) Longmoore-Deuel; son, Don (Wendy) Longmoore, Jr., also of Newbury, Vt.; two sisters, Evelyn Sheppard of Surfside Beach, S.C., and Patricia (Duane) Perry of Wells River, Vt.; two grandchildren, Sam Longmoore and Dawna (Jarred) Vaughan; and three great-grandchildren, Timmy Longmoore, and Mabel and Henry Vaughan.

**POLK, Lawrence**—76; b. Sept. 11, 1943, in Raleigh, Tenn.; d. Mar. 12, 2021, in



East Longmeadow, Mass. He was a member of the Shiloh church in Springfield, Mass., where he served as an elder, a Sabbath School teacher, and a Bible worker. He enjoyed doing community service and helping others. He is survived by his sons, Lawrence (Debbie) Polk and Michael (LeShawn) Polk; his brothers: Alfred (Sandra) Polk, Robert Polk, Adlee Polk, Edielee Polk, Antonio (Kathy) Polk, and Raymond Jerome Polk; his sisters, Marie (Victor) and Faith; seven grandchildren: LaShaunda (Saburi), Michael (Bianca), TeShawn, Larisa, Jazleen, Malik, and Jordan; and four great-grandchildren: Saniyah, Josiah, Yani, and Akeem.

**SCHMIDT, Lela Leora DeWitt**—90; b. Oct. 19, 1930, in Ridgetown, Ontario; d. Feb. 28, 2021, in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, Canada. She was an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She attended Oshawa Missionary College (now Kingsway College) in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada; Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass., and Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., where she received a bachelor's degree in education. She worked as an elementary school teacher, dean of students, secretary, Bible worker, English teacher, church organist, and farmer's wife. She worked as a Bible worker in the 1980s for the Northboro church in the Southern New England Conference. She authored the weekly "Pastor's Corner" for the CLINTON DAILY ITEM in Clinton, Mass., and "The Living Word" columns for the YOUR WEST CENTRAL VOICE and MAPLE CREEK NEWS. At the age of 70, she taught

English as a Second Language in China. She also journeyed into the mountains of Peru on a Maranatha trip, to teach Vacation Bible School. She is survived by her husband, Arnold A. Schmidt; and daughters, Sonja DeWitt and J. Lynette DeWitt.



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**Sunset Calendar**

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Bangor, ME	8:24	8:21	8:16	8:10	8:02
Portland, ME	8:25	8:23	8:18	8:12	8:04
Boston, MA	8:24	8:21	8:17	8:11	8:04
South Lancaster, MA	8:27	8:24	8:20	8:14	8:07
Pittsfield, MA	8:33	8:30	8:26	8:20	8:13
Hartford, CT	8:28	8:26	8:22	8:16	8:09
Providence, RI	8:24	8:21	8:17	8:11	8:04
New York, NY	8:30	8:28	8:24	8:18	8:12
Albany, NY	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:33	8:16
Utica, NY	8:43	8:41	8:36	8:30	8:23
Syracuse, NY	8:47	8:44	8:40	8:34	8:26
Rochester, NY	8:53	8:50	8:46	8:40	8:32
Buffalo, NY	8:57	8:54	8:50	8:44	8:36
Keene, NH	8:31	8:28	8:24	8:18	8:10
Manchester, NH	8:28	8:25	8:21	8:15	8:07
Portsmouth, NH	8:25	8:23	8:18	8:12	8:05
Brattleboro, VT	8:32	8:29	8:25	8:19	8:11
Burlington, VT	8:40	8:37	8:33	8:26	8:18
Rutland, VT	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:23	8:15
Hamilton, Bda	8:29	8:28	8:25	8:22	8:17

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