

May 20th, 2015

Oneonta District Office UMC Newsletter



Together, let us pray for :

The people of Elm Park UMC and Pastor Olu Harding .

all those who suffer and those in trouble

those who struggle with addiction

all who suffer violence

for the concerns of our local communities

teachers, students, families, and school personnel of our local school districts

people served by our food pantries, community meal ministries, thrift shops

for the world, its peoples, and its leaders

for wisdom and justice in our national conversations around racism

the people of Nepal – recovering from recent Earthquake

for the Church universal- its leaders, its members, and its mission

for the congregations of the Schoharie Region, working thru the Soil Testing Process

New faith communities in Upper New York Conference

Bishop Webb and cabinet in discernment regarding appointments

All of our Local Pastors who serve with many and varied gifts of leadership

Our UNY Conference staff and volunteers for all they are doing to prepare for Annual Conference

Conference



District & Conference Events Coming Soon

Date	Time	Item	Location
May 24		PENTECOST- Birthday of the Church!	Wherever the Holy Spirit fire is kindled through us!
May 27-30		Upper New York Annual Conference	OnCenter, Syracuse
June 15	TBA	District Leadership Team	TBA
June 23	5pm	District Committee on Superintendency	District Office

Camping & Retreat Ministries

<http://www.unyumc.org/about/crm>

Sign Up for a Summer Program TODAY!

Summer is just around the corner AND it all starts here! Wild action and pure fun, sun-soaked days, friends, great food, and all in a spectacular setting. What makes summer camp so special? We love kids! And we're built from the ground up for kids to experience an unforgettable, life-changing week. Step out of the everyday and soar into another world! Sign up today at www.campsandretreats.org for a choice of over 180 summer programs for children and youth PLUS we have over 30 programs for adults, families, special needs adults, and

clergy! Questions? E-mail us at info@campsandretreats.org or call us at 315-424-7878 ext. 309 or TOLL FREE: 855-424-7878 ext. 309. See you soon!

UNY Camp & Retreat Ministries is a ministry of the Upper NY Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Chuck Knows Church videos on The Committee at

<http://www.chuckknowschurch.com> The latest is Evangelism.-Other good ones are the Pilot, Hospitality, Reflecting the Community, and Our Purpose. Great for use with your Administrative Council or other leadership group! There is a downloadable discussion guide available for each segment.

From the desk of Bishop Mark J. Webb: Prayers for Nepal - Please keep the people in Nepal in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with the aftermath of the earthquake that occurred on April 25. More than 4,000 are dead, more than 6,500 people are injured, and thousands are living in tents as their homes have been destroyed. May the peace and hope of Jesus comfort and protect in these tragic days.

We are grateful for the safety of Mark, Deirdre, Zachary and Benjamin Zimmerman. The Zimmermans are connected with the State Street United Methodist Church in Fulton and serve as missionaries in Nepal. We pray for the safety of all of our missionaries serving in this part of the world and the ministries of recovery and relief they now find themselves participating in. Click here to read a letter from Mark Zimmerman on the General Board of Global Ministries' website.

I invite individuals and congregations of the Upper New York Conference to consider taking a special offering for Nepal earthquake relief. Those funds can be sent to the Upper New York Conference Office, 324 University Ave., 3rd Floor, Syracuse, NY 13210. Envelopes/checks can be marked with "Nepal earthquake relief" and "649."

To make an immediate donation, click here to give to UMCOR's International Disaster Relief Fund Advance #982450.

- Bishop Mark J. Webb

Annual Conference Related News

2015 Pre-Conference Workbook is now available

The full booklet of Conference materials for the sixth session of the Upper New York Annual Conference is now available electronically for review, download or to print. A PDF (43.5MB) is available on the [Conference website](#). The workbook is also available for purchase at Lulu.com. [DETAILS](#)

Stop Hunger Now -returns in 2015

Following the great success of last year's on-site mission, the Upper New York Conference has committed to once again package meals during the 2015 Annual Conference Session. This year the Conference endeavors to package 150,000 meals, twice the total in 2014.

Through the nonprofit [Stop Hunger Now](#), attendees will measure ingredients and package meals for distribution around the world.

There will be four meal-packaging shifts in 2015: two on Thursday, May 28 (during the lunch and dinner periods) and two on Friday, May 29 (also during the meal periods). All four shifts will again take place at the War

Memorial, which is next to the OnCenter. Participants will have a chance to eat, either before or after the meal packaging event.

Participants in the meal-packing mission are asked to register. [Click here](#) to sign up and/or to donate **NEW** - The Upper NY Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action invites you to a breakfast during Annual Conference!

We will host a breakfast on Saturday, May 30 from 7-8:15am; at the Plymouth UCC (232 E Onondaga St.)! We'll gather to feed our bodies & our souls with a buffet breakfast and fellowship. The cost is \$5 for adults; free for youth & children - please invite your friends & fellow delegates! All Are Welcome!

Please RSVP to unymfsa@gmail.com or on facebook [at https://www.facebook.com/events/1429773600672145/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1429773600672145/)

21th Annual PALESTINIAN Dinner: Friday, May 29th

Plymouth Congregational Church at 232 E. Onondaga St. (2 ½ blocks from On Center)

Authentic Palestinian buffet beginning at 5:15 PM sponsored by the UNY Task Force on Peace and Justice in Palestine/Israel Cost of dinner is \$15.00.

Program: Ariel Gold and her children, Elijah and Isabella returned to Palestine/Israel in December for 3 weeks staying mostly in the West Bank. On her mother's blog, Isabella told how she felt safer in the West Bank than in Israel. Come and hear all 3 share their experiences.

For reservations: Linda Bergh (315-492-8507), 116 Edna Rd., Syracuse, NY 13205 or Karen Peterson (607-739-3141), 116 Greenridge Drive, Horseheads, NY 14845

Make checks payable to UNYAC ("Palestinian Dinner" on the memo line) -SAVE the DATE

Join the Africa 360 Challenge

During the recent Upper New York Annual Conference session, [an overwhelming vote to contribute \\$1 million to the Imagine No Malaria](#) campaign of The United Methodist Church was celebrated. In 2011, members of the Upper New York Annual Conference pledged to raise \$1 million for Africa University to fund eight scholarships. The passion and commitment to be a part of what God is doing among, within and through the people of Africa is evident in these actions. Both of these priorities have been placed in a campaign that we are calling Africa 360. For Details go to <http://www.unyumc.org/news/detail/1980>

If you don't want to wait until the 2015 session of Annual Conference to present your gifts, you can make them anytime by mailing a check to Upper New York Conference, 324 University Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13210 Attn: Africa 360. Checks should be made payable to Upper New York Annual Conference with Africa 360 in the memo line. Go on line to : <http://www.unyumc.org/mission/africa-360-toolkit> for "Africa 360 Toolkit" - that includes everything from VBS, to YouTube videos and youth ideas for Africa 360.

Practical Advice for Community Ministry

This special lunch workshop will focus on how to improve your congregation's community ministry.

Date: Saturday, May 30

Time: 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. (Between the Conference plenary session and Ordination Service.)

Where: Plymouth Congregational Church, 232 East Onondaga St. (two blocks from OnCenter)

Meal: Bring the box lunch provided for conference registrants or bring your own.

Six topics will be covered:

1. How to start a community project in seven steps
2. How to expand on your food ministry with five actions
3. How to build relationships with the people you serve (and avoid the trap of "plug-in volunteering")
4. How to pay attention to class and race when volunteering
5. How to tap into community assets, not problems

6. How to start a project to empower individuals

The course will be taught Dana Horrell, Ph.D. With a grant from the Louisville Institute, Horrell has spent the past year studying congregations that provide excellent community ministry. He is a United Methodist elder, a member of the Upper New York Conference, and serves as Director of Faithful Citizen (located in Troy), which provides resources for community ministry and social action. (Read the blog at faithfulcitizen.net or find us on Facebook.)

Cost is \$15. **Advance registration is required.** Register at <https://syracuse-community-ministry.eventbrite.com>. For more information, email Dana Horrell at dkhorrell@gmail.com or call [315-439-9154](tel:315-439-9154).

Local Church News

New Documentary Spotlights Decline of the Church in America – All are invited

The documentary film, titled "When God Left the Building," will be screened **This Thursday, May 21,** at 6PM at the Edmeston United Methodist Church, 3 North Street, Edmeston, NY. Following the film, **Pastor Becky Parry,** will host a 20 minute live discussion.

This film reveals the decline of the American church and focuses on the current spiritual climate.

In this film director Schultz, said, "The American church as we know it is dying. What was once the heart and soul of the community is going away. We wondered why. And we wondered what's next." According to Schultz, the majority of churches across the country are in a state of decline. He said weekly church attendance has dropped to 20 percent of the population. This trend has resulted in the closing of 4,000 churches per year, he said.

The filmmakers spent three years documenting a church that saw its attendance plunge from 900 to 40. "It was a heart-wrenching mash-up of societal upheaval, spiritual confusion and human conflict," Schultz said. They also looked at the demise of Kodak and the parallels between that company and the current church situation.

The film also prominently features the unconventional work of churches and organizations that are actively doing things differently and outside of the traditional church building.

A preview of the film is available at WhenGodLefttheBuilding.com.

There is no monetary cost to come to the movie – only your time. However, you may come out with new ideas and a fresh approach to what the church of the future may look like. What was Jesus' concept of what the church would look like? How is the current church following through with that idea? Where is your church at, in "being the church"?

Refreshments will be served and all are welcomed to join in an evening of thoughtful reflection!!

The film was produced by Group Productions, a Colorado media company.

Questions about the documentary may be directed to **Pastor Becky Parry** at 315-430-0532 or pastorbecky62@gmail.com.

Unadilla Center UMC has arranged a **bus trip to Ronks,** Pennsylvania to the Sight and Sound Theatre to see "Joseph" on **Saturday, August 1, 2015.** The bus will leave Sidney (behind McDonalds) at 6:00 A.M. (The bus will leave Oneonta at 5:15 A.M.) We will have a fast food stop on the way. We will see the show at 11:00. Following the show we will have an Amish meal at Hershey Farms at 2:15. We should be home around 10:00

P.M. The cost is \$145.00 for adults (age 13 and over) and \$80 for children (12 and under). The price includes the bus, show and meal. Please call Claudia Jenkins for more information. 563-7713.

United Methodist Communications Offers Streaming Service Discount United Methodist Communications is offering a discount to help churches begin streaming their worship services live over the internet. The deal is available until May 31. You will also need a camera, a computer and an internet connection. Sign up at: www.myUMClive.com with discount code EQUIP. For information, call 334-246-5334.

What do UMCOR Early Response Teams Do?

1. Provide a Christian presence. This does not sound like a task... and is NOT, however, it can be the MOST important thing a team can do.
2. Take steps to prevent further damage to a family's personal property (stabilize):
 - o Tarping
 - o Debris removal
 - o Cleaning out of flooded homes
3. Teams may be asked to manage donated materials, gather information or other perform other tasks as deemed necessary by the community.
4. Observe survivor's needs and report these to the local operations.
5. Be a part of the caring ministry of "listeners" who will help the survivor being to heal.

What will you learn in an ERT class?

- The Who, What, When, and Why of Early Response Teams
- Working with survivors
- Seven important things to know about disaster spiritual and emotional care
- Organizational structure for the relief stage
- Team safety
- ERT protocols
- Safe sanctuaries
- Equipping an ERT

More Information and Registration by Clicking on the Link <http://bit.ly/1cIiqQP>

Host/Hostess and Chef Positions for 2016 Two positions open at the Methodist Missionary Home at Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, for the 2016 season: 1. Host and Hostess Couple to open and close the House, process reservations, supervise a staff of four, and all operations of the house, including kitchen, laundry, maintenance, and care of the lawn. Host and Hostess should be on site from May 15 to September 15, 2016. Salary, plus room and board, gate pass, parking. 2. The position of Chef is also open at the Methodist Missionary Home at Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua New York. Chef should be on site from May 15 to September 15, 2016. interviews will be held on site. Please send resumes to: Leona M Peterson, PO Box 176, 4279 Miller Rd., Gerry, NY 14740-0176 **by July 15, 2015**. Phone 716-985-4652. E mail: lpeterson@netsync.net. The home is owned by the United Methodist Women's Division of the United Methodist Church and managed by the Chautauqua Homes Board.

Conference Job Posting

Anyone inquiring about any open positions can go to <http://www.unyumc.org/about/jobs> as we now have an online application system for applying for open positions.

Resource Center Links :

Resource Center on the website: <http://www.unyumc.org/resources/media-resource-center>

And the current Newsletter: <http://www.unyumc.org/resources/monthly-newsletter>

Contact info for the Upper NY Conference is as follows:

Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

324 University Ave., 3rd Floor, Syracuse, NY 13210

(315) 424-7878 * Toll-Free (855) 424-7878 * Fax (315) 478-4869 * www.unyumc.org


The District Newsletter can be found at the Oneonta District website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/oneontadistrictumc/> and at Conference Webpage at :

<http://www.unyumc.org/district/oneonta>

Oneonta District Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/oneontadistrictumc/> and at Conference Webpage at : <http://www.unyumc.org/district/oneonta>

Our Face book Page: [Oneonta District United Methodists:](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oneonta-NY/Oneonta-District-United-Methodists/126965997347940?ref=ts)

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