

April 29, 2015

Oneonta District Office UMC Newsletter



Together, let us pray for :

The people of West Davenport and Davenport UMCs, their worship leaders and Jan Lacey –Markle- Certified Lay Minister .

Teressa Siviers for healing grace in surgery Thursday and during medical leave.

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

Teressa Siviers undergoing Surgery Thursday April 30

Bishop Webb and cabinet in discernment regarding appointments

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

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Nancy Hale, on being awarded her Phd. from Boston University School of Theology.

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.

*Christ is Risen,
indeed!
What does
resurrection look
like in your
community and
your*

- Bishop Mark J. Webb

District & Conference Events Coming Soon

Date	Time	Item	Location
May 3	5pm	District Leadership Team	Elm Park UMC
May 9	3-5 pm	Pre-Conference Briefing	Saratoga Springs UMC -
May 16	2-4 pm	Pre-Conference Briefing	Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center
May 17	6-8 pm	Zach Kerzee- A new kind of faith community!- Dinner Church	Sidney UMC – See Details below - An Evening With Simple Church To Register go to: https://crtc.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=520 watch the video - go to : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KA0hCAU3fF0&feature=youtu.be
May 18	5pm	District Leadership Team	Cobleskill UMC

An Evening With Simple Church - Presented by Zach Kerzee

Sunday, May 17th 6-8 PM

Sidney United Methodist Church

12 Liberty Street in Sidney, NY 13838

Church has gotten complicated. But it doesn't have to be .

Simple Church is a United Methodist dinner church in Grafton, MA committed to simplicity, service, and community. Every Thursday and every other Friday night they meet around a good meal, good music, and good conversation.

It's a church without walls. They don't have a building and they never will. By not having a building they are free to focus on relationships and live unencumbered lives devoted to service and connection. They keep it as simple as possible to make sure that they focus on relationship with God and with one another.

Their pastor, Zach, lives next to an organic farm. He's raising chickens and baking bread as part of his ministry. Come worship with Zach and others, then hear his story and the story of the birth and life of Simple Church.

To Register go to: <https://crtc.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=520>

watch the video - go to :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KA0hCAU3fF0&feature=youtu.be>

Let us know you are coming at crtc.org or by calling Sidney UMC at (607) 563-1921

You may attend at no cost by using the code **UMCfree when registering thanks to district funding.**

This event is co-sponsored by The Oneonta District, UMC and The Capital Region Theological Center

Registration for the 2015 Annual Conference session is Now Open

Registration is now open for the Upper New York Annual Conference session being held May 27-30 at the OnCenter, Syracuse. To register, [click here](#) and fill out the form.



Save the date: Pre-conference briefings schedule announced

The Upper New York Conference is announcing the locations for the Pre-Conference Briefings to be held this May. Each briefing will be preceded by a 30-minute coffee/snack and fellowship time. The locations, dates and times are as follows:

May 2 [Asbury Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 9-11 a.m. [Findley Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 2-4 p.m.

May 9 [Potsdam UMC](#) from 9-11 a.m. [Saratoga Springs UMC](#) from 3-5 p.m.

May 16 [Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 9-11 a.m. [Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 2-4 p.m.

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](#)

Local Church News

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.

(NEW) 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.

(NEW) The April, Vol. 2 issue of the Bridge is now available for download. It is available in both color and black & white formats. Click here to select the version you prefer and make copies as necessary. This issue of the Bridge features information about World Malaria Day, the Conference's effort to stop worldwide hunger, and the relief kit collection at AC '15. Being a bi-monthly publication, the Bridge can be used this Sunday or next, whichever is most useful to the local church. The newest volume will be listed at the top of the webpage, with older volumes below. The Bridge is designed to be handed out in worship as an insert in your church bulletin or as a standalone item. If you have questions or are unable to make copies, please contact Communications@unyumc.org.

(NEW) 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.

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/>

The Spiritual Leadership Ministry Oversight Team would like to invite individuals, congregations, and groups within the Upper NY Conference to submit grant proposals that would address our stated mission of *encouraging and developing leadership within the laity and clergy that is diverse and unified by our love of Christ*. The vision of this ministry team is to deepen the spiritual lives of individuals and, in turn, local congregations. We believe that a deep spiritual life is key to excellent leadership within the church and that both lay and clergy leadership excellence is necessary to our mission of sharing God's love. We believe that leaders who are engaged in a personal relationship with God and who are intentional about deepening that relationship, who can listen deeply for the movement of God in their own lives and the lives of others, who can be a non-anxious presence in a world where the broken places fuel anxiety and fear; these are the leaders we need to develop, support and nurture. Please follow the link <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/spiritual-leadership-grants-available> to the grant request form; these grant proposals should be submitted no later than May 10th, 2015 to the Spiritual Leadership Ministry Team, c/o Nancy Dibelius, unyslmt@gmail.com.

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.

21th Annual PALESTINIAN Dinner: Friday, May 29th at the 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

UMCOR has designated its International Disaster Relief Advance # 982450 for the Ebola emergency response team. You can give directly to this advance at: <http://www.umc.org/ebola> or send your gifts to the Upper New York Annual Conference , 324 University Ave.,3rd floor Syracuse NY 13210 (noting they are for Advance # 982450)

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 scholar-

ships. 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.

Attention Local Church Trustees

Coverage with Church Mutual Insurance Company If your church HAS NOT HAD a visit by Church Mutual yet, they should contact their representative (on the policy) and schedule an appointment. **for More information go to:** <http://www.unyumc.org/resources/board-of-trustees>

Students urged to apply for 2015 Conference scholarships

United Methodist high school seniors and college students are invited to apply for two scholarships offered by the Upper New York Conference: the Conference Merit Awards and Lottie Brown Grants. Application forms and guidelines are available now.

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.

Announcement: Opportunity to support General Church funds

Although the deadline for getting 2014 Ministry Share payments to the Conference Office has passed, Churches that have not paid 100% of their Ministry Share benevolence still have an opportunity to contribute to General Church funds, including the Black College Fund, the Africa University fund, and many more through shared giving. Because the Conference deadline to make payments to General Church funds is not until Jan. 23, 2015, the Conference Treasurer's Office has decided to accept additional payments on a case-by-case basis that will go into the pool supporting the ministries of The United Methodist Church.

In 2013 the Upper New York Conference was only able to contribute 56% of their General Church funds. This year the hope is to contribute at least 61%.

To explore how your church might be able to help contribute to these vital ministries contact Conference Treasurer Kevin Domanico at (855) 424-7878 or <mailto:KevinDomanico@unyumc.org>.

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.

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

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/>

Oneonta District Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/oneontadistrictumc/>

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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