



August 10th, 2016

*Oneonta District Office of the United Methodist Church
of the Upper New York Annual Conference*

"Living the gospel of Jesus Christ and Being God's love with our neighbors in all places."

Please share this issue of the Oneonta District Newsletter with church members and staff, teams and organizations. If you wish to include news about your missions or disciple formation ministries, please send it on Mondays to be published – that week – email to: OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org

Together let us pray for

Chuck Young, Pastor Brandi Craver's stepfather, Chuck had brain surgery August 2nd that went well, but there are new and significant complications, so please continue to pray for him and the entire family .

Reflection by Rev. Everett Bassett – Oneonta District Superintendent

It's mid-August, and we are eager to draw every last bit of joy out of an Upstate New York summer. At the same time, God opens up many opportunities for exciting and productive ministry in a local church. Here are some random ideas for congregations:



1. Anticipate the beginning of the school year –

-Truth be known, whatever the calendar says, the first week in September is New Years' Day for most of our families. It is then that the priorities are set for the year – what activities will the kids be taking part in? how will the rest of the family schedule settle in around the school routine? what new supplies, clothes, resources will be needed?

What support can congregations give?

- School supplies and clothing for those who need them.
- Expressions of appreciation for educators as they begin another school year –
 - a prayer card to teachers;
 - a supportive sign in front of the church building;
- Making contact with school nurses and counsellors to help stock their supply closets for emergency needs – clothing; lice kits; first aid supplies, etc

2. Anticipate fresh energy for participation –

-Even individuals not directly connected with school can return from summer vacation with new energy. It's time to get back into a routine, maybe incorporate some fresh ideas – sign up for a class; branch out in some way; help the deeper spiritual awareness of the summer last.

What can congregations do?

- Launch a new spiritual growth or study group.
- Have a 'Back From Summer' event, with special invitations to the community
- Put up a Remembering Summer bulletin board, with pictures from members of their favorite summer place – the camp, the hiking trail, the garden, the front porch – where they encountered God.

3. Be renewed and give thanks –

-Whatever late summer planning may need to take place, remember to schedule (or just let happen) plenty of time to take in the beauty of this special part of the world. Let the bounty and grace of the Creator fill your spiritual cup. Enjoy your loved ones, and be an open vessel to God's generosity.

God is good – all the time.

Jesus Christ has given love and life for you.

The Holy Spirit is moving and powerful.

You and I are in this place here and now – invited to share Good News and hope – and that is a good and blessed gift. Praise God!

In Christ, Everett

Note*

Rev. Bassett will be unavailable Friday August 12th – through Friday August 26th. He will have a week of vacation and will also be attending D.S. Training at Lake Junaluska, NC. If you have an urgent need for DS support please contact Teresa at the District Office and she will put you in touch with support contact.

District Office Hours will be flexible, through Sept. 5th please call in advance before stopping by. Our District Newsletter will be published every two weeks (instead of weekly)

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS - In preparation for Rev Everett Bassett's Installation Service on September 18th – we are requesting all Oneonta District Churches send (Via email) 2-3 pictures showing mission work that has taken place (or currently going on) in your church. We would like to use these in a slideshow presentation during the service. Email your photos to OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org .

Interpretative Dance at DS Everett Bassett's Installation

We are looking for anyone who would like to participate in a liturgical/interpretative dance to be presented at District Superintendent Everett Bassett's installation. The installation will take place on September 18 from 4-7 pm. Place to be determined. Times for rehearsals will be determined once we know who will be joining us. Please contact Sharon Bassett at esbassett@gmail.com or 315-430-6149. If texting please include your name.

Save these dates

***August 16 – Mentor Training –(Oneonta & Mohawk District)** 10am to 2pm at the Herkimer UMC, 127 N Prospect St. Herkimer, NY 13350 . Lunch is provided. [Details](#)

***September 16-17 -UMM Retreat** - The Oneonta and Binghamton District United Methodist Men will host UNY annual Christian Men Retreat at the Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center - [Details](#) – [To Register](#)

September 18th DS Rev. Everett Bassett Installation Service 4-7 pm – Location TBA

October 4th – Fall Clergy Gathering- 6-8:30 PM – at Oneonta First UMC (For District Supply Pastors, Local Pastors, Elders and all others serving in the pastoral role. – Attendance is required

***NEW - October 15th and 22nd, – Oneonta District Fall Lay Servant School – 8 am – 1:30 pm – Details and location TBA**

***Oct. 25-27, 2016 - [The Bishops Retreat](#)** - at the Conference and Events Center in Niagara Falls, NY

***NEW - Regional Charge Conferences – Scheduled for November** – Location and Coordinators TBA – **See below for more information.**

Tentative 2016 Regional Annual Church Conferences Schedule

Wed. Nov. 9th 6-9 pm **Sidney** Regional Annual Church Conferences at **TBA**
Regional Coordinator **TBA**

Includes The Following Churches:

Afton/Bainbridge
Unadilla/Otego Sidney

Franklin/Treadwell
Mount Upton

Guilford North Afton
Unadilla Center/Sand Hill

Sat. Nov 12th 10 am-1 pm **Norwich Regional Annual Church Conferences at **TBA****

Regional Coordinator **TBA**

Includes The Following Churches:

Broad St. Norwich
New Berlin
Sherburne/Smyrna

Morris/Edmeston
Oxford/McDonough

Smithville Center
Plymouth/Preston/ North Norwich

Sun. Nov 13th 2-5 pm -Oneonta** Regional Annual Church Conferences at **TBA****

Regional Coordinator **TBA**

Includes The Following Churches:

Davenport
First Oneonta

Elm Park Oneonta
Milford/Portlandville

Emmons/Cooperstown Junction
West Davenport

Sat. Nov. 19th 10 am – 1 pm -Cooperstown** Regional Annual Church Conferences at **TBA****

Regional Coordinator **TBA**

Includes The Following Churches:

Cooperstown
Hartwick/Mt. Vision
Westville

East Worcester
Middlefield/Roseboom
Worcester/Westford

Fly Creek/Schuyler Lake
Schenovus
West Exeter

Sun. Nov. 20th 2-5 pm - **Schoharie Regional Annual Church Conferences at **TBA****

Regional Coordinator **TBA**

Includes The Following Churches:

Cobleskill
Middleburgh/Grosvenors
Warnerville

Delanson
Corners/Barnerville

Esperance-Sloansville & Gallupville
Sharon Springs

Huntersland
Richmondville/Central Bridge

** Note* All Church Conference Forms Are due in the District Office on or before Nov 1, 2016 – Prior to all Regional Annual Church Conferences*

Charge Conference Forms and Clergy Compensation Package information available

Forms required for this fall's upcoming Charge/Church Conferences are now available on the [Upper New York Conference website's Forms page](#). There is a checklist that can be printed to help track the completion of these required forms. Please note that most forms are **due two weeks prior to your charge conference**.

The forms are largely the same as last year with some minor revisions including the addition of the Safe Sanctuary Compliance Form and the addition of a "Camping Agent" contact line on the local church - UNYAC Leadership Interface form, per action of Annual Conference. You will also note the addition of a "Parsonage Inspection Form", which is intended to help churches with the stewardship of their property.

The following forms must be completed new each year prior to Dec. 1 by logging into the profile system via the link provided on the forms page.

[Pastor's Appointment Advisory Form](#)

[S/PPRC Appointment Advisory Form](#)

[Pastor - S/PPRC Covenant Form](#)

Questions related to login should be directed first to your district offices, then to the Conference Office ([Karen Campolieto](#) or [Julie Valeski](#)) if help is not available at the district level.

Church Profiles and Pastor Profiles should be reviewed and updated (saved) by Dec. 1.

The 2017 Clergy Compensation Package materials are available on the 2017 Compensation Package page. Relevant information has been mailed to the local church S/PPRC Chairs. If a chairperson has not received the mailing, they should verify their contact information with their district office. Clergy will be emailed information and forms related to their compensation package and changes in benefit eligibility and costs. We urge clergy to carefully review the materials provided. Questions may be addressed to [Julie Valeski](#) or [Vicki Putney](#) in the Benefits Office.

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to prepare well for this time of ministry discernment, evaluation, and reporting.

Invitations being accepted for Bishop Webb to preach in your church

Bishop Webb is now establishing his preaching schedule for the months of January 2017 through June 2017. If you wish to extend an invitation to Bishop Webb to preach in your church, please contact Mary Bradley at bishopsoffice@unyumc.org or at 324 University Ave., 3rd Floor, Syracuse, New York, 13210. The deadline to receive requests for the Bishop's 2017 preaching schedule is **August 22, 2016**. [Click here](#) to read the bishop's letter.

2016 UNY UMW & UMC Mission U - Silver Bay **September 9 - 11, 2016, Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks** **Registration is extended!**

2016 Theme: Learning for the Transformation of the World
2016 Studies

- The Bible and Human Sexuality, Sara Baron, Study Leader
- The Bible and Human Sexuality, Shirley Readdean, Study Leader
- Climate Justice, Rev. Dr. Dana Horrell, Study Leader

If you missed the August 1, 2016 registration deadline and would like to attend, please contact Marcia Dudden at 518-233-0238, 518-588-6812, or madudden@aol.com.

Scholarship assistance is available.

See complete details on the UNY Mission and to register. [Click here](#)

❖ Local Church News

[First UMC Oneonta's mission work in Jamaica.. Click to read](#)

Be a Super Hero for God Vacation Bible School will be held at Unadilla Center UMC August 22-26 from 9:00-11:30.

Children ages 3 through Middle School are welcome to attend all week or any day. Each day will include fun activities, crafts, music and a snack. The week will culminate with a picnic on Friday at noon and a program on Sunday during the 9:00 A.M. worship service. **Contact Claudia Jenkins at cjgs@frontiernet.net or 607-563-7713**

Women's Retreat is coming - Mark your calendars! The churches of Unadilla Center, Sand Hill and Mt. Upton are planning their second women's retreat for **Saturday, September 17 at the Sand Hill United Methodist Church Community Hall**. This year's theme is Lavendar Springs. It will be an all day event. More details to follow.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal(BMCR) - 2016 Annual Meeting announcement: The New England BMCR Caucus will host the Northeastern Jurisdiction BMCR 47th Annual Meeting Friday, October 7 through Saturday, October 8, 2016 at WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ... 114 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608. The theme: "It's Harvest Time, Galatians 6:9-10. **Registration deadline is September 18, 2016** and there is a limited room block with a cutoff deadline of 9/4/2016 for your hotel reservation. You can register on line or contact LaVerne Ampadu (lavlewis@verizon.net) or (716-837-2073) for more details. Please begin planning early. It is an important time in our United Methodist Church.

[Legacy Ministry website has launched](#)

The *Legacy* Ministry website is now available. The website will introduce people to *Legacy* Ministry and what it's about so they can see if it is something they want to explore. *Legacy* Ministry seeks to help congregations that are "having trouble staying in operation and who express that they're having..."

<http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/legacy-ministry-website-has-launched>

Item of interest: Bishop John Shelby Spong to speak and preach at Schenectady FUMC Sept. 17-18

For a series of events endorsed by UNY Board of Global Ministries, Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong will be at First United Methodist Church, Schenectady, NY, on Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18, 2016. Bishop Spong is an authoritative voice for believers in exile and for those seeking to experience Christianity in a new and vibrant way.

A prominent theme in Spong's writing is that the popular and literal interpretations of Christian scripture are not sustainable and do not speak honestly to the situation of modern Christian communities. He believes in a more nuanced approach to scripture, informed by scholarship and compassion, which can be consistent with both Christian tradition and contemporary understandings of the universe.

Bishop Spong will make two presentations on Saturday, September 17:

- At 10 a.m., he will address the topic, "Why There is a Crisis in Faith in the Christian World Today."
- At 1 p.m., he will engage the topic, "How Do We Sing the Lord's Song in the 21st Century?"
- Lunch will be provided at noon. If you would like lunch, RSVP to Bob Long (Bikealong2@nycap.rr.com) or the church office (fumcschenectady@yahoo.com).

On Sunday, September 18, Bishop Spong will preach at morning worship at 10 a.m. and be available for brief dialogue following.

The UNY Board of Global Ministries and Schenectady FUMC invite all to attend these thoughtful presentations with Bishop Spong are open to all.

Trip planned to Leadership Institute at the Church of the Resurrection

Time is running out, but you can still register for Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute in Kansas City. The Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection brings together clergy, church staff, and volunteers who share a passion for renewing churches. The Upper New York Annual Conference has organized a trip to share in this great event. Join us for an exciting learning opportunity at Church of The Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas on September 28-30, 2016.

The group from the Conference will fly out of Syracuse on Tuesday evening, September 27 and return on Friday evening, September 30. Registration includes airfare, conference registration, and ground transportation. Total cost of registration is \$700. Lodging and meals would be on your own ([Click here](#) for a list of hotels). After July 10, the registration cost increases to \$750, and the **final deadline to register is August 22.**

Please note after the first ten spots are filled the price may change because of changes to the cost of airfare. A non-refundable first payment of \$200 is due with your registration. The full balance is due no later than September 1. To take advantage of this group pricing, [click here](#) to register. [Details](#)

UM HANDBOOK

[The New United Methodist Handbook](#) is now available in an easy-to-read and share digital format. The Handbook is among the best resources for laity providing leadership, people new to The United Methodist Church and clergy who occasionally get stumped by a question. It includes: * United Methodist teachings, * church structure and organization, * denominational initiatives, * what it means to be a worldwide church, * connectional giving information, * a glossary of United Methodist terms ... and much more

Registration is now open for The 2016 Bishop's Retreat -Oct. 25-27, 2016 at the Conference and Events Center in Niagara Falls, NY. [Click here for information and to register](#) . **Registration closes Friday, Sept. 30, 2016.**

Wesley in Ireland, 2017

From Rev. Jeff Matthews, Albany District. Have you ever thought you'd like to explore our religious/ Wesleyan/ or even your own cultural background a bit more? Have you ever thought you'd like to visit Ireland? You can combine all those goals by joining me for "Wesley in Ireland 2017". I'll be leading a tour group there departing on May 16, 2017 and I'd love to have you join me.

The beauty of the land and the friendly hospitality of the people are well known. Many of us trace a good deal of our own family history there as well. But did you know that part of the history of "Methodism" takes place there? I'm excited about this opportunity to learn more and I hope you will be as well. You can view some of the details of the trip by [clicking here](#).

The cost of the basic 10 day trip for May begins at \$3,298. It includes round trip airfare (departing from Newark, NJ), all hotels, buses, touring, admissions, gratuities and 2 meals per day. If you choose the post-trip extension to Northern Ireland it will be an additional \$998. These prices are based on double occupancy.

If you have questions or if I can be helpful in any way, please feel free to contact me by email at jmdiv83@hotmail.com or by phone at 518-463-1293. I'll look forward to saying, "WELCOME ABOARD" as we plan for the experience of a lifetime. You can register online or by US Mail. Be sure to include host number 02509 on your registration to be included in our group. I'll be happy to assist you by sending a brochure or with your online registration.

Blessings and peace,

Jeff Matthews, Host Pastor

UMM Retreat in September

The Oneonta and Binghamton District United Methodist Men will host UNY annual Christian Men Retreat September 16-17 at the Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Windsor. This year's theme is "Giving God your all."

Former Harvard University and Seattle Seahawk linebacker Isaiah Kacyvenski - who was the Seattle Seahawks' Special Teams Captain three years in a row, helped lead the team to Super Bowl XL, and grew up in Endicott - will serve as the keynote speaker. The retreat will also feature the Mark Bolos Praise Band. **For [Flyer click here](#) – [To register click here](#) o, contact UNY UMM President Mark Jones at (315) 749-3700 or msjwelshman@yahoo.com.**



Lay Servants Can Fill in for Pulpit Supply

Is your church in need of a trained person to fill the pulpit while your pastor is away? The Oneonta District Lay Servant Team has a list of Certified Lay Servants who are well-equipped to do just that. Find a list of these folks by [clicking here](#).

Global United Methodist Clergywomen Gathering

Dates: Aug. 29-31, 2016. Location: Houston, TX.

Theme: One: Birthing a Worldwide Church For more information about the Conference, [click here](#).

We're excited to announce our **new website and mobile guide** for you to use through Guidebook! See the website at <http://guidebook.com/guide/41946> or get the mobile guide <https://guidebook.com/g/global-clergywomen/> to access the most up-to-date information about our event, including schedules, maps, and much more.

Africa 360 -How to get involved ?

There are all new materials - brochures, bookmarks, envelopes can be ordered online, printable display, liturgy, and more at www.unyumc.org/mission/Africa360 (churches can find tools at the Africa 360 toolkit, linked to that page as well) For youth, a local church in the Crossroads district has created a project, complete with video and craft project (downloadable from www.unyumc.org/mission/Africa-360-Toolkit), and includes cross-generational experiences for congregations that are interested.

**Laurel O'Connor -Field Coordinator, Africa 360
Upper New York Conference**



315-424-7878 ext. 327

Africa 360: Health and Education for Generations

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. -African Proverb

Native American Festivals 2016 / 2017

September 3rd -4th ~ 33rd Annual Iroquois Indian Festival
Iroquois Indian Museum, 324 Caverns Rd., Howes Cave

September 10th -11th ~ Seneca Indian Fall Festival, Cattaraugus Territory

September 10th -11th ~ Akwesasne Pow Wow - Grand entry at 12 noon.
Akwesasne Territory, Mohawk Nation
Anowarakowa Arena Cornwall Island, Ontario.

September 10th -11th ~ Saratoga Native American Festival
Victoria Pool Mall, Saratoga Spa State Park

September 10th -11th ~ All Nation's Benefit Pow Wow
Portal Institute, 163 Melrose Road, Susquehanna, PA

September 25th - 27th ~ Polishing the Silver Covenant Chain
Building Relationships for the good of the Earth
Six Nations Grand River Reserve, Ontario, Canada.
To register (406) 587-1002 or send e-mail inquiring
Eric Noyes, Eric@twocircles.org

Volunteers in Mission team to Nicaragua – March 2017

A VIM opportunity in Nicaragua is being planned for late March – early April 2017. The team will work with Accion Medica Cristiana (Christian Medical Action/ AMC). Our UM missionary, Belinda Forbes, DDS, is our primary contact person. She and her agency, AMC, work with the “poorest of the poor” in this beautiful country, which is the second poorest in our hemisphere. The tasks of the team have not yet been determined, but they will include projects that will improve the lives of some of the people in Nicaragua. Possible projects might be construction of a pharmacy or community center, health education, assisting with dental care, or painting a clinic building. Hands-on, direct medical care will not be one of the projects. Team members will also have the opportunity to form relationships with the warm, friendly people with whom they work.

The team/s will be jointly sponsored by the Jonesville UMC and First UMC, Schenectady. Details have not yet been determined. There might be options to go for either 10 days or 2 weeks. Cost will be approximately \$2000--\$2500. This amount includes airfare, food, transportation in the country, lodging, and translator fees – everything except souvenirs. Scholarship aid is often available.

If you are at all interested in being part of this opportunity and would like to receive information as details are worked out, contact Amy Pelc at me911j@hotmail.com or 518-698-5024 or Cindy Schulte at tacks5@hotmail.com or 518-374-3012 or Jan or Peter Huston at hustonjp24@gmail.com or 518-399-0919. Replying to this is not a commitment – just an indication of interest in learning more. Please also share any concerns or questions you have when you reply.

We hope you will be able to participate in the wonderful opportunity to be part of a Volunteers in Mission team to Nicaragua!

UMVIM team to Zimbabwe is forming now!

A UMVIM team will visit Zimbabwe in July of 2017 and interested individuals are invited to learn more. The team will be visiting Africa University as well as spending time at Mutambara Methodist Mission. They will be doing light construction projects, participating in activities in the preschool and primary school, and working on sewing and cooking projects with the pregnant women who stay at Mutambara Methodist Mission for a month awaiting delivery of their babies. Lower age limit is 16 unless accompanied by a parent or grandparent; there is no upper age limit, but members do need to be in good health and need to be mobile. Estimated cost is \$3,500, all inclusive.

The initial team introductory meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the [Port Byron UMC](#). Attendance does not commit you, but allows you to explore this opportunity to be in mission. If you have questions, feel free to contact Sylvia Reimer at syljr5141@gmail.com or 315-778-5074.

News from Upper New York Annual Conference

Summer hours at UNYAC Offices

The Conference and Episcopal offices will be on summer hours through Sept. 5. The offices will be open Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and abbreviated on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to noon during that period. The offices will resume their regular, non-summer hours on Tuesday, Sept. 6. The Conference and District offices are closed on Monday, Sept. 5 in celebration of Labor Day.

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.

Conference Job Posting – Finance and Benefits Support Specialist opening to inquire about this or any open positions, <http://www.unyumc.org/about/jobs> and use the online application system for applying for open positions. **Click here for Details** The Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to building a diverse team. We strongly encourage women and men from all races and backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, and veterans to apply.



2016 Summer Camp & Retreat programs

Click below for details

<http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/2016-summer-camp-retreat-programs-registration-opens>

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 * Email: www.unyumc.org

Quicklinks

[Oneonta District Calender](#) * [Oneonta District Newsletter](#) * [Advocate](#) * [Africa-360](#) * [Background Checks](#)
[Benefits/Pension](#) * [Bishop Mark J. Webb](#) * [Bridge](#) * [UNYAC Calendar](#) * [Camp & Retreat Ministries \(CRM\)](#) * [Classifieds Conference Council on Youth Ministries \(CCYM\)](#) * [Contact UNYAC](#) * [Disaster Response](#) * [Finance](#) * [Forms](#) * [Imagine No Malaria](#)
* [Media Resource Center](#) * [Volunteers-in-Mission](#) * [UNYAC Weekly Digest 2016 Standard Mileage Rate](#)

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>

See us on Face book: [Oneonta District United Methodists](#)

P.O. BOX 668 Oneonta NY, 13820 Phone/Fax: (607)441-5102



Your Partners in Ministry at the Oneonta District Office,
District Superintendent -Rev. Everett Barrett,
and Administrative Assistant- Teresa Wood