

August 26th, 2015

**Oneonta District Office UMC Newsletter
of the Upper New York Annual Conference**

“Living the gospel of Jesus Christ and Being God’s love with our neighbors in all places.”



Together, let us pray for

The people of Gallupville and Esperance-Sloansville UMCs and Pastoral Leader Matt Rowe

all those who suffer and those in trouble

those who struggle with addiction

all who suffer violence

for the concerns of our local communities

for all children, teachers, and school staff, that summer vacation is bringing renewal and joy to each one and as they begin to prepare for a new Fall semester

neighbors 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 and community conversations around racism

for places of conflict, near and far- for grace to see each person as a child of God

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

New faith communities in Upper New York Conference

for the congregations of the Schoharie Region

District & Conference Events Coming Soon

Date	Time	Item	Location
Mon., Aug. 31st	6 pm	dCOM - District Committee on Ministry	First Oneonta UMC – first floor /Basement area
Wed., Sept 9th	4:30 pm	dBLB -District Board of locations and Buildings	Downstairs District Office
Thurs., Sept 10th	2:30 - 6 PM 5:00-8:30 pm	Fall Orientation for pastors and Lay Leaders	First Oneonta UMC - Embury Room
Tues., Sept. 22nd	5:30 pm	dCOS - District Committee on Superintendency	Downstairs District Office
Fri. Sept. 25		Boundaries Training	Shenendehowa UMC, Clifton Park see details below to register
Sat. Sept	TBA	Connect and Receive District Gathering	Cobleskill UMC Child Care will be provided – Also remember to indicate any spe-

26th			cial Dietary needs to Michelle (email; coby.umc@verizon.net / Call: 518-234-3671) when registering See attached Flyer
Sat Oct 17th		Boundaries Training	Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Windsor see details below to register
Oct 24 th & 31 st	8 am – 2pm	Lay Servant Training	At Elm Park UMC – See attached Flyer
Sat. Oct. 31		Safe Sanctuaries Training	Safe Sanctuaries Training Class at Elm Park – please register by using Lay Servant Training Brochure
Sun., Nov. 15th	Following Worship Service	Sidney Regional Church Conference	Sidney UMC
Mon., Nov. 16th	TBA	Norwich Regional Church Conference	Oxford UMC
Tues., Nov. 17th	TBA	Oneonta Regional Church Conference	Elm park UMC
Wed., Nov. 18th	TBA	Cooperstown Regional Church Conference	Cooperstown UMC
Thurs., Nov. 19th	TBA	Schoharie Regional Church Conference	Esperance- Sloansville UMC
Tues., Dec 1st	TBA	Advent Day Apart	TBA
Tues., March 1st, 2016	TBA	Lenten Day Apart	TBA
Sat., March 5th, 2016	TBA	Oneonta District Day	Elm Park UMC
Thurs., April 14th, 2016	TBA	Bishop's Day on the District	TBA

Boundary Awareness Training for Pastors

This training is mandatory for all pastors and lay worship leaders under appointment

in the Upper New York Annual Conference.

(This is not the same as Safe Sanctuary Training!)

In our life together, we are called to maintain boundaries as a means of maintaining covenant with each other and with those whom we serve. Understanding these boundaries and strategies to maintain them is important to our ministry together.

Beginning in September 2015, the Upper New York Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is offering Boundary Awareness Training for all clergy under appointment. **This training is mandatory for all pastors in the Upper New York Annual Conference.** The trainings will be led by the Rev. Diane Wheatley, in partnership with the Capital Region Theological Center. Rev. Wheatley is an ordained clergy member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Sessions will be held on the following dates and locations:

Sept. 24, 2015 Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center, Moravia - Filled -

Sept. 25, 2015 Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, Clifton Park

Sept. 26, 2015 Plattsburgh United Methodist Church, Plattsburgh

Oct. 17, 2015 Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Windsor

Oct. 27, 2015 Findley Camp and Retreat Center, Clymer

Oct. 28, 2015 Asbury Camp and Retreat Center, Silver Lake

Oct. 29, 2015 Canton United Methodist Church, Canton

Jan. 9, 2016 Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center, Moravia

You are welcome to register for any event, pending space availability. You need only attend one event. You may register online for any event through the Capital Region Theological Center at <https://crtc.org/upcoming/eventgroup>.

Total fee for the course is \$85, which will be due upon check-in at the training. You will have the option to request a mini-grant (\$30) from your available continuing education funds from the Board of Ordained Ministry during the registration process or by contacting the Rev. Wayne Mort at wayneamort@aol.com. You will receive notification regarding the awarding of these funds prior to the event. You should come to the course prepared to pay.

Local Church News

NEW - Women's Retreat: "Garden Getaway" Take a walk with God on Sept. 12 at Sand Hill UMC. This one day women's retreat will run from **8:30-4:30** and will provide an opportunity to get away from the busyness of life. Stop and smell the roses as you relax with friends, share laughter and stories, and spend time with God. The cost for materials will be \$15. It is being sponsored and run by Sand Hill, Mt. Upton, and Unadilla Center United Methodist Churches. Women of all ages and denominations are invited to join us. Please call Claudia Jenkins at 563-7713 for information and to receive registration materials. Please share this information with your church, your family and your friends.

NEW - Wanted: Set of hand bells : Milford UMC would like to either purchase, or borrow, a set of handbells. We have a lot of enthusiastic volunteers, but no hand bells to play! If you can help, please call 434-7188 and speak to Pastor Sylvia Barrett. Thank you!

NEW - Rev. Jorge Acevedo coming to UNY

Opportunities for the entire AC to be a part of his time in UNY. Please refer to the article open to all on evangelism (see this story- <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/be-inspired-to-rethink-evangelism-this-fall-with-the-rev.-jorge-acevedo>).

New – Participate in UNY's 2015 VBS Survey

Did you have a vibrant and exciting Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer? Which programs did you like? What worked for you and what did not? Upper New York's Communication and Resource Ministry areas want to know. We will compile the results from a VBS survey and share them later this fall. [Click here](#) to take the brief survey.

New – UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (UMVIM) TEAM LEADER TRAINING

What is UMVIM? UM Volunteers in Mission (VIM) - to promote, encourage, and enable Christians to exemplify "Christian Love in Action" through short-term mission service in the United States and abroad.

Who should attend team leader training? If you are interested in learning more about being a VIM team leader or if you want to be a better team member, this training is for you! Team Leader Training is required for all first time UMVIM team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend.

What will be covered in the training? Topics will include picking a project, team roles, choosing members, making a budget, fundraising, necessary forms, youth teams, safe sanctuaries, team health and safety, telling the story, cultural considerations, spiritual development, and international and medical teams.

When, where, and how to register for the training – It will be held Sat. Oct. 24, 9AM – approximately 4PM, at the Jonesville UMC in Clifton Park. There will be a small fee for materials and lunch.

For more information and to register, contact Jan and Pete Huston at hustonjp24@gmail.com or 518-399-0919. More information is also available from Jay and Cathie Dunkleberger at jaydunkleb@gmail.com or 518-371-7071.

UNY Notes : Keep your fall schedule open for these opportunities

There's still time to get in on three great opportunities to increase the vitality of your local congregation:

- [Hand to Plow](#) groups are in formation right now. Registration for year one and for continuation are available on Upper New York's website. The registration deadline is Sept. 15.
- Opportunity for developing leaders and increasing vitality is *Tending the Fire*. For more information and registration, [click here](#).

For more information about these or any of the Vital Congregations opportunities, contact the Rev. Dr. Aaron M. Bouwens, Conference Director of Vital Congregations, at aaronbouwens@unyumc.org or (315) 424-7878, ext. 338.

Red Bird Mission

Red Bird Mission Shoebox Project - 2015

It is time to begin filling shoeboxes for the Red Bird Mission Christmas Shoebox Project. This is a most worthwhile project serving the Red Bird Mission Conference of the United Methodist Church and their clientele. This project is worthy of your consideration. *For more information about Red Bird Mission and the Christmas 'Shoebox project, [click here](#).*

Nicaragua 2016

A VIM team will be going to Nicaragua in 2016. Tentative dates are March 3—17. The team will be working with Dr. Belinda Forbes, UM missionary dentist. Belinda works with Accion Medica Cristiana (Christian Medical Action/ AMC), an agency that works with some of the poorest people in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in our hemisphere. The team will probably do health related work but not direct medical care. Work might include assisting with dental care, health education, construction, etc. AMC will look at the team's skills and the community's needs to determine the work and the location. It is expected that the team will go to the northeastern region, the RACCN, which is regarded as the poorest area of Nicaragua.

The team is being sponsored by First UMC, Schenectady, which has a covenant relationship with Dr. Forbes. Anticipated cost will be \$2000-2500. Team leader is Cindy Schulte. You can contact her at tacks5@hotmail.com or 518-374-3012 for more information or an application. You can also contact Jan Huston for more information at hustonjp24@gmail.com or 518-399-0919. AMC has a website where you can learn more about the work they do with the warm, friendly people of this beautiful country – <http://amcenglish.org>. It is hoped that the team will be formed by mid-Sept. so get your application in soon!

Support Africa 360

Churches all over the conference are answering the call to support Africa 360. The Africa 360 Challenge 2.0 was issued at Annual Conference in May, and each church has received a goal card to encourage them to participate. If your church did not receive a goal card, or has any other questions about resources, a speaker, or brainstorming creative ideas, email Laurel O'Connor, Africa 360 Field Coordinator at LaurelOConnor@unyumc.org. There are resources and information online as well: <http://www.unyumc.org/mission/africa-360>. The August issue of the Advocate is dedicated specifically to Africa 360, so keep your eyes open for that issue that will be filled with church stories, ideas, and resources that are available for use.

In other news, the Albany District Ministry Team and the "AU Breakfast Table" have initiated an endowed scholarship to honor Virgia Phoenix, a remarkable woman and this year's recipient of the Denman award at Conference. Virgia's local church, First UMC, Schenectady, has joined as co-sponsor. If you would like to give a gift to honor Virgia and the profound impact she continues to have in the Upper New York Confer-

ence, please send donations to the Upper New York Conference office, written to UNYAC with "AU-Virgia Phoenix" in the memo line. If your church would like to take an offering for the Virgia Phoenix endowed scholarship and would like specially-marked envelopes, please contact Laurel O'Connor (LaurelOConnor@unyumc.org). If a church or group of churches is interested in honoring someone and would like more details about endowing a full scholarship to Africa University, please contact the Conference Office for full details.

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

Camping & Retreat Ministries - <http://www.unyumc.org/about/crm>

Sign Up for a Summer Program TODAY!

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!

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.

NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVALS in New York 2015

September 5-6 **33rd Annual Iroquois Indian Festival** Iroquois Indian Museum 324 Caverns Road
Howes Cave, NY

September 12-13 **Seneca Indian Fall Festival** Cattaraugus Territory

September 12-13 **Akwesasne Pow Wow** Grand entry at 12 noon. Akwesasne Territory, Mohawk Nation, Anowarakowa Arena Cornwall Island, Ontario.

September 12-13 **Saratoga Native American Festival** Victoria Pool Mall Saratoga Spa State Park

September 18-27 **2015 World Indoor Lacrosse Championship** First ever international sporting event held on Indigenous lands. Thirteen nations will compete for the championship in Syracuse For more info ><http://wilc2015.com><

September 25-27 **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](tel:406-587-1002) or email Eric Noyes:

at Eric@twocircles.org.

November 11 **Canandaigua Treaty Celebration** Noon till 9pm Court house lawn Canandaigua and Elementary School Commemorates the 200+ years of the treaty parade, food, vendors, educational presentations, social

For the Full list of 2015-16 Appointments go to :<http://www.unyumc.org/news/appointments>

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

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(315) 424-7878 * Toll-Free (855) 424-7878 * Fax (315) 478-4869 * Email: 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>

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

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