

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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."*



Please share this issue of the Oneonta District Newsletter with church members and staff, teams and organizations. If you wish to include news, that involves Missions send it a minimum of 7 days in advance to: [OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org)

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**Together, let us pray for**

*God's Light and Hope during our Advent Journey*

*The people of West Exeter UMC and worship leader Paul Eckert*

**All those who suffer and those in trouble**

*Our Moslem neighbors and friends*

*The people of San Bernadino, Beirut, Paris, and all who suffer violence  
refugees and migrants fleeing Syria and Iraq*

*all seeking a safe home*

*those who struggle with addiction*

**for the concerns of our local communities**

*neighbors for whom Christmas is a difficult season due to loss, loneliness, depression, or family brokenness*

*neighbors receiving God's gift of love thru our Giving Tree gifts, Christmas baskets, and other ministries*

**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**

*Our participation in Africa 360- No More Malaria and Africa University*

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**Oneonta District Office UMC**

**Office Hours for Week of**

**Dec. 14-20<sup>th</sup>**

Will be as follows:

**Mon Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** – Not in office but working will be checking emails and phone messages

**Tues. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**- Office hours 8:00 am – 4 PM

**Wed. Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** - Not in office but working will be checking emails and phone messages

**Thurs. Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** - Office hours 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Fri., Sat., Sun. Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Office Closed**

**District Events Coming Up**

Date	Time	Item	Location
Mon. Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	DCOM Meeting	Coke Room downstairs at First Oneonta UMC
Sun. Feb. 28th	9:00 am Social Hour and Lunch to Follow	Bishop Webb preaching in Unadilla	Unadilla 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC
Tues., March 1st, 2016	9am-2:30m	Lenten Day Apart for Pastors	Cooperstown UMC
Sat., March 5th, 2016	TBA	Oneonta District Day	Elm Park UMC
Thurs., April 14th, 2016	TBA	Bishop's Day on the District	Norwich Broad Street UMC

### SUPPORT AFRICA 360

#### **Help Oneonta District move into first place participation in 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](http://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](http://www.unyumc.org/mission/Africa-360-Toolkit)), and includes cross-generational experiences for congregations that are interested: <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/prayer-partners-another-life-saving-tool-in-the-africa-360-toolkit>

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*

### **2015 Advent Calendar for download**

For more information and to download the calendar go to:

[www.thomasmousin.wordpress.com](http://www.thomasmousin.wordpress.com)

### **Reminder of Reports that were due Dec., 1, 2015**

#### **Thank you to all who have taken care of this!**

Due Dec. 1, 2015 Following Regional Church/Charge Conference (*mail these to District Office*):

10. Church/Charge Conference Minutes(*with attachments*) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Church/Charge Conference Sign-In Sheet • \_\_\_\_\_

Due by December 1, 2015 (*Do not mail printed copy -- just update online*):- Note Please don't forget to select yes and save when completed)

15. Church Profile\* (complete at <http://uny.umconline.org>) \_\_\_\_\_

## Local Church News

### **NEW - Harry Potter is Coming to Church**

Join us at the **Sidney United Methodist Church on Thursday evenings beginning at 5:30 pm** as learn more about God, ourselves, and all things spiritual using the Harry Potter movies as a means delve into the Word. We will watch the movies, pausing after some of the scenes to discuss what we have seen and how it relates to scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments.

As we watch the movies, we will use the story lines, symbolism, the development of the characters and the choices they make to discuss matters of faith and Christian living in our current times. All are welcome to join us.

Please contact Pastor Gary Kubitz [aftonbainbridgeumc@yahoo.com](mailto:aftonbainbridgeumc@yahoo.com) with any questions.

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### **Cobleskill's Sunday Funday- School children's first mission**

was helping SALT (Schoharie Area Long Term Recovery Coalition) collect needed items for the "Kits for Kids" emergency mgmt kits for children in their area. The children decided to collect reading books and coloring books and asked Cobleskill UMC church family for help. In four weeks the children collected 29 books and a \$35 cash donation for SALT.



Here are some photos of Daniella and Robyn, SALT Interns, who came to church one Sunday to share their mission need with our children.

The next mission chosen by the children is for "No More Malaria" ...to meet Bishop Webb's Challenge! They are excited about this also. The chance to eradicate Malaria, awesome.

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### **FIFTH SUNDAY WORSHIP At Treadwell and Franklin UMC's-**

At the request of Jan Rowell I am pleased to share what is done on the Fifth Sundays each year. When I came as pastor to this charge seven years ago the two churches were not one family. I encouraged the churches to meet for joint worship followed by a dish to pass meal at alternate churches on the fifth Sunday's during the year. The host church picked a special mission project which both churches supported in a special offering by bringing specific items or a cash donated. For the fifth Sunday of November 2015 Franklin and Treadwell raised \$245.80 for the work of Seneca Street UMC in Buffalo. The missions chosen have ranged from local needs to conference advance specials to international needs. Since instituting the fifth Sunday joint worship and offerings the two churches have gone from one not paying any ministry shares and the other struggling to pay current and past ministry shares to both paying 100% of ministry shares and doing other mission projects beyond the ministry shares and fifth Sunday worship projects. Give the concept a try. *Pastor John Hill*

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## What is the United Methodist Church doing for the European migration crisis?

Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, has written [an open letter](#) regarding The United Methodist Church's response to the ongoing European migration crisis. In his letter, Kemper outlines the scope of the crisis, requests prayer as an immediate response, and highlights the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). To lend your financial support, please send donations to UMCOR through the Upper New York Conference, 324 University Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210 (please denote "Advance #982450" for International Disaster Response on your check). Additionally, UMCOR is providing food packets and hygiene kits on the island of Kos and Lesbos. [Click here](#) for details of how to assemble UMCOR relief kits. [Click here](#) to read more about The UMC's aid to European refugees.

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## UNY Conference Trustees activate Revolving Loan Fund

The Upper New York Conference is pleased to announce the activation of the Revolving Loan Fund. Upper New York's predecessor conferences had loan funds to assist churches for certain expenditures, primarily associated with real property, such as major repairs and capital improvements. These funds are now available for lending to UNY churches with these capital needs, when alternative financing is unavailable. [Details](#)

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## 'Track' your congregation's Ministry Shares progress

Through Ministry Shares, your local church supports amazing ministries around the world and in your backyard. The majority of Upper New York Conference churches are currently on track to pay 100 percent of their Ministry Share benevolence for 2015. [Click Here](#) to see the full list of on-track churches. Or go to : <http://www.unyumc.org/about/churches-on-track>



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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

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**Conference Job Posting** - *Anyone inquiring about any open positions can go to <http://www.unyumc.org/about/jobs> and use the online application system for applying for open positions.*

**Job Posting – Director, Skye Farm Camp & Retreat Center**

**Posting Date: 11/11/2015**

**Location: Warrensburg, NY**

The Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is accepting applications for a full-time Director of Skye Farm Camp and Retreat Center in Warrensburg, NY. The Annual Conference operates six facilities with focuses on summer camp and retreat ministries. The Director shall be responsible for the coordination and supervision of all aspects concerning the operation of seasonal and year-round programs, including but not limited to, summer camp planning and adult, family, children and youth programs. The successful candidate should have experience with program development, personnel management, financial management, facility development, food service oversight and have the capacity to work with a wide range of guest groups, volunteers and staff. Must be high energy, charismatic, communicate and work well with others, goal oriented and appreciate diversity. Special consideration will be given to those who are in or have completed the Camp and Retreat Ministry Certification.

The successful candidate will have a Bachelors degree and 3 years in camp and retreat ministries. Please refer to the [job description](#) for complete list of qualifications and responsibilities.

**Application Instructions:** To be considered for this position you must apply online at <http://www.unyumc.org/about/jobs> and include the following:

- Completed online application                      Resume
- Cover letter    Contact information for three professional references

**Application Deadline: December 16, 2015**

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**Job Posting – Payroll & Accounting Support Specialist**

**Posting Date: 11/25/2015**

**Location: Syracuse, NY**

The Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is accepting applications for the position of Payroll & Accounting Support Specialist for our Finance team. This is a full-time non-exempt position, at 37.5 hours per week. The Payroll & Accounting Support Specialist will be responsible for processing Conference payroll in an accurate and timely manner, and ensuring proper allocation by journal entries for all payroll and benefits related activity. This position requires excellent attention-to-detail skills, strong customer service and communication skills, and high level of dependability.

The successful candidate will have an Associate's degree in accounting and 4 years of bookkeeping/accounting experience. Please refer to the [job description](#) for complete list of qualifications and responsibilities.

**Application Instructions:** To be considered for this position you must apply online at <http://www.unyumc.org/about/jobs> and include the following:

- Completed online application                      Resume
- Cover letter    Contact information for three professional references

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, December 15, 2015**

*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.*

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## Background Checks

If you need to perform a background check in relation to the safe sanctuaries policy, one may be obtained through Trusted Employees, a new corporate partner of Church Mutual. Trusted Employees provides a comprehensive range of applicant screening and verification services that are scalable, customizable, and can be integrated with applicant tracking systems. [Details here.](#)

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## Upper New York Annual Conference - Important Dates/Deadlines for 2016

Be sure to mark the following dates and deadlines on your calendar for 2016:

- **Jan. 12:** 2015 Ministry Shares and direct bill payments due at the Conference Office by 4:30 p.m.
  - **Feb. 15:** Final day to update 2015 statistical information in EZRA system (*Note: The EZRA site will open on Jan. 1 - statistics cannot be uploaded until that date.*)
  - **Feb. 16:** Final day to submit petitions/resolutions to the Conference Office for AC '16
  - **March 1:** Final day to get all other Pre-Conference materials to the Conference Office
  - **March 15<sup>th</sup> – 2015 Financial Audit of your church records is due to the District Superintendent**
  - **Early March:** Registration for the 2016 Annual Conference session opens
  - **Early April:** Pre-Conference Workbook available
  - **April 16:** Pre-Conference Briefing 9-11 a.m. at the Potsdam UMC
  - **April 16:** Pre-Conference Briefing 4-6 p.m. at the Saratoga Springs UMC
  - **April 30:** Pre-Conference Briefing 9-11 a.m. at the Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center in Moravia
  - **April 30:** Pre-Conference Briefing 3-5 p.m. at the Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Windsor
  - **May 7:** Pre-Conference Briefing 9-11 a.m. at the Asbury Camp & Retreat Center in Perry
  - **May 7:** Pre-Conference Briefing 3-5 p.m. at the Bemus Point UMC
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**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.

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### Contact info for the Upper NY Conference is as follows:

Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church  
324 University Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Syracuse, NY 13210

315) 424-7878 \* Toll-Free (855) 424-7878 \* Fax (315) 478-4869 \* Email: [www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)

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## Quick links

[Oneonta District Calander](#) \* [Oneonta District Newsletter](#)  
[Advocate](#) \* [Africa-360](#) \* [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](#)  
[Job Opportunities](#) \* [Media Resource Center](#) \* [Volunteers-in-Mission](#)  
[UNYAC Weekly Digest](#)

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**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,  
Rev. Jan Rowel, District Superintendent and Teresa Wood, Administrative Assistant