

February 17th, 2016

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 about your missions or disciple formation ministries, please send it on Mondays to be published – that week – email to: OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org



Most High and glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our hearts and give us a true faith, a certain hope and a perfect love. Give us a sense of the divine and knowledge of yourself, so that we may do everything in fulfillment of your holy will: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226

Together, let us pray for

Pastor Kathy Brumbaugh – recuperating from Surgery

The UNY [Older Adult Ministry](#)

District Events Coming Up

Date	Time	Item	Location
Sun. Feb. 28th	10:00 am Social Hour and Lunch to Follow	Bishop Webb preaching in Unadilla Unadilla welcomes congregations who might want to take a "field trip" to visit Unadilla on that date!	Unadilla 1st UMC
Tues., March 1st, 2016	9am-2:30m	Lenten Day Apart for Pastors	Cooperstown UMC
Sat., March 5th, 2016	8:30 Registration 3:30 pm Departure	Oneonta District Day	Elm Park UMC
Thurs., April 14th, 2016	See below	Bishop's Day on the District	Norwich Broad Street UMC See below for details
April 16, 2016	4-6PM	Pre-Conference Briefing	Saratoga Springs UMC
April 30 th , 2016	9-11 am	Pre-Conference Briefing	Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center in Moravia
April 30 th , 2016	3-5 pm	Pre-Conference Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">at the Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Windsor
June 2-4 2016		2016 UNY Annual Conference	At the OnCenter in Syracuse, NY. Click on link below for more information. http://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference

From the Oneonta District Leadership Team: We are looking for a group who might be interested in a fund raising activity...

by supplying a bag lunch for the folks attending **district Day on March 5** at Elm Park Oneonta UMC. (Youth Groups, UMW group) could be as simple as sandwich, chips, fruit or cookie, bottle water. To grab and go to our meeting places, hence the bag lunch. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Penny Harrington at

pennynharrington@gmail.com

or Joanne Fisher at jofisher72@verizon.net

Bishop Webb preaching at [Unadilla 1st UMC](#)

Sunday February, 28th

At 10:00 am

Social Hour and Lunch to Follow

Unadilla welcomes congregations who might want to take a "field trip" to visit Unadilla that day.

Following 10 am worship service, we'll have coffee & social hour. Lunch will be served for all at noon with ham & scalloped potatoes, toss salad, cake & beverage. Table service will be provided. Covered dish items are welcome, as you are able.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 – Lenten Day Apart for Pastors - at Cooperstown UMC

9:am – 2:30 pm



Theme- Wesley's Three Simple Rules

Leaders- Brandi Craver, Bill Delia, George Gallandorm

Lunch will be served – for Donation

Come for a different type of day away.

A day away to pray and play, meet and mediate, in a way you desire.

There will be several stations available following each worship segment.

Without totally destroying the mystery of the day you might wish to sip tea, prepare bread for the day's Communion, walk a labyrinth or try another of the options that will be available.

Gosh, you might simply want to talk with a colleague you haven't seen for a while.

To register please contact Teresa at the District Office (607) 441-5102 or email:

OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org –

When you contact us about registration please let us know of any Dietary restrictions.

Deadline to Register is Feb. 20, 2016

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 5, 2016 – District Day, at Elm Park UMC Oneonta –8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Registration begins at 8:30 am



Rev. Colleen Preuniger, Syracuse University Chaplain, Keynote

Plenary:

"How is it with Your Soul?: Grounding in our Wesleyan Heritage to Connect (and reconnect) Across Difference"

Rev. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger is an Elder serving as United Methodist Ecumenical Chaplain at Syracuse University. She is passionate about creating and strengthening God-drenched connections within our beloved connection and is committed to a vision for the United Methodist Church that offers all people a place at the Table. She graduated with a B.A. from Hamilton College and M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. She lives with her husband, Rev. Nicholas Preuninger, and three year old son Henry in Dewitt NY.

Workshops

AM –

- 1) -#ConnectAcrossDifference:** The three simple rules can help us embody the ethos of early Methodism for a new generation. Focusing on the power of spiritually and Biblical grounded dialogue, participants will be practicing skills of storytelling and active listening as essential tools in honest and productive dialogue. We will consider the concrete way these practices (if practiced) might strengthen connections in our local churches and beyond. We will hear of ways the United Methodist Ecumenical Campus Ministry seeks to embody and teach this on the campus of Syracuse University.- - *Rev. Colleen Preuninger*
- 2) Financial Roles in the Mission and Ministry of the Church-** Training for Treasurers, Finance committee members, and other leaders- Kevin Domanico, Upper New York Conference Treasurer
- 3) Prayer-** An overview of prayer, what it is, why we pray and a quick overview of "some " forms of prayer.- Pastor Dan Martin -, Worcester and Westford United Methodist Churches–
- 4) Creating Healthy Communication in Our Congregation-** In a culture that focuses on conflicted communication, "parking lot conversations", and cutting off those who disagree, how can the Church practice and model communication where different voices are heard, respected, and help to find the way God is calling us into decisions and a faithful future. Rev. Gary Kubitz, Afton, Bainbridge, and Sidney United Methodist Churches

PM-

- 1) Stewards of Property and Other Assets to Support the Church's Mission and Ministry-** Training for Trustees- Kevin Domanico, Conference Treasurer and staff liaison to Trustee responsibilities
- 2) Partners in Ministry: Training for Staff-Parish Relations Committee members and Pastors-** Building a great partnership between pastor and congregation is key to effective ministry. Practices that will assist you in this work, as well as information about the appointment process will be covered. Rev. Jan McClary Rowell, District Superintendent

3) Compass Project Introduction- God has vision and purpose for every congregation, no matter what size! Are you seeking that purpose that moves you from surviving to thriving, from anxiety to promised future? The Compass Project is a small group learning process especially designed for congregations on our Oneonta District. Come and learn more about it. Anna Buell, District Lay Leader, and Pastor Rich Howard, Hartwick and Mt Vision United Methodist Churches

4) Learning to share your faith story- relationship building, listening skills and incarnational ministry. Review of books "Missional Quest," "Missional Essentials," and "Sentness." - "Submerged ministry," "Shalom Spirituality," and "Shared Life" in which word and action together proclaim the good news. -Rev. Teresa Sivers, First Oneonta UMC

NEW-

Books at District Day for Africa 360

It's time to pass along many wonderful books that I have found useful in ministry! Topics include prayer, spiritual disciplines, church leadership, creation care, and much more. Books will be available on March 5 at Elm Park UMC, Come, browse, and take them home **for a donation to Africa 360.** ~ Jan Rowell

To register [click here](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ec68m1m1089a197e&llr=eroqakuab) or copy and paste the link below in your browser .

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ec68m1m1089a197e&llr=eroqakuab>

Lunch will be available – For donation

Deadline to register is Monday Feb.22, 2016

Save the Date

Bishop's Day on the District

Laity and clergy gathering with Bishop Mark Webb on **Thursday April 14th**, [at Broad Street Norwich UMC. 74 North Broad Street, Norwich, NY.](#)

We hope that all of Oneonta district churches will be a part of this gathering, which will include worship and communion. "Increasing Our Capacity" is the theme for evening. Bishop Webb's sermon title is "Radical Church" (Acts 2.1-13; 37-47).

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to worship together and celebrate communion with the episcopal leader of our Upper New York Conference. Make plans now to attend!

District clergy will have lunch and a time with Bishop Webb earlier in the day, also at Broad Street Norwich UMC.

To help those preparing lunch, clergy please register : Please call or email Trish at The Broad Street Norwich UMC office **Phone (607) 334-2895** **Email bsumc8@frontiernet.net**

Registration is not necessary for evening session.

Agenda for the day

10-3 Clergy w/Bishop

5 - 6:00 pm Bishop with DS & District Leadership Team

6:30-8 Laity & Clergy Session w/Bishop

Due to parking demands for the 6:30 combined session , we recommend arriving around 6pm if possible. Parking attendants will also be available to direct folks to alternatives.

REMINDER TO CHURCH LEADERS Deadline approaching for forms due

Due by March 15, 2016 (*Mail completed copy to District Office*)

20. Local Church Annual Financial Audit

***For help logging into Church/Clergy profile system at uny.umconline.org or ezra.gcfa.org please contact Teresa at the district office. Call (607)441-5102 or email:**

OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org

Attention Lay Servants!!!

If you have completed all 6 courses for lay speaker and would like to be considered for Certified Lay Speaker, you must make a request to the District Committee. You may make contact by writing to Maxine Christman, 8193 Western Turnpike, Delanson, NY 12053-2317.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING LAY SERVANT REPORTS

Several people filed reports with missing information. Please know that you MUST let us know what courses you have taken complete with dates. When you file your report for 2016 if information is missing it will be returned to you. It might be good to keep a record of what you do throughout the year to make your reporting easier for you.

Maxine Christman, Director Oneonta District Lay Servant Ministries

Lay Equalization Invitation

Are you interested in being a Lay Equalization member to Annual Conference June 2nd – 4th, .2016?

Annual Conference is a unique and meaningful experience to gather with United Methodists from across Upper New York for worship, for learning about our shared ministries, and discussion of the priorities and direction into which God is calling us.

One of the great strengths of our United Methodist Church is that the voices of laity are equally important with that of the clergy. A pastor and a lay member are included from each charge. Then, because retired clergy are members of the annual conference, our "Lay Equalization members" bring balance so that we have ½ clergy & ½ laity, so we reflect of our United Methodist Church. That's where you come in!

2016 Annual Conference Session will be :

Who: All clergy and lay members to the Annual Conference Session

When: June 2-4, 2016

Where: The OnCenter in Syracuse, NY

During Lent on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM Pastor Rich Howard has begun offering a "live" online Centering Prayer experience. He is also posting a video recording of each session on YouTube. The session for Week 1 contains an explanation about Centering Prayer and 10 minutes of praying time. It can be viewed at [https://youtu.be/ fwihGMJzdE](https://youtu.be/fwihGMJzdE). Subsequent sessions will be less talk and more time in centering prayer. Sessions will last approximately 15 minutes.

If anyone wants to participate "live" they can join us for the remaining sessions. Video on the participant's end is not enabled, so don't worry that someone will see you. Here is the information:

Topic: Centering Prayer for Lent - Week 2

Time: Feb 17, 2016 6:30 AM Eastern Time

Topic: Centering Prayer for Lent - Week 3

Time: Feb 24, 2016 6:30 AM Eastern Time

Topic: Centering Prayer for Lent - Week 4

Time: Mar 2, 2016 6:30 AM Eastern Time

Topic: Centering Prayer for Lent - Week 5

Time: Mar 9, 2016 6:30 AM Eastern Time

Topic: Centering Prayer for Lent - Week 6

Time: Mar 16, 2016 6:30 AM Eastern Time

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/6074320397>

Or by Telephone:

Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 607 432 0397

Please note: Those who are charged for their long distance calls by their phone carrier will have a charge for the length of the call.

May these times of centering prayer help each of us just to "be" with God during our journey through Lent.

The YouTube Channel link to the weekly video recordings will be found at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtng7pgdFBvpY-zVC38VR_Q

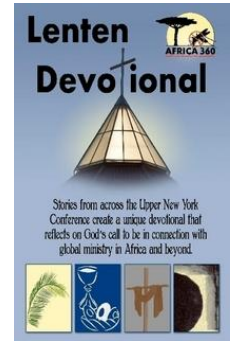
Students: Apply now for 2016 UNY Conference scholarships

United Methodist high school seniors and college students are invited to apply for two scholarships offered by the Upper New York Conference: Conference Merit Awards and Lottie Brown Grants. Application forms and guidelines are available now. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

SUPPORT AFRICA 360

The Africa 360 Lenten Devotional is now available. It includes daily stories, reflections, and prayers from lay folks and pastors all around Upper New York, **including 2 days from our own Pastor Becky Parry of Morris and Edmeston!**

This 76 page devotional is available in two formats – as a free PDF for download from the Conference website (right at the top of the [Africa 360 toolkit](#)) and as a full-color printed hard copy from online publisher Lulu.com at www.tinyurl.com/A360LentenDevo2016. (If you would like the long, full version of the address instead of the tinyURL it is: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/upper-new-york-conference/lenen-devotional/paperback/product-22540675.html>.)



We thank you for helping us to get the word out about this exciting devotional/small group ministry tool! . [Click here for half-page bulletin insert](#) to add to your weekly newsletter .



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/Africa-360 (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: <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

Webinar: When Mercy and Justice Meet

Drew University is offering a webinar: "When Mercy and Justice Meet: Advocacy for Clergy and Congregations," led by Katey Zeh. **Feb. 18, 25, and March 3, 2016** / 1-2:30 pm. \$20/session / .5 CEU credits available. Find details on the Drew University Website: [Click here for information](#)

Bishop's Confirmation Retreat

Friday – Saturday March 11-12 2016, the Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries, in partnership with the Episcopal Office and Upper New York clergy, will host a Bishop's Confirmation Retreat for youth who are preparing for reception into the United Methodist Church through Confirmation. The Confirmation Retreat will be held simultaneously across the Upper New York Conference at Asbury, Casowasco, and Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Centers and at 3 United Methodist Churches in Queensbury, Massena and Olean Christ.

Our time together will include worship, learning, and fellowship through activities that are specifically designed to offer youth a chance to encounter God in new ways with peers who are at similar points in their faith journeys. Using technology, participants at all sites will also have opportunity to interact with each other and to connect live with Bishop Mark J. Webb. This retreat is not intended for a stand-

alone Confirmation preparation retreat and is intended to bring an experience outside the United Methodist local Church with other youth on the journey.

The cost will be \$60.00 at Camp & Retreat Site and \$40.00 at Local Church sites.

Online registration is available www.unyumc.org

Any questions please contact Dee Finch at:585-330-2710

5th annual New Faith Community Event focuses on resiliency

Registration is now open for the Upper New York Conference's 5th annual New Faith Communities Event that takes place April 8-9 at the Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center in Moravia. "What is the Upper New York New Faith Communities Annual Event? It is a chance for every person who is interested in the planting movement in Upper New York to gather, to learn, to network, and to be inspired by the amazing things God is doing throughout the Conference," said the Rev. Dave Masland, UNY Conference Director of New Faith Communities.

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ebzfdjto62476836&oseq=&c=&ch=> to register.

The deadline for the early bird registration - \$100 which includes meals and lodging and \$30 for commuters - is March 16; the registration increases to \$120 and \$45 respectively after that date. DETAILS

Available to purchase

A Disciples Path – Daily Workbook (Deepening your relationship with Christ and the Church)

By: James Harnish with Justin LaRosa

Cost \$ 8.00 ea. – If you would like to purchase this workbook please contact Teresa at the District Office – Email : OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org or by phone : (607) 441-5102

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

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

- **March 15th – 2015 Financial Audit of your church records is due to the District Superintendent**
- **April 16:** Pre-Conference Briefing 4-6 p.m. at the Saratoga Springs UMC
- **April 30:** Pre-Conference Briefing 3-5 p.m. at the Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Windsor

UMM Event -You are Invited

The Oneonta/Binghamton district men's communion and breakfast is coming up quick and now is the time to save the date. The breakfast is to be on Saturday, March 19th at the Otego United Methodist Church on Church Street in Otego, which is off I88 Exit 12, easy to get to. The coffee hour starts at 7:30 am with worship to follow at 8:00 am. Breakfast and program to follow.

Feel free to download the PDF flier to post in your church. The contact person is Brandi Craver, pastor and can be reached at 607-988-2866 and the email is otegoumc@yahoo.com . Please contact that person and let them know how many are coming from your church. This is open to men and boys so please spread the word. Send me contacts if you can so we can expand our list.

Thanks and have a great day. -**David Barnes**- VP Binghamton District Men

Bishop Webb names new district superintendents

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is pleased to announce the appointment of two new district superintendents.



The Rev. Vonda Fossitt, pastor at the High Street United Methodist Church in Binghamton, will be superintendent of the Genesee Valley District.

The Rev. Everett Bassett, pastor at the Cicero UMC, will be superintendent of the Oneonta District.



The appointments are effective July 1, 2016. – [Click here to read more](#)

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 - *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 – Writer/Editor (part-time)

Posting Date: 2/16/16 **Location:** Syracuse, NY -

The Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church is accepting applications for the position of Writer/Editor for the Communications team. This is a part-time position, at approximately 20 hours per week. The Writer/Editor will be responsible for producing content for electronic and print communication pieces, and editing material as needed. The successful candidate will have a minimum of two years experience in communications (preferably for a non-profit organization), and strong writing skills. Bachelor's degree in communications or a related field is preferred. \$15-20 per hour depending on experience. Please refer to the [job description](#) for a 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 resume, cover letter, three professional references, and a portfolio of writing samples.

Application Deadline: Friday, March 11, 2016

Job opening: Asbury Camp & Retreat Center seeks two part-time kitchen assistants

The Upper New York Conference is accepting applications for two part-time kitchen assistants at the Asbury Camp & Retreat Center located at Silver Lake. Responsibilities, in part, include general food preparation, loading/unloading delivery vehicles, and cleaning and sanitizing dishes and food preparation areas. [Click here](#) - for more information and/or to apply.

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.

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

Quick links

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[Benefits/Pension](#) * [Bishop Mark J. Webb](#) * [Bridge](#) * [UNYAC Calendar](#) * [Camp & Retreat Ministries](#)
[\(CRM\)](#) * [Classifieds Conference Council on Youth Ministries \(CCYM\)](#) * [Contact UNYAC](#) * [Disaster Re-](#)
[sponse](#) * [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,
Rev. Jan Rowel, District Superintendent and Teresa Wood, Administrative Assistant



Oneonta District

Upper New York Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH