

February 3rd, 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



*God our creator, our centre, our friend,,
we thank you for our good life,
for those who are dear to us,
for our dead,
and for all who have helped and influenced us.
We thank you for the measure of freedom we have,
and the extent to which we control our lives;
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us,
for our awareness of you and our hope in you.
Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful
and useful until our lives shall end.*

Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.-A new Zealand Prayer book

Together, let us pray for
The UNY New Faith Communities

District Events Coming Up

Date	Time	Item	Location
Mon. Feb 15	By end of day	2015 Statistical information must be entered in the Ezra System	http://ezra.gcfa.org/
Mon. Feb. 15	7:00 PM	District Leadership ZOOM Meeting	ZOOM
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	TBA	Bishop's Day on the District	Norwich Broad Street UMC
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

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 Preuniger 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 Preuniger, 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 Preuniger*
- 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 Siviers, First Oneonta UMC

To register [click here](#) 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

REMINDER TO CHURCH LEADERS Deadline approaching for forms due

February 15, 2016 *(Mail completed copy of each to District office)*

- Report of the Trustees ·
- Report of the Finance Committee ·
- 2015 Year End Financial Report *(your format)*
- 2016 Church Budget *(your format)*

2015 Statistical information must be entered in the Ezra System by Feb. 15. Note: User names are the same as in the past(Your Churches 6 digit GCF&A #). **All passwords have been set to stats2016.** Once you've logged in you can change your password.

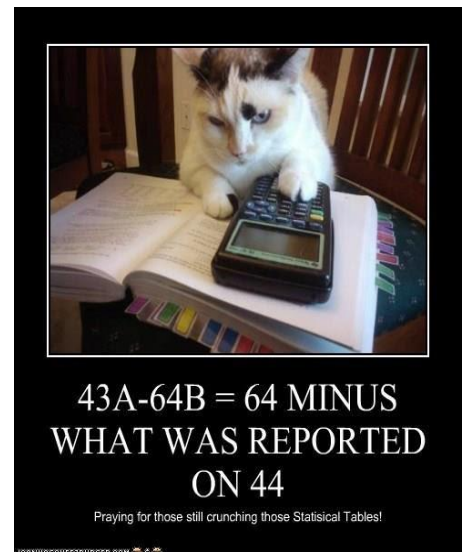
Click here to sign on: <http://ezra.gcfa.org/>

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

- 20. Local Church Annual Financial Audit
- • • • • Fund Balance Report

***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



NOTE -

First-time login in EZRA!

I've responded to a few of you over the past few weeks about your church's **password** in EZRA. The first time that you login to enter the 2015 statistics, you must use **stats2016** as the password. Once you're logged in, stats2016 becomes your "old" password and you may enter the password that you've always used as your "new" password.

We have a workstation in the district office for your use. If you'd like to come in and enter your statistics , please call (607) 441-5102 or email me at : OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org and we can set up a time for you to come in.

EVERY CHURCH COUNTS, BIG, MEDIUM, AND SMALL!

Help us meet the **February 15** deadline by entering the 2015 statistics for your congregation. Conference staff cannot prepare our report until everyone has completed this work, and they also have deadlines they have to meet from the General Church!

THANK YOU for your diligence and assistance with entering the 2015 statistics for your church! Without the efforts of each of our churches, the task would be enormous!

Blessings,
Teresa

Local Church News

Winter VBS will be held at Unadilla United Methodist Church on February 15 and 16 from 1:00-4:00. The program will be Outback Rock from GROUP Resources. Children will enjoy Bible Stories that come to life, games, a snack, and energetic music all set in the Australian outback. On this down-under Aussie adventure, kids explore God's monumental love and discover what it means to have an unshakable faith. The two day VBS is open to children ages 3 - middle school of all denominations. Registration is not required but is appreciated for planning purposes. For more information call Claudia Jenkins at 563-7713.

NEW-

2016 Lenten Study

Based on Paul's letter to the Philippians

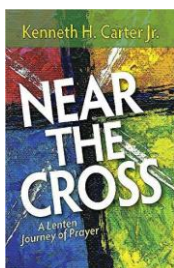
February 10 Ash Wednesday

2:30 PM – McDonough UMC

7:00 PM –Oxford after Distribution of Ashes @ 6:30P

Feb 17-March 23 2:30 (M) 6:30 PM (O)

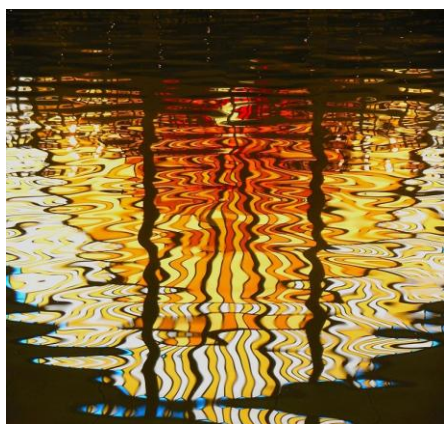
SIGN UP TODAY



The United Methodist Church

RSVP: 607-843-9705

Email: oxford.mcdonough.umd@gmail.com



CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES FOR LENT: "Living Water"

Participate by telephone or web
Open to all. Starts February 10, 2016

Come and be refreshed. Come and be restored. Come, drink from the Well of Life.

15 minutes, once a week, by telephone or web. Guided practices may include contemplation of scripture, visualization, periods of silent reflection, and contemplative prayer. Offered by the Oxford United Methodist Church, open to all. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Please pass this invitation along to: 1) those who may be interested in adding contemplative practice to their Lenten observance; 2) those who may be home-bound this winter; and 3) seekers who may be leery of attending "church." – [Click here for details](#)

NEW-

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

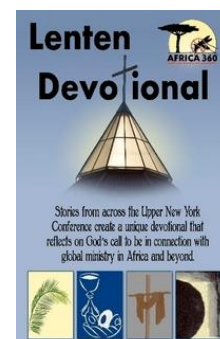
NEW-

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/lenten-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](#)

NEW-

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](#)

W2 forms and Affordable Care Act reporting regulations

All local churches must provide W2s to their employees, including pastors employed by the local church, by Jan. 31. For information on local church W2 reporting responsibilities, [Click Here](#). Please note, religious organizations continue to be exempt from having to list the cost of health insurance on W2s. For W2 samples and instructions, refer to the [Church Employer page](#) on the Upper New York Conference website.

Many churches may have recently seen information about the "2015 Internal Revenue Code Section 6056 Reporting - Employer-Provided Health Insurance," including 1094-C and 1095-C reporting requirements. This requirement only applies to applicable large employers; therefore, all of our local churches are exempt from this reporting requirement.

If you have any questions about W2 reporting or Affordable Care Act (ACA) regulations, please contact the Conference Benefits Office at BenefitsOffice@unyumc.org.

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:

- **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.*)
- **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 UMM in the Binghamton District are planning a men's Christian overnight at Sky Lake in September 2016. We would like to invite all men from the Oneonta District to attend. If you are interested in attending please contact john.conklin@mindspring.com

Conference Revolving Loan Fund Activated

The Upper New York Conference is pleased to announce the activation of the Revolving Loan Fund. These funds are now available for lending to UNY churches with capital needs, when alternative financing is unavailable. As a loan is paid back, the money collected will be made available for new loans, hence the fund's name: Revolving Loan Fund. For more information and to download an application form: [Click here](#)

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.*

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

[Oneonta District Calander](#) * [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,
Rev. Jan Rowel, District Superintendent and Teresa Wood, Administrative Assistant



Oneonta District

Upper New York Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH