

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 a minimum of 7 days in advance to: [OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org)



*God of surprises,  
when I think you are not present in my life,  
you reveal yourself in the love of friends and family  
and nurture me in your never-ending affection.*

*God of surprises,  
when we think you are not present in our community,  
you labour to make us of one heart  
and cause us to share gladly and generously.*

*God of surprises,  
when people think you are not present in our world,  
your bring hope out of despair  
and create growth out of difficulty.*

*God of surprises,  
you are ever with us.*

*When the days go by and our vision fades,  
keep surprising us.  
When our hope dims and our patience wears thin,  
keep coming to us.  
Teach us to keep our lamps lit  
and to be prepared,  
that we may see your loving presence among us.*

***Francis Brien***

**Together, let us pray for**  
The UNY Conference Camp & Retreat Ministries (CRM)

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**District Events Coming Up**

Date	Time	Item	Location
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!	<a href="#">Unadilla 1<sup>st</sup> UMC</a>
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 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9-11 am	Pre-Conference Briefing	Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center in Moravia
April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	3-5 pm	-Conference Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at the Sky Lake Camp &amp; Retreat Center in Windsor</li> </ul>
June 2-4 2016		2016 UNY Annual Conference	At the OnCenter in Syracuse, NY. Click on link below for more information. <a href="http://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference">http://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference</a>

**Bishop Webb preaching at [Unadilla 1<sup>st</sup> UMC](#)**

**Sunday February, 28<sup>th</sup>**

**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**

**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](mailto: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  
Across Difference"

Soul?: Grounding in our Wesleyan Heritage to Connect (and reconnect)

*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-** 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 liason 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**- Do you have a treasured story of God's grace, but find it hard to know when and how to share? Do you know the Good News of Jesus' love, and want to learn to share it in a way that is approachable? -Rev. Teressa Sivers, 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: the EZRA site will open on Jan. 4. Statistics cannot be uploaded until that date. 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](http://uny.umconline.org) or [ezra.gcfa.org](http://ezra.gcfa.org) please contact Teresa at the district office. Call (607)441-5102 or email:**

**[OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org)**

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**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.

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**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](#)

-Cheryl- Cheryl Lyon, CPC - The Winged Life Coach

Get out of overwhelm and discover ways of working that work for you...

Winged Life Coaching

535 Moran Road

Oxford, NY 13830

(607) 316-8382

New at Winged Life Coaching: Spiritual Direction.

Because life is just as much about who you are being as what you are getting done.

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**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](#)

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## 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](mailto:BenefitsOffice@unyumc.org).

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## SUPPORT AFRICA 360

**NEW- 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](http://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](http://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](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  
315-424-7878 ext. 327

Field Coordinator, Africa 360  
Africa 360: Health and Education for Generations

Upper New York Conference

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

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## 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](#)

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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:

- **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 15<sup>th</sup>** – **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

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### 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](mailto:OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org) or by phone : (607) 441-5102**

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## Attention Youth Leaders! - SOLID Youth Retreats are coming up soon

- consider coming to the event **February 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



We know that putting together a dynamite retreat can be a challenge. The SOLID Youth Retreat is here to help!

SOLID was created to give local church youth groups the opportunity to connect

with each other and

with other youth groups from around the state. We focus on how teenagers can have a solid faith in an ever-changing world. SOLID has been designed to help each youth explore the importance of asking tough questions, listening for the answers, and living their life in the way God would want them to.

Our hope is that youth have a wonderful time participating in the awesome activities and living in community for a weekend. But our intention, beyond all this, is for youth to grow in their relationship with God and learn what it means to have a solid faith. The four large group sessions combine impactful worship and dynamic speakers. After each large group session, youth groups meet together to dig deeper into their walk with God and how the message relates to their lives.

Grades: 7 - 12 (*We recognize that youth groups may be comprised of grades 6-12. If your youth group includes youth in 6th grade, they are welcome to attend SOLID.*)

For more information and registration forms, please [Click here](#).

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**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](mailto:john.conklin@mindspring.com)

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### 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](#)**

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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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**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.*

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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](#) \* [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](#)

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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

