

January 5th, 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



Prayer for Epiphany

*God of gold, we seek your glory:
the richness that transforms our drabness into colour,
and brightens our dullness with vibrant light;
your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.*

*God of incense, we offer you our prayer:
our spoken and unspeakable longings, our questioning of truth,
our search for your mystery deep within.*

*God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering:
the pain of all our rejections and bereavements,
our babbled despair at undeserved suffering,
our rage at continuing injustice,
and we embrace you, God-with-us,
in our wealth, in our yearning, in our anger and loss.*

Jan Berry

Together, let us pray for

The UNY Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM)

District Events Coming Up

Date	Time	Item	Location
Monday Jan 18	7:00pm	District Leadership Team	ZOOM
Sun. Feb. 28th	9:00 am Social Hour and Lunch to Follow	Bishop Webb preaching in Unadilla	Unadilla 1 st UMC
Tues., March 1st, 2016	9am-2:30m	Lenten Day Apart for Pastors	Cooperstown UMC

Sat., March 5th, 2016	8:30 Registration	Oneonta District Day	Elm Park UMC
Thurs., April 14th, 2016	TBA	Bishop's Day on the District	Norwich Broad Street UMC
April 30 th , 2016	9-11 am	Pre-Conference Briefing	Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center in Moravia
April 30 th , 2016	3-5 pm	-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

NOTE* Rev. Jan Rowell will be on vacation next week, January 10-16.

Teresa will be working on Monday but not in office (answering emails and checking phone messages)
The office will be Tues, Wed, and Thursday 8 am – 4 pm open

SAFE THE DATE

March 5, 2016 – District Day, at Elm Park UMC Oneonta –
Registration begins at 8:30 am

Rev. Colleen Preuniger, Syracuse University Chaplain, Keynote



Workshops so far...



Finance and Trustees
with Kevin Domanico, Conference Treasurer

Pastor/Parish Relations Committee
with Rev. Jan Rowell District Superintendent



WATCH DISTRICT NEWS FOR MORE INFO COMING!

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 (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
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

REMINDER TO CHURCH LEADERS

2015 Ministry Shares and direct bill payments are due at the Conference Office by the end of day Jan. 12, 2016.

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. 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/>

Webinar: When Mercy and Justice Meet



Katey Zeh

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](#)

'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>



Sign up for the Weekly Digest

The Weekly Digest is a wrap-up of news and information, along with feature articles, direct links to several "hot spots" on the Conference website, photos and more.

If you don't already subscribe but would like to look at this week's issue, be in touch with Carrie. To sign up to receive the Weekly Digest beginning next week, click here: [Weekly Digest](#)

Bulletin insert keeps you connected

The Bridge is a communications tool designed for local churches to stay

connected to each other and to the ministries taking place around the Upper New York Conference and The United Methodist Church. This bulletin insert is meant to be a "bridge" to your ministry that takes place far beyond the doors of your local church, and that is the inspiration for the title. **Click here for details and to download the insert: [The Bridge](#)**



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.](#)

Resources - January 2016

Each month, the Upper New York Conference Communications Ministry Team provides a list of dates and links to resources that churches and individuals may find helpful in preparation for worship and other occasions. Click on the links to find resources and more information.

- Jan. 3 and 6 - [Epiphany Sunday/Epiphany of the Lord](#) commemorates the coming of the Magi to the holy family.
- Jan. 10 - [Baptism of the Lord](#) celebrates Christ's baptism by John and reminds all Christians of our one baptism.
- Jan. 11 - [Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#) draws attention to efforts to eradicate modern-day slavery.
- Jan. 17 - [Human Relations Day](#) (offering) furthers the development of better human relations.
- Jan. 18-24 - [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) develops Christian unity through prayer and fellowship.
- Jan. 18 - [The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance](#) celebrates Rev. King's contribution to freedom and equality for all people.
- Jan. 24 - [Ecumenical Sunday](#), part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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 15th – 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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2015 Conference Journal and Directories available

The 2015 Upper New York Conference Journal is available now in two parts - the Journal and Journal Directories.

There are two ways to receive these publications: From online publisher Lulu.com or as a free direct PDF download. For information and to order [Click here](#)

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

Explore our Media Resource Center!

The Media Resource Center is a free lending library supported through your ministry share dollars. A multitude of DVD studies, curriculum, and support materials are available to help with small group studies, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, church-wide studies, and special events. Visit the conference website to view the monthly newsletter or to order resources through the online catalog. [Click here](#)



Diane Miner

Contact Diane Miner, Resource Center Director, with questions, (800) 799-9664 or send her an email, diane@unyumc.org

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](#)

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](#) * [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](#)

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

