



July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

*Oneonta District Office of the United Methodist Church  
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](mailto:OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org)

**Together let us pray for**

*Maxine Christman – Diagnoses with Pancreatic Cancer*

Revs. Cindy & Ron Wenzinger and family in the passing of Cindy's dad,, Pete Puterbaugh on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Peace for All**

**Reflection by Rev. Everett Bassett – Oneonta District Superintendent**



**Did they hear the same speech?**

That question has come to mind more than once as I look in on the political conventions that are going on the last couple weeks. The pattern is familiar and predictable: someone will give an impassioned speech; the crowd will cheer; then a panel of commentators from across the political spectrum will tell us what we heard. They will speak each from her/his perspective, and by the time it's done, you will wonder if, indeed, they were listening to the same speech.

Do they read the same Bible?

Perhaps you've wondered that as well, when you have heard Christian people profoundly disagree about issues of faith (for example, at a United Methodist Conference). Each party is passionate; each party makes a biblical case; both arrive at conclusions that are poles apart. Do they read the same Bible?

In such a divided world, where lines are drawn on so many issues, I am struck by a couple verses in this week's epistle lesson from the Letter to the Colossians -- 3: 9-11. It seems to me there is a sequence there that speaks to our divisions:

- 1) *We are honest with each other.* 'Do not lie to one another.' In terms of disagreeing with one another, we respect each other enough to speak plainly, and to listen carefully, in a mutual effort to find the truth – even if the best we can do is to agree to disagree.
- 2) *We are open to new possibilities.* In vss. 9-10, this is described as shedding the old self, and being 'clothed' with a new self. How much of our failure of unity is because we cannot untangle ourselves from old ideas and comfort zones?
- 3) *We are renewed and re-shaped.* In the presence of honesty, respect, and openness, we can be 'renewed in knowledge' and re-shaped in the 'image of (our) creator.'
- 4) *Walls come down.* It would appear that the world known by the writer Colossians was just as divided as ours. The path of honesty, openness, and renewal leads to the end of divisions. 'In that renewal, there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free...(and then, this amazing declaration:),,,but Christ is all and in all!!!' (The first exclamation point is the scripture-writer's; the second is mine.)

Is it possible that there is a reality that transcends the things that divide us into separate camps? A road marked with honesty, respect, openness, and renewal? I pray so every day.

Meanwhile, I sit in a meeting where two people hotly disagree about one of the hot-button issues that divides the church right now. Right at the moment when it looks like sparks will fly, one of them takes a deep breath and says, 'But

you know, we are friends, and we both follow Jesus.' And the whole moment changes. The disagreement is still real; but Christ is all and in all.

And in the end, that must transform something. Maybe everything.

**Shalom, Everett**

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**Note\*** District Office Hours will be flexible, through Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> please call in advance before stopping by.  
District Newsletter will be published every two week (instead of weekly)

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### Save these dates

**\*August 16 – Mentor Training –(Oneonta & Mohawk District)** 10am to 2pm at the Herkimer UMC, 127 N Prospect St. Herkimer, NY 13350 . Lunch is provided. [Details](#)

**\*September 16-17 -UMM Retreat** - The Oneonta and Binghamton District United Methodist Men will host UNY annual Christian Men Retreat at the Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center - [Details](#) – [To Register](#)

**\*NEW - September 18<sup>th</sup> DS Rev. Everett Bassett Installation Service 4-7 pm – Location TBA**

**\*NEW - October 4<sup>th</sup> – Fall Clergy Gathering- 6-8:30 PM – at Oneonta First UMC (For District Supply Pastors, Local Pastors, Elders and all others serving in the pastoral role. – Attendance is required**

**\*Oct. 25-27, 2016 - [The Bishops Retreat](#)** - at the Conference and Events Center in Niagara Falls, NY

**\*NEW - Regional Charge Conferences – [Scheduled for November](#)** – Dates, locations and Times TBA information is being mailed to pastors this week.

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### Bishop Webb reassigned to the Upper New York Area

On July 15, at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Upper New York (UNY) Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb was reassigned to the UNY area. This means that the Upper New York Conference will be under his leadership for the next four years. [Details](#)

**From the Desk of Bishop Mark J. Webb: Moving forward following Jurisdictional Conference** [...Click to read](#)

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### Invitations being accepted for Bishop Webb to preach in your church

Bishop Webb is now establishing his preaching schedule for the months of January 2017 through June 2017. If you wish to extend an invitation to Bishop Webb to preach in your church, please contact Mary Bradley at [bishopsoffice@unyumc.org](mailto:bishopsoffice@unyumc.org) or at 324 University Ave., 3rd Floor, Syracuse, New York, 13210. The deadline to receive requests for the Bishop's 2017 preaching schedule is **August 22, 2016**. [Click here](#) to read the bishop's letter.

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### UM HANDBOOK

[The New United Methodist Handbook](#) is now available in an easy-to-read and share digital format. The Handbook is among the best resources for laity providing leadership, people new to The United Methodist Church and clergy who occasionally get stumped by a question. It includes: \* United Methodist teachings, \* church structure and organization, \* denominational initiatives, \* what it means to be a worldwide church, \* connectional giving information, \* a glossary of United Methodist terms ... and much more

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### 2016 Summer Camp & Retreat programs registration opens

Click below for details

<http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/2016-summer-camp-retreat-programs-registration-opens>

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### ❖ Local Church News

**[First UMC Oneonta's mission work in Jamaica.. Click to read](#)**

### **Bible Study - How Healthy is your church?**

**July 6 – August 10, Wednesdays at 6:30 – 8:00 at Unadilla Center United Methodist Church**

A six week study of the health of our churches using the book, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church - 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive" by Thom Rainer. Our time together will include group discussions based on the book, as well as time for each congregation to examine the health of their own church. Our goal by the end of the session is for each congregation to have

some specific doable goals to improve the health of each of our churches, with plans on how to reach those goals that are relevant to each individual church. The book is \$5.00 from **Christianbook.com**. There will be some books available at the Bible Study. For more information **contact Claudia Jenkins at [cjgs@frontiernet.net](mailto:cjgs@frontiernet.net) or call 607-563-7713**

**Be a Super Hero for God Vacation Bible School will be held at Unadilla Center UMC August 22-26 from 9:00-11:30.** Children ages 3 through Middle School are welcome to attend all week or any day. Each day will include fun activities, crafts, music and a snack. The week will culminate with a picnic on Friday at noon and a program on Sunday during the 9:00 A.M. worship service. **Contact Claudia Jenkins at [cjgs@frontiernet.net](mailto:cjgs@frontiernet.net) or 607-563-7713**

**Women's Retreat is coming - Mark your calendars!** The churches of Unadilla Center, Sand Hill and Mt. Upton are planning their second women's retreat for **Saturday, September 17 at the Sand Hill United Methodist Church Community Hall**. This year's theme is Lavendar Springs. It will be an all day event. More details to follow.



*Cobleskill United Methodist Church*  
107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
*...embracing differences by reaching out in prayer, worship,  
study and service to be better disciples for Jesus Christ.*

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**Cobleskill United Methodist Church is seeking a:**

**Director of Music Ministry**

A part-time position for a musician  
in a team-oriented, creative ministry setting  
to begin early September 2016!

This position includes music selection, choir direction  
and accompaniment as needed.

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For application, job description and additional information,  
please call or email the Church Office at 518-234-3671, [coby.umc@verizon.net](mailto:coby.umc@verizon.net)  
or visit our website at [www.cobleskillumc.org](http://www.cobleskillumc.org)



## WHAT: Upper NY's Safe Sanctuaries Training



**WHO:** All church leaders and all individuals who have responsibility for the safety of children, youth, and vulnerable adults in the churches' ministries especially pastors, those responsible for Christian education and youth group leaders. This is a prerequisite for Training of Trainers

**WHEN:** Saturday, Aug.13, 2016 9 a.m. - noon

**WHERE:** St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 551 Sayles St., Oneida, 13421

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## WHAT: Safe Sanctuaries® Training of Trainers

**WHO:** Individuals interested in facilitating Upper NY's Safe Sanctuaries Training as part of their District training team and/or for their local church. Members of the District training team must be recommended by the DS. Completion of these two courses will certify individuals to present UNY's Safe Sanctuaries training in the Conference, District and local church. Upper NY's Safe Sanctuaries Training is a prerequisite for Training of Trainers. This 3-hour course can be completed in the morning or at a previous time (since Fall 2012).

**WHEN:** Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 1:00-4:00 pm

**WHERE:** St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 551 Sayles St., Oneida, 13421

**PRE-REGISTER:** Please pre-register by Aug. 5.

**Pre-registration information need to include:**

- Session(s) attending - morning and/or afternoon
- Name, contact email address and telephone number, local church

**Pre-register by contacting Cindy Muder, Mohawk District, 315-797-1777, [mohawkdistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:mohawkdistrict@unyumc.org).**

**QUESTIONS:** Questions should be directed to Carol at [carolb@htva.net](mailto:carolb@htva.net) or 607-687-4793.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY : UNY SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING TEAM And funded by Ministry Shares from local churches.

**Tending the Soul training program is scheduled to begin in October 2016. ..**

## **Apply for Tending the Soul, a two-year program**

Applications are currently being accepted for Tending the Soul, a two-year training program in spiritual direction and congregational formation. The program, a series of six training retreats, will begin in October 2016 and conclude in May 2018. The program is designed for both lay and clergy; it includes classroom teaching, small-group settings, experiential worshipful work, and home-based reading and reflection. All six training retreats are held at Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center in Moravia, NY. Copies of the brochure, which includes the application questions and process, can be downloaded at <http://www.unyumc.org/ministries/tending-the-soul>. **The deadline for applications is August 1st, 2016.**

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## **The Northeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal(BMCR) - 2016 Annual Meeting announcement:**

The New England BMCR Caucus will host the Northeastern Jurisdiction BMCR 47th Annual Meeting Friday, October 7 through Saturday, October 8, 2016 at WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ... 114 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608. The theme: "It's Harvest Time, Galatians 6:9-10. Registration deadline is September 18, 2016 and there is a limited room block with a cutoff deadline of 9/4/2016 for your hotel reservation. You can register on line or contact LaVerne Ampadu ([lavlewis@verizon.net](mailto:lavlewis@verizon.net)) or (716-837-2073) for more details. Please begin planning early. It is an important time in our United Methodist Church.

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## **Legacy Ministry website has launched**

The *Legacy* Ministry website is now available. The website will introduce people to *Legacy* Ministry and what it's about so they can see if it is something they want to explore. *Legacy* Ministry seeks to help congregations that are "having trouble staying in operation and who express that they're having..."

<http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/legacy-ministry-website-has-launched>

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## **Trip planned to Leadership Institute at the Church of the Resurrection**

Time is running out, but you can still register for Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute in Kansas City. The Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection brings together clergy, church staff, and volunteers who share a passion for renewing churches. The Upper New York Annual Conference has organized a trip to share in this great event. Join us for an exciting learning opportunity at Church of The Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas on September 28-30, 2016.

The group from the Conference will fly out of Syracuse on Tuesday evening, September 27 and return on Friday evening, September 30. Registration includes airfare, conference registration, and ground transportation. Total cost of registration is \$700. Lodging and meals would be on your own ([Click here](#) for a list of hotels). After July 10, the registration cost increases to \$750, and the final deadline to register is August 22.

Please note after the first ten spots are filled the price may change because of changes to the cost of airfare. A non-refundable first payment of \$200 is due with your registration. The full balance is due no later than September 1. To take advantage of this group pricing, [click here](#) to register. [Details](#)

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## **Click here for Information about 2016 Annual Conference**

**Download the AC wrap-up issue of the *Bridge*** - The Annual Conference wrap-up issue of the *Bridge* is now available for download. It is available in both color and black & white formats. [Click here](#) to select the version you prefer and make copies as needed. This issue of the *Bridge* features a comprehensive wrap-up of the 2016 session of the Upper New York Annual Conference.

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**Registration is now open for The 2016 Bishop's Retreat -Oct. 25-27, 2016 at the Conference and Events Center in Niagara Falls, NY. [Click here for information and to register](#) . **Registration closes Friday, Sept. 30, 2016.****

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**Wesley in Ireland, 2017**

From Rev. Jeff Matthews, Albany District. Have you ever thought you'd like to explore our religious/ Wesleyan/ or even your own cultural background a bit more? Have you ever thought you'd like to visit Ireland? You can combine all those goals by joining me for "Wesley in Ireland 2017". I'll be leading a tour group there departing on May 16, 2017 and I'd love to have you join me.

The beauty of the land and the friendly hospitality of the people are well known. Many of us trace a good deal of our own family history there as well. But did you know that part of the history of "Methodism" takes place there? I'm excited about this opportunity to learn more and I hope you will be as well. You can view some of the details of the trip by [clicking here](#).

The cost of the basic 10 day trip for May begins at \$3,298. It includes round trip airfare (departing from Newark, NJ), all hotels, buses, touring, admissions, gratuities and 2 meals per day. If you choose the post-trip extension to Northern Ireland it will be an additional \$998. These prices are based on double occupancy.

If you have questions or if I can be helpful in any way, please feel free to contact me by email at [jmdiv83@hotmail.com](mailto:jmdiv83@hotmail.com) or by phone at 518-463-1293. I'll look forward to saying, "WELCOME ABOARD" as we plan for the experience of a lifetime. You can register online or by US Mail. Be sure to include host number 02509 on your registration to be included in our group. I'll be happy to assist you by sending a brochure or with your online registration.

*Blessings and peace,*

*Jeff Matthews, Host Pastor*

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## **What Does It Mean to Be a Healthy Family?**



Join Discipleship Ministries, GCSRW, and Wespath for an interactive webinar series that will help participants discern the church's role in supporting family health. Sessions start Aug. 2nd but also will be archived to view later.

[Click here](#) to get registered or learn more!

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## **UMM Retreat in September**

The Oneonta and Binghamton District United Methodist Men will host UNY annual Christian Men Retreat September 16-17 at the Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Windsor. This year's theme is "Giving God your all."

Former Harvard University and Seattle Seahawk linebacker Isaiah Kacyvenski - who was the Seattle Seahawks' Special Teams Captain three years in a row, helped lead the team to Super Bowl XL, and grew up in Endicott - will serve as the keynote speaker. The retreat will also feature the Mark Bolos Praise Band. **For [Flyer click here](#) – [To register click here](#) o, contact UNY UMM President Mark Jones at (315) 749-3700 or [msjwelshman@yahoo.com](mailto:msjwelshman@yahoo.com).**



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## **Lay Servants Can Fill in for Pulpit Supply**

Is your church in need of a trained person to fill the pulpit while your pastor is away? The Oneonta District Lay Servant Team has a list of Certified Lay Servants who are well-equipped to do just that. Find a list of these folks by [clicking here](#).

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## **Last chance to register now for Tending the Fire**

Registration is now open for the 2016-2017 sessions of Tending the Fire. See the registration [link](#). For details. **The deadline for applications is August 1st, 2016.**

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## **Global United Methodist Clergywomen Gathering**

Dates: Aug. 29-31, 2016. Location: Houston, TX.

Theme: One: Birthing a Worldwide Church For more information about the Conference, [click here](#).

We're excited to announce our **new website and mobile guide** for you to use through Guidebook! See the website at <http://guidebook.com/guide/41946> or get the mobile guide <https://guidebook.com/g/global-clergywomen/> to access the most up-to-date information about our event, including schedules, maps, and much more.



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## **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.

**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

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## ***Native American Festivals 2016 / 2017***

September 3rd -4th ~ 33rd Annual Iroquois Indian Festival

Iroquois Indian Museum, 324 Caverns Rd., Howes Cave

September 10th -11th ~ Seneca Indian Fall Festival, Cattaraugus Territory

September 10th -11th ~ Akwesasne Pow Wow - Grand entry at 12 noon.

Akwesasne Territory, Mohawk Nation

Anowarakowa Arena Cornwall Island, Ontario.

September 10th -11th ~ Saratoga Native American Festival

Victoria Pool Mall, Saratoga Spa State Park

September 10th -11th ~ All Nation's Benefit Pow Wow

Portal Institute, 163 Melrose Road, Susquehanna, PA

September 25th - 27th ~ Polishing the Silver Covenant Chain

Building Relationships for the good of the Earth

Six Nations Grand River Reserve, Ontario, Canada.

To register (406) 587-1002 or end e-mail inquiring

Eric Noyes, [Eric@twocircles.org](mailto:Eric@twocircles.org)

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## **Volunteers in Mission team to Nicaragua – March 2017**

A VIM opportunity in Nicaragua is being planned for late March – early April 2017. The team will work with Accion Medica Cristiana (Christian Medical Action/ AMC). Our UM missionary, Belinda Forbes, DDS, is our primary contact person. She and her agency, AMC, work with the “poorest of the poor” in this beautiful country, which is the second poorest in our hemisphere. The tasks of the team have not yet been determined, but they will include projects that will improve the lives of some of the people in Nicaragua. Possible projects might be construction of a pharmacy or community center, health education, assisting with dental care, or painting a clinic building. Hands-on, direct medical care will not be one of the projects. Team members will also have the opportunity to form relationships with the warm, friendly people with whom they work.

The team/s will be jointly sponsored by the Jonesville UMC and First UMC, Schenectady. Details have not yet been determined. There might be options to go for either 10 days or 2 weeks. Cost will be approximately \$2000--\$2500. This amount includes airfare, food, transportation in the country, lodging, and translator fees – everything except souvenirs. Scholarship aid is often available.

If you are at all interested in being part of this opportunity and would like to receive information as details are worked out, contact Amy Pelc at [me911j@hotmail.com](mailto:me911j@hotmail.com) or 518-698-5024 or Cindy Schulte at [tacks5@hotmail.com](mailto:tacks5@hotmail.com) or 518-374-3012 or Jan or Peter Huston at [hustonjp24@gmail.com](mailto:hustonjp24@gmail.com) or 518-399-0919. Replying to this is not a commitment – just an indication of interest in learning more. Please also share any concerns or questions you have when you reply.

We hope you will be able to participate in the wonderful opportunity to be part of a Volunteers in Mission team to Nicaragua!

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## **UMVIM team to Zimbabwe is forming now!**

A UMVIM team will visit Zimbabwe in July of 2017 and interested individuals are invited to learn more. The team will be visiting Africa University as well as spending time at Mutambara Methodist Mission. They will be doing light construction projects, participating in activities in the preschool and primary school, and working on sewing and cooking projects with

the pregnant women who stay at Mutambara Methodist Mission for a month awaiting delivery of their babies. Lower age limit is 16 unless accompanied by a parent or grandparent; there is no upper age limit, but members do need to be in good health and need to be mobile. Estimated cost is \$3,500, all inclusive.

The initial team introductory meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the [Port Byron UMC](#). Attendance does not commit you, but allows you to explore this opportunity to be in mission. If you have questions, feel free to contact Sylvia Reimer at [syljr5141@gmail.com](mailto:syljr5141@gmail.com) or 315-778-5074.

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## **News from Upper New York Annual Conference**

### **2017 Clergy Compensation Package available August 1st**

The Clergy Compensation Package for 2017 will be available on the Conference website and mailed to churches by August 1st. The package includes a cover letter from Vicki Putney, Director of HR/Benefits, a document on setting the pastor's compensation, the clergy compensation report form, and clergy support policies. All information relevant to clergy salaries will be included.

After reviewing the Clergy Compensation Package, if you have any questions, please contact the Benefits Office at [BenefitsOffice@unyumc.org](mailto:BenefitsOffice@unyumc.org) or (855) 424-7878 ext 303.

### **Summer hours at UNYAC Offices**

The Conference and Episcopal offices will be on summer hours through Sept. 5. The offices will be open Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and abbreviated on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to noon during that period. The offices will resume their regular, non-summer hours on Tuesday, Sept. 6. The Conference and District offices are closed on Monday, Sept. 5 in celebration of Labor Day.

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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. [Click here for Details](#)

*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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### **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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### **Quicklinks**

[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. Everett Barrett, Superintendent and Teresa Wood, Administrative Assistant*

