



Our Lenten Prayer

*Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go.
 Flood our souls with your spirit and life.
 Penetrate and possess our whole being
 so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours.
 Shine through us, and be so in us,
 that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul,
 Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus!
 Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine;
 so to share as to be a light to others;
 the light O Jesus, will be all from you, none of it will be ours;
 it will be you, shining on others thru us.
 Let us preach you without preaching, not by words but by our example,
 by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do,
 the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to you.*

(Cardinal Newman, 1801-90, Prayed daily by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity)

Together, let us pray for :

The people of Afton and Bainbridge UMCs and Pastor Gary Kubitz
all those who suffer and those in trouble
*those who struggle with addiction
 all who suffer violence*
for the concerns of our local communities
*teachers, students, families, and school personnel of our local school districts
 people served by our food pantries, community meal ministries, thrift shops*
for the world, its peoples, and its leaders
for wisdom and justice in our national conversations around racism
for the Church universal- its leaders, its members, and its mission
*for the support staff of our churches and Conference, who help us sort thru challenges,
 and communicate practices to help our ministry together
 New faith communities in Upper New York Conference
 Bishop Webb and cabinet in discernment regarding appointments*

District & Conference Events Coming Soon

Date	Time	Item	Location
March 16	5pm	District Leadership Team	Elm Park UMC
March 18	4:30 -8:00 PM	DCOM- Local Pastor License interviews	First Oneonta UMC

April 11 & 18th	8 am – 2 pm	Spring 2015 Lay Servant School	at Elm Park United Methodist Church 401 Chestnut St. Oneonta – See brochure attached- for details and to register
April 15	10 am- Noon	Aaron Bouwens- Leadership Training Development	First Oneonta UMC – Embury Room – See below for details and to register
May 9	3-5 pm	Pre-Conference Briefing	Saratoga Springs UMC -
May 16	2-4 pm	Pre-Conference Breifing	Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center
May 17	6-8 pm	Zach Kerzee- Dinner Church event	Sidney UMC – See Attached flyer” An Evening With Simple Church”

If you attended District Day, we want to hear your feedback about the day on the 7 question survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GVGV72Q>

NEW –

Registration for the 2015 Annual Conference session opens

Registration is now open for the Upper New York Annual Conference session being held May 27-30 at the OnCenter, Syracuse. To register, [click here](#) and fill out the form.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING DEVELOPMENT EVENT
-APRIL 15TH -10AM-NOON AT FIRST ONEONTA UMC
Aaron Bouwens on the district**

One of the newest projects being worked on for the Annual Conference is development of a Leadership Academy. Over the next couple of months there will be the development of a process by which we can increase the leadership capacity of our leaders. Before we developed the process however, it was determined that we should have core competencies that we build our process around. The competencies come in two varieties, technical and adaptive. The technical are the actions of ministry, leading worship, developing ministry plans, etc.... The Adaptive are more environmental or culture developing in nature, these have also been called meta-functions of leadership. The adaptive competencies move well beyond just the actions, and get to understandings.

Here is where we can use your help. It does us no good to develop competencies if they do not make sense or make sense to those we are looking to walk with. Therefore, you are invited to join us at First Oneonta UMC – in Embury Room on April 15, 2015 from 10am to noon for conversation about leadership competencies. Please R.S.V.P. Aaron Bouwens at aaronbouwens@unyumc.org if you are planning to join us. If you will be joining the conversation a list of the competencies will be sent ahead of time.

The format of our time together will be very conversational. 15-20 minutes will be spent presenting the work that has already been done. The remainder of our time will be spent listening and gaining feedback.

Save the date: Pre-conference briefings schedule announced

The Upper New York Conference is announcing the locations for the Pre-Conference Briefings to be held this May. Each briefing will be preceded by a 30-minute coffee/snack and fellowship time. The locations, dates and times are as follows:

May 2 [Asbury Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 9-11 a.m. [Findley Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 2-4 p.m.

May 9 [Potsdam UMC](#) from 9-11 a.m. [Saratoga Springs UMC](#) from 3-5 p.m.

May 16 [Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 9-11 a.m. [Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 2-4 p.m.

NEW- 21th Annual PALESTINIAN Dinner: Friday, May 29th at the Plymouth Congregational Church at 232 E. Onondaga St. (2 ½ blocks from On Center)

Authentic Palestinian buffet beginning at 5:15 PM sponsored by the UNY Task Force on Peace and Justice in Palestine/Israel Cost of dinner is \$15.00.

Program: Ariel Gold and her children, Elijah and Isabella returned to Palestine/Israel in December for 3 weeks staying mostly in the West Bank. On her mother's blog, Isabella told how she felt safer in the West Bank than in Israel. Come and hear all 3 share their experiences.

For reservations: Linda Bergh (315-492-8507), 116 Edna Rd., Syracuse, NY 13205 or Karen Peterson (607-739-3141), 116 Greenridge Drive, Horseheads, NY 14845

Make checks payable to UNYAC ("Palestinian Dinner" on the memo line) -SAVE the DATE

**CONGREGATION-BASED CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION
THE SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER
322 OLD FALLS BLVD., NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120
THE REV. ROBERT C. SPILMAN**

CONGREGATION-BASED CPE CLASS IN BINGHAMTON, NY

AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2015

Congregation-Based Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) teaches pastoral care, pastoral leadership, and systems theory for clergy, seminarians, and lay ministers in the church. It is designed for experienced pastors, lay workers, and seminarians new to pastoral work. Clergy and lay ministers strengthen pastoral and leadership skills, address tension and conflict in the church, and work on their own personal growth in ministry. The program focuses on in depth systemic change and leadership development that reduces pastoral and congregational anxiety and addresses long-term issues in the church.

CPE Class Location – Binghamton, NY – Broome County Council of Churches

Dates – August to December 2015 – Two days every other week.

Congregation-Based CPE includes three creative components:

- Focus on pastoral and leadership issues and use of self in ministry.

Consultation on ministry and theological reflection using the case study CPE format.

Application of Bowen Family Systems Theory to congregational life.

Participants use their current experience in the congregation and other settings as the "clinical material" for learning in the small group process of five to eight students under supervision. The program explores the dynamics of the congregation using the systems theory developed by Dr. Murray Bowen and applied to church leadership by Dr. Edwin Friedman. Participants explore how their position in their family of origin impacts their use of self in ministry, and they work to manage anxiety and maximize strengths.

The CPE program curriculum includes (1) case material from congregational ministry, (2) family of origin work, (3) presentations and discussions on systems theory, theology, and pastoral ministry, and (4) consultation with the supervisor and group reflection time designed to strengthen ministry. Contact Rev. Robert Spilman for further information.

The Rev. Robert C. Spilman
363 Darwin Drive, Amherst, NY 14226
(Tel.) 716-479-7933 (cell); 716-743-9117 (Samaritan Center office)
E-mail: rcspilman@roadrunner.com
Accredited as a Satellite of Sisters of Charity Hospital, Buffalo, New York
Accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)
1549 Clairmont Road, Suite 103, Decatur, GA 30033

Local Church News

The Resurrection Group will be meeting at the Afton United Methodist Church this coming Saturday, March 14th starting at 10:00. The Title of this session is "What If?" We will examine a bunch of questions starting with these words and discuss possible ways to move forward. Here is a question to ponder, What if we experienced Church as a movement instead of a building or institution? Come ready to discuss! All are welcome - and we will feed you as well! Contact pastor Gary Kubitz with any questions. 607-639-2082 aftonbainbridgeumc@yahoo.com

Sunday, March 22 is Camp & Retreat Ministry Sunday at First UMC. Matt Williams is coming and bringing Harvey the Hippo. He will be in the worship service at 5:00 pm and will share some about camp ministries, then there will be a meal following with more time for conversations with Matt. Anyone wanting to come and learn more about camping ministries, or just to hang out with Matt and Harvey are welcome. Please RSVP to [mail-to:secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org](mailto:secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org) so we have plenty of food-. But we are Methodists, there is always food.

The Oxford Church has 6 **Simple Church** books to loan others who might find a need for them. Could you put this info in the district newsletter, please?
Contact info: Oxford UMC Pastor Diane DiLuzio diane6246@gmail.com OR 607-843-9705

Unadilla Center UMC has arranged a **bus trip to Ronks**, Pennsylvania to the Sight and Sound Theatre to see "Joseph" on **Saturday, August 1, 2015**. The bus will leave Sidney (behind McDonalds) at 6:00 A.M. (The bus will leave Oneonta at 5:15 A.M.) We will have a fast food stop on the way. We will see the show at 11:00. Following the show we will have an Amish meal at Hershey Farms at 2:15. We should be home around 10:00 P.M. The cost is \$145.00 for adults (age 13 and over) and \$80 for children (12 and under). The price includes the bus, show and meal. Please call Claudia Jenkins for more information. 563-7713.

Still Available for Purchase: for \$10.00 ea. (*limited supply– first come first serve basis*) “**GET THEIR NAME**” by **Bob Farr , Doug Anderson, Kay Kotan** Contact Teresa at the District Office if you would like to purchase one or more for discussion group with your congregation.
Email: OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org phone (607) 441-5102



NEW- Spring Emmaus Walks will be in Hudson Fall UMC this year.

Mens Walk is April 19-19 and the Women's a Walk is April 30-May 3. Deadline for registration is 2 weeks before each walk. The website is. Living Waters of the Adirondack & Green Mountains Emmaus Community. That you Mike Bonanno

NEW - Chuck Knows Church videos on The Committee at <http://www.chuckknowschurch.com> The latest is Our Purpose -Other good ones are the Pilot, Hospitality, Reflecting the Community.

UMCOR has designated its International Disaster Relief Advance # 982450 for the Ebola emergency response team. You can give directly to this advance at: <http://www.umc.org/ebola> or send your gifts to the Upper New York Annual Conference , 324 University Ave.,3rd floor Syracuse NY 13210 (noting they are for Advance # 982450)

Join the Africa 360 Challenge

During the recent Upper New York Annual Conference session, [an overwhelming vote to contribute \\$1 million to the Imagine No Malaria](#) campaign of The United Methodist Church was celebrated. In 2011, members of the Upper New York Annual Conference pledged to raise \$1 million for Africa University to fund eight scholarships. The passion and commitment to be a part of what God is doing among, within and through the people of Africa is evident in these actions. Both of these priorities have been placed in a campaign that we are calling Africa 360. For Details go to <http://www.unyumc.org/news/detail/1980>

If you don't want to wait until the 2015 session of Annual Conference to present your gifts, you can make them anytime by mailing a check to Upper New York Conference, 324 University Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13210 Attn: Africa 360. Checks should be made payable to Upper New York Annual Conference with Africa 360 in the memo line.

Jeremias Franca Hospital Administrator for Chicuque Rural Hosp. in Mozambique available to speak..

Jeremias Franca, a General Board of Global Ministries Missionary serving as the hospital administrator for the Chicuque Rural Hospital in Mozambique, will be itinerating in the Upper New York Conference from March 5 to March 18. He will be in the Albany area from March 11 to March 18. There are a few evening dates and some daytime dates when he is available to visit local churches. If you are interested in arranging a date or knowing his full schedule, when it is ready, contact: Alice Trost (518)674-1473,abtrost24@aol.com.

Oneonta/Binghamton Districts Men's Communion and Breakfast

Save the date.

The Annual Oneonta/Binghamton Districts Men's Communion and Breakfast is coming up very soon. The Men's Communion and Breakfast will be held at Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church on **Saturday, March 28th, the Saturday before Palm Sunday.**

We come and have coffee hour at 7:30 am. Then at 8:00 am, we gather in the sanctuary for worship/devotion and communion. Then following that, we have breakfast and program and business meeting.

In order for the church to know how many men and boys wish to attend, please call the event coordinator, David Barnes, at 607-644-3772 or email him at barnz7378@yahoo.com by Wednesday, March 25th.

This is a wonderful opportunity for men and boys to gather for communion, fellowship and food. The Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church is located on Upper Front Street in Binghamton, across the street from SUNY Broome, just off I81 between exit 6 and exit 5, accessible from I88 and Routes 17, 7, 11 and 12.

Attention Local Church Trustees

Important information- "cautionary note" - The deadline for filing new and renewal Real Property Tax exemption applications for most towns and some cities across New York State is MARCH 1. This deadline is critical. Missing it may result in the denial or revocation of your Church's real property tax exemptions. If your Church has received a communication from the local assessment office, do not ignore it. Steps need be taken each year to ensure that tax exemptions are properly carried over and applied to church buildings, parsonages and all other parcels used for religious purposes.

Review Conference website for potential insurance savings

The Conference's Board of Trustees hosts on its webpage an area dedicated to property and liability insurance. All churches are encouraged to review the information there because some churches may find ways to reduce their premiums. <http://www.unyumc.org/pages/detail/1452> for information about property and liability insurance, including program information, a glossary of terms, and the 2015 "UNYAC Trustee Financial Assistance Program for Insurance."

Trustees announce changes to 2015 Conference insurance program

The Upper New York Conference Board of Trustees has written an open letter to churches explaining some changes to the 2015 Property and Liability Insurance coverage. "We write with news about our 2015 Conference Insurance Plan that we believe will please you. The Trustees have spent the last year listening to you and building upon the important work done in 2014 to improve our Conference Insurance Plan," according to the letter signed by Conference Treasurer Kevin Domanico. [Read the Letter](#)

Find a summary of the changes and a glossary of insurance terms on the Conference website [here](#).

Coverage with Church Mutual Insurance Company If your church HAS NOT HAD a visit by Church Mutual yet, they should contact their representative (on the policy) and schedule an appointment. **for More information go to:** <http://unyumc.org/news/detail/1806>

Students urged to apply for 2015 Conference scholarships

United Methodist high school seniors and college students are invited to apply for two scholarships offered by the Upper New York Conference: the Conference Merit Awards and Lottie Brown Grants. Application forms and guidelines are available now. Details at : <http://www.unyumc.org/pages/detail/1518>

2014 Conference Journal now available

The 2014 Upper New York Annual Conference Journal is now available. There are two ways to receive the Journal: purchase a hard copy from online publisher Lulu.com or download a free PDF version by [clicking here](#). If you order directly from Lulu.com you can have it delivered to the address you choose (note: you will need a major credit card to place an order). The cost of the hard copy Journal is \$21.95 plus tax and shipping. To order a hard copy from Lulu.com, [click here](#). Please contact Karen Campolieto at Karen@unyumc.org if you have questions or need help.

Youth invited to Upper New York's first *Confirmation Retreat* Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries, in conjunction with the Episcopal Office and the Order of Deacons, will host the Conference's first *Confirmation Retreat* for youth who are preparing for the sacramental rites of confirmation, reception or reaffirmation of their baptismal vows.

The *Confirmation Retreat* will take place on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21, 2015, and be held simultaneously at Asbury, Casowasco, Findley, and Sky Lake Camp & Retreat centers.

Using technology, participants at all four sites will also have several opportunities to interact with each other and to connect live with Bishop Mark J. Webb.

Confirmation Retreat 2015 will include times of worship, learning, and fellowship 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.

As participants will come from confirmation classes throughout Upper New York, this retreat will also be an excellent opportunity for young people to learn about the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church firsthand. Churches should register participants in their confirmation classes. **Registration is opened.** Watch the Conference website for more information.

UNYNotes

Equitable Compensation application for July-December 2015 now available

The Upper New York Commission on Equitable Compensation has issued guidelines and an application form for salary grants to local churches for the period of July 1 through Dec. 31, 2015. The deadline to apply is March 23. [Click here](#) for more details and the application form.

Disaster Response Training offered in Binghamton

The Upper New York Conference Disaster Response Team is encouraging members to attend two training sessions in Binghamton. The Broome County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, in partnership with FEMA, is offering the following disaster response trainings:

- **Management of spontaneous volunteers in disaster** - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 11, 2015 at the Broome County Public Library, 185 Court St., Binghamton - What happens when large numbers of spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers arrive on-site during a disaster, ready to help? In this one-day training, participants will learn how to manage large numbers of volunteers who are not affiliated with an organization, and want to help in disasters. For Details and to register go to: <http://bccoad.org/>
- **Local volunteer and donations management** - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 12 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 13 at the Broome County Public Safety Facility, 153 Lt. Vanwinkle Drive, Binghamton - How can com-

munities effectively manage unaffiliated volunteers, unsolicited goods, and undesignated cash donations during disasters? This training will strengthen the abilities of local government and non-governmental organizations to successfully prepare for and handle volunteer and donations management issues that may arise during disasters. For details and to register go to : <http://bccoad.org/>(Note: There is a required pre-requisite for this class; visit the link to view the details.) The registration deadline is March 6 and seating is limited.

Nominations sought for Harry Denman Evangelism Award

The Foundation for Evangelism is a non-profit organization, serving ministries of The United Methodist Church. Each year it celebrates the outstanding personal evangelism ministry of United Methodist clergy, laity and youth by sponsoring the Harry Denman Evangelism Award. You may submit nominations for the award to the Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Director of Connectional Ministries, via email at DCMOffice@unyumc.org. To learn more about the award and download the nomination form, go to : <http://foundationforevangelism.org/recognition/harry-denman-evangelism-award/> for the application deadline is April 15, 2015.

Youth, let UP!WORD help you 'Search... God'

The 2015 UP!WORD experience April 24-26 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, will be an opportunity for youth to participate in workshops, fun late night searching games and activities, and worship that will ultimately help them to "Search... God". Scheduled for special appearances are Christian musician Wayne Kerr, Inside Out (the Casowasco Camp & Retreat band), Upper New York Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb, several comedians, and a guest speaker from Syracuse University. Go to : <https://unyumc-reg.brtapp.com/RegistrationUP!Word15> to register.

Stop Hunger Now -returns in 2015

Following the great success of last year's on-site mission, the Upper New York Conference has committed to once again package meals during the 2015 Annual Conference Session. This year the Conference endeavors to package 150,000 meals, twice the total in 2014.

Through the nonprofit [Stop Hunger Now](#), attendees will measure ingredients and package meals for distribution around the world.

There will be four meal-packaging shifts in 2015: two on Thursday, May 28 (during the lunch and dinner periods) and two on Friday, May 29 (also during the meal periods). All four shifts will again take place at the War Memorial, which is next to the OnCenter. Participants will have a chance to eat, either before or after the meal packaging event.

Participants in the meal-packing mission are asked to register. [Click here](#) to sign up and/or to donate.

Announcement: Opportunity to support General Church funds

Although the deadline for getting 2014 Ministry Share payments to the Conference Office has passed, Churches that have not paid 100% of their Ministry Share benevolence still have an opportunity to contribute to General Church funds, including the Black College Fund, the Africa University fund, and many more through shared giving. Because the Conference deadline to make payments to General Church funds is not until Jan. 23,

2015, the Conference Treasurer's Office has decided to accept additional payments on a case-by-case basis that will go into the pool supporting the ministries of The United Methodist Church.

In 2013 the Upper New York Conference was only able to contribute 56% of their General Church funds. This year the hope is to contribute at least 61%.

To explore how your church might be able to help contribute to these vital ministries contact Conference Treasurer Kevin Domanico at (855) 424-7878 or <mailto:KevinDomanico@unyumc.org>.

REMINDER Forms due by March 15, 2015 can be found at :
<http://uny.umconline.org/>

Camp Winter retreats/events /employment opportunities can be found at The [Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries](#) site. Each of the six sites are hosting events, and there's surely something for everyone

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Local Church Audit – The 2014 annual audit of your church financial records is due to the District Superintendents on Sunday, March 15, 2015.

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 * www.unyumc.org

The District Newsletter can be found at the Oneonta District website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/oneontadistrictumc/>

Oneonta District Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/oneontadistrictumc/>

Our Face book Page: [Oneonta District United Methodists:](#)

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oneonta-NY/Oneonta-District-!\[\]\(b4eeff342f60cc7bcd67d869b4fedca2_img.jpg\)United-Methodists/126965997347940?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oneonta-NY/Oneonta-District-United-Methodists/126965997347940?ref=ts)

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