

November 11th, 2015

**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, that involves Missions send it a minimum of 7 days in advance to: OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org

Together, let us pray for

The people of Sharon Springs UMC, and pastor Jeff Rauhauser

for Rev. Gary and Sarah Kubitz (Afton/Bainbridge), In Israel/Palestine with Interfaith Peace Builders Nov. 1-15

All those who suffer and those in trouble

those who struggle with addiction

refugees and migrants fleeing Syria and Iraq (see below)

all who suffer violence

our veterans

for the concerns of our local communities

neighbors 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 and community conversations around racism

for places of conflict, near and far- for grace to see each person as a child of God

for the Church universal- its leaders, its members, and its mission

United Methodist Committee on Relief work with refugees in Europe and around the world Africa 360-

District & Conference Events Coming Soon

| Date | Time | Item | Location |
|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| Sun., Nov. 15th | 12- food 1-Worship and business | Sidney Regional Church Conference | Sidney UMC |
| Mon., Nov. 16th | 6pm food 7pm worship & business | Norwich Regional Church Conference | Broad St Norwich UMC |
| Tues., Nov. 17th | 6:30 pm | Oneonta Regional Church Conference | Elm Park UMC |
| Wed., Nov. 18th | 6pm food 7pm worship & Business | Cooperstown Regional Church Conference | Cooperstown UMC |
| Thurs., Nov. 19th | 6pm fellowship 6:30 worship & business | Schoharie Regional Church Conference | Esperance- Sloansville UMC |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Tues., Dec 1st | 9am-2:30pm | Advent Day Apart - for Pastors – God's Gifts of Grace Led by Pastors Tom Pullyblank, Sharon Rankins-Burd, Matt Rowe, and Diane Diluzio | Unadilla UMC |
| Tues., Dec 1st | 4:30 PM | District Board On Buildings and Locations - DBLB | Downstairs Oneonta District Office |
| Sun. Dec 6 th | 8:45 am | Bishop Webb preaching at Schuyler Lake UMC | Schuyler Lake UMC |
| Sun. Dec 6 th | 5:00 PM | District Leadership Team | First Oneonta UMC |
| Tues., March 1st, 2016 | 9am-2:30pm | Lenten Day Apart for Pastors | Cooperstown UMC |
| Sat., March 5th, 2016 | TBA | Oneonta District Day | Elm Park UMC |
| Thurs., April 14th, 2016 | TBA | Bishop's Day on the District | Norwich Broad Street UMC |

Reminder for Lay Servants

A report is due from you annually and must be submitted to the district Office prior to your Regional Church conference to be approved at your annual church conference. Reports with missing information cannot be accepted. Download a report [here](#).

2015 Advent Calendar for download

For more information and to download the calendar go to:

www.thomasmousin.wordpress.com

What is the United Methodist Church doing for the European migration crisis?

Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, has written [an open letter](#) regarding The United Methodist Church's response to the ongoing European migration crisis. In his letter, Kemper outlines the scope of the crisis, requests prayer as an immediate response, and highlights the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). To lend your financial support, please send donations to UMCOR through the Upper New York Conference, 324 University Ave., 3rd floor, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210 (please denote "Advance #982450" for International Disaster Response on your check). Additionally, UMCOR is providing food packets and hygiene kits on the island of Kos and Lesbos. [Click here](#) for details of how to assemble UMCOR relief kits. [Click here](#) to read more about The UMC's aid to European refugees.

UNY Conference Trustees activate Revolving Loan Fund

The Upper New York Conference is pleased to announce the activation of the Revolving Loan Fund. Upper New York's predecessor conferences had loan funds to assist churches for certain expenditures, primarily associated with real property, such as major repairs and capital improvements. These funds are now available for lending to UNY churches with these capital needs, when alternative financing is unavailable. [DETAILS](#)

Local Church News

GROUNDBREAKING FOR UNADILLA'S EDIBLE FOREST GARDEN & PERMACULTURE PARK THIS SATURDAY 9 TO 3 WITH HISTORICAL 1ST TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT 2 PM - SEE BELOW ON HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Unadilla's 'The Village Green' Group, in partnership with Unadilla 1st United Methodist Church, has scheduled a COMMUNITY WORKDAY AND TREE PLANTING CEREMONY this Saturday, November 14th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the United Methodist Church and Parsonage, across from the Great American on Main St in Unadilla. The Community Workday this Saturday will allow neighbors to pitch in at the ground level of establishing this community food forest as we are clearing brush, laying out and preparing initial beds and paths, and spreading sheet mulch prior to the first snows of winter. Participants, both young and old, will have an opportunity to learn a bit about the ecological dynamics of our local forests and how those dynamics can be used to design sustainable gardens, public spaces, and food systems in our own backyards and communities. Forest Gardening is a gardening system that mimics a natural woodland environment that is self-watering, self-weeding, self-mulching, self-fertilizing and highly productive. **The Workday will culminate in a Fruit Tree Planting Ceremony to be held at 2:00pm, symbolizing the first seed of this exciting community project. Lunch, snacks and hot drinks will be provided.**

If your organization or company has resources that would assist in this historical effort to develop our park; i.e. mulch, wood chips, used cardboard, organic fertilizer (manure), compost, equipment use, signage materials, trees, edible perennial plants suitable for Fall planting, pathway materials, food/drinks (or dollars to supply) for workers and most of all HELPING HANDS J, PLEASE CONTACT US AT YOUR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY FOR PICKUP OR INFORMATION ON WHERE IT CAN BE DELIVERED. THANK YOU! We can be reached at dwightmott@gmail.com or unadillaumc@gmail.com or by calling 607-761-9235 or 607-765-7386 for more information. All donations will be publicly recognized with sincere appreciation as we move this project from vision to reality!

SUPPORT AFRICA 360

Looking for a way to connect your youth or Sunday School to Africa 360? A church in the Crossroads district has helped create a new 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>



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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)

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

'Track' your 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>



Red Bird Mission

Red Bird Mission Shoebox Project – 2015 - It is time to begin filling shoeboxes for the Red Bird Mission Christmas Shoebox Project. This is a most worthwhile project serving the Red Bird Mission Conference of the United Methodist Church and their clientele. This project is worthy of your consideration. *For more information about Red Bird Mission and the Christmas 'Shoebox project, [click here](#).*

The Portlandville and Milford churches will be collecting for the Red Bird Mission and will provide a location for the truck to pick up the items. If there are persons in other churches who would like to donate but do not have a local church collecting, they are welcome to join us in this endeavor. I do not have a pickup date as of yet, but persons can contact me at coump.2011@yahoo.com Sue Hulbert

Red Bird Mission Shoe Box drop off sites announced

On Oct. 14, the Upper New York Conference placed a call out through the

Weekly Digest asking local churches to fill shoeboxes for the Red Bird Mission and Clinic in Beverly, Ky., which provides ministries in the region of the Appalachian Mountains. If you or your church has filled shoe boxes to donate to Red Bird Mission, please drop them off at the following sites by the dates listed:

- **West Sparta UMC**, 4287 Redmond Road, Dansville, before noon on Wednesday, Nov. 11
- **Clinton UMC**, 105 Utica Road, Clinton, before Sunday, Nov. 15
- **Broad Street UMC**, 74 North Broad St., Norwich, before Wednesday, Nov. 18
- **Erwin First UMC**, 920 Euclid Ave., Syracuse, before Friday, Nov. 20
- **Endwell UMC**, 3301 Watson Blvd., Endwell, before Wednesday, Nov. 25

If you have a large number of shoe boxes that need to be picked up or any other questions, please contact Dave Alexander at (607) 743-8955 or dalexander4@stny.rr.com

Need Help with Church Conference Reports?-This does not have to be frustrating!

This year, your friends in the Oneonta District Office want you to know about a new resource that we hope will be of help. We now have a workstation in the office that you can use to complete any of the reports listed on the 2015 Annual Report Form Check List. You may schedule a time to complete, print and submit your church's reports in one stop! This may be especially helpful in completing the online reports (numbers 12 through 16 and 19 on the Check List).

The work station will be available for use during regular office hours. If you're interested in scheduling a time to use this work station, please call (607-441-51020 or email Teresa at OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org

Nicaragua 2016

A VIM team will be going to Nicaragua in 2016. Tentative dates are March 3—17. The team will be working with Dr. Belinda Forbes, UM missionary dentist. Belinda works with Accion Medica Cristiana (Christian Medical Action/ AMC), an agency that works with some of the poorest people in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in our hemisphere. The team will probably do health related work but not direct medical care. Work might include assisting with dental care, health education, construction, etc. AMC will look at the team's skills and the community's needs to determine the work and the location. It is expected that the team will go to the northeastern region, the RACCN, which is regarded as the poorest area of Nicaragua.

The team is being sponsored by First UMC, Schenectady, which has a covenant relationship with Dr. Forbes. Anticipated cost will be \$2000-2500. Team leader is Cindy Schulte. You can contact her at tacks5@hotmail.com or 518-374-3012 for more information or an application. You can also contact Jan Huston for more information at hustonjp24@gmail.com or 518-399-0919. AMC has a website where you can learn more about the work they do with the warm, friendly people of this beautiful country – <http://amcenglish.org>. It is hoped that the team will be formed by mid-Sept. so get your application in soon!

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](#)
[Job Opportunities](#) * [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