

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org)

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**Connect and Revive**, by Anna Buell, District Lay Leader

On Saturday September 26, 2015, the Oneonta District held its first "Revive and Connect - Doing Big Things Together" event at the Cobleskill United Methodist Church, hosted by members of Cobleskill UMC and Warnerville UMC. The event was developed by the District Leadership Team, as a celebration of God's love and commitment, Jesus's presence within the churches across the District, and how we are stronger in mission and purpose when we come together as one connected body in ministry. [Click Here to read more](#).

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**Together, let us pray for**

*The people of Mount Upton, Unadilla Center and Sand Hill UMCs and Pastor Justin Hood*

**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*

**for the concerns of our local communities**

*for Pastor Dan Martin, wife Donna and family (Serving Worcester/Westford UMC). Dan was recently diagnosed with Tumor on his pituitary gland- pray for Dan's Health and for safe travel that will be necessary to go to next steps for his treatment*

*neighbors served by our food pantries, community meal ministries, thrift shops*

**for the world, its peoples, and its leaders**

*for the families and friends of those whose lives were taken in the recent shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon.*

*for all that are impacted by Hurricane Joaquin*

*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*

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## 561 kits Delivered. GREAT JOB ALL !



**Thanks to all congregations of our district for your contributions to the health kit project our Sep 26 “Connect and Revive” event! Those kits were delivered to Mission Central in Pa this past weekend. From there they will go to people all around the world, including refugees in Europe, and others facing disasters, have fled their homes, and are in need of the love and support of God’s people.**

UNY Notes -**Sept. 15, 2015 -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., 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## District & Conference Events Coming Soon

Date	Time	Item	Location
Sat Oct 10th	9am- 1 pm	Oneonta District UMW Fall Meeting “Transforming the World”	Sherburne UMC, 11 Chapel St, Sherburne, NY Cost: \$5.00 (pay at registration) Register with Sue Olmstead, 607-563-3750 or 607-561-7390 email: <a href="mailto:solmstead1@stny.rr.com">solmstead1@stny.rr.com</a>
Sat Oct 17th		Boundaries Training	<a href="#">Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Windsor</a> see details below to register
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	8 am – 2pm	Lay Servant Training	At Elm Park UMC – <a href="#">Click here for Flyer</a>
Sat. Oct. 31		Safe Sanctuaries Training	Safe Sanctuaries Training Class at Elm Park – please register by using <a href="#">Lay Servant Training Brochure</a>
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 <a href="#">(Note place change due to accessibility)</a>
Tues., Nov. 17th	TBA	Oneonta Regional Church Conference	Elm Park UMC
Wed., Nov. 18th	6pm food 7pm worship &	Cooperstown Regional Church Conference	Cooperstown UMC

	business		
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	Unadilla 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 – Details TBA <b>SAVE THE DATE</b>

## '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>



## Oneonta District UMW Fall Meeting “Transforming the World”

When: **This Saturday**, October 10, 2015 -9am – 1pm, morning refreshments & light luncheon provided

Where: Sherburne UMC, 11 Chapel St, Sherburne, NY

Hosted by Sherburne UMW & Smyrna UMW

Cost: \$5.00 (pay at registration)

Register with Sue Olmstead, 607-563-3750 or 607-561-7390 email: [solmstead1@stny.rr.com](mailto:solmstead1@stny.rr.com)

**Schedule is out for Bishop's Retreat** - Find the schedule for the Bishop's Retreat [on the Conference website!](#)

### **Charge Conference Forms** -

Charge conference forms for 2015-2016 are now available on the UNY Conference website, <http://uny.umconline.org/>. Feel free to get started on the needed work.

### **NEW - Reminder for Lay Servants**

A report is due from you annually and must be submitted by November 1 to be approved at your annual church conference. Please begin working on this now. Reports with missing information will not be accepted. Download a report [here](#).

## Support Africa 360

**NEW** - Here's a run-down:

ALL Oneonta District churches that have been involved with Africa 360 since AC 2015

### Africa 360 Challenge (at Annual Conference 2015):

Davenport	Edmeston	Franklin	Hartwick	Morris
Mt. Upton	North Norwich	Plymouth	Preston	Richmondville
Treadwell	Unadilla Center	Westville		

Africa 360 Challenge 2.0 (for Annual Conference 2016 – churches that have submitted funds at all levels or pledges, bold is \$1,000 pledges/given \$1,000 already):

Davenport	Edmeston	<b>Guilford</b>	Hyndsville	<b>Morris</b>
<b>Mt. Vision</b>	North Norwich	Otego	<b>Plymouth</b> (\$500 pledge)	
<b>Preston</b> (\$600 pledge)		Sherburne	Smyrna	<b>Unadilla Center</b>

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](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>

**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)**

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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### Equitable Compensation Application for Jan.-June 2016 available- **Oct. 9, 2015** deadline

The Commission on Equitable Compensation has issued guidelines and an application form for salary grants to local churches for the period Jan. 1 to June 30, 2016. **Salary grants are available only to churches with a pastor under full time appointment.**

To apply for salary assistance from the Equitable Compensation Fund, applicants should review the policies and procedures in the application document for guidance, and then complete the application according to the directions provided by the **Oct. 9, 2015** deadline.

[Click the link](#) for the application form.

Or go to: <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/equitable-compensation-application-for-january-june-2016-available>

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## Local Church News

**Red Bird Mission** - 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](mailto:coump.2011@yahoo.com)      Sue Hulbert

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**NEW-This event is sponsored in conjunction with the Schoharie Regional ministry outreach program.**

**All are invited to attend a Forum on Alcoholism and the Family**

**Date: Sunday, October 25**

**Time: 2 pm - 4 pm**

**Place: Delanson United Methodist Church**

Members of Alanon and Alcoholics Anonymous will share their experience with the disease of alcoholism and answer questions on the subject.

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**Wanted: Set of hand bells :** Milford UMC would like to either purchase, or borrow, a set of handbells. We have a lot of enthusiastic volunteers, but no hand bells to play! If you can help, please call 434-7188 and speak to Pastor Sylvia Barrett. Thank you!

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### **NEW - Marriage Encounter Weekend, October 23 – 25**

Settling for a secure, comfortable, yet sometimes lonely relationship? Yearning to recapture the romantic love and affection that first brought you together? Could be you and your spouse have been so busy meeting the demands of jobs, children, friends, and community that you have neglected to keep in touch with one another.

At Marriage Encounter Weekend, reconnect with one another, hone those skills that came so naturally in your courting days, and learn a communication method you can use at home to grow in understanding and love for one another each day. Asbury Camp & Retreat Center, Silver Lake, New York, October 23 - 25, 2015. 7 p.m. Friday night to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, or to register for a weekend visit our website: [encounter.org](http://encounter.org). Or contact Keith & Diane Sherwood (315) 492-2372 today.

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### **Rev. Jorge Acevedo coming to UNY**

Opportunities for the entire AC to be a part of his time in UNY. Please refer to the article open to all on evangelism (see this story- <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/be-inspired-to-rethink-evangelism-this-fall-with-the-rev.-jorge-acevedo>).

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**What is UMVIM?** UM Volunteers in Mission (VIM) exists to promote, encourage, and enable Christians to exemplify "Christian Love in Action" through short-term mission service in the United States and abroad. It provides opportunities for service by developing and nurturing relationships with domestic and international leaders.

**Who should attend team leader training?** Anyone interested in learning more about being a VIM team leader or if you want to be a better team member! Team Leader Training is required for all first time UMVIM team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend.

**What will be covered in the training?** Topics will include picking a project, team roles, choosing members, making a budget, fundraising, necessary forms, youth teams, safe sanctuaries, team health and safety, telling the story, cultural considerations, spiritual development, and international and medical teams.

**When, where, and how to register for the training** – It will be held Sat. Oct. 24, 9AM – approximately 4PM, at the Jonesville UMC in Clifton Park. \$20 fee includes materials and lunch. Course will be taught by Cathie and Jay Dunkleberger and Jan and Pete Huston. **For more information** contact Jan and Pete Huston at

[hustonjp24@gmail.com](mailto:hustonjp24@gmail.com) or 518-399-0919 or Jay and Cathie Dunkleberger at [jaydunkleb@gmail.com](mailto:jaydunkleb@gmail.com) or 518-371-7071. **Register by contacting the Hustons. Registration is required by Oct. 17.**

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## **Advanced Lay Servant Ministry Course – Nonviolent Communication**

**-- Note change of day of week --**

An Advanced Lay Speakers Course will be offered at First UMC, Schenectady, during October. Sessions will be led by Steve Anderson, a trained instructor with over 150 hours of personal engagement in training, including field experiences in several parts of the world. The text will be **Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life**, an authoritative book in this area, by Marshall B. Rosenberg.

This course has been approved by the Conference and District Lay Servant Ministries Coordinators to be an Advance Course of Study for Lay Servant Minister participants who need credits for yearly certification or re-certification.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY OF WEEK.** Sessions will be held at First UMC, Schenectady, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm every Wednesday evening in October [7,14,21, 28]. The sessions will include learning new materials, exercises in using what is learned, and dialogue with response.

Participants are asked to either purchase their own book, or to ask that a book be ordered for them when registering. The cost of the book is \$15.00. If this cost is prohibitive, the cost will be subsidized. For those seeking Lay Servant Ministry credit, a \$5.00 registration fee is required by the District.

**Register via email at First UMC, Schenectady, [fumcschenectady@yahoo.com](mailto:fumcschenectady@yahoo.com), or with Bob Long, [Bikealong2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Bikealong2@nycap.rr.com), as early as possible so that an adequate supply of books will be available.**

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## **UNY Notes : Keep your fall schedule open for these opportunities**

- Opportunity for developing leaders and increasing vitality is ***Tending the Fire***. For more information and registration, [click here](#).
- For more information about these or any of the Vital Congregations opportunities, contact the Rev. Dr. Aaron M. Bouwens, Conference Director of Vital Congregations, at [aaronbouwens@unyumc.org](mailto:aaronbouwens@unyumc.org) or (315) 424-7878, ext. 338.

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## **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](#).*

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

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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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### NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVALS in New York 2015

November 11 **Canandaigua Treaty Celebration** Noon till 9pm Court house lawn Canandaigua and Elementary School Commemorates the 200+ years of the treaty parade, food, vendors, educational presentations, social

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## **NEW - Job Posting - Information Technology Manager**

Posting Date: 9/24/2015

Location: Conference Office - Syracuse, NY

The Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is accepting applications for a full-time Information Technology Manager. The IT Manager will be responsible for the overall planning, organizing, budgeting, and execution of all information technology related functions for the Conference and its associated offices and ministries. This includes directing all IT operations to meet organization requirements, oversight of end-user computer support, as well as the maintenance of existing infrastructure, applications, and the development of resources and solutions to meet future needs. Other responsibilities include preparation and set-up for meetings, including computer, audio-visual, and telecommunication requirements.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of five years experience in IT-related work, specifically information systems with a focus on networking and communications. Bachelor's degree in Information Systems or a related field is required. Masters degree in computer science, MIS, or business is preferred. Salary range in mid-upper 50's. Please refer to the [job description](#) for complete list of qualifications and responsibilities.

Application Instructions: To be considered for this position you must apply online at <http://www.unyumc.org/about/jobs> and include the following

- Completed online application
- Resume
- Cover letter
- Contact information for three professional references

**Application Deadline: Friday, October 9, 2015** 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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### **Warning**

Please be aware that there is a caller named Joseph Viscusi. He is known as having been wanted for scamming churches in Massachusetts and has previously tried scamming in the Adirondack area. He has now shown up in the Albany District having called churches in the Northville area. Please be careful and do not engage with this individual.

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**For the Full list of 2015-16 Appointments go to :<http://www.unyumc.org/news/appointments>**

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**Conference Job Posting** - *Anyone inquiring about any open positions can go to <http://www.unyumc.org/about/jobs> as we now have an online application system for applying for open positions.*

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### **Resource Center Links :**

Resource Center on the website: <http://www.unyumc.org/resources/media-resource-center>  
And the current Newsletter: <http://www.unyumc.org/resources/monthly-newsletter>

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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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**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  
Teresa Wood, Administrative Assistant



