

September 16<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."*



**Together, let us pray for**

*The people of Huntersland UMC and Pastor Carol Coltrain*

**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**

*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**

*New faith communities in Upper New York Conference*

*for the congregations of the Schoharie Region*

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

**A change in Oneonta District Office Hour for Next Week Sept 21<sup>st</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> 2015**

Mon. 9/21 – Out of Office - Available by phone and email 7:00 am – 4:00 PM

Tues. 9/22 - Office hrs 11:30 am - 5 PM

Wed.9/23 - Office hrs 7:am - 12:00 pm

Thurs.9/24 - Office Hrs 7: am - 4: pm

Fri. 9/25 – Office Closed

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**NEW - The work of UMCOR with European Migration Crisis-**United Methodist leaders in Europe and the United States encourage church members to contribute to the work of UMCOR. For years, UMCOR has worked with partners in serving persons displaced by fighting in Syria and Iraq and persons temporarily living in other Middle Eastern locations or making their way westward. To date, UMCOR has allocated \$2 million to provide the basics of life to persons displaced in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey. Middle Eastern countries of far less affluence than the nations of Europe have proportionately admitted many more migrants than are now entering Europe. Our work among those displaced persons must continue. In addition, UMCOR is collaborating with partners to provide for refugee families in Greece, including those on the islands of Lesbos and Kos. With an Italian partner, it is responding to refugees from North Africa arriving in Sicily and other parts of Italy.

**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
Tues., Sept. 22nd	5:30 pm	dCOS - District Committee on Superintendency	<b>Downstairs District Office</b>
Fri. Sept. 25		Boundaries Training	Shenendehowa UMC, Clifton Park Session FILLED
Sat. Sept 26th	9am-2:30	<b>Connect and Revive District Gathering</b>	Cobleskill UMC Child Care will be provided – Also remember to indicate any special Dietary needs to Michelle ( email; <a href="mailto:coby.umc@verizon.net">coby.umc@verizon.net</a> / Call: 518-234-3671 ) when registering <b>Click Here for Flyer and how to register</b>
Sat Oct 17th		Boundaries Training	<b>Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Windsor</b> see details below to register
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	8 am – 2pm	Lay Servant Training	At Elm Park UMC – <b>Click here for Flyer</b>
Sat. Oct. 31		Safe Sanctuaries Training	Safe Sanctuaries Training Class at Elm Park – please register by using <b>Lay Servant Training Brochure</b>
Sun., Nov. 15th	Following Worship Service	Sidney Regional Church Conference	Sidney UMC

Mon., Nov. 16th	TBA	Norwich Regional Church Conference	Broad St Norwich UMC (Note place change due to accessibility)
Tues., Nov. 17th	TBA	Oneonta Regional Church Conference	Elm Park UMC
Wed., Nov. 18th	TBA	Cooperstown Regional Church Conference	Cooperstown UMC
Thurs., Nov. 19th	TBA	Schoharie Regional Church Conference	Esperance- Sloansville UMC
Tues., Dec 1st	9am-2:30pm	Advent Day Apart – God’s Gifts of Grace	Unadilla UMC
Tues., March 1st, 2016	TBA	Lenten Day Apart	TBA
Sat., March 5th, 2016	TBA	Oneonta District Day	Elm Park UMC
Thurs., April 14th, 2016	TBA	Bishop's Day on the District	TBA

## **Boundary Awareness Training for Pastors**

**This training is mandatory for all pastors and lay worship leaders  
under appointment**

**in the Upper New York Annual Conference.**

**If you have not registered, please see below**

**Sessions will be held on the following dates and locations:**

Sept. 24, 2015 Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center, Moravia- Filled -

Sept. 25, 2015 Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, Clifton Park- Filled

Sept. 26, 2015 Plattsburgh United Methodist Church, Plattsburgh- Filled

Oct. 17, 2015 Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Windsor

Oct. 27, 2015 Findley Camp and Retreat Center, Clymer

Oct. 28, 2015 Asbury Camp and Retreat Center, Silver Lake- Filled

Oct. 29, 2015 Canton United Methodist Church, Canton

Jan. 9, 2016 Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center, Moravia

You may register online for any event with openings through the Capital Region Theological Center  
at <https://crtc.org/upcoming/eventgroup>.

Total fee for the course is \$85, which will be due upon check-in at the training. You will have the option to request a mini-grant (\$30) from your available continuing education funds from the Board of Ordained Ministry during the registration process or by contacting the Rev. Wayne Mort at [wayneamort@aol.com](mailto:wayneamort@aol.com). You will receive notification regarding the awarding of these funds prior to the event. You should come to the course prepared to pay.

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### **FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON. – Services of Healing in Schoharie Region**

Pastor Maryellen Moore of Middleburgh UMC and retired Rev. Janice Palm offered a service of Love and Reconciliation at the Middleburgh United Methodist Church on July 29. The invitation went out to all fifteen United Methodist Churches in the Schoharie Valley Cooperative: "...A Time to Heal..." For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. We are in an in-between time. In order for us as church folk to move forward, we need a Time to Recognize and Honor where we are, so we can begin *A Time to Heal* and *A Time to Move Forward*. [Click here to read more...](#)

There is an open invitation to the next healing service, scheduled for October 4 at 3:00 p.m., in the Warnerville sanctuary led by United Methodist lay and clergy.

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### **Support Africa 360**

Churches all over the conference are answering the call to support Africa 360. The Africa 360 Challenge 2.0 was issued at Annual Conference in May, and each church has received a goal card to encourage them to participate. If your church did not receive a goal card, or has any other questions about resources, a speaker, or brainstorming creative ideas, email Laurel O'Connor, Africa 360 Field Coordinator at [LaurelOConnor@unyumc.org](mailto:LaurelOConnor@unyumc.org). There are resources and information online as well: <http://www.unyumc.org/mission/africa-360>. The August issue of the Advocate is dedicated specifically to Africa 360, so keep your eyes open for that issue that will be filled with church stories, ideas, and resources that are available for use.

In other news, the Albany District Ministry Team and the "AU Breakfast Table" have initiated an endowed scholarship to honor Virgia Phoenix, a remarkable woman and this year's recipient of the Denman award at Conference. Virgia's local church, First UMC, Schenectady, has joined as co-sponsor. If you would like to give a gift to honor Virgia and the profound impact she continues to have in the Upper New York Conference, please send donations to the Upper New York Conference office, written to UNYAC with "AU-Virgia Phoenix" in the memo line. If your church would like to take an offering for the Virgia Phoenix endowed scholarship and would like specially-marked envelopes, please contact Laurel O'Connor (<mailto:LaurelOConnor@unyumc.org>). If a church or group of churches is interested in honoring someone and would like more details about endowing a full scholarship to Africa University, please contact the Conference Office for full details.

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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**Local Church News**

**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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## **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. Projects might include helping with long-term recovery after a disaster, assisting with health care or community development, doing building repairs for people who are unable to do so, working in a thrift store, and working with people to improve their lives in whatever ways we can. Developing caring relationships is an integral part of a VIM experience.

**Who should attend team leader training?** If you are interested in learning more about being a VIM team leader or if you want to be a better team member, this training is for you! 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. There will be a \$20 fee for materials and lunch. Course will be taught by Cathie and Jay Dunkleberger and Jan and Pete Huston. Both couples served as conference coordinators of VIM in the former Troy Conference. **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 Huston. Registration is required by Oct. 17.**

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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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**NEW - Nonviolent Communication Course to be offered at First UMC, Schenectady**

First UMC, Schenectady, is offering a 5-6 session course/experience with Non Violent Language [Compassionate Dialogue] in October and early November. 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 that will be ***Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life***, by Marshall B. Rosenberg. This is an authoritative book in this area, with an Foreward written by Arun Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson and past President of the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence.

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.

Sessions will be held at First, UMC, Schenectady, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm every Monday evening in October [5,12,19, 26] and November [2 and 9]. The sessions will include learning new materials, exercises in using what is learned, and dialogue with response.

In this day there are few things more important than learning to engage and communicate in a nonviolent manner. Ask someone from your congregation to join with you.

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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## 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**

September 18-27 **2015 World Indoor Lacrosse Championship** First ever international sporting event held on Indigenous lands. Thirteen nations will compete for the championship in Syracuse For more info ><http://wilc2015.com><

September 25-27 **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](tel:406-587-1002) or email Eric Noyes: at [Eric@twocircles.org](mailto:Eric@twocircles.org).

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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### ***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**