

September 22nd, 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 Middlefield and Roseboom UMCs and Pastor Ron Fralick

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

The family of Sarita Fiske, widow of Rev. Joe Fiske- who died Friday Sept. 18, 2015

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

for the congregations of Hyndsville, Dorloo, and Mineral Springs

Pope Francis' visit to the US and his message of grace and care for the poor

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.

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., 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.

Doors

Closet, bathroom, pantry,
bedroom, sewing room, study,
a small house,
most doors are left open,
unneded and unnoticed.

Front door, sliding door,
side door, garage doors,
a small house,
where most are closed, often locked,
security within a secure landscape.

Falling asleep,
peaceful thanks for doors
to separate our plenty,
keep us safe, warm, dry.

What would it be like,
not to have one door,
but walk openly, carrying all,
sheltering your children,
a pregnant wife with your body?

Walking without food,
or water,
toilets or a bed,
on strange paths among strangers,
who have escaped to have breath?

Leaving a homeland
sick unto death,
hoping against hope,
for grace on the way,
new life,
a home with a door.

Prayers to be sure,
for the "doorless,"
and opening our doors

to chambers of heart and hearth
to share treasures of abundance,
and some where a welcome too.

by: Rolland K. Stratton
September 19, 2015

Don't miss it - THIS Saturday

**Oneonta District
CONNECT
and
REVIVE**

*Saturday, September 26
Cobleskill United Methodist Church*

9- Registration & fellowship- Pastor Matt Rowe & Gallupville UMC Band
9:30- Worship- Preacher Matt Williams, Sky Lake Program Director
10:15- Plenary
11- Break Out Groups

1. Joint choir- Enjoy singing songs of faith with a crowd
2. UMCOR Health Kit assembly line – Our Goal -500! Penny Harrington
3. 5 Marks of a Methodist—Pastor Thanna Howell and friends

12:15- Lunch

1:00- Circle conversations on Church Vitality -Pastor Rich Howard
2:00- Closing worship with joint choir

To Register please contact Michele Bivona- Administrative Assistant at Cobleskill UMC via email: coby.umc@verizon.net or by phone: (518) 234-3671

Sponsored by the Oneonta District Leadership Team

See you there.

District & Conference Events Coming Soon

Date	Time	Item	Location
Fri. Sept. 25		Boundaries Training	Shenendehowa UMC, Clifton Park Session FILLED
Sat. Sept 26th	9am-2:30	Connect and Revive District Gathering	Cobleskill UMC Child Care will be provided – Also remember to indicate any special Dietary needs to Michelle (email; coby.umc@verizon.net / Call: 518-234-3671) when registering

			Click Here for Flyer and how to register
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: solmstead1@stny.rr.com
Sat Oct 17th		Boundaries Training	Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Windsor see details below to register
Oct 24 th & 31 st	8 am – 2pm	Lay Servant Training	At Elm Park UMC – Click here for Flyer
Sat. Oct. 31		Safe Sanctuaries Training	Safe Sanctuaries Training Class at Elm Park – please register by using Lay Servant Training Brochure
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 for Pastors – God’s Gifts of Grace	Unadilla UMC
Tues., March 1st, 2016	TBA	Lenten Day Apart for Pastors	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

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 waynemort@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.

NEW - What: Oneonta District UMW Fall Meeting "Transforming the World"

When: 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

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.

Support Africa 360

Africa 360 sweatshirts are available for a limited time (the online portal is open through October 1), and can be shipped straight to your home: <http://www.booster.com/Africa360> - make a donation today!

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 con-

gregations that are interested: <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/prayer-partners-another-life-saving-tool-in-the-africa-360-toolkit>

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

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!

NEW - Marriage Encounter Weekend, October 23 - 25

I had forgotten how crazy in love we had been.

Then Keith and I went on a Marriage Encounter Weekend and recaptured those feelings. 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.

Consider attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend, to 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

There will be a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Asbury Camp & Retreat Center, Silver Lake, New York, October 23 - 25, 2015. The program runs from 7 p.m. Friday night to 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon. For more information, or to register for a weekend visit our website: encounter.org. Or contact Keith & Diane Sherwood (315) 492-2372 today. You will be very happy you did.

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>).

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 or 518-399-0919 or Jay and Cathie Dunkleberger at jaydunkleb@gmail.com or 518-371-7071. **Register by contacting the Huston. Registration is required by Oct. 17.**

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 or (315) 424-7878, ext. 338.

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, or with Bob Long, Bikealong2@nycap.rr.com, as early as possible so that an adequate supply of books will be available.

Note: This course can be used for certification/re-certification for lay Servant Ministries.

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](#).*

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.*

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>

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

The District Newsletter can be found at the Oneonta District web-site: <https://sites.google.com/site/oneontadistrictumc/> and at Conference Webpage at [:http://www.unyumc.org/district/oneonta](http://www.unyumc.org/district/oneonta)

See us on Face book: [Oneonta District United Methodists](http://www.facebook.com/OneontaDistrictUnitedMethodists)

P.O. BOX 668 Oneonta NY, 13820 Phone/Fax: (607)441-5102