

any joy or excitement and your receiving the email because you have expressed an interest in supporting the New York Conference. Don't forget to add cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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JOYS & CONCERNS

Please include these prayer requests in your weekly church bulletin, in your prayers during your Sunday worship if you have a time of "pastoral prayer" and keep these pastors, their families and the Church families in your prayers throughout the week.

April 28

The **Camp Street** and **Kennedy 1st** Churches. **Pastor Jennifer Delahoy**, her husband Brian and their family.

May 5

The **Christ First** Church. **Pastor Matthew Rowe**, his wife Maria and their children Mia and Sam.

May 12 (Mothers Day)

The **Kidder Memorial** Church. **Rev. Carolyn Stow**, her husband Mark and their family.

Please keep the family of **Kathy Anderson** in your prayers. Her sister was struck by a hit-and-run driver on Tuesday night, April 16.

Also be in prayer for **all** who are in need of physical healing, burdened by stress, living with grief, and more.



TOMORROW (April 26) is Deadline!

Cornerstone's **Lay Servant Ministries Spring Training** will be held **May 10 & 11** at **East Randolph United Methodist Church**, 122 Church St.

Click [here](#) to download the brochure or register online at www.cornerstonedistrict.com (click on "Resources," then choose Lay Servant Ministries to find the online registration form).

PLEASE NOTE: The preaching class is titled ***Called to Preach***. The student text for the class is *From Pew to Pulpit: A Beginner's Guide to Preaching* by Clifton F. Guthrie. The book is available from Cokesbury.

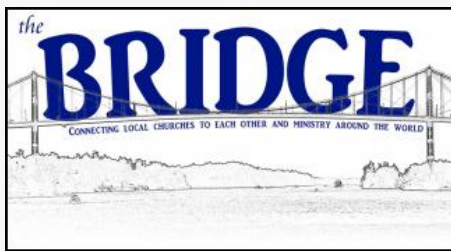
4th Annual Art Show

Local artists will exhibit their works in decorative acrylic, knitting, crocheting, watercolor, card making and calligraphy **April 27 & 28** at **Fredonia First United Methodist Church**, 25 Church St.



The exhibit will be held in the church's Community Room from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 27** (reception to follow) and from **11 a.m. to 12 noon on April 28**.

Artists displaying their work participate in **Art Start**, an outreach ministry of Fredonia First. Classes are offered in drawing, painting, knitting, crocheting, card making and paper crafting. Art Start is open to the community free of charge - no cost for materials.



The Latest *Bridge*!

The **April Issue II** copy of the *Bridge* is now available for download. It is available in both color and black & white formats. Click [here](#) to select the version you prefer and make copies as necessary.

This issue explains how worship is a spiritual discipline and explores how one can fully feel God's presence through worship. This issue also reminds your congregation that May 5 is Native American Ministries Sunday.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

Upper New York Area Resident **Bishop Mark J. Webb** will be in the Cornerstone District on **Wednesday, May 1**, for a regional gathering from **6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at **Christ United Methodist Church**, 633 Linwood Ave. in **Olean**.



This gathering, like others scheduled throughout the UNY Conference, will primarily focus on "unpacking" the Judicial Council's decision regarding the constitutionality of the petitions that made up the Traditional Plan affirmed by the delegates of the 2019 Special Session of The General Conference.

It also will be a time to help attendees to understand what becomes part of the Book of Discipline on January 1, 2020 and what does not. These times will include an opportunity for questions and conversation about what God might be doing in and through The United Methodist Church in the future. There will be a brief time of worship at each gathering as well.

The dates, times, and locations of these gatherings are as follows:

- April 30, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Potsdam UMC

- **May 1, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.:** Christ UMC
- May 13, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Cicero UMC
- May 14, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Chenango Bridge UMC
- **May 15, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.:** Clarence UMC
- May 29, 2019 from 6:30- 8:30 p.m.: Shenendahowa UMC



Registration Deadline is May 3!

Registration for **Annual Conference** is open! If you are serving a church, or are your church's

Lay Member to Annual Conference or an EQ member for Cornerstone District, please register online or request a paper registration form and mail it along with full payment to:

UNYAC
Attn: Annual Conference Registration
7481 Henry Clay Blvd.
Liverpool, NY 13088

Registration for the Annual Conference will stay **open until 11:59 PM on May 3, 2019**. After that, the next opportunity to register will be **on site** at the OnCenter with an **additional \$50 fee**.

Additional information ("What You Need to Know About Annual Conference") can be found by clicking [here](#).

Requests or Questions? Call Erica Wentworth at (315) 898-2004.

NEW - 2019 Conference Journal Now Available

The **2019 Upper New York Conference Journal, Vol. I** is now available for download as a free PDF and for purchase through online publisher Lulu.com. [Click here](#) to download or view the PDF on Issuu; click [here](#) to purchase it for \$6.98 (plus shipping and applicable sales tax) from Lulu.com.

Clergy, Lay Members Unable to Attend AC

If you are clergy, your church's Lay Member, or an Equalization Member to the Annual Conference and find that you are **unable to attend** all or part of the 2019 session (June 5-8), you **must request to be excused**.

An online form has been created which will direct your request to Bishop Webb. Please click [here](#) to submit a request. DO NOT email the Bishop's Office directly.

Any questions, please contact the District Office:
cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org

NEW - How to Opt-Out of Clergy Delegate Selection

At the 2019 Upper New York Annual Conference Session, members will elect **delegates** to the **2020 General Conference** and **Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference**.

The Committee on Sessions is aware that not all clergy wish to be considered for this role. If you do not feel you are called to serve as a delegate, please click here to download and complete an option to remove your name from the ballot. Email the signed form to DCMOffice@unyumc.org or mail it to the Conference Secretary, c/o Upper New York Conference, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool, NY 13088 **by May 1**.

Eligible clergy members of the Upper New York Conference (deacons and elders) in full connection can place their names back on the ballot at any time. See the form for specifics about that process.

Budget Booklet Available

The first draft of the UNY Conference **2020 Narrative Budget booklet** is available. Click [here](#) to download a pdf version of the booklet. Click [here](#) to view on Issuu. If changes are needed, these digital copies of the budget booklets will be updated. Click [here](#) to order a printed hard copy. The final budget booklet will also be added to the 2019 Conference Journal, Vol. I.

Special Offerings at Annual Conference

The following **five offerings** will be collected at this year's Annual Conference:

- The offering collected at **Opening Worship** will go to the **UNY Mission Central HUB**.
- The offering collected at the **Laity Session** will go to the **Helping Hands Fund**.
- The offering collected at the **Clergy Session** will go to the **Clergy Care Fund**. The Clergy Care Fund assists clergy who need financial support.
- The offering collected at the **Young Adult Worship Service** will go to **Mission of Peace** (MOP).
- The offering collected at the **Service of Ordination and Commissioning** will go to **New Faith Communities** (NFCs).

Click [here](#) to learn more about these ministries that the Upper New York Annual Conference collections will help support.

Save the Date: Annual Palestinian Dinner

The **27th Annual Palestinian Dinner** will be served at **5:15 p.m. Friday, June 7**, at **Plymouth Congregational Church**, 232 E.

Onondaga St. in Syracuse (2 1/2 blocks from the Oncenter).

Huwaida Arraf, a Palestinian-American lawyer and human rights activist, will speak on current human rights abuses.

Make your reservation by calling **Linda Bergh, 315-492-8507** or **Karen Peterson, 607-739-3141**. Cost is \$20 for the meal. Please make checks payable to "UNYAC" with "Palestinian Dinner" in the memo line. You also may contribute to the Gary Bergh Scholarship Fund, which enables young adults and adults to travel to Palestine/Israel to learn first-hand about peace and justice issues.

Bow Tie and Hat Day at AC!

Continuing **Bishop Mark Webb's** tradition of wearing a **bow tie** on the Friday of Annual Conference, join the fun this year by wearing a bow tie or hat (or both!) on **Friday, June 7**.

Go crazy! Be creative! Any type of headwear works - ball cap, head band, fascinator - you've got time to find the perfect accessory. Last year, the Niagara Frontier District Lay Leader Jessica wore Minnie Mouse ears.

Looking forward to seeing all the ways we celebrate **Bow Tie (and Hat) Day** at Annual Conference!

Spring Rummage Sale

Cherry Creek-Leon United Methodist Church, 6813 Main St., Cherry Creek, will hold a two-day Rummage Sale, **May 3 & 4**, at the church. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Shoppers will enjoy a Bake & Bag Sale on Saturday.



Clean donations are appreciated; call 716-296-8083 or 716-450-0820 if you have items to donate. Computers, printers and other electronics **cannot** be accepted.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY - Cady Grant

Applications for the **Ercil Cady Grant** are available now through **May 3**. Grant(s) of **up to \$5,000** may be awarded to individual United Methodists, local United Methodist churches, or Upper New York district and conference ministry teams. As directed by the originator of the Ercil Cady Grant, priority shall be given to educational proposals that benefit minority groups or individuals, preferably black and American Indians.

In recent years, the following exciting grants have been awarded:

- **Hendricks Chapel Creative Non-Fiction Writing Contest:** an opportunity for African American and Native American university students to creatively share their experiences of spirituality/spiritual formation. Contest included cash awards.
- **Hogansburg UMC's Buddy-Bench Caring, Sharing & Respect Project:** a two-pronged approach to counter bullying, namely, building benches and educating the school board, school children and staff about the anti-bullying, safe-place benches that are located in

strategic places on school grounds and parks.

- **Covenant UMC's Praise & Play Program:** a weekly opportunity for community children to build relationships, learn about Jesus and cultivate their faith through music, art, service projects & followed by full course suppers with families.
- **Central Park Buffalo's Young Men & Women of Faith Program:** provided opportunities for educational trips to learn about our country's history of racial discord, women's rights, and the brave efforts of people and the United Methodist Church in racial, social & restorative justice.

Click [here](#) to download the grant application. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, May 3**; awardees will be notified by May 15.



Native American Ministries Sunday

Mark your calendars for the next denominational Special Sunday on **May 5**! Our generosity on **Native American Ministries Sunday** empowers spiritual development and educates Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully. A kit of resources is available to support your efforts, including a planning calendar, a "how to" resource guide, age level resources, audio devotionals, worship resources and more. Click [here](#) to download.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift on this day (or another Sunday convenient for your congregation) equips Native congregations - like New York's Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregation - to worship and serve as only they can. This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give.

NEW - Breakfast at Ripley UMC

The Be Kind Initiative (anti bullying) will benefit from the proceeds of the **May 11 All-You-Can-Eat-and-Drink Breakfast at Ripley United Methodist Church**, 84 W. Main St.



Breakfast is served from **7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.** and includes pancakes, sausage, bacon, made-to-order eggs (including omelets), toast, fried potatoes, biscuits & sausage gravy, orange juice and coffee. Cost is \$7 per person.

Please click [here](#) for a poster you may share at your church or office!

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

Bemus Point United Methodist Church, 4954 Bemus-Ellery Rd., will hold a **Sexual Harassment Prevention Training** from **11 a.m. until 12 noon** on **Wednesday, May 15**, in the BPUMC Worship Center.

New York State is a national leader in the fight against sexual harassment

and is partnering with employers across the state to further our commitment to ending sexual harassment in the workplace. Training is required of all employers in the state, including churches, and is in compliance with the training developed by the State Department of Labor and Division of Human Rights.

There is no cost for the training but an RSVP is appreciated. For additional information or reservations please contact Suzanne Allen at 716-386-3401 or suzanneallen@bpumc.com.



NEW - Children's Spring Fling

All children and youth in the **Cherry Creek-Leon United Methodist Church neighborhood** (6813 Main St.) are invited to a **May Kids' Night** on **Friday, May 17**.

A variety of activities are planned and dinner will be served. The event is scheduled from **5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** at the church. Questions? Please call Pattie, 716-338-8429 or 716-296-1016.

Details on Court Ruling for Clergy Housing Allowance

Wondering if your **Clergy Housing Allowance** will still be tax free in the future? United Methodist News Service has the story.

"In a unanimous decision released March 15, three judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit reversed a 2017 federal court ruling. The lower court had found that the tax exemption amounted to an unconstitutional establishment of religion.

The appeals court concluded the 1954 law is constitutional, saying the law 'has a secular legislative purpose, its principal effect is neither to endorse nor to inhibit religion, and it does not cause excessive government entanglement.' The ruling also noted that Congress has provided federal tax exemptions for religious organizations as far back as 1802.

[Read the article.](#)

Summer Camp Chaplain Opportunity

Elk Lick Scout Reserve, a Boy Scouts of America camp serving youth in Allegheny, Cattaraugus & Chautauqua Counties in New York and McKean & Potter Counties in Pennsylvania, is looking for a Seasonal Camp Chaplain (July 1 through August 7). The camp is located at 2420 Bordell Rd. in Smethport, PA. Click [here](#) to download a job description and other details or go to www.elklick.org and click on Employment/Chaplain.



Work Days, Open Houses at UNY Camps

In preparation for the summer camping season, Upper New York's Camp & Retreat Ministries would like to invite you to some "special events" they have planned. Click [here](#) to print a flyer and help recruit volunteers for Work Days at three camp & retreat sites; click [here](#) to print a flyer to help promote upcoming Open House events at all five UNY camp & retreat sites.

In addition, please review the schedule below to see the variety of retreats that are available throughout our conference. To learn more, click on www.campsandretreats.org.

- April 11-14, Quilt By Faith: Spring Retreat (women), Casowasco
 - April 26-28, Rejuvenate: A Spring Ladies of the Lake Experience (women), Sky Lake
 - May 9-11, LEAD (Leadership Enrichment and Development) (adults) Sky Lake
 - May 12, Mother's Day Brunch (all ages), Casowasco
 - May 17-19, Craft & Quilt Retreat (women), Asbury
 - May 24-27, Spring Fling Family Weekend (families & adults), Sky Lake
 - May 24-27, Family Camp (families & adults), Skye Farm
 - May 28-31, Lifeguard Training (ages 16+), Casowasco
 - July 2-4, Together Time: A Family Retreat (families & adults), Asbury
 - July 12-14, Family Life Weekend (families & adults), Aldersgate
 - July 14-18, Reach Out: Community Mission Experience (youth & adults), Asbury
 - July 21-24, Asbury Express I & II (ages 7-9, 10-12), Asbury
 - August 4-7, Asbury Express III (ages 13-18), Asbury
 - August 8-11, Silver Lake Experience (families & adults), Asbury
 - August 10-13, Intergenerational Camp (families & adults), Sky Lake
 - August 30-September 2, Labor Day Family Weekend (families & adults), Casowasco
 - August 30-September 2, Labor Day Family Weekend (families & adults), Sky Lake
 - September 19-22, Quilt By Faith: Fall Retreat (women), Casowasco
 - September 27-28, Paint & Sweets Women's Retreat (women), Skye Farm
 - October 11-13, Ladies of the Lake (women), Sky Lake
 - October 18-19, Adirondack Fishing Men's Retreat (men), Skye Farm
 - October 25-27, Craft & Quilt Retreat (women), Asbury
 - December 6-8, Be Still [a silent retreat] (adults), Casowasco
 - December 14, Holiday Party Reunion (all ages), Skye Farm
 - December 30-January 1, Camp Echo (ages 7-18), Casowasco
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Important Dates for Your Calendar!

Through May 3

Registration for the 10th Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference is open. Go to the UNY Conference website (www.unyumc.org) to register.

April 25

District Office closed at 12 noon (training at Conference Center).

April 30

District Assistant out of the office (training at Conference Center).

May 1

Regional Gathering with Bishop Mark J. Webb

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Christ UMC, 633 Linwood Ave., Olean

May 5-11

Local Pastors' Licensing School at Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center

May 6-9

District Assistant out of the office; email and telephone will not be monitored.

May 10-11

Lay Servant Ministries Spring Training, East Randolph United Methodist Church, 122 Church St.

May 23

Right Start Workshop for Pastors changing appointments and Retirees
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Springville 1st United Methodist Church



Cornerstone District

Upper New York Conference

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