

Why just a reminder and you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Upper 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!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



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.

August 5

The congregation of the **Sheridan** Church.

August 12

The **Park** Church in Sinclairville. **Pastor Joe Pascoe**, his wife Leslie and their daughters Ashley, Taylor and Riley.

August 19

The **Steamburg** Church. **Pastor Rick Peters**, his wife Laretta and their family.

Pastor Carol Dill had shoulder surgery on July 26 and will be in a rehab facility for the month of August. Please keep her in your prayers.

Please keep the family of **Pastor Raymond (Ray) Gilman**, serving Clarence Center UMC, in your prayers. Ray's mother, Mary Jane Ridgeway, died on July 20.

Please continue to keep the family of **Pastor Charles (Chuck) Forbes** in your prayers. Chuck, 67, died July 25 and served Minetto UMC. Visitation is Monday, August 6 at 10 a.m. followed by an 11:30 am funeral service, both at Minetto UMC at 2433 County Route 8 in Oswego.

Please keep the family of **Pastor James Smith** in your prayers. James, 80, died on July 1 and served Choconut Center and Abbott West Chenango Road UMC. Condolences can be sent to James' wife, Dreama Smith, at 11650 County Road 99, Lillian, AL 36549.

As we move closer to the special-called session of **General Conference**, we invite everyone to pray and ask for God's guidance. If there is ever a place where we can be one, it's in the space where we meet God.

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

UPDATED - Changes in the Cornerstone District

We offer prayers and welcome to:

Pastor Bruce Fish and his wife Sue who will be serving Napoli UMC effective August 1, 2018.

Pastor Becky Ward who will be serving Ripley & South Ripley UMCs effective August 1, 2018.

[Click here](#) to download the complete list of 2018 Appointments (updated July 1).



NEW - Fall Gathering with Bishop Webb

This fall, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting six gatherings around the Conference in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about **Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church**.

Bishop Webb will meet with clergy and laity of the **Cornerstone** and **Mountain View** Districts from **4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, October 28**, at **Wellsville 1st United Methodist Church**, 79 Madison St., Wellsville, NY, 14895.

Cornerstone clergy and laity may choose to attend the Bishop's gathering at **Clarence United Methodist Church**, 10205 Greiner Rd. Clarence, NY, 14031, from **4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 14**.

The regional gatherings will include a presentation of the plan and process of General Conference, a time to remember our mission, and worship and prayer.

NEW - COS Coming UP

WHEN: October 12-13 & November 9-10

Kenmore United Methodist Church

32 Landers Rd.
Kenmore, NY 14217

Registration due by **August 14**; tuition due by **August 28**.

Registration forms make two "stops" before being sent to COS: the District Office for Sherri's signature, after which we send it to the COS Registrar (Betsy O'Flynn) in Rochester. Please keep this in mind when sending in your registration so that your registration/tuition are received on time.

[2018-2019 Registration Form](#)



UPDATE - The final report of the **Commission on a Way Forward** has been released in all four official languages of the General Conference: English, French, Portuguese, and Swahili. The report will be presented to the 2019 Special Session of General Conference.

Subject to final copy editing, the report will be printed in the Advance Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA) in November. [Click here](#) to read a statement from the moderators of the Commission and the President of the Council of Bishops on the release of the report as well as access to the report in all languages.

The **Commission on a Way Forward** has released series of videos that the Commission hopes will inform The United Methodist Church on its processes and work done during the 18-month period of its meetings and deliberations. The videos can be viewed on Facebook or YouTube and can be downloaded for viewing offline.

The videos can be found [here](#).



NEW - Training at East Randolph

Do you have new Sunday School teachers or youth leaders starting this fall? Take advantage of the **Safe Sanctuaries Basic Training at East Randolph United Methodist Church**, 122 Church St., from 9 a.m. til 12 noon on Saturday, August 18.

Training is FREE but the church would like to know how many people to expect. Please contact Judy Messinger, judymessinger@msn.com or 716-640-3977 to let her know how many from your church would like to attend. Class size is limited to 20.

NEW - For Clergy & Church Leaders

Last week **all Upper New York clergy under appointment** received an email from the UNY

Board of Ordained Ministry inviting them to participate in the **Lewis Pastoral Leadership Inventory™** (LPLI), an online 360-degree leadership assessment that will help them gain valuable insights into their leadership abilities and provide important feedback from colleagues so that they can improve and grow in their ministry.



As part of the LPLI, clergy will be inviting 5 to 10 "observers" to participate in the inventory with them: S/PPR committees and other church leaders who are familiar with their work in the ministry setting. Observers will be asked to answer a set of 75 questions comparable to those that clergy will answer. Individual feedback will be kept confidential.

The time frame for the completion of the LPLI is between **August 1 and November 1, 2018**. Cost for the LPLI (\$65) is to be paid by the clergy with the understanding that the Accountable Reimbursement Plan (ARP) expense account can and should be used.

Thank you in advance to the Cornerstone laity who will be participating with our clergy in this important work.



NEW - For Enrollees in HealthFlex Plan
Now's the time to take your **HealthQuotient** (HQ) online health risk assessment **to lower your 2019 HealthFlex deductible**. This is step two of your HealthFlex "Three Steps for Better Wellness." Completing the HQ assessment between August 1 and September 30, 2018 **could save you up to \$500 extra for a family deductible towards your 2019 HealthFlex medical plan**. Both enrolled participant and enrolled spouse must complete the HQ assessment. [Click here](#) for more information and to begin the assessment.

NEW - It's Time to Plan for a New Year!

Why buy it when you can borrow it?

Are you a new Pastor or Christian Ed Director? Are you in a new appointment? Would you like to try something different in your church? When making plans for the fall, remember to check with the **Upper New York Media Resource Center** for what is available to borrow before you purchase something. Your Ministry Shares already pay for the resources we have in the library, why pay twice?

What type of resources are available?

- Sunday School Curriculum for all ages
- Confirmation Class Curriculum
- Resources on Church History/United Methodism
- Advent/Lenten Studies
- Resources for Leadership, Worship, Stewardship, Outreach
- Small Group Studies on the Bible, Spiritual Formation, Faith, and Discipleship
- Resources for Social Justice Issues and Mission
- Studies for Men and Women

- Small Group Studies for Parenting, Marriage, Relationships,
- Aging, Grief/Loss, and Health/Wholeness

Check out our [online catalog](#) too!

Contact karencampolieto@unyumc.org, or 315-898-2027.

NOTE: The Media Resource Center is closed for vacation August 13-20.

County Fair Time! **Cattaraugus County Fair**

July 30 through August 5

Address for Fairgrounds is 501 Erie St., Little Valley, NY

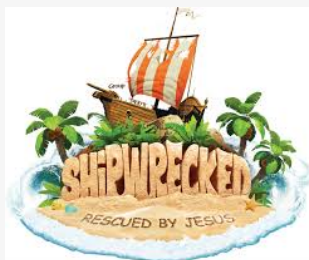
Check out **East Randolph UMC's** food booth at the Fair! Or cool off with a scoop of ice cream at the **Napoli UMC** booth!

NEW - Back to School Outreach!

Brand new **back-to-school outreach resources** are available to help you welcome students and families to worship services and church events this fall. Whether you are blessing backpacks, collecting school supplies or simply wishing to extend a warm message of support, there is a design option for you! Explore customizable postcards, banners, invitation cards, and social media images as you finalize plans for a blessed ministry season.



While supplies last, apply a \$200 discount code (F18UMC200) to your order! [Click here](#) to learn more.



VBS at Bemus Point UMC

Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus is the theme for the **July 30 through August 3** vacation Bible school at **Bemus Point United Methodist Church**, 4954 Bemus-Ellery Rd.

Class will be held from **9 a.m. to 12 noon each day**. Participants will venture onto an uncharted island where they will survive and thrive and become anchored in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms.

Parents may register their children online (www.bpumc.com) or call the church office, 716-386-3401, if they have questions.

Community-Wide VBS at East Randolph UMC

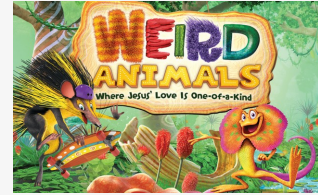
Randolph area churches - **East Randolph United Methodist**, Grace Episcopal, Randolph Presbyterian & St. Patrick Catholic - are joining together for vacation Bible School **August 6 through August 10** at **East Randolph UMC**, 122 Church St.

Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus is the theme for the week. Class is scheduled from **8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.** each day.

Registration forms are available at participating churches. If you would like to volunteer to help or need more information, please call Louise Freeman, 716-358-2635.

VBS at Ripley UMC

Weird Animals - Where Jesus' Love is One of a Kind is the theme for a weekly vacation Bible school at **Ripley United Methodist Church**, 84 W. Main St.



The summer program will meet from **4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays in August** (August 6, 13, 20, 27). Each week will explore a different situation - when you feel left out, when you feel different, when you don't understand, when you do wrong or are afraid - and affirms that nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.

If you have questions or would like to register, please contact Bob Ebert, 716-951-2192 or Darlene Meeder, 814-881-1411

NEW - UNY Conference Hires Treasurer

The Rev. Susan Ranous, Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) of the Upper New York (UNY) Conference announces that CF&A has completed its search for a new Conference Treasurer and has recommended Robert (Bob) Flask for the position.

CF&A took the selection process seriously; the process involved interviews by a primary interview team as well as conversations with the Conference Executive Staff, Finance Staff, and Upper New York Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb. The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) guided this search, assisting us with the job postings, phone interviews, and in-person interview questions.

Selected from over 20 applicants and six final interviewees, the Council determined that Bob is the very best fit and we believe he brings an outstanding skill set to this critical position in an ever-challenging and ever-changing environment of church management and financial needs. We believe his skills will continue and build upon the solid foundation of leadership and accountability that we have in place.

Bob will start as Conference Treasurer on September 4, 2018. We will introduce him to you as we get closer to that date.

CF&A and Bishop Webb are most excited about the leadership and abilities which Robert Flask will bring to the Upper New York Conference. They are grateful for the interest in this position and pray God's deepest blessings upon the Annual Conference at this time of transition.



DON'T FORGET - UMM Fall Retreat

The **United Methodist Men of the Upper New York Conference** are inviting all men, women, children and families to ***Transformation Through Christ: Turn 180 Degrees***, a weekend-long retreat **September 7 & 8** at **Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center** in Windsor, NY.

The theme of the retreat is based on Romans 12:2a: *Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind.* (GNB)

The retreat will feature **Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.** of the Mississippi Conference and President of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. **UNY Bishop Mark Webb** and the **Rev. Mark Kimpland** from Endwell UMC also will be speaking at the retreat.

The retreat promises to be a dynamic, spiritual weekend with the opportunity for all attendees to take a fresh look at their relationship with the Lord! Listen to what Bishop Webb says about the retreat [here](#)

For more information and to register online, [click here](#). You also may register by mail using a [paper form](#).

Spread the word about the retreat with this [bulletin insert](#). For more information, call or email Sanjay Solomon, (937) 626-5247 or sanjsol@aol.com.

LSM Fall Training at Kidder

Cornerstone's **2018 Lay Servant Ministries Fall Training** is scheduled **October 12 and 13** at **Kidder Memorial United Methodist Church**, 385 N. Main St., Jamestown. Gathering/registration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday followed by a time of worship and class time from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Classes to be offered include:

1. ***Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course***
2. ***Class Leaders*** (Accountable Discipleship is a prerequisite for this class)
3. ***Planning Worship***
4. ***Transforming Evangelism***

Cost, which includes snacks on Friday (no meal) and snacks/lunch on Saturday is \$25 per person. Cost of overnight lodging is extra. Checks must be made payable to UNYAC; you must be paid in full to be considered registered for a class.

Watch for a brochure (paper and online) which will be available later this summer!





2018 Native American Festivals

September 1-2 33rd Annual Iroquois Indian Festival. Iroquois Indian Museum, 324 Caverns Road, Howes Cave, NY

September 8-9 Akwesasne Pow Wow. Grand entry at 12 noon. Akwesasne Territory, Mohawk Nation, Anowarakowa Arena, Cornwall Island, Ontario

September 16 Saratoga Native American Festival. National Museum of Dance at Saratoga Spa State

September 21-23 Native Nations Festival, Watson Homestead, 9620 Dry Run Road, Painted Post, NY

September 28-29 Seneca Indian Fall Festival, Cattaraugus Territory

November 11 Canandaigua Treaty Celebration. 12 noon - 9 pm, Courthouse lawn, Canandaigua and Elementary School

Around the Corner is published twice a month in the summer. The next ATC will be published August 16.

UNY Camp & Retreat Ministries

THERE ARE SPACES for campers, families, and retreat-goers in almost all of our programming for this summer/fall, so it's not too late to inquire about or register for camps and retreats! To see a complete schedule, click [here](#).

If there are any questions, please contact Camp & Retreat Ministries (toll free), 855-414-6400 or info@campsandretreats.org.



2018 Bishop's Retreat

Cornerstone clergy are asked to save **October 23-25** on their calendars for the annual **Bishop's Retreat**, which will take place at the **Genesee Grande Hotel** in Syracuse.

"Living, Leading and Equipping for Biblical Stewardship" is the theme for the 2018 retreat. Dr. Cliff Christopher, M.Div, CRFE, will be the keynote speaker. In addition, a variety of workshops will be offered Wednesday morning (October 24).

Please click [here](#) for the retreat's full schedule and more information



Is Your Church Using VitalSigns?

One item coming out of the 2018 Upper New York Annual Conference is a recommendation from the Conference Leadership Team **strongly encouraging all UNY congregations** to begin using the **VitalSigns Dashboard** on September 1, 2018.

A number of churches in our District already use the VitalSigns Dashboard with great success/results. A downloadable (PDF) guide for local churches is available [here](#). To sign up to record your weekly VitalSigns, [click here](#).



UPDATE - Collection Site for Red Bird

Robert Ebert has volunteered to coordinate the drop-off of shoeboxes for Red Bird Mission.

Ripley United Methodist Church, 84 W. Main St., will be the drop-off site. **Drop-offs must be scheduled by calling Bob**, 716-951-2192.

Again this year **Dave Alexander** and the **Endwell United Methodist Church** in the Binghamton

District will be coordinating delivery of shoeboxes to Redbird Mission in Beverly, KY. **Pick-up and transport of items will take place the first week in December.**

If drop-off is not able to be scheduled at Ripley, there is a storage site in Endwell where shoeboxes and other items ([see this list](#)) may be delivered.

Please consider being part of this vital mission. If you have any questions, please call the Endwell UMC at 607-754-5735 or Dave Alexander at 607-743-8955.



Do you have questions about The United Methodist Church? Need help deciphering the hows and whys of who we are or what we believe? Maybe you have a faith question you've been pondering? We invite you to Ask the UMC.

Five ways you and your church can better equip Vital Congregations and make disciples of Jesus Christ!

1. Ignite your ministry at the School of Congregational Development (SCD). Plan to attend SCD 2018, a premier event for equipping church leaders to lead vital, dynamic and life-changing congregations, August 15-18 in San Diego. The event will include worship and more than 100 sessions and workshops, led by outstanding speakers and presenters. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2HrwQsh>. For more information, including the event schedule and lodging details, download a PDF file [here](#).

2. Pray for young people attending the global convocation. Traveling from 40 different countries around the world, 331 participants are attending the Global Young People's Convocation in Johannesburg, South Africa, this month. The young people are together July 18-22 for worship, important conversations, leadership development and celebration. Delegates will use a small group process to talk about important issues, propose legislation and then vote on these proposals during the Legislative Forum. For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/2NiX5zC>.

3. Get Spanish language resources for starting new congregations. Online resources in Spanish, including videos, are available from New Church Starts (Path 1) to help start new Hispanic/Latino congregations. Learn new ideas and best practices by visiting the dedicated Spanish language page on the New Church Starts website at <https://bit.ly/2LhIHdk>.

4. Celebrate resources written for women by women. Dozens of books are featured in a new digital catalog especially for women from Upper Room Books. Women of God - Be Creative with the Creator weaves in reflection questions and meditations throughout to provide an interactive experience. A print version of the catalog was shared with hundreds of women at the United Methodist Women assembly in May. To view the catalog online, go to <https://bit.ly/2NVaRt5>.

5. Mentoring available for churches planting new churches. New Church Starts (Path 1) is providing help to 10 United Methodist churches in the United States that want to launch a second campus, whether in a new location or a location where ministry has historically been offered. Path 1 is partnering with First UMC in McKinney, Texas, and facilitators with experience as pastors of multi-site churches to mentor leader teams. For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/2NRoslq>.



Cornerstone District

Upper New York Conference

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