

Why just a thank you and you are 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.



John 13:35 says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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.

February 17

The **Edwards Chapel & Watts Flats** Churches. **Pastor Warren VanDewark**, his wife Diane and their family.

February 24

The **Ellington** Church.

The **Falconer & Gerry** Churches. **Pastor Heather Allport-Cohon**, her husband Robert and their family.

March 3

The **Fentonville** Church. **Pastor Christopher Rhodes** and his family.

Pastor Carol Dill wants to thank her friends and colleagues for their prayers offered and cards sent to comfort her and her family when her father, Sam Grey, Jr., died. All were greatly appreciated.

Please offer prayers for **Rev. Sandra Lasher** (retired elder) who has been undergoing treatment for cancer. Notes/cards may be sent to her at home, 3274 Maple Ave., Allegany, NY, 14706.

As the **Special Session of General Conference (The Way Forward)** approaches (**February 23-26**), please keep the **UNY delegation** in your

prayers and hear their prayers and share your prayers too. The **Rev. Bill Allen**, head of the UNY delegation, recites [his prayer](#) for the upcoming Special Session of General Conference. Share your prayers for Rev. Allen and the other delegates. 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.

DEADLINE FOR DATA ENTRY IS TOMORROW!

Not Started - 29% (20 churches)
Working On - 20 % (13 churches)
Completed - 51% (35 churches)

Churches: Please remember that the **deadline** to enter 2018 statistics is **Friday, February 15.**

The church's **User Name** and **Password** should be the same, the church's **6-digit GCFA number**. If you need help with login, please call 716-665-2423 or 315-898-2004 or email cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org or ericawentworth@unyumc.org.

The Conference and District offices will be **closed Monday, February 18**, in observance of Presidents' Day.

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A new set of free graphics is available to help you celebrate Black History Month on your church's social media channels! The [downloadable images](#) can be used on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Post them on their own, or alongside invitations to upcoming events and worship services, celebratory messages or inspirational words from a pastor.

Bishop Webb Announces DS



Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is pleased to announce his intention to appoint the **Rev. Suzanne Block** as **Superintendent of the Cornerstone District**, effective **July 1, 2019**.

Rev. Block currently serves as pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Olean. Rev. Block will succeed the Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood as Superintendent of the Cornerstone District. Rev. Rood will return to pastoring a local church after eight faithful years

serving as the Cornerstone District Superintendent.

Click [here](#) to read more about this change and Bishop Webb's reflection on both the Rev. Rood's time as District Superintendent and his excitement for what's to come for the Cornerstone District with Rev. Block serving as DS.

You Don't Want to Miss This!
5th annual Learning Day for Laity & Clergy
Saturday, March 16, 2019
Bemus Point UMC
4954 Bemus-Ellery Rd.



Join us and discover:

How your church can be "guest ready" in **5 Things Your Visitors Are Thinking But Won't Ask** led by Jason Moore, nationally known worship coach and author.

How your spiritual gift (yes, you have one) might help your church with Susan Hardy, UNY Conference Lay Leader, in **Spiritual Gifts Discernment**.

Rev. Dave Masland, UNY Conference Director of New Faith Communities, will lead a conversation about **New Faith Communities: What We Are Learning From 100+ New Places for New People.**"

Click [here](#) for an updated brochure or go to www.cornerstonedistrict.com (click on Resources, then choose 2019 Learning Day for Laity & Clergy) and register online.



Training of Trainers on March 16

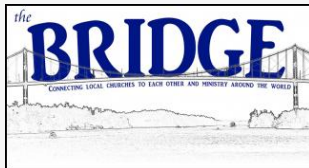
As part of our **5th annual Learning Day for Laity & Clergy**, Carol Barnes, Safe Sanctuaries coordinator for the Upper New York Conference, and Roberta Anderson, a member of Cornerstone's Safe Sanctuaries Training Team, will lead a **Training of Trainers**. The all-day training (9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) is open to those who have completed the

basic 3-hour Safe Sanctuaries Training since 2016 in the standard learning station format facilitated by a certified UNY Safe Sanctuaries trainer.

There is no cost for the training; **advance registration is required**. The training is limited to 20 participants and priority is given to those who wish to serve on the District's Safe Sanctuaries Training Team.

Please register by using the form in the brochure or online at www.cornerstonedistrict.com/Resources/2019 Training Day.

Questions? Please call or email the District Office.



NEW - Make Copies of the *Bridge*!

The **February 2019 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.

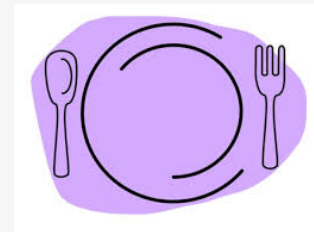
This issue includes a pastoral letter written by the **Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction** of the United Methodist Church asking for focused prayers as we approach the Special Session of General Conference, which will be held February 23-26 in St. Louis, MO.

This issue also includes a schedule of **regional gatherings** that Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb will be hosting throughout the Upper New York Conference after Special Session.

Read this issue to access the links to **video prayers** from Upper New York (UNY) delegates leading up to Special Session. Also, learn **how to be connected to Special Session** through livestream, blogs and vlogs from our delegates as well as Facebook Live and photos they will be posting on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

NEW - Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

Join the congregation of **Little Valley United Methodist Church**, 109 Court St., for a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner on **Saturday, February 16**, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Served with the main course will be salad bar, beverage and dessert. Dine in or take out. Cost is a donation to the Missions Team.



In addition to the meal, there will be a pie sale: chocolate peanut butter, \$12; apple, \$10. All donations from the pie sale are used to help our neighbors who may need help with utility bills, groceries, gasoline, etc.

Dinner-Dance at Cherry Creek

A **Winter Snowball Dance** will take place at **Cherry Creek-Leon United Methodist Church**, 6813 Main St., from **5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, February 22**.



Intergenerational "dates" are encouraged: father-daughter, mother-son, etc. A dinner will be served as part of the event.

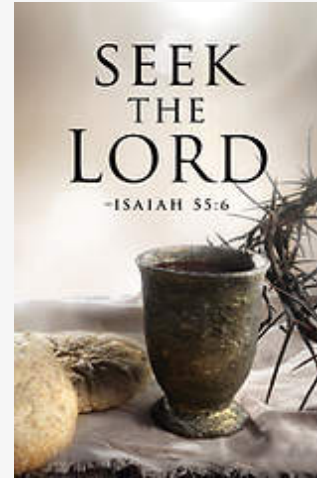
Please RSVP to Pattie, 716-338-8429.

Weekly Services During Lent

Lent is just around the corner! Beginning Ash Wednesday (**March 6**), the congregation of Ripley United Methodist Church invites the greater community to join them for a weekly **Bread & Broth Supper & Service at Meeder's Restaurant, 19 E. Main St. in Ripley.**

The light meal (soup, bread & a beverage) will be served at **6:30 p.m.** followed by a brief service or worship. The supper & service will be offered every Wednesday during Lent (through April 10).

A flyer for you to share with your church may be downloaded [here](#).



The Praying Our Way Forward team of the Council of Bishops has released details of the **Day of Prayer**, which will take place from **9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST** in the St. Louis America's Center Convention Complex on **Saturday, February 23**, the first day of the 2019 Special Session of General Conference. The event will be live-streamed at www.umc.org/live.

The two-fold purpose of the day is to pray for:

- 1) the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference and
- 2) increased effectiveness in fulfilling the Church's mission.

During the Day of Prayer, all bishops, delegates and staff will gather on the floor and observers will be in the seating and outer concourse areas of The Dome at the America's Center.

The day will start with plenary prayer, continues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with prayer for missional needs for each of four regions of the world, includes consecration of the General Conference's prayer space and concludes with another plenary prayer segment from 2 p.m. to 3:30

p.m.

[Click here to find the schedule for the Day of Prayer.](#)

Additional resources including videos, FAQs about the Special Session and prayers from members of the UNY delegation may be found at www.unyumc.org.



UPDATE - Follow-Up to Special Session

Bishop Mark J. Webb will host an **all-clergy gathering** on **Saturday, March 9**, from **10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.** at Asbury First UMC in Rochester.

"The purpose of this gathering is for us to gather together after the Special Session of General Conference to worship together, pray together, understand the decisions or actions of the Special

Session, and remember our individual and collective call to ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ," Bishop Webb said.

- It is expected for **elders & licensed local pastors** to attend this gathering. If you have a schedule conflict, you must submit a written request to be excused (email or snail mail) to Sherri.
- If you are interested in **ride sharing**, please call or email the District Office. We will try to connect you with a driver in your area.
- **Child care** will be available at Asbury First. Please send the name(s) of your child/children and gender and age of each to the District office by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 27.

Bishop Webb also will host **six regional gatherings open to laity and clergy** which will take place on the following dates at the locations listed:

- **March 17 from 4-6 p.m. at Clarence UMC**
- March 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Potsdam UMC
- **March 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Christ Olean UMC**
- March 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Liverpool First UMC
- March 21 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Shenendehowa UMC
- March 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Chenango Bridge UMC

Plan now to attend one of these gatherings, and as we approach the Special Session of General Conference, please keep the delegates to the Special Session, all those attending the Special Session, and the entire United Methodist church in your prayers. If there is ever a place where we can be one, it's in the space where we meet God.

NEW - Churches Join to Offer Confirmation Classes

The Celoron, Lakewood & Westfield 1st United Methodist Churches are teaming up to offer a 10-week Confirmation Class for youth in 7th grade and older beginning **Sunday, March 10**.

The Sunday evening (7 p.m.) classes will "rotate" between Westfield 1st, 101 E. Main St., and Lakewood, 164 Shadyside Ave. There is a minimal cost for class materials.

The letter that was sent to prospective confirmands is [attached](#). If any youth from your church would like to participate in the classes, please contact Pastor Mike Childs (pastormike60@gmail.com) or Pastor Nick Perry (nicholasperry@yahoo.com).

Deadlines for AC Petitions, Resolutions & Reports

The **Committee on Petitions and Resolutions** is charged with overseeing the submission, review, and presentation of petitions and resolutions to the Annual Conference.

All resolutions and petitions for the 2019 Annual Conference session (June 4-8, 2019) must be submitted to the Committee **no later than March 15, 2019**. Submissions should be emailed to the Petitions and Resolutions Committee at petitions@unyumc.org.

[Click here](#) for writing and submission guidelines as well as a petition and resolution template and sample document.

All reports and materials to be published in the Journal Vol. I are due on **February 15, 2019**. These items should be submitted to the Connectional Ministries' office at DCMOffice@unyumc.org.

UPDATE - Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

This year's **UNY Local Pastor's licensing school** will be held **May 5-11, 2019** at Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center, 158 Casowasco Dr., Moravia, NY. Details to follow as they become available.



Important Dates for Your Calendar!

Friday, February 15

Please send the following reports (email, FAX or snail-mail) to the District Office by this date: **Report of the Trustees, Report of the Finance Committee, 2018 Year-End Financial Report** (church's own format), **2019 Church Budget** (church's own format).

Friday, March 15

Please make sure that the District Office has your church's **2018 Local Church Financial Audit** by this date. Please click [here](#) for the form.

Saturday, March 16

5th Annual Learning Day for Laity & Clergy

Bemus Point United Methodist Church, 4954 Bemus-Ellery Rd.
Morning & afternoon learning opportunities, inspiring worship and a great time of fellowship together. Click [here](#) for registration information.

NEW - FREE to a Good (Church) Home

Magnolia United Methodist Church, 3969 Route 394, has the following Easter Cantatas to give away:

- In the Presence of Jehovah - Russell Maudlin - 7 copies
- Then Came the Morning - Russell Maudlin - 6 copies
- Lamb of God - Russell Maudlin - 12 copies
- All Hail King Jesus - Marty Parks - 5 copies

If anyone is interested, please call Mary Jane Miller at 716-789-2071 or email mjm@compufreak.com. The church also has several KJV bibles to give away.



NEW - March Breakfast at Ripley

Ripley United Methodist Church, 84 W. Main St., will host an All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast **Saturday, March 9**, from **7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

For \$7 per person, enjoy pancakes, sausage, bacon, made-to-order eggs and omelets, home fries, biscuits & sausage gravy, orange juice & coffee.

Proceeds from the March breakfast Youth Apostle Konxion youth group.

Online Series Coming This Spring

A new **online video teaching series** from Discipleship Ministries is coming this spring. The **free** series, called **See All The People: Discipleship Begins with Relationship**, will include three sessions featuring the Rev. Junius B. Dotson, General Secretary (CEO) of Discipleship Ministries, and Rev. Jacob Armstrong, pastor at Providence Church, a United Methodist congregation in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.



The series, which launches in March, will teach the basic principles behind See All The People to clergy and lay leaders. **Registration begins in February** at www.SeeAllThePeople.org.

NEW - Apply Now for Undergraduate Scholarship

The **Upper New York Conference College Ministry Team** invites high school and college undergraduate students to apply for the **Lottie Brown Grant**. The application deadline is **April 10**.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

Training Retreat in Mountain View
Mountain View District Lay Servant Ministries



would like to extend an invitation to attend their **2019 Spring Weekend Training, March 29-31** at Watson Homestead in Painted Post.

A brochure with full details may be downloaded [here](#). Cost for the weekend is \$225 and the **registration deadline is February 28.**

Questions may be directed to Peter O'Neill, Lay Servant Class Registrar, at

poppao46@yahoo.com or 516-314-1994.

From the Media Resource Center

If you've never used the **Media Resource Center** before, your church is invited to give it a try. Funded by your Shared Ministry dollars, the Media Resource Center can supply you with small group discussion materials, Bible studies, children and youth curriculum, adult curriculum, and a myriad of subjects such as stewardship, evangelism, social issues and VBS materials, just to name a few.

Click [here](#) for the Media Resource Center's **February** newsletter.

NEW - Marketing & Outreach Grant

Is your church active in your community but needs some support and guidance to **maximize outreach efforts**? Apply for a **Marketing Services and Promotional Grant!** The United Methodist Communications team might be able to assist your church in a variety of ways, including:



- Social media consultation and auditing
- Website development and SEO optimization
- Advertising
- Branding/logo assistance
- Stationary and business card design

The application period is open now! Apply [here](#) for Marketing Services and Promotional Grants. Click [here](#) for the Website Development Grant application. Questions? Email localchurchservices@umcom.org.



Register for Summer Camp!

Registration for Summer Camp 2019 is now OPEN! **Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries** is pleased to offer a wide variety of fun, exciting, and meaningful programs this summer including classic favorites and brand new adventures!

Whether you want to live on the edge and experience all the fast-paced action we have to offer, or something more relaxed and laid-back is your style, we have a program for you!

All of our programs offer opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal, and diverse styles of meaningful worship experiences. This year we will learn how God calls us to be Agents of Change in our communities, and how we can transform those communities through Generosity, Compassion, Inclusion, Justice, and Forgiveness.

Come experience how a week at camp can Transform Lives! We can't wait to see YOU this summer!

To register for Aldersgate: aldersgate.campbrainregistration.com

To register for Casowasco: casowasco.campbrainregistration.com

To register for Sky Lake: skylake.campbrainregistration.com

To register for Skye Farm: skyefarm.campbrainregistration.com

Check out our retreat offerings throughout the year, including summer, at
Asbury Retreat Center. To find out more, visit asburyuny.org.



Cornerstone District

Upper New York Conference

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