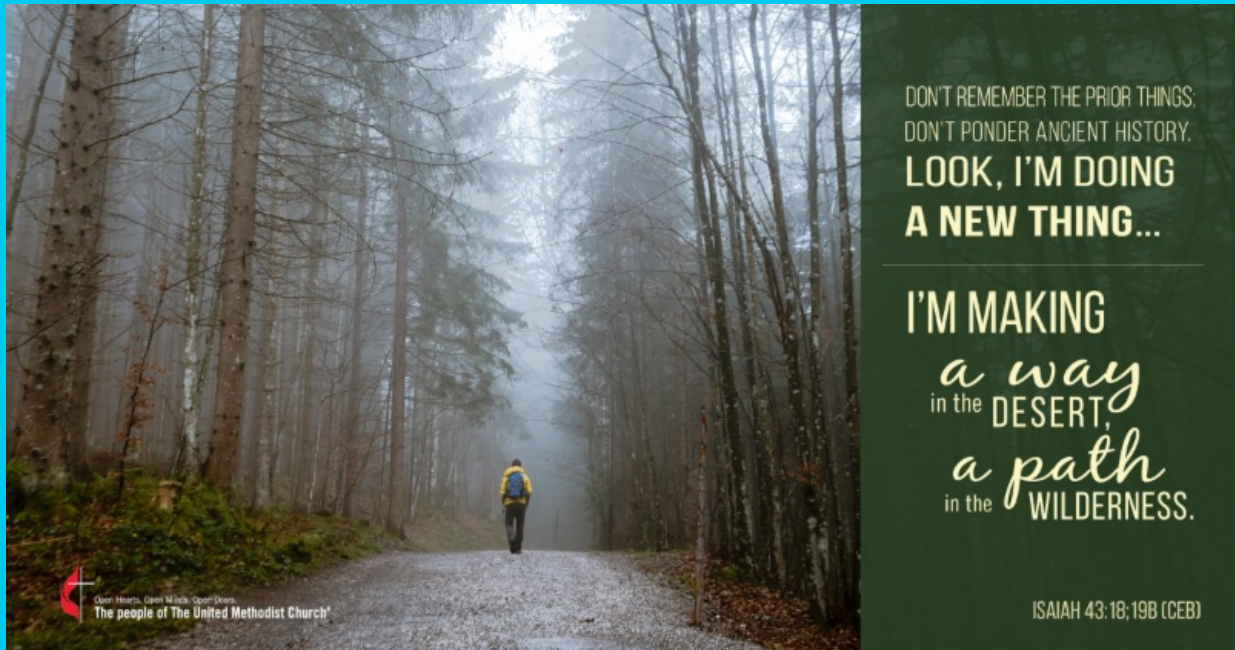


any job or financial aid, but requesting this email because you have expressed an interest in Upper New York Conference. Don't forget to add cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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.

February 10

The **Dewittville-Hartfield & Mayville** Churches. **Rev. Mark Parsons**, his wife Jan and their family.

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.

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.



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.



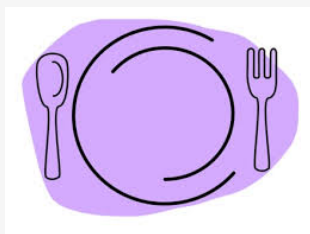
Training of Trainers on March 16

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 - Breakfast at Ripley UMC

Food for body & soul are served once a month at **Ripley United Methodist Church**, 84 W. Main St., with an **All-You-Can-Eat-&-Drink Breakfast**. The February breakfast is scheduled from **7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.** on **Saturday, February 9**.

The menu includes pancakes, sausage, bacon, made-to-order eggs (including omelets), toast, fried potatoes, biscuits & sausage gravy, orange juice & coffee, all for \$7 a person! Proceeds from the February breakfast will benefit the church's Special Ministries.

Start your weekend off with a hearty meal & good fellowship - all are welcome!

Special Event at Napoli UMC

Napoli United Methodist Church will host a **Chili Cook-Off/Valentine Dinner** beginning at **5 p.m. Saturday, February 9**, at the church, 10087 Route 242.



You don't have to be affiliated with the church to enter your favorite chili - call the church at 716-938-9821 to enter! Entrants are asked to bring their chili heated and the church will keep it hot. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place (and bragging rights!).

Following the judging, all chili entries will be served with crackers, bread, salad and dessert for a special **Valentine Dinner**. All are welcome to come, bring their sweethearts, friends and neighbors and enjoy the chili dinner. There is no cost for the dinner but donations will be accepted.

Questions? Call Napoli United Methodist Church and leave a message: 716-938-9821.



NEW - 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.

NEW - 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 **Special Session of General Conference** will be held from February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, MO. Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb and the UNY Communications staff have compiled a wealth of [resources](#) to help you and your church prepare for Special Session:

- [Videos](#) from Bishop Webb
- Way Forward Power Point Presentation
- Overview of Three Plans
- Praying Our Way Forward
- Special Session FAQs (download [here](#))
- Other Videos
- Publications

As the Special Session of General Conference (The Way Forward) approaches, please keep the UNY delegation in your prayers and [hear their prayers](#) and share your prayers too.



NEW - 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 **all clergy** (anyone appointed/assigned to a church) to attend this gathering. If you are interested in ride sharing, please call or email the District Office.

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:

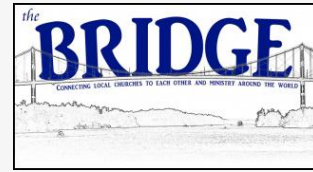
- **March 17 from 4-6 p.m. at Clarence UMC**
- March 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Potsdam UMC
- **March 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Christ Olean UMC**
- March 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Liverpool First UMC
- March 21 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Shenendehowa UMC
- March 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Chenango Bridge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

Make Copies of the *Bridge*!

The **February 2019 Issue I** 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 focuses on our **delegates who are going to the Special Session of General Conference**, which will be held February 23-26 in St. Louis, MO. 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.

This issue also includes news about UNY paying 100 percent of our General Church apportionments for the third year in a row! This issue also includes an inspiring story titled, "Hope in the midst of tragedy."

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.



EIGHT DAYS TO GO!

Not Started - 62% (42 churches)
Working On - 17 % (12 churches)
Completed - 20% (14 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 have trouble logging in, please call or email the District Office.

All entry is online. The District Office can provide you **access to a computer** and/or **help you with data entry** if you need it. Please call the office (716-665-2423) to schedule a time for hands-on help between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (office is closed on Friday).

This doesn't have to be a "painful" process. If you need help, please don't hesitate to ask.

Changes, Tips for Completing 2018 Statistics

- There is a **new line in Table 1 - Membership**. Line 6c has been added this year, its title is Non-Binary and includes direction/definition. It will NOT create an error if it is not filled. It is below the Female and Male lines and will auto-total into Line 6. If you have any questions about it, please contact Erica Wentworth (ericawentworth@unyumc.org). This line was approved at Annual Conference and is required to be part of the gender options in Ezra.
- Churches will be required to input their **FEIN** (Federal Employee Identification Number) this year. This is to ensure that all churches know their FEIN and have it on hand and to ensure that the Conference has a list of accurate FEIN numbers.
- This year, **Lines 52a through 52t on Table 3** will give a **warning** when the line has an **increase or decrease of more than 15%**. An explanation will need to be given in order to submit the report. It is hoped that this puts more emphasis on accuracy and understanding of why increases or decreases in

income are important.

- Please note the **Directions for Line 52d on Table 3**. Churches are required to report any money that is transferred in from savings or trustee accounts that is going towards the annual budget and spending plan of the church. If a church transfers money from their savings/trustee accounts to pay for Ministry Shares, it is then expected to be reported as income on line 52d.
- When logging in to Ezra, please make sure that the **User Profile** is correct and up-to-date. If you have trouble updating the information, please contact Cathy in the District Office or Erica Wentworth for help.

How to Prepare for 2018 Audit

The Book of Discipline requires every United Methodist congregation to conduct a **church audit** (due March 15, 2019), but that doesn't have to be a big expense or an

insurmountable obstacle. Ken Sloane, director of generosity at Discipleship Ministries, will lead a **free webinar** that will walk you step by step through the Local Church Audit Guide. The guide, prepared by the General Council on Finance & Administration, is available **free** for United Methodist churches.



The webinar, "**The Church Audit: You Can Do This,**" will be at **7:30 p.m. EST on February 7**. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2RBbX2U>.



Important Dates for Your Calendar!

As we begin to think about the year ahead, please **make note** of these dates and **share them with your church family**:

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.

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

This year's **UNY Local Pastor's licensing school** will be held **May 5-11, 2019**. This is an earlier date than in years past. The venue is unknown at this time.

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.



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 January newsletter.

Please note that there will be **limited service** from the Media Resource Center from **January 28 through February 8**; only online orders will be filled during this time. Click [here](#) to place an online order.

Webinars to Check Out!

Monday, February 11 at 11 a.m. EST

Clergy face some unique challenges when it comes to things like social security payments, estimated tax payments, housing allowances or exclusions, and reimbursed expenses.

Your corner tax preparer may not understand the unique situation of clergy, and finding a tax preparer who does understand your situation can save you substantially in money and aggravation. Join us as the Rev. Don Joiner, a certified financial planner, helps us navigate the preparation of taxes under the new tax laws as well as plan for a sound financial future. Register by clicking [here](#).

These webinars and a variety of other helpful resources are provided without cost thanks to your church's generous support of the Word Service Fund Apportionment! Thank you!

Go to <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/>

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: skryfall.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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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