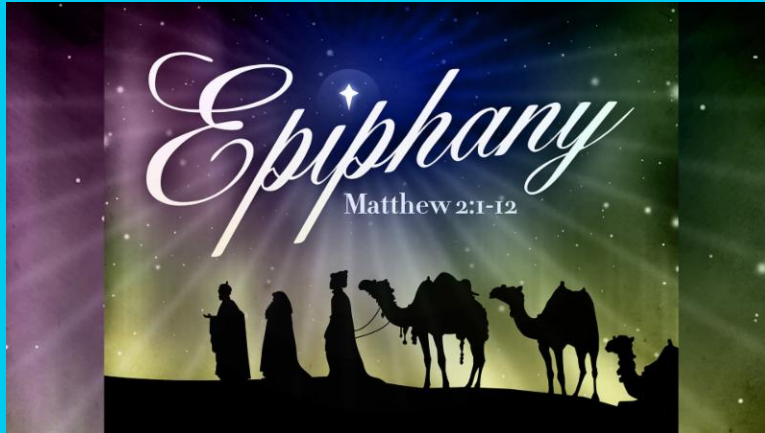


You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



## 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.

### January 6

The **Conewango Valley** Church. **Carl Isler** and his family.

### January 13

The **Cornerstone District Office**. **Rev. Sherri Rood**, her husband Bob and their family.

### January 20

The **Cuba** Church. **Pastor Becky Worth**, her husband William and their family.

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.

Please keep the family of the **Rev. Sherri Schaus** in your prayers. Her husband, Edward Schaus, 73, died on December 22. Rev. Schaus served several Upper New York churches, including Amherst: Trinity, Batavia First, Lockport: Emmanuel and others. Edward is also the father of the **Rev. Jennifer Green** who serves Hilton UMC. The funeral was held December 29. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Schaus, Edward's wife, at 12275 Stage Rd., Akron, NY 14001.

As we move closer to the special session of **General Conference February 23-26, 2019**, 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.

### PLEASE NOTE - Ministry Shares Deadline

The deadline date for 2018 Ministry Share payments is **Tuesday, January 8, 2019**. After that date, any payments received for 2018 will be reflected in 2019 listed as Prior Year Ministry Share Payments on your monthly statement.



### NEW - Enter 2018 Statistics!

The EZRA system for submitting your church's 2018 statistical information online is open and available for reporting at [www.ezra.gcfa.org](http://www.ezra.gcfa.org). If you need login information or help with data entry, contact Cathy in the District Office. For other specific questions, contact Erica

Wentworth, 315-898-2004 or [ericawentworth@unyumc.org](mailto:ericawentworth@unyumc.org).

All statistics for 2018 must be submitted by **February 15, 2019**. This report is completed and submitted **online only** - no hard copy sent to District Office.

Other 2018 reports due by **February 15** (send a copy to District Office) are 21. **Report of the Trustees**, 22. **Report of the Finance Committee** and a **2018 Year End Financial Report** and **2019 Church Budget** (in your church's format, no printed forms for these).

### NEW - EZRA Advice from Erica Wentworth

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone's holidays were wonderful and blessed!

I want to highlight a few new things in Ezra this year.

- 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 me. 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. I want to make sure that all churches know their FEIN and have it on hand. I also want to make sure 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. I'm hoping 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 me for help.

Please remember that I am available to help you in any way I can.

*Erica Wentworth*

**Finance Support Specialist  
Upper New York Conference**



### **Put Out the Welcome Mat!**

People are checking out businesses and organizations online before visiting them in person. This means that your church website is the new front door of your church! Learn how to extend a warm welcome to your virtual guests by listening to a recent episode of the

[MyCom Church Marketing Podcast](#). The discussion outlines how you can make your website not just user-friendly but visitor-friendly.

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### **NEW - Emergency Early Response (ERT) Training**

When: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., **Saturday, January 19, 2019** at the United  
Where: **UNY Conference Center**, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool, NY  
Who: Individuals 18 years of age and older in good physical health

UMCOR Early Response Teams (ERT) provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster. ERTs travel to communities impacted by floods, fire, hurricane, tornadoes, etc. to carry out damage assessment, debris removal, tarp placement, & to help prevent further damage. Team members should be in good physical health. This training credentials you to enter disaster zones. An ERT badge is issued by UMCOR after successful completion of the course and a background check. Badges are valid for 3 years. The 8-hour Early Response Team course is facilitated by Donna & Roger Cullen, [unyvim@unyumc.org](mailto:unyvim@unyumc.org).

Cost is \$25 & includes lunch. **Registration will close Friday, January 11**. Click [here](#) to register or mail a check, payable to UNYAC with VIM-ERT on the memo line to UNYVIM, 9 Fox Hollow, Ionia, NY, 14475.

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## Transforming Conflict in the Local Church

The Finger Lakes District of the Upper NY Conference extends an invitation to laity and clergy throughout the Conference to participate in a two-part professional development & spiritual growth opportunity, **Transforming Conflict in Communities of Faith.**

Part 1 of the retreat, Transforming Conflict as a Spiritual Practice, is scheduled **February 1 & 2, 2019 (laity)** and **February 6 & 7 (clergy)**. Laity and clergy will meet together for Part 2, Facilitating Effective Participation in the Heated Church Meeting, on **March 28 & 29.**

Co-facilitators will be **Rev. Jeffrey C. Shepherdson**, a Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and UMC elder on Honorary Location and **Rev. John McNeill**, Community Mediator and UMC Elder in full connection.

Cost is \$350 per person including two overnight stays and six meals at Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center. **\$100 of the total is due by January 15, 2019** with the remainder due by February 1.

A flyer with additional information may be downloaded [here](#). Questions/registration should be directed to Rev. Jeff McDowell, 315-781-0188 or [JeffMcDowell@unyumc.org](mailto:JeffMcDowell@unyumc.org).

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## Human Relations Day

Please help spread the word and encourage your church to celebrate and give to Human Relations Day on **January 20, 2019.**

Human Relations Day is a day for United Methodists to celebrate everyone's potential to do great things. A day to empower those living on the margins of society. A day to invest in at-risk youth. A day for United Methodists to make a difference together.



A [library of resources](#) is available for you to use and share including a podcast, worship songs, a reading list, youth activities and discussions - along with the social media graphics and videos. They are ready to use and available FREE today.



## 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**:

### Saturday, January 12

Maya Smith, secretary of the UNY Young Adults Committee, extends an invitation to young adults throughout the Conference to a **Young Adult Gathering**. Please see details [here](#).

**Wednesday, January 30**

**Pre-Lenten Day Apart for Cornerstone Pastors**

Panama United Methodist Church, 22 E. Main St.

Please save this date; details will be shared in January.

**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. Brochure will be coming soon!

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**NEW - From the Media Resource Center**

If you've never used the **Media Resource Center** before, I invite you to give us a try. Funded by your Shared Ministry dollars, we 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.

Our quick and easy online ordering is just a click away. You can add things to a "shopping cart," then once submitted, you'll receive an email with your invoice attached. We send your order through the USPS and we'll supply the mail back envelopes and label with instructions on mailing. Your only cost is the postage to return it. Please feel free to search our [online catalog](#) and check out some of our new resources for Lent 2019:

- ***Simon Peter*** by Adam Hamilton
- ***The Case for Easter*** by Lee Strobel
- ***Entering the Passion of Jesus*** by Amy-Jill Levine

If I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 315-898-2027 or email me at [karencampolieto@unyumc.org](mailto:karencampolieto@unyumc.org).

*Karen Campolieto*

**Media Resource Center Coordinator  
Upper New York Conference**

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**Clergy Robes to Give Away**

Lavern Terrill, who once served as a local pastor in our area (now retired), has two robes (one black, one white) to offer to anyone who might need them. If interested, please contact him directly, 716-665-8535.

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**Learn More About Your Community**

Church leaders and pastors across our district recently have updated their online **Church Profile**. Did you know that the Upper New York Conference also offers all churches access to a **free** tool that provides important information about the communities where they are located?

**Mission Insite** is a web-based demographics provider for local church use. In planning ministry, it is important to know the context. Mission Insite provides demographic data that is updated on a regular basis. The reports are user-friendly to the novice or experienced demographer.

In order to access the website you will need to register your local church. The links below provide instruction for you to register and establish user name and password for your local church.

- [How to Register](#)
- [User Guide for Demographic Information Service](#)

To log on to the Mission InSite web page, click [here](#).

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## New Skills for a New Year

As you look forward to 2019 and the possibilities for ministry it holds, the new year is an excellent time for church leaders and volunteers to expand skills and knowledge. Consider enrolling in one of **United Methodist Communications'** online training courses that support outreach and communications:



- Social Media for Churches
- Welcoming Ministry
- Internal Church Communication
- Launching Your Church Website
- Church Marketing

[Enroll now!](#)

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## Webinars to Check Out!

**Thursday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m. EST**

We start each new year with this webinar that is focused on the new members of the stewardship team, finance committee, or church council - those who are looking to get a strong start right from the first week! Updated each year, the webinar explores many of the technical issues these teams face: reporting, internal controls, audits, access to giving records, and much more. We also offer ideas for building a spiritual foundation for the work of your group. Bathe your work in prayer. Remember, you are not alone; there are places to find help! Click [here](#) to find out more/to register.

**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/>

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The staff of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS, are excited to share a unique opportunity for churches to equip and strengthen their leaders through two different conferences held concurrently at Church of the Resurrection on April 4-5.

Churches are invited to send their hospitality & welcome ministry leaders AND/OR their care ministry leaders to one of two conferences held April 4-5: **The Art of Radical Hospitality** and **Empowered: A Model of Care**.

Details and registration will be available in January. Stay tuned for details and find a registration link at [ShareChurch.com](http://ShareChurch.com).

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### **UPDATE - Golden Bucket Award**

The Golden Bucket Award challenge is in full swing at the **Upper New York (UNY) Mission Central HUB**.

Results for November are in! So far, 800 UMCOR cleaning kits have been assembled all over the UNY Conference.

The Crossroads District donated the most buckets for the month of November and the Mountain View District made the largest monetary donation to purchase supplies.

Your District has plenty of time to win the coveted award. Don't forget to label the buckets dropped-off with your church and District name.

[Click here](#) for an updated UMCOR cleaning kit supply list.

[Click here](#) for more information about the challenge, which runs through May 25, 2019. All UMCOR cleaning buckets will be used to help our neighbors near and far who are affected by natural disasters.

Thanks to all who have acted as the hands of Jesus through their work at the HUB this fall: Sparta Center UMC, Faith Journey UMC, North Ontario UMC, Alton UMC, Sodus Point UMC, Liverpool First UMC, Immanuel UMC, Tully UMC, Rush UMC, Endwell UMC, Saratoga Springs UMC, **Brocton Tri-Church Parish**, and all others who have given time, donations, or prayers to support the work of the Upper New York Conference Mission Central HUB.

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## NEW - Delegate Chair Looks to Special Session

As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, we are also at the doorstep of the **Special Session of General Conference**, which will take place February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. What are various Conference delegate chairs saying about their Conferences' thoughts and concerns as we approach General Conference? Click [here](#) to read a story highlighting several delegate chairs, including Upper New York's delegate chair, the Rev. Bill Allen.



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 has created a **series of videos** that can help prepare you for what will be taking place at General Conference. The videos review the report created by the Commission on a Way Forward that will be presented at General Conference - they can be viewed individually, used for group discussions, and more. Each video can be downloaded as well.

In addition to Bishop Webb's videos, the Upper New York Conference has also compiled other resources to help you prepare for Special Session, including Bishop Webb's Way Forward PowerPoint Presentation, an overview of the three church plans, and more. [Click here](#) for all resources.

### Important 2019 Dates

- January 8, 2019 - Last day to submit 2018 Ministry Shares
- February 15, 2019 - UNY Annual Conference Reports are due
- Late February 2019 - The 2020 UNY Narrative Budget Booklet will be available online
- March 15, 2019 - UNY Annual Conference Petitions and Resolutions are due
- Mid- to late March 2019 - The 2020 UNY Budget Booklet will be printed
- Mid- to late April 2019 - The UNY Journal will be available
- June 4-8, 2019 - The UNY Annual Conference will be held at the OnCenter in Syracuse

### 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.

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## Volume II of UNY Journal Now Available

The 2018 Upper New York Conference Journal, Vol. II is now available for download as a free PDF and for purchase through online publisher Lulu.com. This comprehensive book provides all the details of Annual Conference for the year of 2018.

Please view or download the **2018 Upper New York Conference Journal, Vol. II** for free by first visiting the Conference website [here](#).

To purchase it for \$16.86 (plus shipping and applicable sales tax) from Lulu.com, [click here](#).

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There is still space for YOU at one of our winter or spring gatherings - explore the opportunities available at our **Camp & Retreat Centers**. Head to [www.campsandretreats.org](http://www.campsandretreats.org) for more information or to sign up/register, contact the site directly, or contact the CRM Central Office at 315-898-2026 with any questions.



### **Casowasco:**

January 25-27, 2019: SOLID: Youth Retreat (Youth & their Adult Leader(s))

March 1-3, 2019: Women's Chocolate Getaway (Women)

April 11-14, 2019: Quilt by Faith: Spring (Women)

May 12, 2019: Mother's Day Brunch (Families & Adults)

### **Sky Lake:**

January 18-21, 2019: Family Winter Weekend (Families & Adults)

February 15-18, 2019: Family Winter Weekend II (Families & Adults)

April 5-7, 2019: Church Family Getaway (Families & Adults)

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**Cornerstone District**

Upper New York Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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