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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.

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.

May 19

The **Knapp Creek** Church. **Rev. Gerald Piper**, his wife Kathy and their family.

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

TOMORROW is Deadline!

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: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eg2uw0uu235ac5c8&oseq=&c=&ch=>

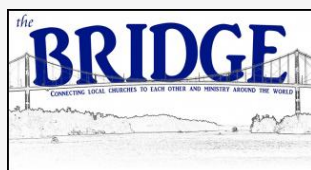


Registration for the Annual Conference will stay **open until 11:59 PM on**

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 - Make Copies of the *Bridge*!

The **May 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 introduces the exciting "**New Places for New People**" Partnership campaign, which will help continue the growth of New Faith Communities(NFCs) in Upper New York and will also help to plant new NFCs.

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.



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.

Click [here](#) for the May 2019 issue of

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!



New - Celebrate Our Homes & Families

On the United Methodist calendar, May is designated as **Christian Home Month**. Discipleship Ministries offers many resources to help families on their spiritual journeys, including [this prayer](#) for families written by MaryJane Pierce Norton.

You are invited to view this video meditation, share the link with others and download the video for use in worship, Sunday school or other settings.

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.

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

NEW - Bishop Webb Announces Clergy Appointments

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb and the Upper New York Conference announce three ad interim appointments and three new appointments. View the full list of changes [here](#).



2019 Annual Conference: What You Need to Know

AGENDA

Click [here](#) to download the preliminary agenda (as of April 16) for the **10th Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference**.

JOURNAL

The **2019 Upper New York Conference Journal, Vol. I** is now available for download - click [here](#).

PARKING

Parking will be in the **Oncenter Garage and Open Lot**, accessible from both Harrison and State Streets. The parking attendants will have a separate color ticket for those that want to purchase a day ticket versus a week ticket at a discounted rate. If you purchase a week ticket, you will be asked to hold onto it and leave it on your vehicle's dashboard. When you return, the attendants will know to wave you through.

In addition, there are free shuttles from the "city" hotels as noted on the hotel registration form. A shuttle schedule - in coordination with the Conference agenda -- will be posted at a later date. The shuttles will drop passengers at the entrance doors to the Oncenter and may be a better option for those with mobility issues.

There will be a Hospitality Team to assist attendees in exiting the shuttle and getting into the sessions room. Wheelchairs will be available.

REGISTRATION

Friday, May 3, is the deadline to register:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eg2uw0uu235ac5c8&oseq=&c=&ch=>

After May 3, your next opportunity to register will be at Annual Conference. A \$50 late fee will be charged.

Name tags and voting devices will be distributed in Gallagher Hall of the

Oncenter starting at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Annual Conference starts at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5, with Opening Worship in Exhibit Hall A of the Oncenter with Upper New York Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb preaching. Lunch will be served following worship.

Clergy and laity sessions will be held at 3 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 5 at the Oncenter.

Workshops will be held on Friday, June 7 during lunch.

MEALS

Meals provided with your registration will be served in the room adjacent to the main meeting room. Water coolers will be provided in Exhibit Hall A during Annual Conference. For your convenience, please bring a water bottle for refills so that we can be good stewards of our resources.

Meals included in your registration fee are:

Wednesday, Lunch & Dinner

Thursday, Lunch & Dinner

Friday, Lunch & Dinner

Saturday, Lunch

Click [here](#) to view menu. We are well aware of the varied and critical dietary needs of our participants. We will make every effort to be sensitive to allergies and other restrictions. To accommodate our menus, most meals will be served buffet style and there will be assistance for those who need it.

CHILD CARE

Childcare will be offered on the lower level of the Oncenter during all official Conference Sessions.

Families must pre-register for this service on the registration form and provide information about their children so that appropriate numbers of child care providers can be secured, and appropriate equipment provided. Space for children will be on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no charge for child care, but your Annual Conference registration must be submitted and paid to complete your registration for childcare.

OFFERINGS

Annual Conference provides five great opportunities to support the United Methodist Connection:

- Opening Worship, 10 a.m. June 3 - Upper New York Mission Central HUB
- Laity Session, 1 p.m., June 3 - Helping Hands Fund
- Clergy Session, 1 p.m., June 3 - Clergy Care Fund
- Young Adult Worship Service, 8:15 a.m., June 8 - Mission Of Peace (MOP)
- Ordination & Commissioning Service, 2 p.m., June 8 - New Faith Communities (NFCs)

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

NEW - Hospitality Volunteers Needed at AC

The Upper New York (UNY) Annual Conference will be held June 5-8 at the Oncenter in Syracuse. The **Hospitality Team** is looking for volunteers to help make the Annual Conference experience wonderful.

Responsibilities might include any of the following: greeting attendees, providing directions to rooms, helping people with mobility issues by opening doors and walking with them through meal lines, and more.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Hospitality Team, contact the UNY Conference Office Manager, Cherish McGowan at 315-898-2000 ext. 2012 or cherishmcgowan@unyumc.org by **Friday, May 31**.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

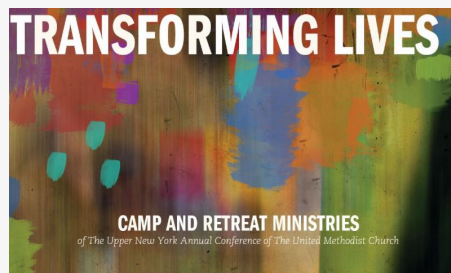
"In a unanimous decision released March 15, three judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit reversed a 2017 federal court ruling. The lower court had found that the tax exemption amounted to an unconstitutional establishment of religion.

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

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.

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



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.

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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