

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.

November 11

The **Ripley** and **South Ripley** Churches. **Pastor Becky Ward** and her family.

November 18

The **Wesley** and **East Otto** Churches. **Pastor Wes Tessey**, his wife Bernie and their family.

November 25

The **Bemus Point** Church. The **Rev Bill Allen** and the **Rev. Kristen Allen** and their children Emily, Katie and Will.

We've received word last week that **Craig Buelow's** grandmother died. Please keep Craig, Diane and their family in your prayers.

Please keep the second **Early Response Team** (ERT) from Upper New York to go North Carolina in your prayers. The team is from **Bemus Point UMC** and left for Havelock, N.C. on November 11. The team will help clean flooded homes, remove debris, and place tarps on roofs following the damage caused by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Please pray for their safe travel and also keep them in prayers as they work as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in this hurting region.

Let's be in prayer for all those affected by the **fires in Northern California**: those who have lost their homes, firefighters and first responders and all who are reaching out in service and help.

Please keep the family of **Audrey Foley** in your prayers. Audrey, 87, died on November 3. Audrey was predeceased by her husband, the Rev. Donald Foley, in 2008, who served several Upper New York churches, including Edwards Chapel, Wilson, Ashville-Blockville, and others. The funeral was held November 7 at Prudden & Kandt Funeral Home located at 242 Genesee Street in Lockport. Click [here](#) to read the full obituary.

As we move closer to the special-called session of **General Conference in February 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.

Let Us Thank Him

Gratitude is an amazing lens with which to view the world. When we focus on our blessings, we tend to be happier. When we realize how much we possess, we tend to be more thoughtful of those who have less. When we talk about the good together, we tend to appreciate each other more.

Being grateful is really about being more mindful. Perhaps this mindfulness will help us all to focus on the abundance in our lives and how we can share it with others. This November, engage in gratitude. And, remember, it only takes about thirty days for a new practice to become a habit. Thanks be to God!

-- Laurens Glass, a writer and Digital Media Specialist for United Methodist News Service, a service of United Methodist Communications.

PLEASE NOTE - District Office Hours November 19-23

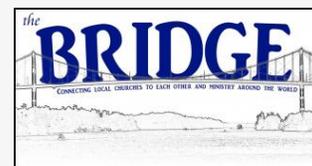
Cathy will be out of the office November 19-21 and the office will be closed November 22-23 for Thanksgiving. Telephone and email **will not** be monitored this week.

Christ First will be open Monday-Wednesday, November 19-21, so you may drop off anything for the District Office (such as Church Conference reports!) using the mail slot in Cathy's office door. Please enter the church from the Buffalo Street parking lot.

If you have an emergency next week, please call (585-217-3359) or email (sherrirood@unyumc.org) Sherri. Please **do not** text.

Make Copies of The Bridge!

The **November 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.



Next week (November 22) we celebrate Thanksgiving. This issue features

a story about East Rochester UMC and the special relationship they have with the Heritage Christian Services adult rehabilitation center that meets Monday-Friday in the church basement. Church members, day program enrollees, and their families celebrated a special Thanksgiving celebration on November 9.



IMPORTANT!

Deadline for Red Bird Shoe Boxes

Tuesday, November 20, is the last day to get shoe boxes for Red Bird Mission to our drop-off site at **Ripley United Methodist Church**, 84 W. Main St. **Drop-offs must be scheduled by calling Bob Ebert**, 716-951-2192.

Many thanks to Bob for coordinating this effort and our Cornerstone churches who are participating!



United Methodist Student Day is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special offering provides scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Database Updates

Many **thanks** to the churches who have submitted **Form 2b. UNYAC-Local Church Leadership Interface Sheet** along with their reports for the Church Conference. Interface forms received to date exceed the total number received in 2017-18!

The information on these form allows me to keep the Conference database up-to-date. Sherri and I use the database daily and it's great to know that the information is current.

Again, thank you for your help with this. Keep up the good work!

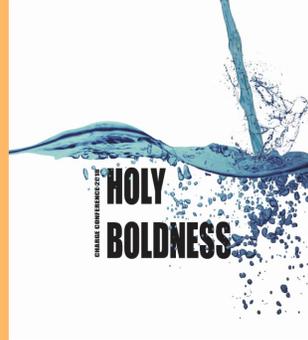
-- Cathy



NEW - Help Needed with Anti-Bullying Project

Kristian J. Snyder, a member at Ripley United Methodist Church, is making an appeal to the greater Cornerstone community to get involved with **The Be Kind Initiative**, an anti-bullying project that he hopes to introduce in schools throughout our area.

"Through The Be Kind Initiative, we want to help all kids (who are being bullied)...and give them some hope that things will be better for them, that there are people willing to help," stated Kristian. To read more about his plan for The Be Kind Initiative, click [here](#).



Church Conferences are Underway!

As we gather to tend to the business of Cornerstone's local churches at Annual Church Conferences, a couple of reminders:

Each church should bring **copies of their reports** for those who are planning to attend. Sherri will have the "master copy" of the reports that have been submitted in advance to the District Office. If you have reports that **were not submitted previously**, please make sure that Sherri gets a copy.

Form 14 Church/Charge Conference Recording Secretary's Minutes Form (due at the close of the meeting) and **Form 15 Church/Charge Conference Sign-In Sheet** will be available at the Church Conference.

Thanks to all of you for your timely submission of reports for these meetings. Your diligence and commitment are much appreciated!

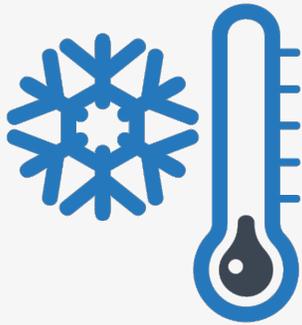
Please be in prayer Sherri, our church leaders and our pastors as we gather for this time of celebrating the work of all Cornerstone churches.

UNY Responds to Hurricane Michael

Editor's Note: Please download this [letter](#), sent on behalf of **Mike Block, Director of Missional Engagement**, about how you and your church can respond to Hurricane Michael.

Helping Folks Stay Warm

Edwards Chapel United Methodist Church, 9227 Cherry Hill Rd. in Clymer, is offering a **Cold Weather Closet** to help any community member



stay warm this winter. The closet offers free gently used winter items: coats, hats, scarves, gloves & boots.

The closet is open from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on **November 24**. The ministry also is available by special request, call 716-355-9955 and leave a message or email coverededwardschapel@yahoo.com.

NEW - Let's #GiveUMC

Join the movement to **#GiveUMC** and advance hope on **#GivingTuesday**. This day of generosity is a powerful opportunity to boost support for vital ministry work taking place around the world through Advance projects and missionaries!



Resources are available to build awareness and excitement for #GivingTuesday, including a [toolkit](#) for church leaders, which contains frequently asked questions, local church fundraising ideas and communication tips.

Lakewood UMC Announces Opening of Blessing Box

"What in heaven's name is a Blessing Box? That's what the congregation of **Lakewood United Methodist Church**, 164 Shadyside Ave., are discovering through this new outreach mission.

The cupboard-like structure is located on church property and is stocked by church members with food items, personal care products, cleaning supplies and miscellaneous items. Described as "the Lord's pantry," the goal of the Blessing Box is to serve the greater community.

"It is an opportunity for a person to bless someone else or for a person to receive a blessing - anonymously," according to Pastor Michael Childs.

Regional Youth Gathering

All Cornerstone District youth are invited to join their friends in the Mountain View District for a Fall Gathering on **Saturday, November 17**, at Centenary United Methodist Church, 3 W. Washington St. in Bath, NY.



"**Love: Digging Deep, Branching Out**" is the theme for the gathering, based on 1 Corinthians 13:13, 14:1a. Scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., the event will include worship with praise music, games and creative prayer stations.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes morning donuts and lunch. Click [here](#) for a registration form. If you have questions, please contact Pastor



Youth Winter Weekend

Calling your Youth Group to come be a part of a **weekend getaway designed specifically for youth groups!** Scheduled **January 4-6 at Asbury Camp & Retreat Center**, cost is \$89 per person and includes two nights lodging, four meals and one snack. For every 8 paying youth, one adult leader may attend the weekend for **FREE!**

Our theme this year is **SEEKER**: come join us for a weekend full of fun spirited games and activities, dynamic worship sessions with speaker **Jay Trainer of Infuzion Ministries**, amazing food (we know how important food is!), and opportunities to discuss your relationship with Christ. Come grow closer as a body of Christ and make some new friends! Oh, and we can't forget about A Night of Gametivities and our Annual Sledapalooza! Your group does not want to miss this weekend!

Click [here](#) for a flyer that you can post at your church. Contact info@asburyuny.org or 585-237-5262 for a registration form.



- 1. Lead your church through an Advent season of anticipation and celebration.** Use the Discipleship Ministries worship series "Prepare the Way" during this Advent and Christmas season. The paired Old Testament and Gospel readings will help you understand how to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Luke 3:4). Resources include sermon starters, music suggestions and Advent candle liturgy, as well as weekly graphics and faith formation resources for adults, youth and children. Find more at <https://bit.ly/2DdKbAV>.
- 2. Deepen your understanding of Wesleyan heritage.** Plan to be part of the 2019 Wesley Pilgrimage in England to explore historic sites while walking in the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley and the people called Methodists. The 10-day event, cosponsored by The Upper Room on July 8-18, 2019, will be led by Rev. Steven Manskar, former director of Wesleyan Leadership at Discipleship Ministries, and Dr. Paul Chilcote, professor of Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies at Ashland Theological Seminary. For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/2iUPRE4>.
- 3. Outstanding speakers and artists planned for YOUTH 2019.** The national gathering for United Methodist youth and their leaders in

Kansas City next July 10-14 will feature Romal Tune, Jeff Hanson, Scott Erickson, I Am They and others. Registration is open and the best rate is available until the end of January. The event sells out after the first 8,000 people register. For more information, to learn about additional speakers and artists, and to register, go to <http://youth2019.com/pages/speaker-grid-2>.

4. Explore the foundations for small groups from our Wesleyan roots. In the podcast *Small Groups in the Wesleyan Way*, Scott Hughes, Director of Adult Discipleship at Discipleship Ministries, interviews various discipleship leaders to help churches grow their small group ministry. The podcast discusses small groups of various kinds, innovative strategies and other small group dynamics. To listen to Episode 50, an interview adult learner guru and author Barbara Bruce, and to get connected to the podcast, go to <https://bit.ly/2FfulbU>.

5. Learn how A Missionary Mindset led to a significant breakfast ministry. Read the story of how a New Church Starts (Path 1) resource impacted a pastor to start his own local mission project. The Rev. Earl Dionne serves the Rachel S. Harlow United Methodist Church in Windsor, Vermont. After reading *A Missionary Mindset*, Dionne started Rachel's Kitchen, a ministry that provides breakfast five times a week in an area of the country where food insecurity is prevalent. Read about Dionne's experience [here](#). To order *A Missionary Mindset*, go to <https://bit.ly/2zLUj6>.

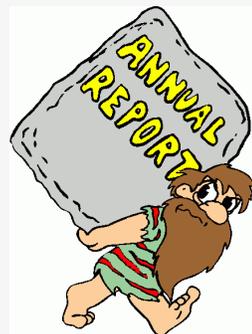
NEEDED - Advisory Forms, Online Profiles

If you haven't yet done so, please submit the following reports to the District Office:

- 16. Pastor's Appointment Advisory Form
- 17. S/PPRC Appointment Advisory Form
- 18. Pastor-S/PPRC Covenant Form

DUE December 1, 2018 (Complete online ONLY)

- 19. Church Profile
- 20. Pastor's Profile



The information on these forms is used by Bishop Webb and the Cabinet during the **Cabinet's Appointive Retreat December 3-5**.

From New Faith Communities

There are a series of GREAT learning opportunities coming up soon, and I want to make sure you know about all of them. Please read below, and let me know if you have any questions.



-- Rev. David Masland, Director, New Faith Communities

Learning Opportunity #2: Planter Leader Development Group

Led by David Masland, Director of New Faith Communities

Six monthly meetings, November through May. Meetings will be held (dates to be negotiated, during the first one, by the group) from 9:30

a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays. We will be reading and discussing four important books about the spiritual life of the leader, developing a disciple-making system in your New Faith Community, and being an effective adaptive leader in our changing mission field:

- Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger
- Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership by Ruth Haley Barton
- Developing an Intentional Discipleship System by Junius Dotson
- A book of the group's choice (options to be discussed at first meeting)

Each meeting will provide time for going deeper spiritually, talking about our wildly important goals, celebrating the victories and supporting one another through the challenges of leading a New Faith Community, discussing the book of the month, setting goals around action steps, praying together and holding one another accountable to the goals we set.

The first meeting is scheduled at **9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 27**, at the UNY Conference Center. No cost to participate, just your time and energy!

Bottom line: This is a peer learning group! There will be no lectures by experts! It will be us learning and growing together as we continue to try to figure out how to make disciples of Jesus Christ in our unique new faith communities, in our unique mission fields!

To sign up, email Dave Masland, dmasland@unyumc.org.

Golden Bucket Award

The Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church **Mission Central HUB** is announcing the Golden Bucket Award to the District that donates the most UMCOR Cleaning Kits!

Monthly recognition will be shared throughout the conference with a certificate to be displayed at the District Office. The District that collects the most UMCOR Cleaning Kits throughout the period will be awarded the prestigious Golden Bucket Award!

This award started on October 1 and runs till May 25, 2019. The Golden Bucket will be awarded at the 2019 Annual Conference.

It is important to follow the [UMCOR Cleaning Kit list](#), last updated May 2018.

Any questions, please contact Mike Block, 315-898-2066 or mikeblock@unyumc.org.

Order of Elders Gathering

All **Upper New York (UNY) elders** are invited to join UNY Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb as he welcomes Bishop Grant Hagiya from the California-Pacific Annual Conference on **December 6, 2018** from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. for an Order of Elders



Gathering at the **Holiday Inn in Liverpool.**

This will be a time of worship, learning, and fellowship and qualifies for .5 CEU. The registration cost is \$25 and includes lunch. The registration deadline is **November 28**. [Click here](#) to see the schedule for the day and/or to register.



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.



Cornerstone District

Upper New York Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Sherri Rood

District Superintendent
sherrirood@unyumc.org

Rich Preston

District Lay Leader
rnpreston@hotmail.com

Cathy Hall

Administrative Assistant
716-665-2423
cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org
www.cornerstonedistrict.com