

Why just a reminder and you're 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.



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.

September 16

The **Northern Allegany** Churches: **Belfast, Caneadea, Friends in Christ** and **Rushford**. **Pastor Craig Buelow**, his wife Diane and their family.

September 23

The **Clymer** and **North Clymer** Churches. **Pastor Kevin Costner**, his wife Heather and their children.

September 30

The **East Randolph** Church. **Rev. Chuck Smith**, his wife Kim and their family.

The effects of **Hurricane Florence** and **heavy rain** throughout our Conference continue. Please be in prayer for the safety of those who have are dealing with evacuation, damage to and loss of property, and for the disaster response teams who have been and are being deployed.

Prayers for students, their families and their teachers in the **new school year**.

As we move closer to the special-called session of **General Conference**,

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.



***** Fall Gathering with Bishop Webb *****

This fall, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting six gatherings around the Conference in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about **Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church**.

Bishop Webb will meet with clergy and laity of the **Cornerstone** and **Mountain View** Districts from **4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, October 28**, at **Wellsville 1st United Methodist Church**, 79 Madison St., Wellsville, NY, 14895.

Cornerstone clergy and laity may choose to attend the Bishop's gathering at **Clarence United Methodist Church**, 10205 Greiner Rd. Clarence, NY, 14031, from **4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 14**.

The regional gatherings will include a presentation of the plan and process of General Conference, a time to remember our mission, and worship and prayer.

*****UPDATE - Church Conference Forms Available**

Time flies! Church Conference season is upon us - meetings will begin in November. A new Check List is available that includes **two new forms** (#25 & #26), both due two weeks after your church's meeting.

Please make special note of these new reports and all reports for 2018-19, which are posted on www.cornerstonedistrict.com and at www.unyumc.org. Take a few minutes to print out the reports and begin preparations to submit your church's reports to the District Office **on time** (two weeks prior to your scheduled meeting).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email Cathy in the District Office.

"Phantom of the Opera" Pipe Organ Concert

Donald Kinnaird, Sr., of Lime Lake will play the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and other pieces of music on **River's Edge UMC's** pipe organ at **3 p.m. Saturday, September 15**.

The church is located at 10 N. Main St. in Portville. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the concert.

Mr. Kinnaird was choir director and organist at churches in Portville, Westons Mills and Olean before moving to Bradenton, FL, where he continues to play the organ. Please join the River's Edge congregation for this special concert!

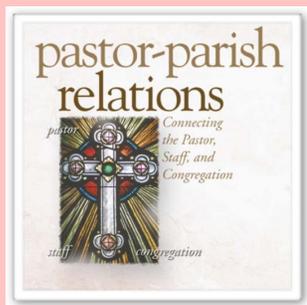
*** Need is Urgent!

UNY Mission Central HUB is in great need of **UMCOR cleaning kit supplies** and help assembling and verifying buckets. While some of these buckets are used to help our own area, they're also used around the world.



According to Mike Block, Director of Missional Engagement, and Joe Auslander, UNY Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, warehouse contents are limited, and help is critical at this time.

Click [here](#) for a list of UMCOR certified supplies used in cleaning kits and click [here](#) for your closest drop-off location. If you or a few friends can help assemble kits in the very near future at the UNY Mission Central HUB, please contact Mike Block at (315) 898-2066 or mikeblock@unyumc.org.



*** S/PPRC Training September 18

One of our most important committees in the church is the **Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee**. From time to time it is helpful to refresh our understanding and train persons in the work of the S/PPRC. For these reasons, I am requiring all of the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committees on the district to attend training this

appointment year. These training sessions will be around 90 minutes in length and **will be held regionally**.

Our first district training - others will be scheduled throughout the district during the year - will be held at **Kidder Memorial United Methodist Church**, 385 S. Main St. in Jamestown on **Tuesday, September 18**, at **5:30 p.m.** Please contact Cathy Hall in the District Office (716-665-2423 or cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org) if you and your church's committee would like to attend; please include the number of people who will participate.

We have heard from several of you who would like to host an S/PPRC training. Thank you! We will be contacting you with dates for these future trainings.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Grace and peace,

Sherrri

sherrirood@unyumc.org

*** Registration Deadline is September 17!

Cornerstone's **2018 Lay Servant Ministries Fall Training** is scheduled **October 12 and 13** at **Kidder Memorial United Methodist Church**, 385 N. Main

St., Jamestown. Gathering/registration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday followed by a time of worship and class time from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Classes to be offered include:

1. **Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course**
2. **Accountable Discipleship** (*this course is a prerequisite to Class Leaders*)
3. **Planning Worship**
4. **Transforming Evangelism**

Cost, which includes snacks on Friday (no meal) and snacks/lunch on Saturday is \$25 per person. Cost of overnight lodging is extra. Checks must be made payable to UNYAC; you must be paid in full to be considered registered for a class.

Click [here](#) to download the brochure!

Mission Dinner at Little Valley

The chefs at **Little Valley UMC**, 109 Court St., invite you to join them for a meal to benefit the church's Mission Team on **Saturday, September 15**.

Menu is a choice of chicken cordon bleu or spaghetti and meatballs. In addition to the entree, dinner includes a salad bar, dessert and beverage. Takeouts available. Cost is a donation.

Have a great meal out with your friends and neighbors!

Afternoon Concert at Conewango Valley

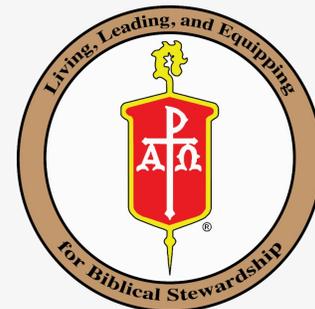
The congregation of **Conewango Valley UMC** will host a Christian barbershop quartet a **2 p.m Sunday, September 16**. Join them for this special time of "harmony!"

***** Register for Bishop's Retreat**

All elders and full- and part-time local pastors are invited to join Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb at his annual **Bishop's Retreat**.

This year's retreat will be held **October 23-25** at the **Genesee Grande Hotel** in Syracuse. In addition to having a phenomenal keynote speaker, Dr. Clif Christopher, CEO of the Horizons Stewardship Company, this year's retreat features exciting workshops.

These workshops include a choice of the following: Blended Discipleship: Koinonia Goal Groups in the Connected Age (led by the Rev. Dr. Phil Phaneuf); Developing an Intentional Discipleship System (led by the Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens); Mandala Rock Painting (led by Jacqui Hauser); and



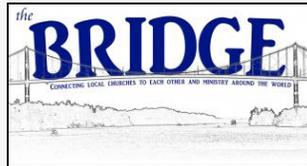
The Ministry of Reconciliation/El Ministerio de la reconciliación (by Pastor Jose L. Rodriguez).

The **September 28 deadline** is quickly approaching. [Click here](#) to learn more about the workshops, see the entire Bishop's Retreat itinerary, and to register.

Pre-Retirement Seminar at Conference Center

There will be a pre-retirement seminar from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on **Monday, October 1** at the **United Methodist Center, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool** that will highlight and explain the benefits available to retiring clergy through The United Methodist Church.

This seminar is intended to help clarify the current pension plan, health insurance options, Social Security, and moving assistance available. Lunch will be served. Pre-registration is required by **Friday, September 21**. [Click here](#) to learn more and to register.



***** Make Copies of The Bridge!**

The **September 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 features a reflection on the close of another successful summer camp season in Upper New York and provides details of the great happenings at each of the Conference's Camp & Retreat Centers. It also shares links to inspiring vlogs (video blogs) from campers and camp staff-hear in their own words how transformative the camping experience is!

***** 45th Annual Meeting of Cornerstone UMW**

All UMW units in the District are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting on **Saturday, October 6**, at **East Randolph United Methodist Church**, 122 Church St.

Schedule is: 9:30 a.m., Registration & Breakfast Snack; 10 a.m., Music with "Sunnyside Up"; 10:30 a.m. 5-Star Awards, Book Awards, Business Meeting and Memorial Service followed by Lunch.

Please bring your health kits, school bags and UMCOR kits to the meeting.

Reservations are due **September 27**; make checks (\$10 per person for lunch) payable to East Randolph UMW. Questions? Please call Judy Stevens, 716-358-5927 or Mary Jane Griffith at 716-483-3055.

Is Your Church Info Up-to-Date?

With new appointments/assignments and the change back from summer worship times, it's

easy to lose track of if and/or where the most up-to-date information "lives." You can help the District Office with this task by checking your church's information (Resources/Our Churches at www.unyumc.org and Our Churches at www.cornerstonedistrict.com).



Churches also need to update their own information at this site: <http://www.umc.org/find-a-church/search>. Once you find your actual church listing, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click the red button to update information.

We want people to get the most accurate information possible and not be discouraged from attending any of our churches because to inaccurate information. Thank you for your help with this important task!



*** 2018 Conference Journal

The 2018 Upper New York Conference Journal Directory is now available. This volume of the journal contains all business from the 9th session of the Upper New York Annual Conference, held May 30-June 2. There are two ways to receive the Journal Directory:

- [Click here to purchase a hard copy from online publisher Lulu.com.](#)
- [Click here to view online or to download a free PDF version on Issuu.](#)

If you order directly from Lulu.com, you can have it delivered to the address of your choice. (Note: You will need a major credit card to place an order.) A paperback copy of the Journal Directory costs \$5.54 plus tax and shipping.

For Clergy & Church Leaders

Last week **all Upper New York clergy under appointment** received an email from the UNY Board of Ordained Ministry inviting them to participate in the **Lewis Pastoral Leadership Inventory™ (LPLI)**, an online 360-degree leadership assessment that will help them gain valuable insights into their leadership abilities and provide important feedback from colleagues so that they can improve and grow in their ministry.



As part of the LPLI, clergy will be inviting 5 to 10 "observers" to participate in the inventory with them: S/PPR committees and other church leaders who are familiar with their work in the ministry setting. Observers will be asked to answer a set of 75 questions comparable to those that clergy will answer. Individual feedback will be kept confidential.

The time frame for the completion of the LPLI is between **August 1 and November 1, 2018**. Cost for the LPLI (\$65) is to be paid by the clergy with the understanding that the Accountable Reimbursement Plan (ARP)

expense account can and should be used.

Thank you in advance to the Cornerstone laity who will be participating with our clergy in this important work.



For Enrollees in HealthFlex Plan

Now's the time to take your **HealthQuotient** (HQ) online health risk assessment **to lower your 2019 HealthFlex deductible**. This is step two of your HealthFlex "Three Steps for Better Wellness." Completing the HQ assessment between August 1 and September 30, 2018 **could save you up to \$500 extra for a family deductible towards your 2019 HealthFlex medical plan**. Both enrolled participant and enrolled spouse must complete the HQ assessment. [Click here](#) for more information and to begin the assessment.



Share a Budget that Tells A Story

DATE: **Thursday, September 13, 2018**

TIME: 7:30 pm, Eastern Daylight Time

PRESENTER: Ken Sloane

Yes, your church does have a story! How well do we share it when we are asking people to give generously to support our mission? Line-item budgets are a great tool, but not everyone in your congregation finds their hearts stirred and their generosity stoked by looking at a spreadsheet. Narrative budgets, on the other hand, present the funding needs of your church in a way that reminds people how what they give helps the church touch lives and transform the world. Join Stewardship Director Ken Sloane and his guest Jim Wells of the Wisconsin U.M. Foundation as they help us get in touch with our church's story and lead us step-by-step through the preparation of a Narrative Budget for your church.

Preaching to Glad and Generous Hearts: Stewardship Sermons Today

DATE: **Thursday, October 4, 2018**

TIME: 11:00 am, Eastern Daylight Time

PRESENTER: Ken Sloane

Pastors know that they ought to preach about stewardship, but may feel challenged when talking about money. Famous preachers have recommended methods for delivering effective stewardship sermons. How do today's ministers reach the hearts, minds, and lives of people in their congregations for greater generosity? Rosanna Anderson, Associate Director of Stewardship Ministries, has analyzed over one hundred contemporary sermons on giving. In this sixty-minute session, learn about the highlights of her research findings and consider insights to apply in your church context as you encourage people to embrace the joy of holistic generosity.



Click [here](#) to register.



Leadership Development - Evaluating Ministry Leaders & Building New Leadership Teams

DATE RECORDED: **Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

DURATION: 60 min

PRESENTER: Jacqui King, Director, Leadership for Congregational Vitality

Was the year so full of planning that you missed time for reflective thinking and Sabbath? How

should your leaders evaluate, prepare, pray, and develop ministry action plans for the upcoming year? Focusing on building and transforming small groups, this webinar will share insights about moving forward with implementing healthy annual learning schedules that promote increasing spiritual practices to support leadership development, small groups, and community mission experiences.

Click [here](#) to register.



2018 Native American Festivals

September 16 Saratoga Native American Festival. National Museum of Dance at Saratoga Spa State

September 21-23 Native Nations Festival, Watson Homestead, 9620 Dry Run Road, Painted Post, NY

September 28-29 Seneca Indian Fall Festival, Cattaraugus Territory

November 11 Canandaigua Treaty Celebration. 12 noon - 9 pm, Courthouse lawn, Canandaigua and Elementary School



Is Your Church Using VitalSigns?

One item coming out of the 2018 Upper New York Annual Conference is a recommendation from the Conference Leadership Team **strongly encouraging all UNY congregations** to begin using the **VitalSigns Dashboard** on September 1, 2018.

A number of churches in our District already use the VitalSigns Dashboard with great success/results. A downloadable (PDF) guide for local churches is available [here](#). To sign up to record your weekly VitalSigns, [click here](#).



UPDATE - Collection Site for Red Bird

Robert Ebert has volunteered to coordinate the drop-off of shoeboxes for Red Bird Mission.

Ripley United Methodist Church, 84 W. Main St., will be the drop-off site. **Drop-offs must be scheduled by calling Bob**, 716-951-2192.

Again this year **Dave Alexander** and the **Endwell United Methodist Church** in the Binghamton

District will be coordinating delivery of shoeboxes to Redbird Mission in Beverly, KY. **Pick-up and transport of items will take place the first week in December.**

If drop-off is not able to be scheduled at Ripley, there is a storage site in Endwell where shoeboxes and other items ([see this list](#)) may be delivered.

Please consider being part of this vital mission. If you have any questions, please call the Endwell UMC at 607-754-5735 or Dave Alexander at 607-743-8955.



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

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