

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.



PLEASE NOTE: The District Office FAX line is not working. If you need to send something to the District Office, please use USPS or email. We will let you know when the FAX line is operational.

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 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.

October 7

The **Forestville** Church. **Pastor Jim Hankey**, his wife Andra and their family.

Please keep **Pastor Rich Barling** and his family in your prayers as they grieve for his mother, Betty, who joined his father in heaven on September 12. The family is holding a celebration of life service at the UM Conference Center on Friday, September 21. Calling hours will be from 4 - 6, and the service at 6 p.m.

Please keep the **Rev. Steve Deckard** and his family in your prayers. Rev. Deckard, who serves Fayetteville UMC in retirement, suffered a hemorrhagic stroke on September 12 and is recovering in the hospital. Cards can be sent to his home, 4918 Hyde Road, Manlius, NY 13104.

The extent of the damage caused by **Hurricane Florence** to North and South Carolina is still unknown, leaving parts of both states in crisis. Many families are now without power, homes, and some even lost their life. **Upper New York Director of Missional Engagement, Mike Block**, says there's a need for help. [Click here](#) to read the full response and what you can do to help today.

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.



NEW - 2018 Church/Charge Conference Schedule

Please **mark your calendar** with the date and time for your church's annual meeting with District Superintendent Sherri Rood. Please invite not only your church leadership (Ad Council chair, committee chairs, lay leader, etc.) but any member of the congregation who is interested to participate!

Sunday, November 4

1 p.m. at Belfast UMC (Belfast, Caneadea, Centerville, Friends in Christ, Rushford)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than October 22.**

Monday, November 5

7 p.m. at Cuba UMC (Cuba, Friendship, Machias, River's Edge)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than October 22.**

Tuesday, November 6

7 p.m. at Findley Lake UMC (Clymer, Edwards Chapel, Findley Lake, North Clymer, Ripley, South Ripley, Watts Flats)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than October 23.**

Wednesday, November 7

7 p.m. at East Randolph UMC (East Randolph, Great Valley, Little Valley, Napoli, Steamburg)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than October 24.**

Thursday, November 8

7 p.m. at St. Paul's UMC in West Valley (Delevan and St. Paul's)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than October 25.**

Sunday, November 11

11:15 a.m. at Christ UMC in Olean

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than October 29.**

Sunday, November 11

3 p.m. at Trinity UMC in Olean (Hinsdale, Ischua Union, Limestone, Knapp Creek and Trinity)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than October 29.**

Thursday, November 15

7 p.m. at Brocton Tri-Church Parish (Brocton Tri-Church Parish, Dunkirk 1st, Forestville, Fredonia 1st, Laona Emmanuel and Sheridan)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 1.**

Sunday, November 18

Following worship at Bemus Point UMC

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 5.**

Sunday, November 18

7 p.m. at Lakewood UMC (Ashville, Celoron, Lakewood, Magnolia, North Harmony and Open Meadows)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 5.**

Monday, November 19

7 p.m. at East Otto UMC (Cherry Creek-Leon, Conewango Valley, East Otto, Hamlet, South Dayton and Wesley)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 5.**

Tuesday, November 20

7 p.m. at Westfield 1st UMC (Dewittville-Hartfield, Hurlbut Memorial, Mayville 1st and Westfield 1st)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 6.**

Monday, November 26

7 p.m. at Christ First UMC in Jamestown

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 12.**

Tuesday, November 27

7 p.m. at Park UMC in Sinclairville (Charlotte Center, Ellington, Falconer, Gerry, Pleasant Valley and Park)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 13.**

Wednesday, November 28

7 p.m. at Trinity UMC in Frewsburg (Busti, Camp Street, Fentonville, Kennedy 1st, Trinity and Wheeler Hill)

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 14.**

Tuesday, December 11

6:30 p.m. at Panama UMC

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 27.**

Wednesday, December 12

7 p.m. at Kidder Memorial UMC

*Reports are due in the District Office **no later than November 28.**

If you have any questions or have trouble accessing the reports, please call 716-665-2423 or email cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org.

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.



UPDATE - LSM Fall Training

Thank you to those who are registered Cornerstone's **2018 Lay Servant Ministries Fall Training, October 12-13** at **Kidder Memorial United Methodist Church, 385 N. Main St., Jamestown.**

The updated brochure (click [here](#)) includes the roster of instructors:

Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course, John Dedloff, Cherry Creek UMC, instructor
Accountable Discipleship, Pastor Mike Spell, Laona Emmanuel UMC
Planning Worship, Rev. Chuck Smith, East Randolph UMC
Transforming Evangelism, Rev. Carmen Perry, Hurlbut Memorial Community UMC, Chautauqua

Students are responsible for ordering books/materials at least three weeks prior to class. If you have any questions, please call or email the District Office.

NEW - Archives & History Meeting Scheduled September 22

The **UNY Commission on Archives and History** and the **UNY United Methodist Historical Society** will meet **Saturday, September 22**, at the Conference Center, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., in Liverpool.

Volunteer opportunities in the archives will begin at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12 noon (lunch reservations are closed, so please plan for your own lunch). Following the meal, James Hare, an Elmira historian, will present a program on Elmira churches. Members of the UNY United Methodist Historical Society and the Commission on Archives and History will meet following the presentation.

The UNY United Methodist Historical Society has open meetings so interested folks who are not members of either the Commission on Archive and History team or the Historical Society are welcome to attend.

NEW - Outdoor Flea Market

Cherry Creek-Leon United Methodist Church, 6813 Main St., will host an outdoor **Flea Market & Lunch** from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, September 29**.

In addition to the flea market, there will be a silent basket auction. Pulled bar-b-que chicken or pork sandwiches and hot dogs will be available beginning at 11 a.m. Sandwiches will be served with two sides, dessert and a beverage for \$9.

Make plans now to enjoy the fall weather with the folks at Cherry Creek-Leon!



NEW - World Communion Sunday

On World Communion Sunday, October 7, the denomination will offer generous support to national and international students who rely on scholarships to pursue graduate-level education. Download tools (including social media tools, graphics, videos, bulletin inserts, offering talks, preaching helps and more) to encourage your congregation to empower students who are following God's call.



NEW - Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!

September 15-October 15 is designated as **Hispanic Heritage Month** in The United Methodist Church, giving local congregations the opportunity to celebrate the importance and contributions of the Hispanic culture in worship.

United Methodist publications are rich in musical resources that may be included throughout the year, but especially during this month. To learn more, go to <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/celebrating-hispanic-heritage-month-1>.



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 reconciliacion (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.

DON'T FORGET - Collection 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.**

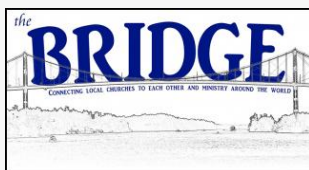
If drop-off is not able to be scheduled at Ripley, there is a storage site in Endwell where shoeboxes and other items ([see this list](#)) may be delivered.

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.

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.



NEW - Make Copies of The Bridge!

The **September 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.

This issue features young person Rachel John's reflection of the Global Young People's Convocation she attended this summer in Johannesburg, South Africa. This issue also celebrates the annual Upper New York United Methodist Men's Retreat that for the first-time welcomed women and children as well. Additionally, this issue features the urgent need for UMCOR cleaning kits (flood buckets) at the Upper New York Mission Central HUB.

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.

NEW - Retreat for Deacons Planned

A retreat for **Deacons** and for anyone who may be in process or discerning a call to becoming a Deacon has been planned **November 7 and 8** at the **UNY Conference Center**, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool.

Click [here](#) for the announcement for the retreat which includes a link to the online registration.

The leaders for this event will be Dr. Margaret Ann Crain and Dr. Jack Seymour (co-authors of A Deacon's Heart) and they will be addressing the theology and ecclesiology of Deacons.

For more information, please contact Nancy Dibelius, Associate Director of Vital Congregations for Spiritual Life, Nancy.Dibelius@gmail.com.

NEW - Concert with Brent Vernon & Sam Brocton Tri-Church Parish, 41 E. Main St., will welcome **Brent Vernon and Sam** from Hobe Sound, FL, for a concert of Gospel songs at **7:30 p.m. Friday, October 12**.

Brent is a gifted singer, songwriter, pianist, ventriloquist and children's book author. He has a heart for God and uses his talents to minister to others.

The Brocton Tri-Church congregation invites the community to join them for this special event.



AVAILABLE - 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.

Click [here](#) for poster for Ripley UMC's October 13 All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast.

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.



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 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](#).



1. **Organize discussions about The Way Forward plans.**

Congregations can use new resources available from Discipleship Ministries to structure Courageous Conversations about the plans submitted by the Commission on a Way Forward to help United Methodists move past long-held struggles with issues concerning LGBTQ inclusion. The resources, along with links to support materials and videos produced by the Way Forward Commission and Council of Bishops, include sample outlines with PowerPoint presentation templates for four sessions. To learn more and to download the materials, go to <https://bit.ly/2nQjqK7>.

2. Discover ways to involve youth in your #SeeAllThePeople efforts. Create a plan to connect and integrate youth ministry into the overall discipleship system of your church with a free resource, "Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Youth Ministry," from Young People's Ministries. The guide outlines how a systems approach to discipleship can positively impact the spiritual development of youth and provides planning support for both adult and youth ministry leaders. Download a free copy at <https://bit.ly/2QIP9Qd>. A full suite of free downloadable #SeeAllThePeople resources is available at <https://bit.ly/2CFWQOo>.

3. Soul care for spiritual leaders and their faith communities. A new monthly email newsletter from The Upper Room called "From the Center" provides resources for spiritual leaders who find it extremely challenging to lead others and who seek grounding beneath the shifting sands of church and culture. This e-newsletter offers wisdom from the ages, prayer practices and a sacred space for the journey. To learn more and to subscribe, go to www.upperroom.org/from-the-center.

4. Reaching the hearts and minds of congregations for greater generosity. Pastors know they ought to preach about stewardship, but some may feel challenged when talking about money. Plan to participate in the hour-long webinar, "Preaching to Glad and Generous Hearts: Stewardship Sermons Today" on Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. CDT (or archived online later). Rosanna Anderson of Discipleship Ministries has analyzed over 100 contemporary sermons on giving and will highlight her findings to help local churches encourage people to embrace the joy of holistic generosity. To register for the webinar, go to <https://bit.ly/2CKh3CU>.

5. Helping congregations of all sizes reach new people. Congregations in the Missouri Annual Conference have seen their growth vision turn into creating new places for new people. In a monthly webinar series, "Learn + Lead," the conference features pastors, church planters and lay leaders sharing their stories of growth and providing tools you can use in your congregation and community. To register for upcoming webinars and view archived events, go to <https://bit.ly/2wXYRjV>.



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

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