

Bishop Webb announces April-May regional gatherings



Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb has announced regional gatherings that he will be hosting throughout the Upper New York Conference in April and May. These regional gatherings will primarily focus on unpacking the Judicial Council's decision regarding the constitutionality of the petitions that made up the Traditional Plan affirmed by the delegates of the 2019 Special Session of The General Conference. It will also be a time to help attendees to understand what becomes part of *The Book of Discipline* on January 1, 2020 and what does not. These times will include an opportunity for questions and conversation about what

God might be doing in and through The United Methodist Church in the future. There will be a brief time of worship at each gathering as well.

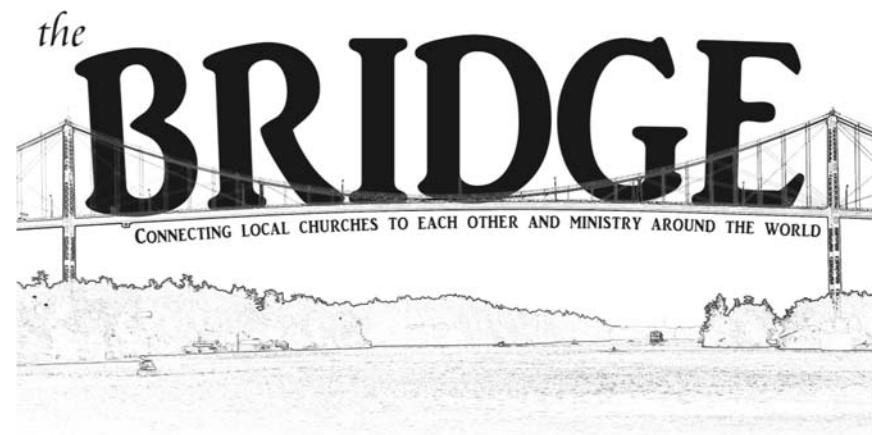
The dates, times, and locations of these gatherings are as follows:

- April 30, 2019 from 6:30 -8:30 p.m.: Potsdam UMC
- May 1, 2019 from 6:30 -8:30 p.m.: Olean: Christ UMC
- May 13, 2019 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.: Cicero UMC
- May 14, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Chenango Bridge UMC
- May 15, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Clarence UMC
- May 29, 2019 from 6:30- 8:30 p.m.: Shenendahowa UMC

The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world. For more news and stories visit:

www.unyumc.org

Visit the Conference blog, Perspectives at <http://bit.ly/UNYEaster> to hear about the favorite Easter traditions of people from around the Upper New York Conference and to share your favorite Easter traditions.



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

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Interesting facts about Easter and Easter traditions

Easter Day, Sunday April 21, is almost upon us. Let's dive into some facts about Easter.

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is why services on this night generally include the washing of feet or other acts of physical care as an integral part of the



celebration.

While John's gospel does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper among the events of this night, the other gospels do. Christians therefore keep this night with celebrations both at the basin (footwashing) and at the Lord's Table (Holy Communion).

Where did Good Friday get its name?

The source of our term for the Friday before Easter, "Good Friday," is not clear. It may be a corruption of the English phrase "God's Friday," according to Professor Laurence Hull Stookey in *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* (p. 96). It is the common name for the day among English- and Dutch-speaking people. It is a day that proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of



our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is good because God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ. As seen in John's gospel, particularly, God was in control. God was not making the best of a bad situation but was working out God's intention for the world — winning salvation for all people. We call it "good" because we look backward at the crucifixion through the lens of Easter!

Remember, Easter is not just one day, it's 50 days

Easter for Christians is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Easter is also more than just an ex-

tended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians.

This extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. It's the season when we remember our baptisms and how through this sacrament we are, according to the liturgy, "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people," we also celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

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