

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

Shari Mudge named seasonal site manager at Aldersgate Camp

www.tinyurl.com/MudgeNamedSSMatAld

Churches asked to bring local waters to *Act of Repentance* service at 2015 Annual Conference session

www.tinyurl.com/LocalWatersAOR

What offerings will be taken during AC 2015 session?

www.tinyurl.com/AC15offerings

Locations and dates announced for the six Pre-Conference Briefings to be held in May

www.tinyurl.com/2015PreConSchedule

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

March 29 – Palm/Passion Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week

www.tinyurl.com/PalmSunday2015

April 6 – Anticipated publication of the Pre-Conference Workbook

April 10-12 – Rejuvenate: A Spring Ladies of the Lake Experience

www.tinyurl.com/RejuvenateSpr2015

April 10-12 – Rejuvenate: A Spring Ladies of the Lake Experience

www.tinyurl.com/RejuvenateSpr2015

April 24-26 – UP!Word '15 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool

www.unyumc.org/events/upword

April 24-25 – New Faith Community's 'Church in a Diner'

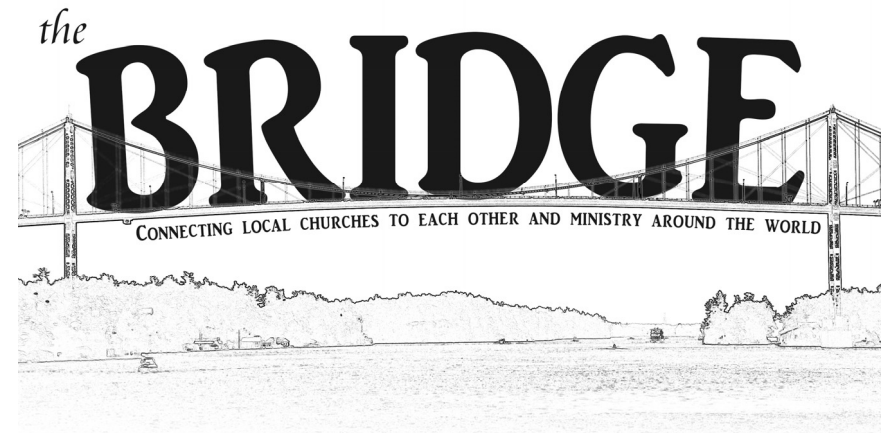
www.tinyurl.com/NFCChurchInADiner

May 1 – Registration closes for the 2015 Annual Conference session

The *Bridge* is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Conference and the world.

www.unyumc.org

PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATES CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM



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.

A LOOK INSIDE!

New Faith Community event: a 'Church in a Diner' approach Page 2

Seeking lonely Communion pieces to pair at AC session Page 2

Help COSROW plan conference by answering brief survey Page 3

Mudge named seasonal site manager at Aldersgate Camp Page 4

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Fourth annual NFC event takes a 'Church in a Diner' approach

By Christian Vischi

It's the championships, your child is a starter, and tip-off is at 10 a.m.

The catch? That game is on a Sunday.

If you attend the Sycamore Creek Church in Lansing, Mich., there is no need to worry about missing Sunday morning worship because "Church in a Diner" takes place on Monday nights at Jackie's Diner, just five minutes from that United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Tom Arthur, chair of the New Church Development Team of the West Michigan Conference, is the mastermind behind the launch of "Church in a Diner," a nationally recognized low-



cost and innovative approach to launching new faith communities. In just two years, the congregation of the Sycamore Creek Church has grown by more than 20 percent.

Rev. Arthur will be in Upper New York April 24-25 for the Conference's fourth annual New Faith Community event at the Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center in Moravia. He will be the keynote speaker and will share the story of why and how he has created this vibrant new way of making disciples.

The event begins with registration at 5:30 p.m. Participants get to choose two from the following workshops:

- "Second Sites: How Your Church Can Extend its Reach with a New Faith Community" led by the Rev. Bill Vallet and members of his team at the Fresh Start Mall Campus in Horseheads, a new faith community of the Pennsylvania Avenue UMC in Pine City.
- "Starting a New Faith Community

in a Housing Development" led by the Rev. Rebecca Laird and members of the team at Cicero UMC's second site: Bear Road New Faith Community.

- "Dinner Church: Making Disciples Around a Dining Room Table" led by some Upper New York church planters who have plans to start small group new faith communities around a weekly meal.
- "Bringing Jesus to the Yoga Mat: Starting a Yoga based New Faith Community" led by the Rev. Dee Lowman.
- "Team Building: Sustainable Planting thru a Team" led by the Rev. Dave Masland, Conference Director of New Faith Communities.

Friday night's dinner worship will be led by Rev. Arthur, modeled by his "Church in a Diner" Ministry. The Rev.

Rachel Morse will lead worship on Saturday morning.

Bishop Deborah Kiesey of the Michigan Episcopal Area said she was very impressed with Rev. Arthur's "innovative approach" to ministry.

"He finds ways to 'go where the people are' and has the ability to speak to those who might never feel comfortable coming through the doors of the traditional church building," she said. "He is teaching us all how to be The Church, and how to make the message of Christ real for all."

There are two rates for the event:

Overnight participants – \$100 per person. This includes a one-night stay and three meals (Friday's dinner, and Saturday's breakfast and lunch).
Commuter – \$30 per person. This includes Friday's dinner and Saturday's lunch.

To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/2015NFCRegistration.

Seeking Communion pieces for AC sessions

The Communion table is set at each Upper New York Annual Conference session, and every year, the Worship Team seeks creative ways to provide enough chalice and paten sets to serve Communion to more than 1,500 people.

If you have one piece from a Communion set that is missing its counterpart, the Worship Team asks you to bring that piece to the Annual Conference session as an offering. Your chalice will be paired with someone's paten, or your paten with someone's chalice.

If you are willing to give that one piece at the session, bring it to the table set in front of the dais at the clergy session on Wednesday, May 27. Your one piece will serve God's people for many years to come.



Conference COSROW to meet in October

Upper New York's Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) will hold a conference from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 3 in Troy.

"For this event, we have an exciting opportunity to design a series of interactive workshops exploring sexism and gender inequalities in church and society. This free conference will allow us to forward our goal of 'helping the Church recognize every person – clergy and lay, women and men, adults and children – as full and equal parts of God's human family,'" said the Rev. Dr. Judith Johnson-Siebold, chair of COSROW.

If you would like to provide input in creating the program, COSROW invites you to fill out a brief two-question survey at www.tinyurl.com/COSROW2QSurvey by April 1.

For questions, contact Rev. Johnson-Siebold at (518) 729-8215 or via email at johnsieb60@gmail.com.



REV. JOHNSON-SIEBOLD