



and clergy will take place on the following dates at the locations listed:

- March 17 from 4-6 p.m. at Clarence UMC
- March 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Potsdam UMC
- March 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Christ Olean UMC
- March 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Liverpool First UMC
- March 21 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at

Shenendehowa UMC

- March 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Chenango Bridge UMC

Plan now to attend one of these gatherings, and as we approach the Special Session of General Conference please keep the delegates to the Special Session, all those attending the Special Session, and the entire United Methodist church in your prayers.

## In Brief

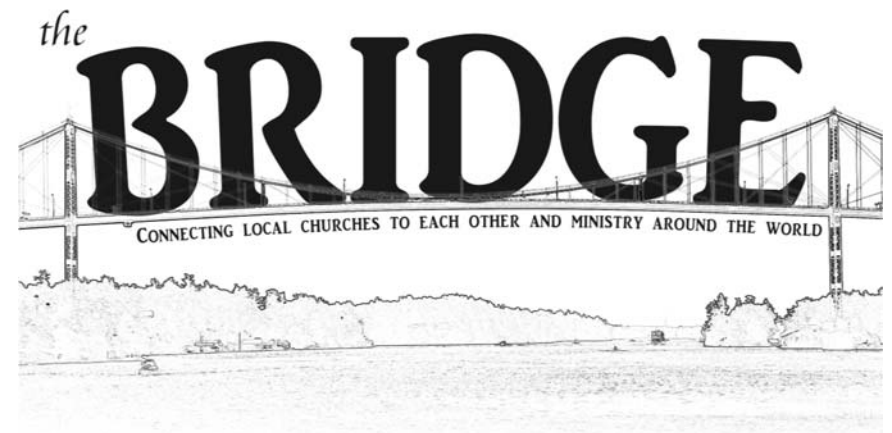
### Bridge publication schedule

To accommodate sharing stories and information about the Special Session of General Conference, the next issue of the *Bridge* will be available the week prior to Sunday, March 10 and the following issue will be available the week prior to Sunday, March 24. Publication will return to the regular schedule (the week prior to the first and third Sundays) in April.

*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](http://www.unyumc.org)**

Visit <http://www.unyumc.org/events/special-session-of-general-conference> for more about the Special Session.



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!

A message from the Bishops of the Northeast Jurisdiction	Page 2
Regional Gatherings after General Conference Special Session	Page 2
Bridge publication schedule	Page 4

# A message from the Bishops of the Northeast Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church



**Editor's Note:** The following pastoral letter written by the Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction was sent to the Upper New York Conference and all Conferences of the Northeastern Jurisdiction on Feb. 5, 2019.

We bid you grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the Northeastern College of Bishops meeting, January 28th – 30th, we, your Bishops, prayed for the Church and in particular the clergy and laity of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church.

As the Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, MO, February 23 -26, 2019, is just days away, we invite each congregation and every member to join us in even deeper and more fervent prayer. We seek your prayers as the delegates receive and act upon the report from The Commission on a Way Forward and corresponding petitions. Along with the Apostle Paul, we pray that the “God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13 CEB)

Please lift this session of holy conferencing in prayer in each of your churches this Sunday and throughout the week. On Saturday, February 23, the General Conference will dedicate the entire day



to prayer. This will be available through live-streaming ([umc.org](http://umc.org)) and we invite as many as possible to pray along with the Conference delegates, Bishops, and attendees.

We are confident that God will work all things together for good as God’s people are faithful in prayer and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit. As John Wesley said, “Best of all, God is with us.”

## Regional Gatherings after General Conference Special Session

We do not know what to expect at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference taking place Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis, MO and this uncertainty can be uncomfortable. Whatever the outcome of Special Session is, our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world will continue. There may be a new reality that we will have to

acclimate to so that we can continue to fulfill our mission as United Methodists. To that end, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb will host an all-clergy gathering and six regional gatherings to process the new reality.

Bishop Webb said, “The purpose of these gatherings is for us to gather together after the Special Session of Gen-

eral Conference to worship together, pray together, understand the decisions or actions of the Special Session, and remember our individual and collective call to ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ.”

It is expected for all clergy to attend the clergy gathering, which will be held at Rochester: Asbury First United Meth-

odist Church on Saturday March 9 from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. This location was chosen as opposed to a centrally located church because of the venue’s ability to host the large number of clergy members who will be attending.

The gatherings open to both laity

*Continued on page 4*