

Continued from page 3

### Summer Camp!

The 2017 summer camp season is around the corner and registration is open for the dozens of camping programs available.

Each of the four summer camp centers serve a diverse population, including rural, urban, and suburban, while offering opportunities to connect with God's creation, with a loving Christian community, and with friends, new and old. There are many programs available for children ages 5-18, as well as family camps! For more information and to register for summer camp, visit <http://campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2017>.

**Aldersgate** is set in the tall pines of the Adirondacks. They offer various programs June 25-30 with traditional camp activities like swimming, boating, crafts, archery, and more. They also have a Beginnings program for the first-time camper ages 6-9 July 2-5, a one-day adventure for children ages 4-8 on July 8 and a family life weekend July 7-9.

**Skye Farm**, also in the Adirondacks, is on Sherman Lake, with programs May, July, and August. They offer traditional camp favorites like arts and crafts, volleyball, hiking, and



several unique activities like High Peak Adventures, whitewater rafting, and care of farm animals. They have a "Camp Nostalgia" program for adults Aug. 20-Aug. 23 and a family camp May 26-29.

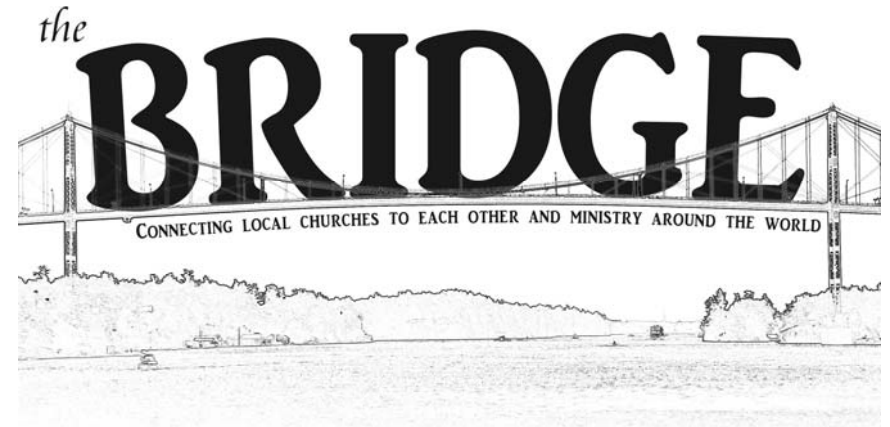
**Casowasco** is located in the heart of the Finger Lakes region. They offer many programs throughout July and August, from horseback riding-specific and swimming-specific to musical programs and extreme sports. They also have a Father-Son program, a Mother-Daughter program, and a family camp all offered August 13-16.

**Sky Lake** sits atop the Tuscora Mountain, southeast of Binghamton. They offer a variety of programs throughout July and August, including classic camping experiences, programs specific to the arts, outdoor exploring, swimming, and camp experiences for those with special needs.

*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.*

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

March is Women's History Month. Visit <http://bit.ly/UMCwhm2017> for resources and more information.



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!

What we have to look forward to in UNY

Page 2

# What we have to look forward to in UNY

As spring and summer approaches, The Upper New York Conference offers many exciting ways for people of all ages to delve deeper into the United Methodist faith. Here is an overview of the opportunities offered.

## UpWord! 2017

UpWord! is the spring event held by the Upper New York Conference's Council of Youth Ministry (CCYM). The theme this year, short and to the point, is "God is." UpWord! 2017 is an opportunity for youth from all over the Upper New York Conference to experience community and grow in their spiritual journeys through worship experiences, workshops, late night activities, and fun interactions. The event will be held March 31-April 2 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, N.Y. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.unyumc.org/events/upword>.



*The new United Methodist Center of Upper New York will open March 22, with an Open House and Service of Dedication being held on May 31.*

## Open House at the new United Methodist Center of Upper New York and more

The week of March 20, the Upper New York Conference office, the Upper New York Episcopal Office, and the Crossroads District Office will be moving to the new United Methodist Center of Upper New York at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd in Liverpool, N.Y. 13088. Soon thereafter, the Media Resource Center will move from Endicott, N.Y. to the new United Methodist Center, and Archives and History will bring the documents, artifacts, and informational pieces that had been stored all over the state to that single location.

On Wednesday May 31, the day before the 2017 Upper New York Annual Conference, the doors of the United Methodist Center will be open for all from 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The Open



*The Upper New York Annual Conference will be held June 1-3 at the Oncenter in Syracuse.*

House will showcase the Media Resource Center, Mission Central, all office areas, and all meeting rooms. A service and dedication will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Additionally, the Syracuse United Methodist Churches will be hosting an open-air service on May 31 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Columbus Circle, which is located two blocks north of the Oncenter where Annual Conference will be held again this year. This will be a nice gathering for worship and fellowship. Rev. BJ Norrix said, "We have a good band ready to go and expect to have a great time."

## Annual Conference 2017

In the United Methodist tradition, the term Annual Conference can refer to a regional body or a yearly meeting. We are the Upper New York (Annual) Conference and our Annual Conference meeting takes place in June every year.

This year the Annual Conference will be held June 1-3 at the Oncenter in Syracuse.

Each year, an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend this Annual Conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the Conference. The Conference, presided by Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb, includes reports of past and ongoing work; adoption of future goals, programs, and budgets; ordination of clergy members as deacons and elders; and election of delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences (every 4 years).

To learn more about the 2017 Upper New York Annual Conference session and to register, be sure to visit <http://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference>.

*Continued on page 4*