

## In Brief

### UNY Conference Leadership bible study video on prayer

How can members of local churches feel more connected to each other and more connected to other churches in their Conference? One way that the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) hopes to improve alignment is through a bible study video that features members of the CLT. This video was produced by the Upper New York Conference's Communications Ministry Area. Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYbiblestudy> to read about the video and to access it.



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### Mission Central Hub provides support for flood recovery

The Upper New York Conference Mission Central Hub was in great use as Mike Block, a member of the VIM Steering Committee and a member at Immanuel UMC in Camillus, and Dave Greer, President

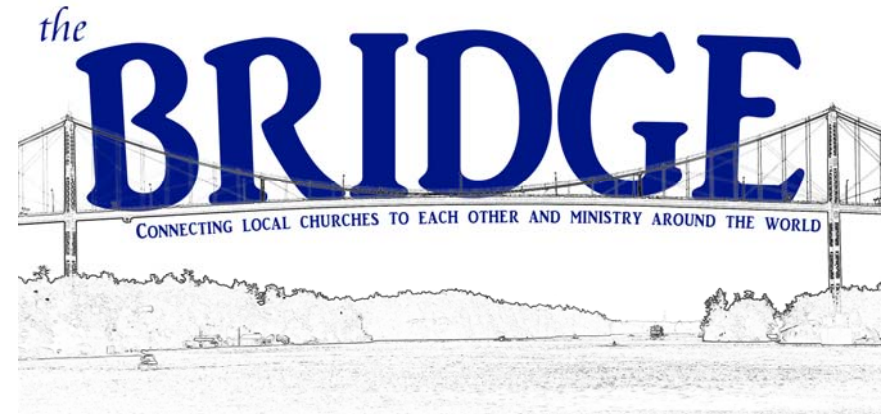


of United Methodist Men at Baldwinsville UMC, helped load 624 Cleaning Kits (Flood Buckets) and 1,544 Health Kits, in a truck that would take them to the main campus of Mission Central located at Mechanicsburg, Pa. From there they will be shipped to areas where the United Methodist Committee on Relief is helping with hurricane and flood recovery.

*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)

Learn more about the Upper New York Mission Central Hub or donate online at <http://www.unyumc.org/mission/mission-central>.



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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# Introducing the UNY Communication Hubs

Shortly after the UNY Conference was formed, with the large geographical size of the Conference in mind, a promise was made to create Communication Hubs across the UNY Conference to strengthen our connection. And now this promise has been fulfilled.

In the beginning of 2017, the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) decided to designate some Conference funds toward creating Communication Hubs at churches that already had much of the equipment they needed to both receive and send audio/visual data electronically for distance learning, collaboration, and events.

The Rev. Susan Ranous, Co-Chair of CF&A, said, "CF&A was delighted, as a result of the historical payment of ministry shares by local churches in 2016, to set aside some of those funds to help provide the hubs with the necessary infrastructure in order to assist the hubs in having the capability to provide promised training of laity and clergy in our Conference."

After much research and collaboration between District Offices, the Conference Communication Team, the IT team, and others the Conference Communication Hubs have been identified and equipped to assure optimal communication

abilities.

The Rev. Drew Sperry, a member of CLT and also the Associate Pastor at Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, now a Communication Hub said, "These strategically located Hubs throughout our Conference are a great way to live into our connectionism. It will greatly increase our communication as well as promote community and growth with one another."

There are currently 12 hubs, one for each district. These hubs are all capable of using technology to enhance regional connections. That number is likely to grow in the coming months and years.

The Rev. Kristen Roth Allen, Co-Lead Pastor of Bemus Point UMC, also a Communication Hub, said, "We love this new opportunity to share our resources with our neighboring United Methodists, and we're grateful to the Conference for creating this new way to easily connect with each other."

The following UNY churches are communication hubs:

- Albany District: Shenendehowa UMC
- Adirondack District: Saratoga Springs UMC
- Binghamton District: Endwell UMC
- Crossroads District: UNY United Methodist Center
- Cornerstone District: Bemus



Point UMC

- Finger Lakes District: Cortland First UMC
  - Genesee Valley District: Rush UMC
  - Mohawk District: New Hartford First UMC
  - Mountain View District: Avoca UMC
  - Niagara Frontier District: Clarence UMC
  - Northern Flow District: Canton UMC
  - Oneonta District: Oneonta First UMC
- Visit <http://www.unyumc.org/>

events/conference-communication-hubs for further details and contact information for each of these Communication Hubs.

If your Conference team would like to arrange for an event at some or all of the Communication's Hubs, contact your Conference Team's support staff. Questions about facilities and capabilities may be directed to the local sites.

If your church is interested in becoming a Communication Hub, contact UNY Conference Director of Communications, Steve Hustedt at [stevehustedt@unyumc.org](mailto:stevehustedt@unyumc.org).