

IN BRIEF

From the Desk of Bishop Mark J. Webb, Prayers for Charlotte

On Sept. 22 Bishop Mark J. Webb released a statement about the violence in Charlotte. The statement read in part:

“Once again, pain and anger are leading to violent protests and division in our nation. This time it is happening in Charlotte, North Carolina. As we strive to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ and proclaimers of the Gospel, let us engage one another and invite others to experience and embrace healthy ways of confronting racism, injustices and broken systems...”

The statement also called for prayers for all.

To read the full statement visit <http://bit.ly/BishopWebbpraysforCharlotte>.



Evenings of Prayer and Witness to take place throughout UNY

Details have been released on the times of prayer and witness that were announced over the summer. The three large gathering that will be led Bishop Mark J. Webb in cooperation with the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members will be held:

- Oct. 3 at Liverpool UMC - 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 18 at Saratoga Springs UMC - 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 24 at Rush UMC - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Oct. 3 and Oct. 18 dates will also be live streamed and many districts will host satellite events locally in the district. When a full list of the satellite events is available, it will be shared on the Conference website along with information on how to tune-in to the live stream.

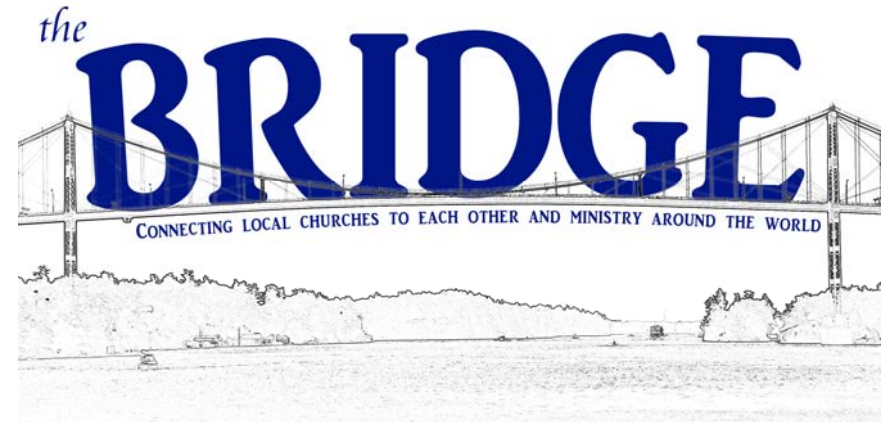
The events will use the Exodus narrative as a guide for the evening for those gathered in person and electronically to pray for the United Methodist Church and the Upper New York Conference as the Church seeks God's direction for the future. There will also be opportunities for sharing how God is at work among us and in our congregations.

For more information about satellite events contact your District office. Stay tuned to Upper New York Conference communication channels for full coverage of these important events in the life of the Church.

*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

LEARN ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF UPPER NEW YORK CONFERENCE STAFF WITH THE DAY IN THE LIFE BLOG AT: [HTTP://BIT.LY/UNYDAYINTHELIFE](http://bit.ly/UNYDAYINTHELIFE)



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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Register now for the Conference Council on Youth Ministry's 2016 Fall Gatherings

Registration for the Conference Council on Youth Ministry's (CCYM) 2016 Fall Gatherings is now live online. This annual event takes place during two week-ends in two locations:

Fall Gathering East on Nov. 11-12 at the Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church

Fall Gathering West on Nov. 18-19 at the Aldersgate UMC

Register for whichever date and location works best for you. Each host church is provided a God is Fun gathering time just before registration. Expect to share in inspiring worship, family groups, late night activities, and wonderful workshops. Aaron Moore, a former CCYM member, who is knowledgeable about diversity, and others will be presenting workshops at both events. This

year's workshops include: God is diverse, God is a leader, God is forgiving, God is speaking, God is now, and God is Peace.

Those attending Fall Gathering East will be informed and entertained by emcees Bri Joos and Julio Guity. Those attending Fall Gathering West will enjoy emcees Meredith Forbes and Zach Aiosa.

Go to <http://bit.ly/youthfallEast> to register for Fall Gathering East or go to <http://bit.ly/youthfallWest> to register for Fall Gathering West.

Q&A with Fall Gatherings workshop on diversity leader Aaron Moore

By CCYM

Aaron Moore, who will serve as a workshop leader for both 2016 Fall Gatherings, recently conducted at training session on diversity at the Conference Council on Youth Ministry's September meeting.

Moore is a professional actor, playwright, and director who leads anti-racism and diversity workshops. He graduated from the State University of New York at Potsdam, and he currently lives in Albany, where he attends the Emmaus United Methodist Church.

Moore shared what inspires him to lead diversity training, advice for Christian youth, and his fondest CCYM memory with the PPP (PowerPoint, Publicity, and Party) Team, Ali Mann, Luke Stephenson, Connor Crowell, and Nicholas Hernandez. Learn more about CCYM's workshop leader below.

What inspired you to do training about diversity?

What inspired me was when I was a youth on CCYM, and in my youth group, I felt excluded from different things, and nobody would really invite me to things, and I didn't want other people to feel the same way I did.

How did your experience on CCYM influence what you do today?

The training I received on CCYM was great because I had wonderful, wonderful leaders. And they let us be free to have fun and share our journey with God with each other ... and also help us out a little bit as well.

If you had any advice to the Christian youth, what would you say?

I would say have fun on your journey with God, don't take everything so seriously. You can have a funny conversation with God ... I want people to enjoy

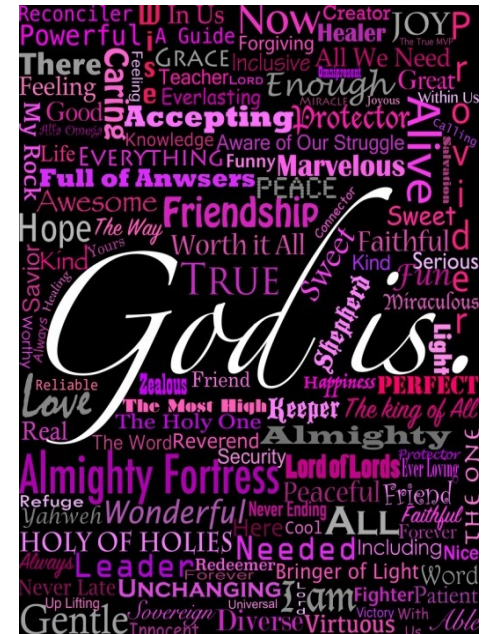
their conversations with God; I want them to be so comfortable with God, they feel like they're talking to their best friend.

Why did you choose to be a part of CCYM when you were a youth?

I chose to be part of CCYM because I went to their first event, and I saw how close they were to each other. I saw how close they were to the adults. It was literally looking like a second family to me, and I wanted that; I wanted to be a part of that too.

What's your favorite CCYM memory?

My favorite CCYM memory would be my first 4Word — now called UpWord!. I was an emcee for the first time, I was on the design team for the first time, and I had responsibility, but it was good because I was sharing my responsibilities with other youth. During my first 4Word, it was so great to see so many kids running around, and playing, and



having fun, and doing games."

Anything else you would like to share about yourself or what you do?

I would like to share if anybody sees me at Fall Gathering, UpWord!, or any other CCYM event and just wants to talk to me or feel comfortable sharing with me about things, I just want people to know it's okay to do that. I hope I encourage you to do that, to share. I want people to feel comfortable sharing with me on certain topics, or any topic at all.