

## WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

Upper New York Conference unveils new website

[www.tinyurl.com/NewUNYWebsite](http://www.tinyurl.com/NewUNYWebsite)

How is the Brockport UMC raising money for Bishop Mark J. Webb's Africa 360 challenge?

[www.tinyurl.com/BrockportINMchallenge](http://www.tinyurl.com/BrockportINMchallenge)

What exactly is the 'Piece Corps' at the Delta UMC?

[www.tinyurl.com/DeltaPieceCorps](http://www.tinyurl.com/DeltaPieceCorps)

What changes are in store at the Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center for 2015?

[www.tinyurl.com/AldersgateChanges2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/AldersgateChanges2015)

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

March 4 – Registration has opened for the AC 2015 session

[www.tinyurl.com/AC2015Registration](http://www.tinyurl.com/AC2015Registration)

March 8 – Join in the national recognition of Girl Scout Sunday

[www.tinyurl.com/GSSunday2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/GSSunday2015)

March 15 – Special Sunday: One Great Hour of Sharing

[www.tinyurl.com/OneGreatHourOfSharing2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/OneGreatHourOfSharing2015)

March 20-21 – Inaugural Upper New York Confirmation Retreat

[www.tinyurl.com/2015ConfirmationRetreat](http://www.tinyurl.com/2015ConfirmationRetreat)

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

[www.tinyurl.com/PalmSunday2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/PalmSunday2015)

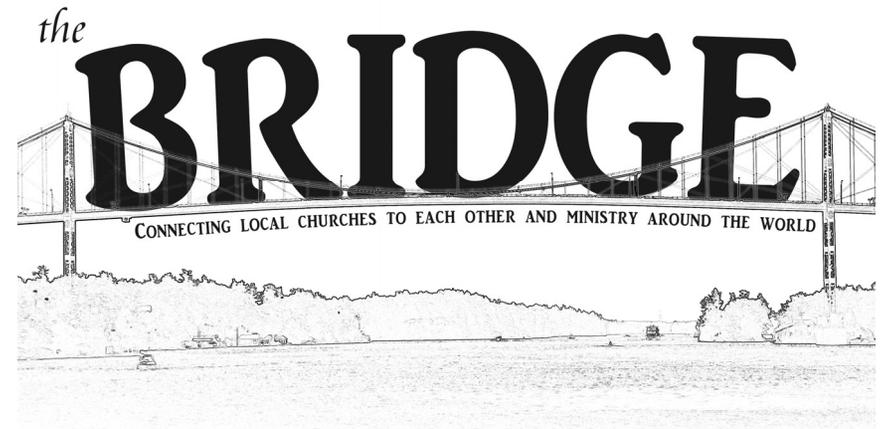
April 6 – Anticipated publication date for the Pre-Conference Booklet

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

## MARCH: CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



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!

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# A new communications tool for local churches

By Stephen J. Hustedt

You are holding in your hand a new communications tool designed for local churches to stay connected to each other and ministries taking place around the Upper New York Conference and The United Methodist Church. This is a simple bulletin insert your local church has downloaded from the Conference website and run off copies of, but it's also much more than that. It is a bridge to your ministry that takes



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place far beyond the doors of your local church. That is the inspiration for the title.

The *Bridge* will tell stories of ministry, but it will also have bits of news and information that will be useful to church members. It will be published in the first and third weeks of every month. Notice will be sent to churches through UNY Notes when it is ready to be downloaded.

This new tool was created mostly as a result of feedback received around the needs at local churches. There is a strong desire for local churches to stay connected, but there is not always a lot of time for clergy and staff to integrate information into local church communication tools, like newsletters and bulletins, so it

can be shared with the rest of the congregation. Conference electronic communications like the *Weekly Digest*, the Conference website, and UNY Notes help, but not everyone has access, and there aren't enough copies of communication tools like the *Advocate* to be shared by all.

The need was clear, and the *Bridge* is an attempt at an answer.

The hope is that it will support other Conference Communications channels like the *Weekly Digest* and the *Advocate* by filling a hole that other channels cannot. It's intended to be viewed in print and for there to be enough copies made for all local church members at a very low cost. Should a church not be able to afford to print off and photocopy issues

of the *Bridge*, they are asked to contact the Communications department so copies can be sent to them.

The *Bridge* will be available on the Conference website both in color and black & white versions. Graphically, it will remain simple so that copies can be made on a photocopier without concern for loss of quality.

Tweaks to the format, design, and the creative process for the *Bridge* will continue to be made as more feedback is received. Please share your thoughts by sending them to **stevehustedt**

@unyumc.org.

**SAVE THE DATE: Conference undertakes second mission to 'Stop Hunger Now'** [www.tinyurl.com/SHN2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/SHN2015)  
Join hundreds from Upper New York on May 28 & 29 to surpass last year's mark of packaging more than 76,040 meals for SHN

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Rev. Gottschalk-Fielding to assume role of executive assistant to Bishop Webb

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb has announced that the Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding will assume the position of Executive Assistant to the Bishop, effective July 1. Rev. Gottschalk-Fielding will continue his work as the Upper New York Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, in a move that combines two previously separate positions.

In discerning and creating this combined position, Bishop Webb looked at models from around the United Methodist connection, in consultation with current staff and episcopal colleagues. In the Northeastern Jurisdiction, both the West Virginia and New England conferences have successfully combined the Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries roles.



REV. GOTTSCHALK-FIELDING

### Pre-Conference Briefings schedule announced

The Upper New York Conference is announcing the locations for the Pre-Conference Briefings to be held this May. Each briefing will be preceded by a 30-minute coffee/snack and fellowship time. The locations, dates and times are as follows:

#### May 2

Asbury Camp & Retreat Center from 9-11 a.m.

Findley Camp & Retreat Center from 2-4 p.m.

#### May 9

Potsdam United Methodist Church from 9-11 a.m.

Saratoga Springs UMC from 3-5 p.m.

#### May 16

Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center from 9-11 a.m.

Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center from 2-4 p.m.

