

October 14th, 2015

**Oneonta District Office UMC Newsletter
of the Upper New York Annual Conference**

"Living the gospel of Jesus Christ and Being God's love with our neighbors in all places."



Please share this issue of the Oneonta District Newsletter with church members and staff, teams and organizations. If you wish to include news, that involves Missions send it a minimum of 7 days in advance to: OneontaDistrict@unyumc.org

Together, let us pray for

*The people of New Berlin UMC and Pastors Lyle & Mary Ann Linder
for Beverly Harris (New Berlin Lay Leader) and her family – Bev is having serious heart issues – she was transferred to Wilson Memorial Hospital yesterday Tues. Oct. 13th*

all those who suffer and those in trouble

*those who struggle with addiction
refugees and migrants fleeing Syria and Iraq (see below)
all who suffer violence*

for the concerns of our local communities

neighbors served by our food pantries, community meal ministries, thrift shops

for the world, its peoples, and its leaders

*for wisdom and justice in our national and community conversations around racism
for places of conflict, near and far- for grace to see each person as a child of God*

for the Church universal- its leaders, its members, and its mission

United Methodist Committee on Relief work with refugees in Europe and around the world

District & Conference Events Coming Soon

Date	Time	Item	Location
Sat Oct 17th		Boundaries Training	Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Windsor see details below to register
Oct 24 th & 31 st	8 am – 2pm	Lay Servant Training	At Elm Park UMC – Click here for Flyer
Sat. Oct. 31		Safe Sanctuaries Training	Safe Sanctuaries Training Class at Elm Park – please register by using Lay Servant Training Brochure
Sun., Nov. 15th	12- food 1-Worship and business	Sidney Regional Church Conference	Sidney UMC
Mon., Nov.	6pm food	Norwich Regional Church	Broad St Norwich UMC

16th	7pm worship & business	Conference	(Note place change due to accessibility)
Tues., Nov. 17th	6:30 pm	Oneonta Regional Church Conference	Elm Park UMC
Wed., Nov. 18th	6pm food 7pm worship & business	Cooperstown Regional Church Conference	Cooperstown UMC
Thurs., Nov. 19th	6pm fellowship 6:30 worship & business	Schoharie Regional Church Conference	Esperance- Sloansville UMC
Tues., Dec 1st	9am-2:30pm	Advent Day Apart for Pastors – God's Gifts of Grace	Unadilla UMC
Tues., March 1st, 2016	9am-2:30pm	Lenten Day Apart for Pastors	Cooperstown UMC
Sat., March 5th, 2016	TBA	Oneonta District Day	Elm Park UMC
Thurs., April 14th, 2016	TBA	Bishop's Day on the District	Norwich Broad Street UMC – Details TBA SAVE THE DATE

Track' your Ministry Shares progress

Through Ministry Shares, your local church supports amazing ministries around the world and in your backyard. The majority of Upper New York Conference churches are currently on track to pay 100 percent of their Ministry Share benevolence for 2015. [Click Here](#) to see the full list of on-track churches. Or go to : <http://www.unyumc.org/about/churches-on-track>



Schedule is out for Bishop's Retreat - Find the schedule for the Bishop's Retreat [on the Conference website!](#)

Charge Conference Forms -

Charge conference forms for 2015-2016 are now available on the UNY Conference website, <http://uny.umconline.org/>. Feel free to get started on the needed work.

Reminder for Lay Servants

A report is due from you annually and must be submitted by November 1 to be approved at your annual church conference. Please begin working on this now. Reports with missing information will not be accepted. Download a report [here](#).

What is the United Methodist Church doing for the European migration crisis? Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, has written [an open letter](#) regarding The United Methodist Church's response to the ongoing European migration crisis. In his letter, Kemper outlines the scope of the crisis, requests prayer as an immediate response, and highlights the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). To lend your financial support, please send donations to UMCOR through the Upper New York Conference, 324 University Ave., 3rd floor, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210 (please denote "Advance #982450" for Interna-

tional Disaster Response on your check). Additionally, UMCOR is providing food packets and hygiene kits on the island of Kos and Lesbos. [Click here](#) for details of how to assemble UMCOR relief kits. [Click here](#) to read more about The UMC's aid to European refugees.

SUPPORT AFRICA 360

Looking for a way to connect your youth or Sunday School to Africa 360? A church in the Crossroads district has helped create a new project, complete with video and craft project (downloadable from www.unyumc.org/mission/Africa-360-Toolkit), and includes cross-generational experiences for congregations that are interested: <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/prayer-partners-another-life-saving-tool-in-the-africa-360-toolkit>

There are all new materials – brochures, bookmarks, envelopes can be ordered online, printable display, liturgy, and more at www.unyumc.org/mission/Africa360 (churches can find tools at the Africa 360 toolkit, linked to that page as well)

Laurel O'Connor

Field Coordinator, Africa 360

Upper New York Conference

315-424-7878 ext. 327

Africa 360: Health and Education for Generations

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. –African Proverb

Local Church News

Red Bird Mission

NEW - DOES your Congregation participate in the Red Bird Shoebox Mission? It is an opportunity to pack shoe boxes at Christmas time for adults in Henderson Kentucky. **Pastor Thanna Howell** (Of Plymouth/Preston/North Norwich) has delivered the boxes in the past and **will be at Unadilla Center UMC to give a slide show about the project on Sunday, October 18 at 3:00.** Please pass the word on. If you have never heard about it, then this is your opportunity to learn about it.

- The Portlandville and Milford churches will be collecting for the Red Bird Mission and will provide a location for the truck to pick up the items. If there are persons in other churches who would like to donate but do not have a local church collecting, they are welcome to join us in this endeavor. I do not have a pickup date as of yet, but persons can contact me at coump.2011@yahoo.com Sue Hulbert

This event is sponsored in conjunction with the Schoharie Regional ministry outreach program.

All are invited to attend a Forum on Alcoholism and the Family

Date: Sunday, October 25

Time: 2 pm - 4 pm

Place: Delanson United Methodist Church

Members of Alanon and Alcoholics Anonymous will share their experience with the disease of alcoholism and answer questions on the subject.

Wanted: Set of hand bells : Milford UMC would like to either purchase, or borrow, a set of handbells. We have a lot of enthusiastic volunteers, but no hand bells to play! If you can help, please call 434-7188 and speak to Pastor Sylvia Barrett. Thank you!

Marriage Encounter Weekend, October 23 – 25

Settling for a secure, comfortable, yet sometimes lonely relationship? Yearning to recapture the romantic love and affection that first brought you together? Could be you and your spouse have been so busy meeting the demands of jobs, children, friends, and community that you have neglected to keep in touch with one another.

At Marriage Encounter Weekend, reconnect with one another, hone those skills that came so naturally in your courting days, and learn a communication method you can use at home to grow in understanding and love for one another each day. Asbury Camp & Retreat Center, Silver Lake, New York, October 23 - 25, 2015. 7 p.m. Friday night to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, or to register for a weekend visit our website: www.encounter.org . Or contact Keith & Diane Sherwood (315) 492-2372 today.

UMVIM

What is UMVIM? UM Volunteers in Mission (VIM) exists to promote, encourage, and enable Christians to exemplify "Christian Love in Action" through short-term mission service in the United States and abroad. It provides opportunities for service by developing and nurturing relationships with domestic and international leaders.

Who should attend team leader training? Anyone interested in learning more about being a VIM team leader or if you want to be a better team member! Team Leader Training is required for all first time UMVIM team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend.

What will be covered in the training? Topics will include picking a project, team roles, choosing members, making a budget, fundraising, necessary forms, youth teams, safe sanctuaries, team health and safety, telling the story, cultural considerations, spiritual development, and international and medical teams.

When, where, and how to register for the training – It will be held Sat. Oct. 24, 9AM – approximately 4PM, at the Jonesville UMC in Clifton Park. \$20 fee includes materials and lunch. Course will be taught by Cathie and Jay Dunkleberger and Jan and Pete Huston. **For more information** contact Jan and Pete Huston at hustonjp24@gmail.com or 518-399-0919 or Jay and Cathie Dunkleberger at jaydunkleb@gmail.com or 518-371-7071. **Register by contacting the Hustons. Registration is required by Oct. 17.**

Red Bird Mission

Red Bird Mission Shoebox Project - 2015

It is time to begin filling shoeboxes for the Red Bird Mission Christmas Shoebox Project. This is a most worthwhile project serving the Red Bird Mission Conference of the United Methodist Church and their clientele. This project is worthy of your consideration. *For more information about Red Bird Mission and the Christmas Shoebox project, [click here](#).*

Nicaragua 2016

A VIM team will be going to Nicaragua in 2016. Tentative dates are March 3—17. The team will be working with Dr. Belinda Forbes, UM missionary dentist. Belinda works with Accion Medica Cristiana (Christian Medical Action/ AMC), an agency that works with some of the poorest people in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in our hemisphere. The team will probably do health related work but not direct medical care. Work might include assisting with dental care, health education, construction, etc. AMC will look at the team's skills and the community's needs to determine the work and the location. It is expected that the team will go to the northeastern region, the RACCN, which is regarded as the poorest area of Nicaragua.

The team is being sponsored by First UMC, Schenectady, which has a covenant relationship with Dr. Forbes. Anticipated cost will be \$2000-2500. Team leader is Cindy Schulte. You can contact her at tacks5@hotmail.com or 518-374-3012 for more information or an application. You can also contact Jan Huston for more information at hustonjp24@gmail.com or 518-399-0919. AMC has a website where you can learn more about the work they do with the warm, friendly people of this beautiful country – <http://amcenglish.org>. It is hoped that the team will be formed by mid-Sept. so get your application in soon!

Chuck Knows Church videos on The Committee at <http://www.chuckknowschurch.com> The latest is Evangelism.-Other good ones are the Pilot, Hospitality, Reflecting the Community, and Our Purpose. Great for use with your Administrative Council or other leadership group! There is a downloadable discussion guide available for each segment.

NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVALS in New York 2015

November 11 **Canandaigua Treaty Celebration** 12 PM till 9pm . Court house lawn Canandaigua and Elementary School Commemorates the 200+ years of the treaty - parade, food, vendors, educational presentations, social

For the Full list of 2015-16 Appointments go to :<http://www.unyumc.org/news/appointments>

Conference Job Posting - *Anyone inquiring about any open positions can go to <http://www.unyumc.org/about/jobs> and use the online application system for applying for open positions.*

Resource Center Links : Resource Center website: <http://www.unyumc.org/resources/media-resource-center>
And the current Newsletter: <http://www.unyumc.org/resources/monthly-newsletter>

Contact info for the Upper NY Conference is as follows:

Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
324 University Ave., 3rd Floor, Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 424-7878 * Toll-Free (855) 424-7878 * Fax (315) 478-4869 * Email: www.unyumc.org

The District Newsletter can be found at the Oneonta District website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/oneontadistrictumc/> and at Conference Webpage at:

<http://www.unyumc.org/district/oneonta>

See us on Face book: [Oneonta District United Methodists](http://www.facebook.com/OneontaDistrictUnitedMethodists)

P.O. BOX 668 Oneonta NY, 13820 Phone/Fax: (607)441-5102

Your Partners in Ministry at the Oneonta District Office,
Rev. Jan Rowel, District Superintendent and Teresa Wood, Administrative Assistant