

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

See, Know, Love focus of NEJ conference

The *See, Know, Love* Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) Transformational Leadership Conference takes place Oct. 2-4 in Hershey, Pa.

United Methodists are invited to join with bishops, cabinets, emerging leaders and

others to experience a high-energy training opportunity to become Church 2.0. "Don't miss this chance to see change happening in the Church before your eyes!" said Bishop Marcus Matthews, co-chair of the NEJ Vision Table that sponsored the NEJ Transformational Leadership Conference and resident bishop for the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Read more at unyumc.org/news/article/see-know-love.



Binghamton's UM Night at the Ball Game a home run

The Binghamton District's United Methodist Night at the Ball Game on June 25 was the most successful event in eight years. Approximately 500 people went to NYSEG Stadium to catch a Binghamton Mets game, and the event raised \$2,329. Read more at unyumc.org/news/article/binghamton-district-um-ball-game.

Ministry in the news

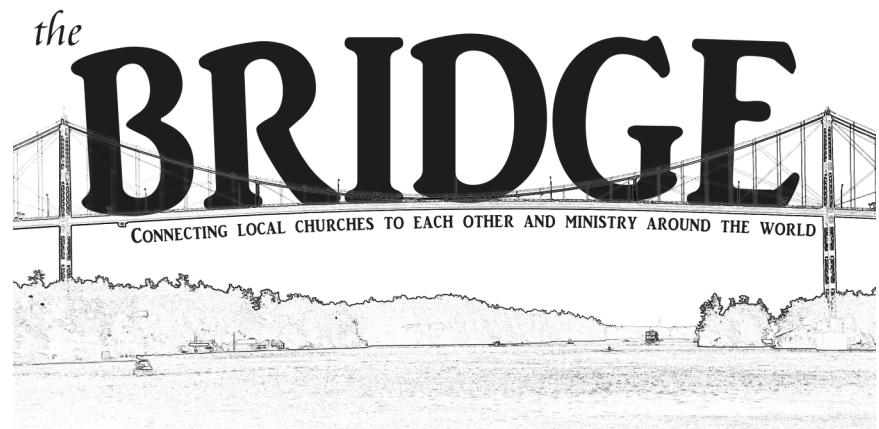
Approximately 50 people gathered for an interfaith memorial circle on July 14 at Dewitt Park in Ithaca, an event co-sponsored by the Upper New York Conference's Task Force on Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel. Attendees commemorated the one-year anniversary of Israel's 2014 July-August assault on Gaza and the 10-year anniversary of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement.



The event's press release was recently published by *The Ithaca Voice*. Visit tinyurl.com/q88zz2h to read the full story.

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



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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Rev. Manry received 2014 Chaplain of the Year Award

Chaplain Captain the Rev. Keith Manry received the 2014 Edwin R. Chess Award, which is given annually to one company-grade officer who best displays the United States Air Force Chaplain core values of "glorifying God, helping airmen, and pursuing excellence." He was recognized for his work at both Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont., and Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

Rev. Manry said "the opportunity to exercise the gifts and graces God has given me in the deployed environment" distinguished him.

In Afghanistan, he helped a 12-year-old Afghan girl – who had been badly injured by a rocket attack on her house – and her family acquire a \$5,000-grant to rebuild their home. At Bagram Airfield,



REV. MANRY

he also provided comfort care to a young girl dying of intestinal issues at the airfield's Heathe N. Craig Joint Theater Hospital.

"I would play the guitar and sing to her at night to put her to sleep and support the staff while we watched this little girl die," he said.

Rev. Manry has also been very involved with Holy Joes Café, a free coffee outreach program for troops. He first learned of the ministry during his time in Connecticut, where he discovered Green Mountain

Coffee donates K-cups and Keurig machines to soldiers.

"The ministry takes those donations and sends them to deployed troops, particularly to allow relationships to be built

between the chaplains and the troops, so that conversations can take place in a natural way," he said.

Since then, he coordinated shipments of more than three million K-cups.

He's utilized this ministry at Malmstrom, where troops are deployed to the missile field on a daily basis.

"I felt like, in many ways, that they are deployed; they're just not deployed overseas," he said. "I felt like that a lot of what I did in Afghanistan with the coffee ministry could also be accomplished here."

So Rev. Manry headed up the base's first coffee shop, which now serves about 2,000 cups of coffee a month. He also helped establish "minister by satellite" Holy Joes Cafés in each Malmstrom missile alert facility.

In addition to Holy Joes, Rev. Manry also ran the Detour, a chaplain-sponsored airmen's ministry center at Malmstrom. The center provides pastoral

care for airmen by offering amenities they otherwise would not have. For example, it has a pool table, foosball, air hockey, theater, and recording studio.

"The chaplains hang out with them; it allows them to communicate with us in a non-threatening way," he said.

Rev. Manry also planned monthly events for the airmen, including retreats to Flathead Lake United Methodist Camp in Rollins, Mont., white water rafting adventures, and shopping mall trips.

Rev. Manry highlighted the support of his wife, Erica, saying that she deserves the award even more than he does. He left on July 1 for a new appointment at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam and will be there for two to three years.

Rev. Manry is an elder of the Upper New York Conference who most recently was appointed at the First United Methodist Church in Akron in the Niagara Frontier District.

Aldersgate preparing for unforgettable Labor Day weekend retreat

Imagine frolicking in and out of tall lodge-pole pines, enjoying fresh-from-the-oven treats, and playing in acres of open fields and wilderness that are ready to be explored. There's only one caveat: you'll have to bring your master.

AdironDog is an unforgettable four-day weekend retreat for dogs and their owners. To register for the Sept. 4-7 retreat at the Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center, visit aldersgateny.org/join-us/event/2848.



Upper New York's Customer Service Survey results are in

The Upper New York Conference released a brief customer service survey in June in order to better serve Conference members and local churches. "Overall, people are satisfied with the service they receive," said the Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries and Executive Assistant to the Bishop. Visit www.tinyurl.com/2015UNYCSS to read more.

GC2016: Take a virtual tour of the facility

The next General Conference of The United Methodist Church is approximately 10 months away, but work behind the scenes is well underway. Do you want to see the facility that Upper New York's delegates along with those from 130 annual conferences will be working in as part of the event in May 2016? Visit www.tinyurl.com/GC16Tour for a behind-the-scenes look of the convention center via a virtual tour.