

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

Opportunities available for developing UNY leaders

The Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens, Conference Director of Vital Congregations, encourages laity and clergy alike to participate in one of several leadership capacity-building opportunities offered through the Vital Congregations Ministry of the Upper New York Conference. Read the full story at www.tinyurl.com/UNYleaders.

UNY's trio of missionaries

The Upper New York Conference has three individuals in missionary service through the General Board of Global Ministries: Gracie Lynn Besse, Olga Gonzalez-Santiago, and Sarah Mudge. Read the full story at www.tinyurl.com/UNYtrio.

Conference introduces new event registration

The Upper New York Conference is transitioning to a "simpler" system for event registration called Mission Connect – SignUp, which will result in better follow-up, communication, and user experience. Read the full story at www.tinyurl.com/nfw83m.



Denman Award winners announced

Conference winners of the 2015 Denman Evangelism Award are Virgia Phoenix (pictured at right), lay member at First UMC in Schenectady, and the Rev. David Martin, pastor at Hope UMC in Troy. Read the full story at www.tinyurl.com/denman15.



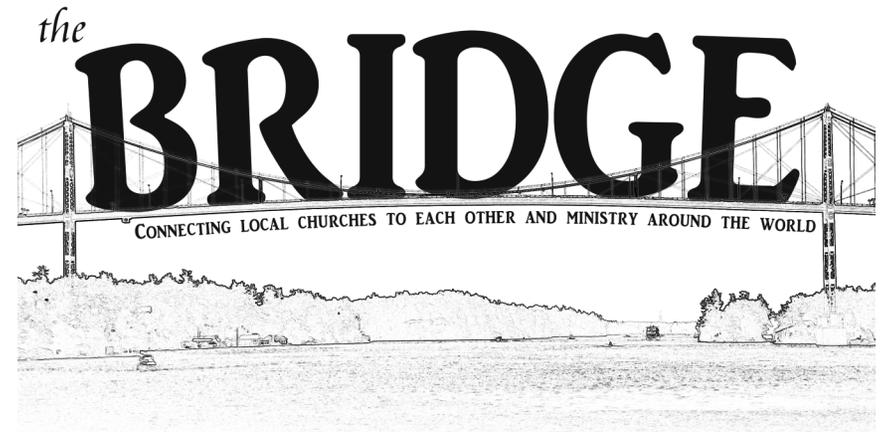
UNY and Peace with Justice Sunday

This year, 162 of the approximately 900 congregations in Upper New York participated in the Peace with Justice Special Sunday offering on May 31, with participation as a whole dropping below 18 percent. Read the full story at www.tinyurl.com/np5tp8b.

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

COMING SOON: 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION HIGHLIGHT DVD



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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JULY 2015, VOL. 1

UMCOR celebrates 75 years of relief service around the world

By the Rev. Jeff Childs

Thank you for your faithful response to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering designated for the fourth Sunday in Lent. This year, the churches of the Upper New York Conference gave \$48,846.55 (between Jan. 1 and May 31) to help underwrite the administrative costs of the General Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This means that when we give to mission projects or disaster relief, the administrative costs are already covered – 100 percent of our gifts goes to the mission and ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

For more than 30 years in my pastoral ministry, I have helped churches respond to disasters and special

appeals. As chair of the Conference Global Ministries Team, I have been involved in helping the Conference respond to disasters, including hurricanes Katrina, Irene, and Lee, super-storm Sandy, and earthquakes in Nepal and Haiti.

However, this year I write as one who has been on the receiving end of the ministry of UMCOR.

On May 13, 2014, rains fell and flood waters rose in Yates County in and around the village of Penn Yan. Our new faith community, The Living Well, though flooded in the storefront location, set up shop in the Penn Yan UMC's office building. It began handing out relief supplies and coordinating volunteers to help neighbors in need the very next day. Upper New York Area Resident Mark J. Bishop Webb called me and



offered support. Soon after, a \$10,000 emergency relief check was sent from UMCOR to help us.

After we ascertained there were more than 400 homes affected by the storm and flood, an additional grant was requested and received from UMCOR for \$50,000. Volunteer-in-Mission teams, financial and prayer support, clean-up buckets, health kits, and necessities came in from across the Conference. Now, one year later, Penn Yan and Yates County are virtually restored, and the mission and ministry of the 12 United Methodist churches in Yates

County and The Living Well new faith community are going strong and still helping our neighbors.

With your help and the help of UMCOR, we are connected and able to do more together than we can apart. On behalf of our community and our communities of faith in Yates County, thank you for your support. I invite you to watch this video and see how we are all a part of UMCOR. Happy anniversary!

The Rev. Jeff Childs is pastor at the Penn Yan UMC.

Hispanic/Latino Committee shares report

The Upper New York Conference Hispanic/Latino Committee accomplished much in 2014, including developing a Hispanic/Latino strategic plan, completing a course for church planting, and starting two Hispanic/Latino new faith communities. After the merger of the four conferences, the dream for a Hispanic/Latino Committee became a reality, with the hope that the Hispanic/Latino United Methodist churches become a crucial part of the UNY Conference vision, the committee shared. Go to www.tinyurl.com/osy74ge to read more and to watch a video of the committee's accomplishments.



Take Upper New York's Customer Satisfaction Survey

In order to better serve the members and local churches of the Upper New York Conference, a customer service survey has been developed to provide the Conference with feedback from those who have received service from Conference staff. If you have had an interaction with the Conference office, please help us perfect our service by filling out the brief five-minute survey. Go to www.tinyurl.com/UNYsurvey to complete the survey.

Upper New York Conference Customer Satisfaction Survey 2015

This survey is an effort to determine how to provide the best possible service to you. Would you take five minutes to help us in this regard? Thank you!

Demographic Information

Ministry Role

- Clergy
- Laity