

## WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

Social Holiness Team seeks to support immigrant families  
[www.tinyurl.com/SHTImmFamSup](http://www.tinyurl.com/SHTImmFamSup)

Keynote speakers announced for Upper New York's 2015 session of Annual Conference

[www.tinyurl.com/AC15Speakers](http://www.tinyurl.com/AC15Speakers)

Take advantage of these grant opportunities from UMCom  
[www.tinyurl.com/UMComGrants2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/UMComGrants2015)

Liverpool, Elmira host leaders for latest Road T.R.I.P.  
[www.tinyurl.com/SPR2015RoadTRIP](http://www.tinyurl.com/SPR2015RoadTRIP)

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

April 10-12 – *Rejuvenate: A Spring Ladies of the Lake Experience*  
[www.tinyurl.com/RejuvenateSpr2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/RejuvenateSpr2015)

April 24-25 – *New Faith Community's Church in a Diner*  
[www.tinyurl.com/NFCChurchInADiner](http://www.tinyurl.com/NFCChurchInADiner)

April 24-26 – UP!Word '15 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool  
[www.unyumc.org/events/upword](http://www.unyumc.org/events/upword)

April 22 – *Earth Day: Show your support for environmental protection*  
[www.tinyurl.com/UMEarthDay2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/UMEarthDay2015)

April 25 – *World Malaria Day: Help us save 100,000 lives*  
[www.unyumc.org/mission/africa-360](http://www.unyumc.org/mission/africa-360)

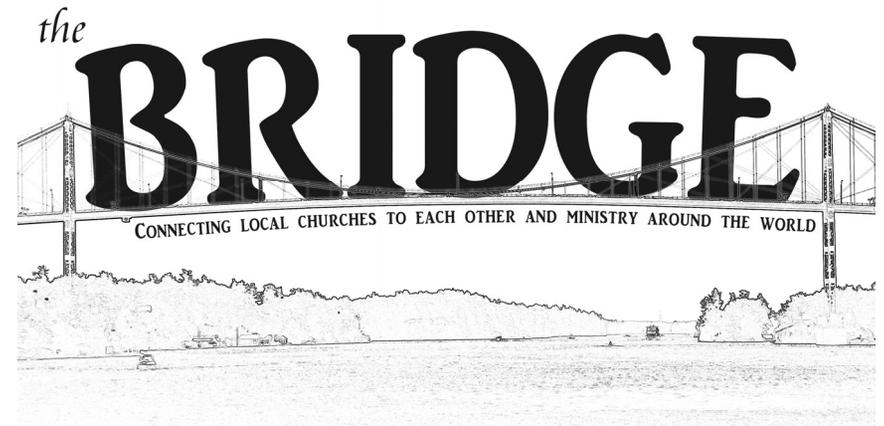
May 1 – Registration closes for the 2015 Annual Conference session

May 10 – Save the date: Mother's Day Brunch (CRM locations)  
[www.campsandretreats.org/crm/events/P8](http://www.campsandretreats.org/crm/events/P8)

*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)

REGISTER YOUR YOUTH FOR UP!WORD '15: APRIL 24-26 IN LIVERPOOL!



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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# Becoming Tabasco Habanero Christians at the Confirmation Retreat

By Kathleen Rubino

It's the championships, your child is a starter, and tip-off is at 10 a.m.

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb greeted the youth at the 2015 Upper New York Conference Confirmation Retreat via webcam from Pennsylvania. He started with a question – “Have you ever had a job as a babysitter?” – and a story. Bishop Webb once babysat a little girl who asked to say a prayer before bed. Not knowing what prayer the girl said, he began reciting his own, only to be met with protests from the girl, “that’s not the right one.” When he asked her which prayer she would like to hear, she responded, “I don’t know; it’s my mom’s prayer. I just listen to the words.”

Bishop Webb said that is how his faith once was; it was not his own, but instead his parent’s or his grandparent’s or others’ in his church, until confirmation.



“Confirmation is now a time for you to individually respond to that amazing gift from God, to then become a part of a community, the body of Christ that helps us to live our faith,” Bishop Webb said.

This year marked the first Conference-wide retreat that took place simultaneously at three locations – the Casowasco, Asbury, and Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Centers – that were connected through

video cameras, computers, and a technology called Zoom. About 190 youth attended the retreat. This leadership development event was a partnership between Camp & Retreat Ministries, local pastors, Order of Deacons and the Episcopal Office.

“It’s pretty awesome that we’re doing it altogether simultaneously,” said Demetrio Beach, Camp & Retreat Ministries, Director of Program and Outreach. “We’re literally together in different locations, which really means a lot, I think, for the Church to see how we can come together. And to actually see all the youth being engaged and learning from one another and meeting new people has been very enriching for me.”

Alex Lyons, an eighth grader, was excited about the new technology that allowed the different retreat locations to interact.

“I think it’s cool that you can see

them and how they react,” he said.

Bishop Webb’s address also referenced the second letter of Paul to Timothy, where Paul told Timothy: “To be who God has called you to be, you need to have a faith that has grown.”

And then Bishop Webb grabbed everyone’s attention with the mention of the Scoville scale and Tabasco sauce, explaining ketchup is zero Scoville heat units (SHU), green jalapeno sauce is 600 SHU, pepper sauce is 5,000 SHU, and habanero sauce is 9,000 SHU.

“As Christians, we are called to be salt to season the world or the community around us,” Bishop Webb said. “I think God’s also calling us to be Tabasco Habanero-type Christians that we are on fire; that our faith is growing.”

Bishop Webb also emphasized to the youths that God gives them gifts to serve others.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday, April 19

Today, Native Americans – with many unique languages and cultures – honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors. However, the history of the Church and native people has often been filled with pain.

That’s why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday we’re able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you empower



congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ. And much of the money you give stays right here in Upper New York, supporting ministry at the Four Corners, Hogansburg, Onondaga Nation United Methodist churches, and around the Conference.

Visit [www.tinyurl.com/NatAmEMS](http://www.tinyurl.com/NatAmEMS) to learn more.

### Bishop Webb extends terms of two district superintendents

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb has announced that the Rev. Ted Anderson and the Rev. Jan McClary Rowell will each be appointed to the office of district superintendent for an eighth year. They will continue to provide leadership to their current districts: Rev. Anderson to the Genesee Valley District and Rev. McClary Rowell to the Oneonta District. Full details are at [www.tinyurl.com/DSExt2015](http://www.tinyurl.com/DSExt2015).

