



February 15, 2019

## Niagara Frontier District E-Connection

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*The E-Connection! goes out near the 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

**The next edition will go out Friday, March 1**

**The District Office will be closed Monday, February 18**

We are part of the Upper New York Annual Conference (12 Districts) – 867 churches & 65 new faith communities in 49 New York State counties!

**All Attachments are found in the e-mail message.**

Calendar of Events			
<b>February 23-26</b>		Special Session of General Conference	St. Louis, MO
<b>February 27</b>	9:30am – 12:30pm	River of God Gathering <i>All Streams Meeting</i>	Alexander UMC 10540 Main St., Alexander
<b>March 2</b>		2019 Catch the Spirit District Workshop Day	Clarence UMC 10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence
<b>March 9</b>	10am – 12:30pm	<b>All Clergy Gathering</b> <i>Follow up to General Conference</i> Childcare will be available with advance notice	Rochester: Asbury First UMC 1050 East Ave., Rochester
<b>March 15</b>		<b>2018 Audits due</b> <i>Send a copy to District Office</i>	
<b>March 16</b>	9am – 3:30pm	Cornerstone District Learning Day	Bemus Point UMC 4954 Bemus-Elery Rd., Bemus Point
<b>March 17</b>	4 – 6pm	<b>Lay and Clergy Gathering</b> <i>Follow up to General Conference</i>	Clarence UMC 10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence
<b>March 19</b>	6:30 – 8:30pm	<b>Lay and Clergy Gathering</b> <i>Follow up to General Conference</i>	Olean: Christ UMC 633 Linwood Ave., Olean
<b>May 5-11</b>		UNY Local Pastor's Licensing School <i>(must be approved by dCOM to attend)</i>	Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center 158 Casowasco Dr, Moravia

## ~ Joys and Concerns ~

Please keep Dr. Scott Johnson, pastor at Buffalo: First UMC, in your prayers. Dr. Johnson's mother, Sheila Johnson, died on Feb. 7. Her funeral was held this morning (February 15).

Rev. Vonnie Vredenburg is requesting prayers for herself due to hip problems and severe pain from that problem. Her doctor is working to find some relief for her.

Please pray for the community and congregations in Johnsonburg, Kenmore and Lancaster: Faith and pastors Jim Laun, Becky Naber and Kevin Slough.

## ~ Local Church News ~

**Lancaster: Faith UMC** (5505 Broadway, Lancaster) On **Sunday, February 17** Faith UMC will host a free Bluegrass concert by the band "Echo Valley"! Doors open at 6:30 PM; concert begins at 7:00 PM. "Echo Valley" has been entertaining people of all ages since 2009 with their variety of traditional bluegrass, gospel, Celtic, and folk styles. With their unique blend of six sisters and one brother, this group impresses with their superb stage presence, musicianship, sibling harmonies and multi-instrument talents. They have played regularly for major bluegrass festivals such as: the Three Rivers Arts Festival in Pittsburgh, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality Charity Bluegrass concert, Coleman Station concert and also performed at the spring Bluegrass festival at Dollywood. When not out performing, the siblings are hard at work on the family farm in western Pennsylvania. Please join us for what is sure to be another extraordinary musical event at Faith UMC! See the **Lancaster Concert attachment** for a flyer that you can post.

**(New) Buffalo: Metropolitan UMC** (657 Best St., Buffalo; across from the Science Museum) All are invited to join us for our Community "Breakfast at Metro". Please come and dine at Metropolitan UM Church on **Saturday, February 23** from 10 am - 12:00 noon. Our Special Guest Speaker will be Joyce Mitchell Stokes, Homefinder/Recruiter for the Foster Care and Adoption Program at Child & Family Services. Don't spend your money going somewhere else, come on over to Metro and enjoy a FREE good, hot, country breakfast, and great fellowship. This is a community event which is open to everyone. So, bring your family, friends, and neighbors to Metro.

**(New) Warrens Corners UMC** (5293 Stone Rd., Lockport) Chili & Book Sale on **Saturday, February 23** from 10am-2pm. Books are 25¢ and chili is \$3 per bowl or \$5 per quart to go. Dessert and beverages are available. Come shop and have lunch. Fill a bag for \$1 starts at 1pm. All proceeds will go to missions.

**(New) Oakfield UMC** youth are hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Vendor Blender and Craft Show on **Saturday, March 2** from 9am-2pm at Oakfield Alabama Elementary School (7001 Lewiston Rd., Oakfield). Come and do some shopping and support the youth group at the same time!

**(New) Clarence Center UMC** (9750 Clarence Center Rd., Clarence Center; 716-741-2410) **Shrove Tuesday, March 5** at 6pm you are invited to a Pancake Supper. Free will offering; reservation not required, but helpful.

## ~ Lenten Fish Fry News ~



(These are listed alphabetically by church)

**Medina UMC** (11004 W. Center St. Ext., Medina; 585-798-2142) **Fridays, March 8 – April 19** from 4-7pm for just \$10 each! Menu includes fish, shrimp, chicken tenders plus various side choices. Appetizers and desserts also available for additional purchase. Dine in or take out. Tickets can be purchased in advance in the church office or by calling. Credit cards accepted.

## ~ Lay Servant Ministries ~



As Church Conferences wrap up we realize there is still some confusion around the new CLM process. Please see the **CLM Process attachment** for an outline of the process. Just a reminder that before someone can officially become a CLM they must first be a Lay Servant (voted on at a previous church conference). They must also meet with dCOM and have final approval through the Conference Team on Lay Servant ministries.

For more information, come to one of the workshops at Catch the Spirit regarding Lay Servant Ministries (see descriptions below). Lucina Hallagan, the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, will be there to help answer all of your questions.

**AM Only; Lay Servant Ministries – What's that all about?** Have you felt God nudge you to do more within your church? Do you feel as if you are being called to something more? God calls us all to be and to go out to make Disciples. In this workshop you will learn about what it means to be a Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Minister. You will learn how to get started on the journey and the requirements to remain certified.

**PM Only; Those Pesky Lay Servant Changes and Requirements** – As you know, in 2012 and 2016 there were many changes to the Book of Discipline regarding Lay Servant Ministry requirements. If you are currently a Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Minister and still have questions on the recertification requirements, this is the workshop for you! Please come and let us help you understand the changes that have been passed.

## ~ District and Conference News ~

**Catch the Spirit 2019!** This year's theme for our district workshop day is *Therefore Go and Make Disciples in My Name* and is scheduled for **Saturday, March 2** at Clarence UMC from 8am-3:30pm. Check out this year's available workshops and remember your \$20 cost includes lunch! See the **Catch the Spirit attachment** for workshop descriptions and registration form. Come and connect (or reconnect) with members of other congregations in our district!!

**(New) (2/15) Basic Emergency Response Team (ERT) Training** – We have scheduled another new Basic ERT training class for **Saturday, May 11** at the UNY Conference Center in Liverpool. If you can recruit new people or know of someone who has expressed interest in working at a disaster site and would like to receive training, please have them register online at <http://bit.ly/LiverpoolERTMay19>. More information is listed on the registration site.

If you are in an area some distance from the Conference Center and would like to schedule a class near you, please let us know so we can arrange for an instructor and add more classes, perhaps to be held at your home church. We do need to have a minimum of 12 attendees to hold a class. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Greenwald at [bngreenwald@windstream.net](mailto:bngreenwald@windstream.net).

**(2/1) Young Adults have a page on Facebook!** A Facebook page for the young adults of our conference was recently created. This is a great way for churches and young adults to keep up on what we are doing in our conference and beyond. We really want to get more young adults involved in gatherings, bible studies, etc. that the Young Adults Committee will be hosting. These events/gatherings will be posted on the Facebook page so more people can get involved! See the **Young Adults attachment** for a flyer that you can post. If there are any questions regarding the social media or the young adults in general, you can contact our co-chairs at [unyyoungpeople@gmail.com](mailto:unyyoungpeople@gmail.com).



**(2/1) Rev. Suzanne Block to become Cornerstone District Superintendent** – Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is pleased to announce his intention to appoint the Rev. Suzanne Block as Superintendent of the Cornerstone District, effective July 1, 2019.

Rev. Block currently serves as pastor of Christ United Methodist Church of Olean, NY. Rev. Block will be replacing the Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood as Superintendent of the Cornerstone District. Rev. Rood will be returning to pastoring a local church after eight faithful years serving as the Cornerstone District Superintendent.

[Click here](#) to read more about this change and Bishop Webb's reflection on both the Rev. Rood's time as District Superintendent and his excitement for what's to come for the Cornerstone District with Rev. Block

serving as DS. **NOTE:** Many of you may remember that Pastor Suzanne served at Pendleton Center UMC.

**(2/1) Are you or church interested in Mission and Ministry in the Niagara Frontier District?** Please join us on our Facebook page: Niagara Frontier District Mission and Ministry. This page is available to those who are seeking assistance in a ministry or mission, or would like to let others know what your church is doing as the hands and feet of Christ! If you are interested in verifying kits for UMCOR, please like this page. All future verification dates will be listed there. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Katie Zettle, [ktinthechurch@aol.com](mailto:ktinthechurch@aol.com) or 716-632-4688.

**(1/14) Registration for Summer Camp 2019 is now OPEN!** It may be frigid out, but what better time to look forward to summer! Registration is now open for Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries summer programs, including your classic favorites and some new adventures! [Click here](#) to explore the offerings.

## ~ Annual Conference “Things to Know” ~

**(2/1)** The Committee on Petitions and Resolutions is charged with overseeing the submission, review, and presentation of petitions and resolutions to the Annual Conference. **All resolutions and petitions for the 2019 Annual Conference session** must be submitted to the Committee no later than March 15, 2019. Submissions should be emailed to the Petitions and Resolutions Committee at [petitions@unyumc.org](mailto:petitions@unyumc.org). [Click here](#) for writing and submission guidelines as well as a petition and resolution template and sample document. All reports and materials to be published in the Journal Vol. I are due on **February 15, 2019**. These items should be submitted to the Connectional Ministries' office at [DCMOffice@unyumc.org](mailto:DCMOffice@unyumc.org).

## ~ Safe Sanctuary Training ~



### Who needs to take Safe Sanctuary training?

- *A person only needs to take the Basic Training class one time.*
- *Each church should be offering a yearly update for anyone involved in ministries - whether they have taken the basic training or not. Example: There are those involved in VBS who may not have completed the basic training. The update would be important for them. The update can be specific to your church's policy and procedure or the ministry the individual is involved in. It might be "how to keep a special needs child safe at Sunday School."*
- *Only a Certified Trainer may teach the Basic Course.* However, anyone who has taken the Basic Course may lead an update class.

*There is only one box of training materials for the Basic Course.* Please contact Julie in the District Office to clear the date you want to have that course to make sure the materials are available and arrange to pick them up! Julie also has a list of certified trainers to help you find someone to lead the course.

**Basic Course** will be offered at Amherst: Trinity (711 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst) on **Saturday, March 30** from 10am-1pm. Space is limited so you must pre-register by March 23. Contact Pastor Jean Edmister at [pastorjeane@juno.com](mailto:pastorjeane@juno.com) if you have questions or want to register.

**A Train the Trainers class** will be offered at Bemus Point UMC on **Saturday, March 16** as part of Cornerstone's District Learning Day. The Basic Course will not be offered. You must have previously completed the Basic Course to take the *Train the Trainer* class. Contact the Cornerstone District Office at 716-665-2423 or [cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:cornerstonedistrict@unyumc.org) for more information.

## ~ Special Session Follow Up Gatherings ~



(2/1) **Regional Gathering with Bishop Webb after Special Session** – We do not know what to expect at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference (The Way Forward) taking place Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis, MO and this uncertainty can be uncomfortable. Whatever the outcome of Special Session is, our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world will continue. There may be a new reality that we will have to acclimate to so that we can continue to fulfill our mission as United Methodists.

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb invites you to attend a clergy gathering and/or one of six regional gatherings happening this March. These gatherings will include a time of worship, prayer, and Bishop Webb's explanation of decisions and actions that took place at Special Session.

**All clergy are expected to attend the clergy gathering on Saturday, March 9** at Rochester: Asbury First UMC from 10am-12:30pm.

**Laity and clergy are invited to attend** one of the other gatherings to be held around the conference. The closest to our district are on **Sunday, March 17** from 4-6pm at Clarence UMC or **Tuesday, March 19** from 6:30-8:30pm at Olean: Christ UMC.

## ~ Peter & Paul List ~ (I can help – do you have a need or I have a need – can you help?)

**(New) (2/15) Music Leader Position** – Springville First United Methodist Church is looking for a Traditional Music Ministry Leader. Primary responsibility is leading the congregation on the piano and/or organ at our 11:00 am worship gathering. Must be available to lead at least 2-3 Sundays a month. Email with questions or to apply, Pastor Matthew French, [mfrench.umc@gmail.com](mailto:mfrench.umc@gmail.com). Job description available on church website, <http://www.s1umc.org/>.

## ~ Opportunities, Ministry Aids and “Stuff” ~

**(New)** (2/15) **College Grant Available** - The Upper New York Conference College Ministry Team invites high school and college undergraduate students to apply for the Lottie Brown Grant. **The application deadline is April 10.** [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

**(New)** **Cornerstone District Learning Day for Laity & Clergy** will be held **Saturday, March 16** from 9am-3:30pm at Bemus Point UMC. See the **Cornerstone Learning Day attachment** for workshop descriptions and registration form. They are offering a “Train the Trainers” class for Safe Sanctuaries.

**(New)** (2/15) **How to identify phishing e-mails** - There have been several new phishing attempts floating around. As a reminder, here is some important information regarding phishing and how to avoid it. Tip: Please try and remember that the #1 thing to look at when someone is asking for money, gift cards, credit card number, passwords or for you to click on a link is to look closely at the from e-mail address. Here is a good 5 minute video clip on what to look for. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7tbJVSInvo>



(2/1) **UNY BOM endorses 2019 Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute** –

The Upper New York Conference's Board of Ordained Ministry has endorsed this summer's [Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute](#) (SUYTI), a 14-day institute (July 14-27, 2019) where high school students explore the exciting intersection of faith

and justice. Upon completion of the institute and a self-identified justice project in their local context students receive 3 college credits from Shenandoah University. At SUYTI, students spend one week at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA and one week at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. Both Shenandoah and Wesley are United -Methodist-related schools. Each day includes worship, class time with world-class professors, compelling afternoon immersive experiences, and mentoring from undergraduate and seminary students. The cost for students in 2019 is only \$200. SUYTI is open to current 9th-12th grade students. If you would like to nominate a student, [click here](#) for a 2019 nomination form. [Click here](#) for a 2019 Student Application and [click here](#) for more information. For more information, please contact Rev. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger at [cpreunin@su.edu](mailto:cpreunin@su.edu) or 540-665-5453.

## ~ Newsletters & Calendar Items ~

**(New)** (2/15) **District United Methodist Women newsletter** – See the **UMW Newsletter attachment** for the 2019 Winter UMW newsletter.

**(New)** (2/15) **Communication Essentials!** There are ideas to prepare for Easter outreach, information about Advance giving and how to engage with other church leaders can be found in [this link](#). We've been busy developing a variety of free resources and outreach support tools for your church! [Here](#) are a few. [In Focus: Global Health](#) – The Abundant Health Initiative followed the Imagine No Malaria campaign and has focused on expanding lifesaving interventions to 1 million children by 2020.

**(New)** (2/15) **Religion & Race The UMC** – Every conversation about how the church proceeds matters. Gather your church group or find a friend and [watch](#) the video “Race, Culture, the Church, and Human Sexuality.”

**(New)** (2/15) **GCFA Collaborator; Financial and Administrative Resources** – The [February](#) issue includes articles on how to erase a hard drive before recycling it; preparing for church audit; how to verify your church's tax exempt status and tax prep details.

**(New)** (2/15) **General Board of Global Ministries newsletter** – [The Missio Dei](#) or “mission of God,” is the enlivening force of Global Ministries' work. It grounds us in connecting the church in mission.

(2/1) **Inspiration for Daily Living** – [This month](#) focuses on Black History Month. [Another](#) issue includes articles about Susanna Wesley and the Special Session of General Conference.

(2/1) **Media Resource Center Newsletter** – Check out the [February](#) edition! If you have questions, please contact Karen Campolieto, Media Resource Center Coordinator at [karencampolieto@unyumc.org](mailto:karencampolieto@unyumc.org).

(2/1) **5 New Ideas for Discipleship Ministries!** For January: 1) Learn how to stop fixing your church and make disciples; 2) How to prepare for the church audit; 3) A tool to help you think about personal stewardship; 4) Prepare now for Lent small group studies and 5) YOUTH 2019: LOVE WELL information.