

the community, almost half of the participants were members outside of the church walls.

- At Saratoga Springs UMC, more than 30 kids ages five years old and up had an adventure to “Mars and Beyond,” finding God’s love at work in the universe.

Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYVBSJULY2019> to read more about these successful VBS programs.

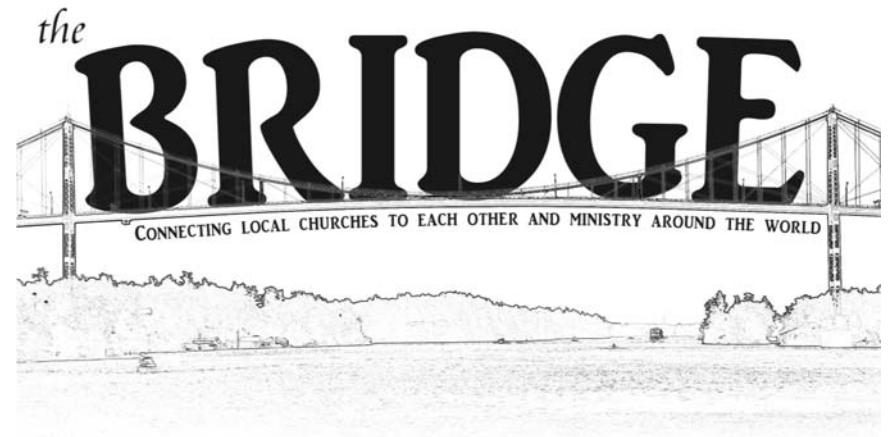
Follow our website for an upcoming article about VBS programs that have taken place throughout the Conference in August.

We’d also like to hear about your



church’s VBS. Contact [news@unyumc.org](mailto:news@unyumc.org) with your story.

As summer is nearing its end, see what fall events are coming around the Upper New York Conference at <http://bit.ly/UNYcalendar>



## In Brief

### Be the hands of Jesus around the world



The Upper New York Mission Central HUB is focusing on the desperate need for hygiene kits around the world in places such as the transition shelters along the U.S. Mexico border.

Throughout the summer, the UNY Mission Central HUB is collecting monetary and supply donations to assemble UMCOR

hygiene kits. Hygiene kits are affordable to make—it costs about \$12 a kit!

Those who send in a donation, will have a “hand” placed on our “world.”

Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYHUBvideos> for videos about this campaign.

Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYHUBdonation> to make a donation. You can also donate on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/uppernewyork/>).



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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*The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world. For more news and stories visit:*

**[www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)**

# UNY Delegation to General/Jurisdictional Conference gathers

On July 26 and July 27, the Upper New York Conference Delegation to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference gathered at Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center. This was the first gathering of the Delegation since the delegates were elected at Annual Conference in June.

The Delegation's time started with an evening of team building lead by the well-known speaker and author, Michael Brandwein.

"It was intentional for us to begin this way," said Carmen Vianese, head of the Delegation. "I wanted us to begin with team building and fun activities, while learning to listen and engage each other in conversation... which will be very important skills as we move forward! With Michael's guidance we did just that."

The next day was spent continuing to get to know one another and discussing how they would work together. This in-

cluded discussion about technical issues like how often they would gather, what technology they would use to continue their work between gatherings, how they would share their work and their experience with the whole Conference, and what resources were available to them to complete their work.

More importantly, time was spent identifying the values and expectations they would hold each other to as they journey together as delegates.

There was an acknowledgement that this is a uniquely difficult time in the life of The United Methodist Church, and the fact that they were elected as delegates is both an honor and a great responsibility.

The Delegation is going to face many challenges in the coming months, but they plan to hold each other in prayer and support as they work together through all the challenges. They ask the



whole Upper New York Conference to join them in praying for the work ahead

and the future of The United Methodist Church.

# Vacation Bible School throughout UNY in July



Vacation Bible School took place at several Upper New York Churches in July. Here are just a few facts about the success of the VBS programs throughout our Conference:

- Endwell UMC held Son West Round Up Vacation Bible School July 7-11. The sanctuary was turned into an Old Western Town with over 150 kids in attendance and 80 youth and adults who helped make this a life-changing week!
- July 8 through 12 saw three small churches in the Cortland area combine forces for a wonderful Vacation

Bible School program. The curriculum was Life Way's "In the Wild" and wild it was. They had over 40 children ages 0 to 15 learning about why Jesus came, what God has done for us, what we are made for, and that Jesus is worthy of our praise.

- Fairview UMC had 37 willing volunteers share their gifts and talents to help create a welcoming VBS (Vacation Bible School) for 40 plus children and youth on July 9-11! As a promising way to reach out into

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