

Ebenezer at Webb Mills UMC

January 2024

Nearly two dozen faithful members gather each Sunday morning at Webb Mills United Methodist Church in the Mountain View District for worship. That number doesn't account for the church's total membership, which includes more than 100 people. Like many churches across Upper New York, many members don't attend regularly. Regardless, Webb Mills UMC is considered their home church. This past summer, members wanted to celebrate the church's history and started forming an Ebenezer in front of the church. To some, it may look like a pile of rocks, but to others, it's a touch stone for the community. Rocks have come from places like the Finger Lakes, Canada, and Maine. Families and community members bring them back on their travels or their "home away from home." The idea has taken off like wildfire.



Read the article

What is your church up to?



Does your church have a unique ministry that is reaching new new people? Email us at news@unyumc.org and tell us about it.

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



Reflecting on ministries in Upper New York:

"Sometimes we just need a little inspiration to drive us forward and find ways to reach new people in and around our communities."

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Reflecting on the wonderful ministries of Upper New York

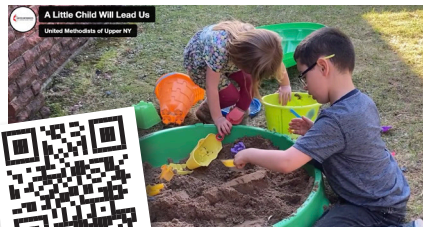
By UNY Communications

As we enter the new year, we think about opportunities to start something new or try something again. Sometimes we just need a little inspiration to drive us forward and find ways to reach new people in and around our communities.

Over the last year, we've documented ministries in Upper New York that have reached out to their communities in unique and inviting ways. Here are just a few of those ministries to help fuel your desire to get involved and try something new this year.



A Little Child will Lead Us



Watch the video

When the Rev. Anne Canfield was appointed to Watertown First United Methodist Church in the Northern Flow District in 2019, she had one child in her church. She started A Little Child will Lead Us free childcare on Wednesday afternoons, which now has 26 children enrolled and now 10-14 of those children are in Watertown's Sunday School.

Taco Tuesdays at Honeoye Falls UMC

In the Genesee Valley District, the Honeoye Falls United Methodist Church opens its doors to high school students from the neighboring school every second Tuesday of the month, offering a delightful taco feast at no cost. More than just enjoying delicious tacos, these Taco Tuesdays symbolize a commitment to creating bonds, nurturing friendships, and establishing an inclusive environment for all attendees.



Watch the video

Community Yoga at Malone: Centenary UMC

There's no position or yoga pose you can't do at Malone: Centenary UMC in the Northern Flow District. Church lay member, yoga instructor, and clinical social worker Noele Brabon leads the free bimonthly community yoga classes. Noele's one-hour "accessible yoga" sessions are open to any and all who can attend, regardless if you're a church member. In fact, more than 90% of the participants don't even worship at the church. The first class had 70 participants and attendance continues to break records. The free lessons have not only opened the church doors to the community, but also completely filled the church's food pantry cupboards.



Read the article

Quilting for a cause



Watch the video

Every Monday in the Binghamton District, the dedicated "Ugly Quilts" Group at Fairview United Methodist Church comes together with a mission. With skilled hands and hearts full of empathy, they meticulously craft intricate blankets. These are not just quilts; they are sleeping rolls made for those less fortunate, a tangible expression of the compassion and charity rooted in God's teachings. Their quilting becomes more than an art; it's a connection to a greater calling, demonstrating the church's commitment to divine love and grace through selfless service to the community.

Dress A Girl Around the World at Livonia UMC

Every year, church members and volunteers gather at Livonia UMC in the Genesee Valley District to cut fabric and assemble dress kits for Dress a Girl Around the World. On Nov. 4, over 25 volunteers showed up for the event. The completed dresses are distributed by Angels of Mercy to girls of all ages around the world who are in vulnerable situations. The most recent event produced kits for 284 dresses. To date, Angels of Mercy, just in New York State alone, have blessed and dressed over 600,000 in 75 different countries.



Watch the video

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