

March 25, 2015

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Nancy's Notes - #30

Hi, Friends.

As I write this, it is just a few days before the beginning of the week called Holy... In all my years as pastor of a local church, I encountered many church members who jumped right from Palm Sunday to Easter, but that's not the whole story! That's why on Palm Sunday, I would arrange it so the first third of the service would be a traditional Palm Sunday service, while the last two thirds of the service, I would read through the entire Passion narrative: the events of Maundy Thursday (the Last Supper) through the events of Good Friday (the crucifixion).

Why did I do this? Didn't we have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services? Yes, but as I said, the majority of the people didn't come to those services, and it was my job as their pastor to make sure they knew what Jesus experienced in between the events of Palm Sunday and Easter. I would intersperse the sections of the readings with a verse or two of a hymn that corresponded to the events of the passage I had just read. It's pretty powerful to read through the entire Passion narrative in one sitting, and I encourage you to do so.

I believe Easter will be far more meaningful – and joyful – if we don't succumb to the temptation to jump right from Palm Sunday to Jesus' resurrection on Easter. May we allow ourselves to walk with Jesus through the events of Thursday and Friday, for only when we witness His betrayal by Judas, His denial by Peter, and consider how many times we have betrayed or denied Jesus ourselves, can we truly have a meaningful Holy Week. Only

when we consider Jesus' agony on the cross, and His willingness and ability to forgive those who nailed Him there, can we begin to grasp the depth of His love for us... When we truly consider what Jesus has done for us, only then we can truly celebrate the victory and joy of Easter.

Walk with Jesus through the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and have a meaningful – and Holy week...

With You in the Journey, Nancy

(NEW) Mountain View District has a Facebook Page!

Please go to our Facebook Page and “like”. Also please, feel free to add comments if led to do so.

(NEW) Churches & Pastors to keep in Prayer this Week

- Wellsville UMC and Rev. Greg De Salvatore
- Westside UMC Rev. Vincent Howell
- Woodhull UMC and Pastor Brian Diffenbacher
- Addison UMC and Pastor Peggy Knopf

(NEW) Native American Ministries Sunday (NAMS) is April 19 (or any date chosen by your church to celebrate this Special Sunday). It is our hope that every church in the UNY Conference will celebrate this special Sunday.

While someone from CONAM would love to visit every church in the Conference this is not possible! There are excellent resources available through UMC Giving to help you plan a service for NAMS.

The “Pastor and Leader’s Kit at <http://www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/nativeamerican-ministries-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit>

contains stories, sermon starters, hymns, a bulletin insert, videos, Facebook pages, and more. The resource labeled “10 Ways to Celebrate” has specific suggestions for planning a service/celebration and even a picture of the Seneca Hymn Singers who meet at Four Corners UMC right in our UNY Conference! Please review these resources. I know you will find several or more you can use in your church to celebrate this important Sunday.

(NEW) Waters of Repentance

by Blenda Smith

Commission on Religion & Race

Committee on Native American Ministries

“But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty river.”
(Amos 5:24) Rivers, lakes and water flow freely in upper New York. As a symbol of flowing together with a genuine desire to journey toward justice

with our Native American sisters and brothers, each local church is asked to bring a small plastic or glass jar or bottle of water from its geographic area. Please have your local church pray over and bless the water before bringing it to Annual Conference. It will be used during our Act of Repentance Service on May 27th at 7 PM. These New York waters with which Native Americans and European Americans have quenched thirst, navigated, irrigated land, sustained life and health, played and produced crops will come together at Annual Conference that evening to symbolize our desire to acknowledge and repent for the history, historic trauma, and current realities of Native Americans in the Upper New York area.

Why an Act of Repentance & Healing of Relationships with Indigenous Persons at Annual Conference? At General Conference 2012, the worldwide United Methodist Church experienced a Service of Repentance & Healing of Relationships with Indigenous Persons. That service guided people to understand the history, historical trauma and current realities for indigenous persons around the world. A resolution passed at that time committed all United Methodists to listen and learn from indigenous persons (Native Americans for Upper New York) before being ready to experience an Act of Repentance & Healing at their own Annual & Central Conferences. Repentance means understanding wrongs, truly apologizing and turning in new directions to build trust, healthy relationships and hope. Only then will people be ready to build authentic relationships with our Native American sisters and brothers.

Since 2012, the Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) in UNY has led Annual Conference workshops and presentations, 14 District Learning Sessions, and United Methodist Women's District events to help United Methodists listen & learn. Wherever your local church is on this journey of listening, learning and preparing to repent, please join us as we move forward toward righteousness and justice.

Mitchellsville UMC Youth Easter Party

WHEN: Saturday, March 28, 2015

WHERE: Mitchellsville United Methodist Church
8421 County Route 13, Bath, NY 14810

SERVING TIMES : 11:00am - 1:00pm

THINGS TO DO: Crafts to make, including a Pinwheel for you and one for the Steuben County Youth Bureau's "Pinwheels and Promises Campaign"

Cookies to decorate

Visit with the Easter Bunny

Lunch provided

Weather Permitting, an Easter Egg Hunt

No charge and Parents be sure to bring your camera

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

WHEN: Saturday, March 28, 2015

WHERE: Presho United Methodist Church

1727 Indian Hills Rd., Painted Post, NY 14870

(Junction of Rt. 15/99- Presho Exit)

SERVING TIMES : 4:00, 5:00 & 6:00 pm

COST: Adults: \$10 Seniors: \$9.00 Children 5-10yrs: \$5.00 Under 5 Free

MENU: Spaghetti, Homemade Meatballs, Salad, Italian Bread, Homemade Pies and a Beverage.

Church phone (607) 523-7250

Palm Sunday Communion Service & Pancake Breakfast

WHEN: Sunday, March 29, 2015, The DS Rev. Nancy Adams Preaching

WHERE: New Beginnings United Methodist Church

300 East Miller St., Elmira, NY 14904

SERVICE TIME: 7:00 AM Breakfast Immediately Following the Service.

COST: Tickets \$5.00 sold in advance, children under 12 Free

The Clergy Small Group Monthly Gathering

WHEN: Tues., Apr. 7th

WHERE: AVOCA UMC, 8593 Jacobs Ladder Rd., Avoca, NY 14809

TIME: 10 am

PURPOSE: Our purpose is for mutual support, informal discussion and communion. **All clergy and pulpit supply** are welcome. For more information contact Bev Welch 607-698-4915.

Avoca UMC Pancake Breakfast

WHEN: Sunday, April 12, 2015

WHERE: Avoca UMC- 8593 Jacob's Ladder Road, Avoca, NY 14809

(corner of Jacob's Ladder Road and State Route 415 -one mile north of the village of Avoca)

SERVING TIMES : 8:00-10:00 am

MENU: Buffet Serving- Buttermilk Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Home Fries, Applesauce, Juice, Coffee, Tea

This will be the last Breakfast until September!

Bath Centenary UMC – Spiritual Time of Rhyme Poetry Nite

WHEN: Saturday April 18th 2015

WHERE: 3 W. Washington St., Bath, NY 14810

TIME: 6:30 pm- 8:00 pm

Centenary United Methodist Church is inviting your congregation to a Spiritual Poetry Nite. **The theme is "Newness of the Spirit."** Enjoy religious prose and scripture as you have dessert and coffee.

DESCRIPTION: This event is to raise funds for Mike and Liz Humphrey and their son Caedmon, who are in the midst of a music missionary venture in Ukraine. They have received training through YWAM (Youth With A Mission) and are now doing the Lord's work in the field portion of their music missionary efforts. Your financial support is encouraged and appreciated! A free will donation will be collected.

UNY Notes March 9, 2015

Fourth annual NFC event takes a 'Church in a Diner' approach

The Rev. Tom Arthur is the mastermind behind the launch of "[Church in a Diner](http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/2015-church-in-a-diner-event)" at his church in Lansing, Mich., a nationally recognized low-cost and innovative approach to launching new faith communities. In just two years, the congregation of the Sycamore Creek Church has grown by more than 20 percent. Rev. Arthur will be in Upper New York **April 24-25** for the Conference's fourth annual New Faith Community event at the Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center. He will be the keynote speaker and will share the story of why and how he has created this vibrant new way of making disciples. For more on this event go to <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/2015-church-in-a-diner-event>

21th Annual PALESTINIAN Dinner

WHEN: **Friday, May 29th**

WHERE: at the Plymouth Congregational Church at 232 E. Onondaga St. (2 ½ blocks from On Center)

SERVING TIMES : 5:15 PM~ Authentic Palestinian buffet

COST: \$15.00~ Make checks payable to UNYAC ("Palestinian Dinner" on the memo line)

PROGRAM: Ariel Gold and her children, Elijah and Isabella returned to Palestine/Israel in December for 3 weeks staying mostly in the West Bank. On her mother's blog, Isabella told how she felt safer in the West Bank than in Israel. Come and hear all 3 share their experiences.

For reservations: Linda Bergh (315-492-8507), 116 Edna Rd., Syracuse, NY 13205 or

Karen Peterson (607-739-3141), 116 Greenridge Drive, Horseheads, NY 14845

Nominations sought for Harry Denman Evangelism Award

The Foundation for Evangelism is a non-profit organization, serving ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Each year it celebrates the outstanding personal evangelism ministry of United Methodist clergy, laity and youth by sponsoring the Harry Denman Evangelism Award. You may submit nominations for the award to the

Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Director of Connectional Ministries, via email at DCMOffice@unyumc.org. To learn more about the award and download the nomination form, go to :

<http://foundationforevangelism.org/recognition/harry-denman-evangelism-award/> for the application deadline is April 15, 2015

Registration for the 2015 Annual Conference session

Registration is open for the Upper New York Annual Conference session being held **May 27-30** at the OnCenter, Syracuse.

To register, go to <http://www.unyumc.org> and fill out the form or call Julie 1-855-424-7878 ext. 303.

Technical questions about the registration form can be addressed to AshleyRiddell@unyumc.org.

Other registration questions should be sent to vicki@unyumc.org.

New Conference Website!

Why not visit it today? Same address as the former one, www.unyumc.org

The Upper New York Conference has just launched a brand new dynamic website featuring easy navigation, vibrant graphics, and a variety of tools to let members of the Conference better share their stories.

Please send questions or comments to the Conference Director of Communications Stephen J. Hustedt at SteveHustedt@unyumc.org

Seeking Music Director!

Bath: Centenary United Methodist Church is seeking a Music Director to coordinate and lead its music ministries at its two weekly Sunday morning worship services (one traditional/blended service and one blended/contemporary service). Two years' experience in a Christian music program (paid or volunteer) is a must. This is a 12-16 hour per week position. Hours and salary are negotiable, and salary is commensurate with

experience. Interest and inquiries should be directed to the church office at (607) 776-3434 or cumcbath@verizon.net.

Save the date: Pre-conference briefings schedule announced

The Upper New York Conference is announcing the locations for the Pre-Conference Briefings to be held this May. Each briefing will be preceded by a 30-minute coffee/snack and fellowship time. The locations, dates and times are as follows:

May 2

[Asbury Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 9-11 a.m.

[Findley Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 2-4 p.m.

May 9

[Potsdam UMC](#) from 9-11 a.m.

[Saratoga Springs UMC](#) from 3-5 p.m.

May 16

[Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 9-11 a.m.

[Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center](#) from 2-4 p.m.

Events Going on in Mountain View District

Lifetree Cafe meets each **Monday evening at 7pm**. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Snacks and beverages are available. Lifetree Café is located at Fresh Start Corner, Arnot Mall (Across from Ruby Tuesdays).

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual coffeehouse-type setting. Questions about Lifetree may be directed to Sue Dunlap at lifetreecafe@freshstartmall.org.

March 30 - Religious Discussions Explored at Lifetree Café

For more information, please visit our Facebook -

<http://www.facebook.com/lifetreecafearnotmall>

Bath Centenary UMC – Men's Bible Study

WHEN: Thursday Evenings

WHERE: 3 W. Washington St., Bath, NY 14810

TIME: 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm

DESCRIPTION: Prayer, Worship, Study & Accountability. All men are invited, welcomed and encouraged to join us for a time of prayerful worship, Bible study, and time for fellowship for accountability to God, ministry for His church and our families.

CONTACT: Jessepruitt62@gmail.com or call 631-416-8115

The Corning area United Methodist Churches invite YOU to continue the Lenten journey as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Easter. The Lenten services will began on Ash Wednesday, at 7pm at the **Presho UMC** and will continue **every Thursday** evening there after during Lent.

All the Lenten services will be held at the **Presho UMC, 7 p.m.**
Thurs. March 26

We will once again collect shoes for the **Shoe Ministry**. Check out the website <http://www.shoemanwater.org> We will collect shoes at each of the Lenten gatherings. Please bring shoes tied together or rubber banded. Thank you in advance!

NORTH CHEMUNG UMC Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

WHEN: **April 15th** (Third Wednesday of each month)

WHERE: North Chemung UMC, 677 Breesport N. Chemung Road, Lowman, NY 14861

SERVING TIMES: 4:30 pm-6:30 pm

COST: Adults \$8

MENU: Chicken & gravy with biscuit, potatoes & gravy, your choice of coleslaw or applesauce, your choice of vegetable (changes with the seasons) Your choice of homemade dessert and tea, coffee, lemonade or water. Take-out available

MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT UMW DATES

March 28 Communion Breakfast at Coopers Plains

April 18 Day Apart at Horseheads

May 18 Spring District Dinner at Watson Homestead

July 17 - 19 Mission u at Cazenovia College

September 26 Fall District Meeting at New Beginnings

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Church Reports due on Mar. 15th are:

Report of the Finance Committee

2015 Church Budget- (your format)

2014 Fund Balance Report- (Annual Audit)

NEWS FROM THE CONFERENCE OFFICE

On the Conference Calendar

March 4 - AC Session registration opens

April 6 - Anticipated publication date for the Pre-Conference Booklet

May 1 - AC Session Registration ends

May 2, 9, & 16 (Date TBA) - Pre-Conference Briefings