

Red Bird Mission team and Tracy Nolan, Community Outreach Director at the Red Bird Mission were interviewed by Pastor Mark Kimpland for the Encounter program. If you are interested in watching the video, you

can access it by going to the Endwell UMC website. Then select "Encounter Red Bird Mission." If you have questions, please contact Dave Alexander at 607-743-8955 or Endwell United Methodist Church at 607-754-5735.

Mike Block retires as Mission Central HUB director

After nearly four years, Mike Block retired as the Director of the Upper New York (UNY) Mission Central HUB at the end of Sept. 2021.

As the first Director of the UNY Mission Central HUB, Mike put in place much of the groundwork that future ministry in the Mission Central HUB will build on. Some highlights of this ministry include:

- Leading the Conference in the response to the Halloween storms in the Mohawk District
- Forming partnerships with other organizations, such as the partnership with Operation Northern Comfort to build and install ramps and blessing boxes
- Leading the way for groups visit the Mission Central HUB at The United Methodist Center in Liverpool to drop off, assemble, or to verify the contents of a variety of kits to aid the United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Providing space for Potato Drops from the Society of St. Andrew

- Leading the Conference response to flooding that caused particular damage at the Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center
- And countless other mission activities

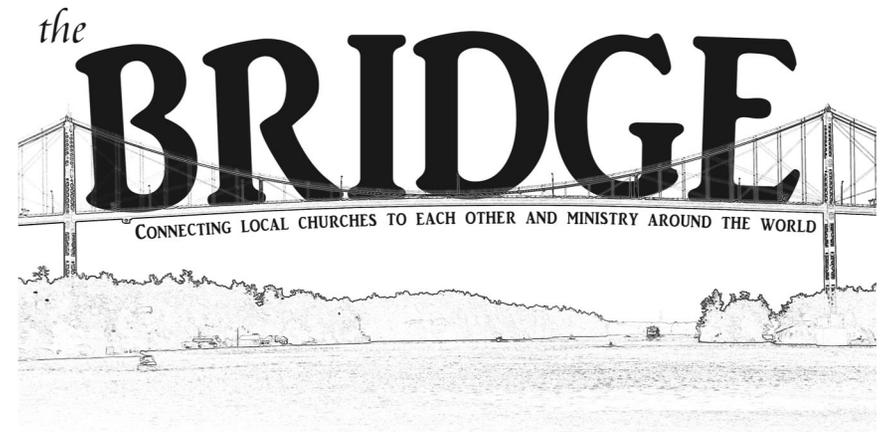
Mike's supervisor, the Rev. Dr. Aaron M. Bouwens, Director of Vital Congregations for UNY, said, "Thank you to Mike for his service to Christ and the Church. Mike has a passion to see people in the midst of disaster find hope and begin to rebuild their lives. I am sure Mike will continue to serve by coming alongside people in need. May God bless Mike in his retirement."

In addition to his other ministry highlights, Mike helped lead many opportunities for people to give in support of disaster response. He became well known for the Mission Central HUB videos that he would often star in. Visit <https://bit.ly/celebratingMikeBlock> for some highlights from the Mission Central HUB videos.

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

Follow the Upper New York Conference on Facebook at <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.

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Shoeboxes being collected again for the Red Bird Mission

By Dave Alexander

The Mission team at Endwell United Methodist Church is again coordinating the collection and delivery of shoeboxes for the Red Bird Mission, located in Beverly, Kentucky. The Red Bird Missionary Conference is one of three United Methodist missionary conferences in the United States. It is the most comprehensive mission effort of the United Methodist Church, providing outreach and services that minister to the whole person (spiritual, physical, social, and economic).

In December of 2020, two volunteers from Upper New York (UNY) drove a 26-foot truck to the mission in Kentucky. They transported over 2,800 shoeboxes, over 100 sheet sets and bedspreads, as well as numerous books, school supplies, and cleaning supplies.

The need is even greater this year. The goal for 2021 is to transport at least 3,600 shoeboxes and other supplies to the Red Bird Mission the first week of December. We are asking participating

churches to drop off their filled shoeboxes to one of two locations: the Upper New York Conference Center, located at 7481 Henry Clay Boulevard in Liverpool by Wednesday, November 17 or the Endwell United Methodist Church, located at 3301 Watson Boulevard in Endwell between November 1st and November 23rd. There are several drop off locations in each District as well. You can see a full list of drop off locations by visiting https://bit.ly/shoebox_dropoff. Also, arrangements to have items picked up can be made by e-mailing Dave at Dalexander4@stny.rr.com.

There are two different styles of shoeboxes-needed. For the adult shoeboxes include: a comb or brush, shampoo, hand lotion, deodorant, a toothbrush and toothpaste, Chapstick, a full size bar of soap, a washcloth, disposable razors, shaving cream, nail care supplies, socks, a pair of work gloves or mittens, and a winter hat or scarf.

Items needed for children's shoeboxes include: two or three small toys, two or



three items needed for school, a comb or brush, shampoo, hand lotion, a child's toothbrush and toothpaste, Chapstick, a bar of soap, a washcloth, a small flashlight, socks, a pair of mittens, and a winter hat. Christian bookmarks, wristbands, and other spiritual items are also appreciated.

The Red Bird Mission would like the items to be placed in clear, plastic shoebox sized storage containers with locking lids. Please do not wrap the boxes. They would like the boxes labeled with the intended recipient-man, woman, boy, or girl. The mission also needs new pillows, new bedspreads, new sheet sets, and new blankets for full and twin beds, and new bath towels. Used sheets, blankets, and towels cannot be sent. Books, school

supplies, and new backpacks are also in need, as well as cleaning supplies.

Donations of money can be made payable to the Endwell United Methodist Church to help cover the cost of the truck rental, fuel, and lodging and meals for the volunteers who will deliver the shoeboxes and other donations to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky the first week in December. All funds will be deposited into a dedicated account for this mission. A suggested donation is at least \$1 per shoebox. Please do not put money inside the shoeboxes. Place the money in an envelope and attach it to the shoebox.

You can learn more about the mission by going to EndwellUMC.org and clicking on "Missions." Recently, members of the

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