



August 24, 2018

Niagara Frontier District E-Connection

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The E-Connection! goes out near the 1st & 15th of each month.
The next edition will go out Friday, September 14

Julie will be out of the office August 27-31
The District Office will be closed Monday, September 3

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			
September 5	9:30am-Noon	Fall Clergy Gathering (only need to attend one session)	Baker Memorial UMC 345 Main St., E. Aurora
September 6	7:00-8:30pm	Fall Clergy Gathering (only need to one session)	Faith UMC 5505 Broadway, Lancaster
September 7-8		United Methodist Men hosted retreat <i>Transformation through Christ: Turn 180°</i>	Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center Windsor
Sept. 12-Oct. 10 (Wednesdays)	6:30-8:30pm	Lay Servant Basic Course Led by Judy Johnson-Paonessa, CLM	Lockport: Emmanuel UMC 75 East Ave., Lockport
September 15-27		Stream #6 Church Conferences	
September 16	4:00-7:30pm	Installation for DS Carlos Rosa-Laguer	First UMC 8221 Lewiston Rd., Batavia
September 29	9:15am-2:00pm	District UMW Annual Meeting <i>"The Power of Bold"</i>	N. Tonawanda: First UMC 65 Main St., N. Tonawanda
Sept. 30-Oct. 11		Stream #5 Church Conferences	
October 14	4:00-6:00pm	Bishop's Regional Gathering on A Way Forward	Clarence UMC 10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence
October 20		Lay Servant Basic Course, Part 1 (Part 2 TBD) Led by Pastor Jim Brown	Bowmansville UMC 5344 Genesee St., Bowmansville
October 23-25		Bishop's Retreat <i>"Living, Leading and Equipping for Biblical Stewardship"</i>	Genesee Grande Hotel Syracuse
October 28	4:00-6:00pm	Bishop's Regional Gathering on A Way Forward	Wellsville UMC 79 Madison St., Wellsville
Oct. 27-Nov. 8		Stream #4 Church Conferences	
November 1		ALL Pastor and SPPRC Advisory Forms Due to District Office	
November 14-27		Stream #3 Church Conferences	
December 1		Deadline for Clergy Compensation Forms to District Office	
December 6	10:00am-3:00pm	Order of Elders Gathering <i>"Leading with a Heart of Peace"</i>	Holiday Inn Liverpool
Nov. 28-Dec. 12		Stream #2 Church Conferences	
January 14-31		Stream #1 Church Conferences	
March 2		2019 Catch the Spirit District Workshop Day	Clarence UMC 10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Please pray for the community and congregations in Abundant Harvest in Medina, Newfane and Niagara Falls: First and pastors Fred Holdridge, Jan Hubbard, Scott Johnson and Kate Nicol.

~ Local Church News ~

(New) Warrens Corners UMC (5293 Stone Rd, Lockport; corner of Rt. 104 & Townline) is having its annual Chiavetta's chicken barbeque on **Sunday, August 26** from noon until 3 p.m. Includes 1/2 chicken, sides, and dessert for \$10.

(New) Buffalo: Central Park UMC (216 Beard Ave., Buffalo; near Main & Hertel) This **Sunday, August 26** at 2pm is a special Outdoor Yoga Class (indoors if rain) on the shaded lawn at Central Park Complex in the stunning Parkside/Central Park neighborhood, presented by ZoneYoga.Space: <http://zoneyoga.space/>, followed by monthly longer yoga retreat events here in our 2nd floor Great Hall: 2 classes, free cafe & mini-market. See website for details, all events are free & we hope to see you, bring a friend & share the link: <http://zoneyoga.space/> also see Facebook event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/259039828068109/> and see the new Central Park website CentralParkComplex.com. See the **Central Park Yoga attachment** for a brochure with more information.

(New) Amherst: Asbury UMC (850 Dodge Rd., Getzville) It's time for our annual Treasures Sale on **Saturday, September 8** from 9am-3pm. Admission is free! There is a \$3 fee for Early Bird admission at 8am. This year we also have a take out BW's BBQ chicken dinner from 12-3pm for \$10. You never know what you'll find – we have all kinds of items!

(New) Royalton UMC (5309 Royalton Center Rd. Middleport) You are invited to help us celebrate 200 years of ministry on **Sunday, September 16**. Bishop Mark Webb will be joining us for this celebration starting at 1:00pm. We would love to see you there. For more information call Pastor Bill Edmister at (716) 572-2338.



Newfane UMC (2699 Main St., Newfane) Come join us on Wednesday's for our weekly Farmer's Market running **thru October 17**. Hours are from 4:30-7:00 pm. We have a variety of booths along with our church food booth selling hot dogs, sausage and a weekly special.

~ District and Conference News ~

Fall Clergy Gatherings – We will again offer two sessions of our Fall Clergy Gathering for worship, fellowship and to go over this year's church conference forms. All pastors currently serving a church should make plans to attend one of the gatherings. The first will be **Wednesday, September 5** from 9:30am-Noon at Baker Memorial UMC in East Aurora. The evening session will be at Faith UMC in Lancaster on **Thursday, September 6** from 7-8:30pm.



(New) (8/24) Save the Date! Elders, mark your calendars and save the date for the Order of Elders Gathering with the theme, "Leading with a Heart of Peace." Join Bishop Webb as he welcomes Bishop Grant Hagiya from the California-Pacific Annual Conference. The event will be held **Thursday, December 6** from 10-3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool. All Elders are expected to attend. Additional details and registration info will be released soon. [Click here](#) for more information.

(7/31) **Church Conferences Schedule** can be seen in the **Church Conferences attachment**. Take a look to see when your church is having their conference and put it on your calendar. Our new superintendent, Carlos Rosa-Laguer is coming to your church this year! Plan now to attend to meet Carlos and to be a part of conducting your church's business meeting.



(New) (8/24) Calling all Prayer Warriors! **Tuesday, September 18** from 7-8:30pm, the District Leadership Team will host another district prayer meeting. This meeting will be at First UMC in Springville (474 E Main St, Springville). We will be in prayer for the upcoming special session to General Conference, for our new district superintendent, for our local churches, community, district, and conference. There will be a time of fellowship afterwards. Any questions, please feel free to contact Jessica White at 716-536-1820 or jdgirl25@yahoo.com.

(8/14) **Volunteer in Zimbabwe, Africa next summer!** For nearly three weeks during the summer of 2019, Upper New York Annual Conference will be sending its seventh Volunteer in Mission team to Zimbabwe. The trip will occur during the months of July or August as the exact dates are still being set. It will primarily be a relationship building team but will include other projects such as help with an after-school program for AIDS orphans and some light construction or painting at Mutambara UM Mission as well as spending time with the pregnant women waiting to delivery. The estimated cost will be \$3,500 - \$4,000, depending on the flight expense. It will be both culturally enriching and spiritually blessing for all who participate.



A preliminary informational meeting will be held in early September. For more information or to express your interest, contact Sylvia Reimer at (315) 778-5074 or syljr5141@gmail.com.

(7/31) **Bishop's Regional Gathering on A Way Forward** – This fall, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting six gatherings around the Conference in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church. The regional gatherings will include a presentation of the plan and process of General Conference, a time to remember our mission, and worship and prayer. There are two gatherings in or near our district – **Sunday, October 14** from 4-6pm at Clarence UMC and **Sunday, October 28** from 4-6pm at Wellsville UMC (about two hours south of Buffalo).



The final report of the Commission on a Way Forward **has been released in all four official languages** of the General Conference: English, French, Portuguese, and Swahili. The report will be presented to the 2019 Special Session of General Conference. Subject to final copy editing, the report will be printed in the *Advance Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA)* in November. [Click here](#) to read a statement from the moderators of the Commission and the President of the Council of Bishops on the release of the report as well as access to the report in all languages.

(7/31) **Transformation through Christ; Turn 180°** - The United Methodist Men of the Upper NY Conference are very excited to host a retreat at Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center on **September 7-8**, featuring key note speaker [Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.](#) (Bishop for United Methodist Men Nationwide) along with Bishop Mark Webb and Rev. Mark Kimpland (Endwell UMC). *We are inviting all women of the Upper NY to Sky Lake for a Transformation Women's break out session led by Rev. Cathy Stengel of Rush UMC during this retreat.* This retreat is open to everyone, of all denominations, women, children and families! [Click here](#) to see what Bishop Mark Webb has to say about this fall's retreat! [Click here](#) to register today! **Registration closes on August 28.** See the **Transform attachment** for a flyer with more information. Please come and enjoy a family focused retreat.

(8/14) **Camps & Retreats Still Available!** See the **Go to Camp attachment** to see which events still have openings.



(6/29) **The 2018 Bishop's Retreat** is scheduled for **October 23-25** at the Genesee Grande Hotel in Syracuse. The theme is "Living, Leading and Equipping for Biblical Stewardship." The keynote speaker is Dr. Clif Christopher, founder of the Horizons Stewardship Company. For more information [click here](#). You can [register here](#).

~ United Methodist Women ~

(New) Annual District UMW Meeting! On **Saturday, September 29** beginning at 9:15, we will meet at First UMC in N. Tonawanda. This year's theme is "The Power of Bold," celebrating 150 years of faith, hope and love in action. Before September 24, the cost is \$10. See the **UMW attachment** for more information and registration.



~ Lay Servant Ministries & Disciple Classes ~

Disciple Courses – Disciple is a program of disciplined Bible studies aimed at developing strong Christians. Disciple I, “Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study,” is a 34 week course that provides an overview of the entire Bible. The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. Disciple draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible. Whether you're new to Christian faith or a long-time believer, this course offers the opportunity to strengthen and deepen your relationship with God and develop lasting friendships with fellow followers of Jesus Christ.

Attica: Trinity UMC will offer this 34 week course beginning in the fall. The class must have **at least 10 participants registered by September 1**. Schedule to be determined by the group. You may register by calling the Trinity office at 585-591-1949 or contact Rev. Pam Klotzbach at 716-560-0290 or revpamumc@gmail.com.

Pendleton Center UMC will offer the class on **Thursday evenings** from 6:30-9pm beginning **September 13**. (Registration deadline is Friday, September 6.) They will take a break for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Holy Week, completing the course in May. Child care will be available if needed. Course materials are a Bible and the Disciple 1 study guide. Study Guides may be ordered at the time of registration. Questions or to Register, contact Pastor Lisa Taylor at LisaTaylor@pcumc.org or the church office at theoffice@pcumc.org or phone 716-625-8306.

Disciple III, “Remember Who You Are,” will be offered at Wilson: Exley UMC on **Tuesdays beginning August 28** from 6:30-8:45pm. This is a 32 week study led by Pastor John Loeser that includes the Old Testament prophets and the letters of the Apostle Paul. A study manual is required and can be purchased at Cokesbury.com. Please call the church office at 716-751-6057 for more information or to register.

A Mission Journey – This 6-session Advanced Lay Ministry Course encourages short-term mission volunteers to reflect on the reasons why they engage in mission and how they plan and prepare to be more intentional. It helps volunteers shape the stories of their mission experiences in a way that enhances their personal and spiritual journeys. **Tuesday evenings** at 6:30pm **beginning September 18** at Trinity UMC in Attica. To register, contact Rev. Pam Klotzbach at 716-560-0290 or revpamumc@gmail.org The book may be purchased from Upper Room. ISBN 9780835817868



Fall Basic Lay Servant Course – Judy Johnson-Paonessa, CLM, will lead the Basic Lay Servant class on consecutive Wednesday evenings (**September 12-October 10**) from 6:30-8:30pm. The classes will be held at the Emmanuel UMC, 75 East Ave. in Lockport. Please contact Judy (jljgesq@aol.com) for details and to register for the class. *To register, please send your name, street address, phone and e-mail address by August 24. You may also mail the information to Judy's attention at the church address.*

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

(New) (8/24) Youth Director Needed – Alexander UMC is seeking a part time person that loves working with children, is enthusiastic and creative and loves to share their love of the Lord, to serve as Youth Director. Duties include: 1) Coordinate Sunday School Program, 2) Run weekly events for Middle and High School students, 3) Work with Children and Youth Ministry Committee to plan and implement a VBS program each summer and a Christmas program for the youth of the Church and 4) Plan and deliver Children's Worship program each week on Sunday. This position is expected to be about 18 hours/week. Contact the Church office at 585-591-1765 for a full job description and application. For more information about the position call Ruth Lang, Chair of the Children's Youth Ministry Committee at 585-813-5123.

(7/31) **The Seneca Street CDC Sewing Program** for children needs some adult helpers. Love and patience for children is a necessity. Sewing experience and skill would be a plus, but not essential. You can learn as you go or meet for training before school opens. Our leaders have been women, however men are also welcome. If you are interested in helping, please contact Joan Zimmerman at revjzimm29@gmail.com or 716-675-4908. (Please leave a message.)



(7/31) **After School Tutors Needed** at Seneca St. UMC. This program runs from September to June, Monday-Thursday from 3-5:30pm. Contact Jamie Ryder at jryder@senecastreetcdc.org for more info. See the **Tutor Flyer attachment** for a flyer you can put up around your church!

~ Opportunities, Ministry Aids and “Stuff” ~

(New) (8/24) **How God has been calling one youth into pastoral ministry** – The Summer 2018 issue of the *Advocate* focused on churches and individuals that are boldly living their call. [Click here](#) to read one of the featured articles written by Gavin Hill of [Eden United Methodist Church](#) in the Niagara Frontier District. Not even out of high school yet, Gavin has already been called to pursue a career path into pastoral ministry.



(New) (8/24) **A guide to pastoral transitions** – Do you have a new appointment this year? The first 30 days of pastoring a church are days of learning, listening, understanding, and gaining insights. Now that these 30 days have passed, it's time to act! [Click here](#) to read about the steps pastors can take to achieve "quick wins" for the next couple months and about creating a fruitful ministry, whether you are in a new church or just want to revitalize a church you've been serving.

(New) (8/24) **UNYAC Mission Team to Puerto Rico** – From September 22 - 30, a twelve person team from the Upper NY Annual Conference will be working in Puerto Rico, on the island of Viequez. Team members include seven persons from Fly Creek and Schuyler Lake UMCs: Pastor Sharon Rankins-Burd, Dr. Chris Kjolhede, Dr. Celeste Johns, Rachel Gaston, Ryan Bennett, Mandy Robinson and Anna Buell. Drs Sylvia and Marv Reimer of Watertown, NY are leading the team and will be joined by three additional medical staff from the Northern Flow District. On Viequez they will be housed and staff a medical clinic at the United Methodist Church in Esperanza. Members of the team will also have the opportunity to work on home reconstruction alongside a team from the midwest. They welcome your prayers as they prepare to travel. Financial support for the team is also appreciated. They will be purchasing some medical supplies, and some construction supplies, on the ground in Viequez. If you wish to send a donation, please make checks payable to Fly Creek UMC with Puerto Rico in the memo line, and mail them to Fly Creek UMC, PO Box 128, Fly Creek, NY 13337.

(8/14) **Grief support group will restart in October** – Pendleton Center UMC's grief support group will be gathering again **beginning October 4**. The group is open to and encouraged for anyone who is struggling with loss (past or present) of a loved one (family or friend). The group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 7-9pm. The location will be announced prior to the first meeting. Being a Christian does not mean we do not hurt when someone dear to us goes home to God. Our curriculum, GriefShare from Church Initiative, explores the many aspects of grief, especially as it relates to our faith: the questioning, doubt or anger that may arise; the strength it can give us; and the way in which God can help us to grow through the experience. Come and join us for the 13 sessions and give and receive understanding and support. To register, call the church office (716-625-8306) and leave your name. One of the facilitators, Leslie Wagner or Sue Hilts, will contact you. You can also register online by going to [GriefShare.org](#).

(8/14) **Rev. Carlos Rosa-Laguer featured on Reports from a Spiritual Frontier podcast** – *Reports from the Spiritual Frontier* is a Path1-sponsored podcast that tells the stories of the pioneers who are innovating radically New Faith Communities. A recent podcast features the Rev. Carlos Rosa-Laguer, Niagara Frontier District Superintendent. Rev. Rosa-Laguer shares the fanatically relationship-focused approach to spiritual community through his relationship as former pastor of [Emmanuel United Methodist Church](#) in Rochester. [Click here](#) to listen the podcast where he talks about building a church, one hot dog at a time.

(8/14) **What is God inviting you to do?** The Summer 2018 issue of the *Advocate* focused on churches and individuals throughout the Upper New York Conference who are boldly living their call. What is God inviting you to do? How can you best hear his call to you? While God calls his people in many ways, there are some common ways that you can practice discernment. [Click here](#) to read Vital Congregations for Spiritual Life Assistant Director Nancy Dibelius's wisdom about discerning God's call in an article she wrote for the *Advocate*.

(8/14) **New UMC social media webinar** – The United Methodist Communications Public Information Team is hosting a webinar, "YouTube for Churches" on **Wednesday, September 12** at 1pm to support local churches as they strive to embrace social media and its uses for outreach and ministry. It is free and appropriate for users at all experience levels; the event will feature experts answering questions and sharing information about strategies, tips, best practices, and more. Need more details? Email PressCenter@UMCom.org. Watch for registration info!

(6/29) **The Voyagers sponsored Workshop and Conference** – The Voyagers are a gathering of clergy and church leaders exploring Bowen family systems theory and its application to congregations and leadership by Rabbi Edwin Friedman. We believe that the factual approach of Murray Bowen that underlies his theory and the creative and imaginative use of theory by Edwin Friedman provide a unique understanding of human functioning for life, leadership, coaching, and ministry. On **Wednesday, November 14** from 9am-3pm at the Westin Hotel in Buffalo, members of the Voyagers will present “Bowen Theory Introduction and Application.” Cost is \$60 or \$35 for students (with ID); price goes up after October 31. On **Thursday, November 15** from 9am-4pm at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, Dr. Michael Kerr will present “Bowen Theory’s Secrets: The Hidden Life of Families.” Cost is \$95 or \$65 for students (with ID); price goes up after October 31. Registration for both days is \$125 or \$80 student; price goes up after October 31. Lunch is included on both days. For more information, see the **Updated Voyagers attachment**. For information about the Voyagers group, go to www.voyagers.life or to register www.voyagers.life/buffalo-events.

~ Newsletters & Calendar Items ~

(8/14) **Inspiration for Daily Living** from United Methodist Now. [This edition](#) includes a back-to-school blessing, life lessons from pit row, is the Bible literal and a Bible quiz.

(New) (8/24) **Resources for Ministry** from UM Communications – Get information about YouTube for ministry, back to school outreach opportunities and apply for a Facebook grant in the [August 22 issue](#).

(8/14) **5 New Ideas for Discipleship Ministries!** Every month they send 5 ways you can better equip Vital Congregations and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Here is the [August issue](#).

(7/31) **Media Resource Center** – The August [edition](#) is here! Remember to check their online catalog for all types of resources – why buy, when you can borrow?!