



February 2, 2018

Niagara Frontier District E-Connection

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The E-Connection! is sent out near the 1st & 15th of each month.
The next edition will go out Friday, February 16

We are part of the Upper New York Annual Conference (12 Districts) – 168,000 members – 915 churches in 49 of New York State's 62 counties!

All Attachments are found in the e-mail message.

Calendar of Events			
February 14		Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	
February 15		Deadline to submit EZRA Reports	
February 19		Office Closed – Presidents Day	
February 24	8:00am-3:30pm	Catch the Spirit District workshop & training day	Clarence UMC 10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence
March 15		2017 Audits Due	
March 30		Good Friday – Office Closed	
April 13-14		Lay Servant Training Cornerstone District	Christ UMC 633 Linwood Ave., Olean
May 20		14 th Annual Laity Banquet	Samuel's Grande Manor 8750 Main St., Clarence
May 31-June 2		Annual Conference	Onondaga Community College Syracuse
August 15-18		School of Congregational Development	San Diego, California

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Please pray for the community and congregations at Attica: Trinity, Barker: Faith and Batavia: First and clergy Renee Engels, Vivian Waltz, Ruth Rosa Warner and Grace Warren.

~ Local Church News ~

(New) Warrens Corners UMC (5293 Stone Rd., Lockport) is having a Super Bowl Sub Sale on Saturday, February 3 from 10-noon. Ham or Turkey subs are available for \$7.

(New) W. Seneca: Covenant UMC (539 Main St., W. Seneca) Covenant UMC will hold a soup sale on Saturday, February 10 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This event is "take-out" only for \$8 per quart. Many varieties will be available. All proceeds will go to pay for the recent handicapped-accessibility construction project. Please use entry in the rear of the church.

(New) The youth at the Oakfield UMC are holding a Vendor Blender Fundraiser! Join us on Saturday, February 24 from 9am-2pm at the Oakfield Elementary Cafeteria (7001 Lewiston Rd, Oakfield) to check it out! Some of our vendors include: Multiple LuLaRoe Consultants, Paparazzi, Tupperware, Thirty-One, Norwex, Pampered Chef, Perfectly Posh, Tastefully Simple, Sseko, BeautyCounter, Lilla Rose, Scentsy, Plunder, It Works!, A Purse with a Purpose, Mary Kay, and More!

(New) Warrens Corners UMC (5293 Stone Rd., Lockport) You are welcome to come to our annual Chili & Book Sale on Saturday February 24 from 10-2. Books for just 25¢!

(New) Attica: Trinity UMC (75 Main St., Attica) Please join us on **Tuesday, March 6** from 5-7pm when we will thank all the First Responders in our community with a pulled pork dinner, coleslaw, salad, salt potatoes, beverages and desserts. This meal is free to the community.

Amherst: Asbury UMC (850 Dodge Rd., Getzville) Asbury UMC will be the site for respite care for the caregivers of memory-impaired adults. This once a month program will give the caregiver a 4-hour break to do errands, attend doctor or dentist appointments, go to lunch with a friend or just relax. **They will be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, beginning March 13, from 10am to 2pm.**

Trained volunteers will provide supervised fun activities, piano music/singing, games, and a nutritious lunch – all at NO CHARGE to the participants. The program will be funded by a grant from the Department of Health. Volunteers will be recruited from the community. Free training from the Alzheimer's Association is on **Monday, February 5 from 10am-1pm at Asbury UMC.** Anyone interested in being a volunteer is encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact Pastor Cheryl Brown at cheryla14094@yahoo.com or call the church office at 716-688-8677.



~ Lenten Fish Fry News ~

(New) Medina UMC (11004 W. Center St. Ext., Medina) Fridays during Lent you can enjoy a fish fry at Medina UMC from 4-7pm for just \$10! Menu includes choice of fried or baked fish, shrimp or chicken tenders. Appetizers and desserts are also available for purchase. Dine in or take out; local delivery is also available. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the church office or by calling 585-798-2142. Credit cards accepted.

(New) Pendleton Center UMC (6864 Campbell Blvd., N. Tonawanda) Our famous Fish Fry Dinners will be held from **4-7pm every Friday beginning Friday, February 16** and continuing through Good Friday (March 30)!. Eat in or take out. Fish (fried or baked), shrimp or chicken tenders with sides. Homemade desserts available for an additional cost. You can call ahead for your take out 716-625-8306. Click [here](#) for menu and prices.

~ District and Conference News ~



(New) An Opportunity to Serve: Imagine No Racism District Volunteer Advocate

Racism is a disease that infects the hearts, minds, souls and bodies of individuals, churches, and communities. In the Upper New York Annual Conference, we are going to Imagine No Racism together! We are creating the Imagine No Racism District Team to help us imagine this as a Conference. [Click here](#) to view Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb's video invitation to apply for the Imagine No Racism District Volunteer Advocate positions. [Click here](#) to read Chair of the Bishop's Taskforce on Eliminating Racism, Teressa Sivers' article on what the position entails. Through the article, you can also link to the application. The deadline for applications for the District Advocates position is February 14 (Ash Wednesday / Valentine's Day). We have a few applications in but need many more. We would like 4 from each district. Please apply if you have a passion for equality and justice. We envision the District Advocate position as requiring a few hours a week, especially in the beginning. As the ministry progresses the hours will become a bit less. *The training day for District Advocates is Saturday, March 17 from 10:00 to 4:00 at conference office in Liverpool.*

(New) Imagine No Racism event slated for April 21 – The Upper New York Bishop's Taskforce on Eliminating Racism has been working hard on a new ministry, which they are calling Imagine No Racism, drawing inspiration from our denomination's successful Imagine No Malaria campaign. Like Imagine No Malaria, Imagine No Racism will unapologetically identify the disease of racism and offer concrete ways to bring healing. Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb has sent a letter to the clergy across the Conference to set aside **Saturday, April 21** (12:30-4 pm) for the Imagine No Racism launch day, open to both clergy and laity, simultaneous events will be held across the Conference in every District. Stay tuned for more details. [Click here](#) to read Bishop Webb's letter.



Catch the Spirit 2018 is THIS month! Our annual district workshop and fellowship day is called Catch the Spirit and it will take place at Clarence UMC on Saturday, February 24. Information about the workshops offered this year and the registration form are in the **CTS Brochure attachment**. Registrations are due by February 16. Feel free to forward the information to any friends and family who may be interested. **Note:** only one registration form per person, but you can mail a group of registrations with one check. It is only \$20 per person that includes two workshop sessions and lunch! (No discount for only taking one workshop.) There are a wide variety of workshops and we will all gather for worship and lunch in between the morning and afternoon sessions. New this year, we will have a free book table! Pastors can bring in books from their personal libraries that they wish to share with the laity or younger clergy. If you would like to donate books, you can drop them off at the District Office or *bring them to Clarence UMC on Friday, February 23 between 7 & 8pm* (night before Catch the Spirit). **Please note that all checks will not be deposited until after the event.** Thank you for your understanding.

(New) Niagara Frontier District Youth have two events coming up!

Saturday, February 10 - Sledding at Chestnut Ridge – Time to be determined. How's that for incomplete and sketchy information for a group of important youth and adults in our District? Let us know how this date will work out for your youth group and we'll be in touch with more details. Contact Judy Hipes at tandj3905@hotmail.com.

Sunday, February 25 – 3:00-5:30 PM – District Youth Meeting at Akron UMC. This will be a time for all of us to come together for fun, fellowship, and food (of course). We'll find out all the great things the youth of the Niagara Frontier District are doing, want to do be doing and will be doing together to glorify God and God's kingdom. Let Judy know how many of you are coming from your group as soon as you can so we can plan programming and food (of course). Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

(New) (2/2) Lay Servant Courses! Cornerstone District is offering several Lay Servant courses on **Friday & Saturday, April 13 & 14** at Christ UMC in Olean. See the **Cornerstone Lay Servant Training attachment** for details and registration form. Registration deadline is March 31.

(New) (2/2) What's new with the UNY Historical Society? The UNY Historical Society has created a newsletter that shares fascinating and useful information. The *UNY Historical Society News & Views* Issue 1 of 2018 has been released. This issue reveals some interesting historical stories from places throughout the Conference, dating back to the mid-1800s. This issue also provides guidance on what to keep and what to toss at local churches. If you are interested in joining the UNY Historical Society, this issue describes some of the benefits of doing so and includes a membership form for you to fill out. [Click here](#) to read the latest issue of *UNY Historical Society News & Views* Issue 1 of 2018.

(New) (2/2) Upper New York Conference 2019 Narrative Budget booklet available – The first draft of the UNY Conference 2019 *Narrative Budget* booklet has been released. [Click here](#) to download a .pdf version of the booklet from our website. [Click here](#) to view the budget booklet on Issuu. As changes are needed, these digital copies of the budget booklets will be updated. When all updates are completed in the coming months, printed copies of the budget booklet will be available in the District Offices and at the UNY Conference Center. The final budget booklet will also be added to the *2018 Conference Journal, Vol. I*.

(1/16) **Scholarships Available!** United Methodist high school seniors and college students are invited to apply for two scholarships offered by the Upper New York Conference: Conference Merit Awards and Lottie Brown Grants. Application forms and guidelines are available now. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.



Ezra is open! You can now enter your 2017 statistics into the EZRA tables at <https://ezra.gcfa.org>.

Please note that the tables have been renumbered and some of the definitions and requirements may have changed. The deadline for submitting your report is February 15. You do not need to do

everything at one time; just remember to save your work before leaving the website. When you have filled everything in, be sure to "submit" your report; it is not completed until you submit it! Also new this year –

we have the tables in Korean and Spanish; if you would like one of these versions, please contact Julie in the District Office.

Congratulations to Tonawanda: Bethany UMC for being the first church to submit their report! **(Update)** *As of today, 11 churches have submitted their report and 14 others have entered some data. You now have less than two weeks to complete and submit your report!*

(1/16) **2017 Reports are due soon.** Just a friendly reminder that 2017 Trustee and Finance Committee Reports are due February 15. Audits for 2017 are due March 15. **Congratulations to Orchard Park: Emmanuel UMC** for being the first church to submit their 2017 audit! (**Protection UMC** was a close second.)



~ Safe Sanctuary Training ~

REMEMBER to contact the district office when you are setting up any Safe Sanctuary training. There is only one set of training materials for the district, so you need to make sure they are available.

~ Opportunities, Ministry Aids and “Stuff” ~

(New) Adults on a Spiritual Quest, A Lenten Study – In every person there is a longing, a yearning for wholeness, a drive to connect meaningfully with something greater. Saint Augustine described it as a heart that is restless until it finds its rest in God. Every true spiritual journey is a quest to satisfy this longing, to make this meaningful connection. We set out to discover answers to some big, uncomfortable questions, such as: Who are we? What is life about? “Live the questions now,” Rilke wrote. “Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” “Ask,” Jesus said, “and it will be given to you.”

Adults on a Spiritual Quest (ASQ), a six-week Lenten study, will gather persons who have deep, personal questions about life and faith and who seek to bring their questions to the wisdom offered in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures and in other writings. Doubters, skeptics, and seekers; people dissatisfied with pat answers and unsure about where their own faith is leading them; spiritual adventurers who are ready for “leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ” (Heb. 6:1) and chewing on some spiritual meat – these are the people ASQ is designed for.

The Rev. Rich Neal will start the discussion and the Spirit will lead it on **Tuesday evenings Feb. 20 to March 27** from 6:30 to 8:00, at Central Park UMC, 216 Beard Avenue, Buffalo. Participants must register by Feb. 16 by contacting the church at 833-3193 or at help@centralparkcomplex.com. A \$20 materials fee is payable during the first session. ASQ, “and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.”



(New) (2/2) Called to be a Lay Servant – Our latest issue of the *Advocate* focuses on the ministry of the laity. In this issue, Upper New York Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Lucina Halligan, shares the story of her calling. She also explains the many different ministries in the Church that are only possible because of the laity. [Click here](#) to read Lucina's thought-provoking story.

How well do you know the history and the terms that describe different aspects related to lay ministry? [Click here](#) to test yourself with our fun laity quiz!

(New) (2/2) Mission-Minded Disciples – Do you have a passion for mission and mission involvement for this 21st century world in which our faith is lived out? The UNY Conference Board of Global Ministries is looking for some people who would be willing to serve on this board as a representative of the Niagara Frontier District. They are currently seeking some additional members who have the time, energy and interest in missions to help further the work of the Board of Global Ministries in our annual conference. If this is a ministry to which you feel called, please contact the District Office to let us know of your interest! For further information, you may contact the Board Chairperson, Robert Long at bikealong2@nycap.rr.com.

(New) Opioid Overdose Recognition & Naloxon Use Training – A two hour training course is being offered at Kenmore UMC (32 Landers Rd., Kenmore) on **Sunday, March 4** from 12:30-2:30pm. Registration is required. See the **NARCAN Training attachment** for details and registration link (at the bottom of the flyer).

(New) (2/2) United Methodist Women – Please see the **UMW Newsletter attachment** for the Winter edition of the District UMW newsletter.



(1/16) **Trip to Sight & Sound Theater** in Lancaster, PA to see the production “Jesus,” will be April 9-10. See the **Sight & Sound attachment** for details. Cost is \$300 per person with a \$50 deposit due by March 1.

(New) (2/2) What's new with the UNY Historical Society? The UNY Historical Society has created a newsletter that shares fascinating and useful information. The *UNY Historical Society News & Views* Issue 1 of 2018 has been released. This issue reveals some interesting historical stories from places throughout the Conference, dating back to the mid-1800s. This issue also provides guidance on what to keep and what to toss at local churches. If you are interested in joining the UNY Historical Society, this issue describes some of the benefits of doing so and includes a membership form for you to fill out. [Click here](#) to read the latest issue of *UNY Historical Society News & Views* Issue 1 of 2018.

(New) 2018 School of Congregational Development will be in San Diego from August 15-18. You can see more information [here](#).

~ Newsletters & Calendar Items ~

(New) (2/2) **Inspiration for Daily Living** from United Methodist Now. This [issue's](#) featured article is “John Wesley the Jedi?”

(New) (2/2) **United Methodist Communications** – Missions. Discipleship. Worship. Giving. Administration. There are so many aspects to your ministry and there is so much work to be done. [Here](#) are some tools to help you out.

(1/16) **5 New Ideas for Discipleship Ministries!** Here is the [December issue](#) that shares these ideas: 1) Finding hope and new possibilities for small membership churches; 2) Explore places where the Wesley brothers lived and served; 3) Discover the new go-to place for free youth ministry planning tools; 4) Develop creative practices to grow a deeper faith and 5) Are you looking for new resources for Lent?