



June 5, 2018

Niagara Frontier District E-Connection

NiagaraFrontier@unyumc.org

www.NiagaraFrontierUNY.org

247 Cayuga Rd., Suite 70
Cheektowaga, NY 14225-1900
716-276-8631 fax: 716-276-8632

Rev. K. Wayne Butler, *Superintendent*
Jessica White, *District Lay Leader*

WayneButler@unyumc.org
jdgirl25@yahoo.com

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

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			
June 8	7:00pm	Farewell Celebration for DS Wayne Butler	Harris Hill UMC 8495 Main St., Williamsville
June 24-July 29 (Sundays)	1:00-5:00pm	Certified Lay Minister course Led by Rev. Karen Grinnell & Jessica White, CLM	Indian Falls UMC 7908 Alleghany Rd., Corfu
July/August TBD		Lay Servant Basic Course Led by Cathie Phelps, Lay Servant	Holland Area
August 15-18		School of Congregational Development	San Diego, California
September 7-8		United Methodist Men hosted retreat <i>Transformation through Christ: Turn 180°</i>	Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center Windsor
September 16	3:30-7:00pm	Installation for DS Carlos Rosa-Laguer	TBD
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
October 20		Lay Servant Basic Course, Part 1 (Part 2 TBD) Led by Pastor Jim Brown	Bowmansville UMC 5344 Genesee St., Bowmansville

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Please keep the family of Joy Ferguson in your prayers. Joy, 89, died on May 26. She was the wife of Rev. Gene Ferguson, who served several Upper New York churches, including Jamestown: First, Kenmore UMC, and others. A memorial service is scheduled for **Saturday, June 9** at 10 a.m. at Kenmore UMC (32 Landers Road in Kenmore). Condolences can be sent to Rev. Ferguson at 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 320, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Rev. F. Ray Hazlett's sons, Thomas and Timothy Hazlett, invite you to attend a Memorial Service for their father which will be held **Friday, July 6** at Williamsville United Methodist Church at 11 am. See the **Hazlett Memorial Service attachment** for more information.

Please keep the family of Evah Jane Northrup in your prayers. Evah, 88, died on May 15 and was predeceased by her husband, the Rev. Arthur Northrup Jr., who served several Upper New York churches, including Camden, Florence, Niagara Falls: St. James UMC, and others. A memorial service is scheduled for **Saturday, June 30** at 11 a.m. at Mooers United Methodist Church at 12 East Street in Mooers, NY. [Click here](#) to read the full obituary.

Please pray for the community and congregations in Elma, Fillmore Chapel and Four Corners and clergy Tony Hipes, Yohan Moon, Wayne Mort and and Becky Naber.

~ Local Church News ~

(New) Medina: UMC of the Abundant Harvest (3622 Knowlesville Rd., Knowlesville) The Knowlesville community yard sales will take place on **Saturday, June 16** from 9am – 3pm. A large number of sellers will be set up at the Knowlesville Fellowship Hall. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, etc will be available at this location. Many residents of the community will be having their own yard sales. Knowlesville is a small hamlet on the Erie Canal located between Routes 31 and 104. The canal bridge has been closed for repair since February, but we are hoping it will open in time for the community yard sales. The community sale is sponsored by the United Methodist Women of the UMC of the Abundant Harvest.

(New) N. Tonawanda: First UMC (65 Main St, N. Tonawanda) The youth choir from Eastport UMC (near Annapolis MD) will perform "The Question" on **Sunday, June 24** at 7pm. You are also invited to be part of a pot luck dinner at 5:30pm. See the **Eastport Youth Choir attachment** for more information and a flyer that can be posted. The group will also present their program at 10:30am that morning at First Presbyterian Church in Lockport.

~ District and Conference News ~

Farewell Celebration for DS Wayne Butler – As you are aware, Rev. Wayne Butler is retiring from the Superintendency on June 30. We would like to take an evening to celebrate with him through worship and fellowship on **Friday, June 8** with worship at 7pm and fun and fellowship to follow. Please come to share in this time with people from around our district and conference, along with our host church, Harris Hill UMC, 8495 Main St., Williamsville. All are welcome!

(5/18) **From the Desk of Bishop Webb: Constitutional Amendments regarding gender equality** – Recently, the Council of Bishops completed canvassing the votes of Annual Conferences on the five constitutional amendments that were approved by the 2016 General Conference. Two amendments that involved gender equality did not get the 2/3 aggregate vote of all Annual Conferences that they would have needed to change the constitution. On May 7, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb, sent a letter to the Upper New York Conference expressing his sentiments about these results, reaffirming the fact that despite these results, "we remain unequivocal in our commitment to the equality of women and their full inclusion in our Church." [Click here](#) to read Bishop Webb's letter.

(5/18) **Building leaders in Upper New York** – The spring 2018 issue of the *Advocate* focused on vitality, sharing stories of vital congregations and a plethora of resources on how churches can become more vital. As the Upper New York Conference endeavors to embody the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and reach toward being the people that live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and are God's love with our neighbors in all places, three key outcomes have been identified by the Conference Leadership Team (CLT):

- Increase the number of transformational leaders
- Increase the vitality of existing congregations
- Increase the number of vital and sustainable New Faith Communities

[Click here](#) to read an article by the Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens, UNY Director of Vital Congregations, that describes steps taken by the CLT and Districts to accomplish the three key outcomes.



(4/17) The **Buffalo Course of Study Extension** is a program of the United Methodist Church designed to help equip local pastors for the ministry of Jesus! The summer session of Course of Study, Buffalo Extension School is being held **August 10-11** and **September 13-14**. If you are planning to appoint any new local pastors and they wish to attend, they should have their registration for courses in our hands by June 11 and their tuition paid by June 26. Please make new appointees aware of these deadlines. Registration forms as well as course offerings and student handbook are available online at www.unyumc.org/ministries/course-of-study-extension-school-buffalo-ny. Syllabi for courses will be available on the website three months prior to the start of class. If anyone has any questions or needs clarification, please feel free to contact Barb Sercu at bufcosoffice@gmail.com or 716-875-5091 ext 206 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am-3 pm.

(5/1) **2018 Mission u Events** - Mission u (formerly known as School of Christian Mission) was created by Methodist women in the early-20th century in order to educate women and inspire them to a sense of mission at home and around the world. The United Methodist Women remain dedicated to the planning and promotion of this program. The schools were formed by and for women but over the years the demographic has changed as men, children and youth take advantage of this rich opportunity. We offer opportunities for study and fellowship in three different venues, each held on a different weekend in the summer. Each venue has its own special flavor. (See [Mission u by Region](#)) The closest to our district will be at Asbury Camp & Retreat Center on **July 20-21**. See the **Mission u attachment** for a flyer with all the dates and topics.

(5/1) **2018 Camp and Retreat Ministries Retreat Brochure available** – The most recent Camp and Retreat Ministries (CRM) Retreat Brochure is now available on the Conference website and Issuu.com. [Click here](#) to review the inspiring retreat and ministry opportunities that are now available from CRM of Upper New York.



~ Lay Servant Ministries ~

(New) (6/5) Summer Certified Lay Minister Course – Niagara Frontier District Lay Leader & CLM, Jessica White, and Rev. Karen Grinnell will lead a new Certified Lay Minister (CLM) class on consecutive Sunday afternoons (**June 24 – July 29**) from 1-5pm. The classes will be held at the Indian Falls UMC, 7908 Alleghany Rd., Corfu, NY, 14036. Please contact Jessica (jdgirl25@yahoo.com) or Pastor Karen (karen.grinnell@gmail.com) for details and to register for the class. *Participants should have already taken the Basic Lay Servant class (20 hours).*

(New) (6/5) Fall Basic Lay Servant Course – Judy Johnson-Paonessa, CLM, will lead the Basis 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 (iligesq@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) (6/5) Calling all Legos! Many people have been asking about how they can "help" Wesley's Place, a New Faith Community near the downtown medical campus. As we prepare to offer worship services, we have a need for our "prayerground." We need Legos. Lots of Legos. Any size, color, or shape would be great as long as they fit the following criteria: 1) They are in good condition; 2) They are clean and 3) They are actual Lego brand (so they are fully compatible). Please call Wesley's Place at 716-218-8273 or email Rev. Gregg Stierheim directly at pastorgreggumc@gmail.com if you have questions and to arrange a pick up. Pick up needs to be no later than August 2! Thank you in advance for your help with this project.

(5/18) **Seeking long-term volunteers at the UNY Mission Central HUB** – The Upper New York Mission Central HUB, located at the UNY United Methodist Center in Liverpool, is currently seeking long-term volunteers to train and lead teams in assembling UMCOR flood buckets, health kits, school kits, and more. There will be many opportunities for these volunteers to lead inspiring missional engagement throughout the year-the first opportunity will be May 30, assisting members across the UNY Conference in assembling flood buckets and health kits. Contact Mike Block, UNY Director of Missional Engagement at mikeblock@unyumc.org or 315-898-2066 for more information.



(5/18) **Mission Central is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator** – This is an unpaid part-time position. Here is the link to the [job posting](#). See the **Volunteer Coordinator attachment** for the job description. If you know someone that is interested, please encourage them to apply via the UNY website.

(5/18) **Looking for chairs** – Central Park UMC in Buffalo is looking for additional folding chairs, as the number of 12 Step Recovery groups using our facilities has increased steadily over the past few years. If you have chairs you are not using, we would be delighted to take them off your hands! Please email help@centralparkcomplex.com.

(4/3) **“The Life and Thought of Charles Wesley,”** (CF-200) is being offered at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester as a one week course running **June 11-15**. The course will be taught by Rev. John Tyson (former pastor in Niagara Frontier District) who has written four books and more than two dozen scholarly articles on Charles Wesley, and is considered an internationally known expert in this field. It is an in-depth study of Charles “the other Wesley,” who was a major contributor and shaper of the Wesleyan tradition – in terms of his evangelism, hymns, and the challenges of living a happily married life in the midst of the relentless demands of ministry. Particular attention will be paid to the on-going relevance of his work for contemporary Christian practitioners in the Wesleyan theological tradition. If interested, you may contact Andrea Mason, Registrar, at amason@crcls.edu.

~ Opportunities, Ministry Aids and “Stuff” ~

(New) (6/5) **The Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society** was organized by the Upper New York Commission on Archives and History to promote and preserve Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren history within the bounds of Upper New York Conference. Its mission is to Preserve the PAST; Inform the FUTURE. In 2016 a Facebook [resource site](#) was created and in 2017 the Society began holding public meetings. In 2018 a quarterly newsletter *UNY Historical News & Views* started. See the **UMHS Newsletter attachment** for the current newsletter. The first issue can be accessed through [this link](#).

(5/18) **The Upper New York Commission on Archives and History** recommends resources developed by The United Methodist Church for the 50th anniversary of its formation by merger in 1968. They include a video (under five minutes) “celebrating our Methodist, Evangelical and United Brethren roots and the gospel-grounded, difference-making Church we are still becoming” found at <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/we-still-believe-celebrating-50-years-of-the-united-methodist-church> and an educational power-point presentation with historical background listed under Heritage Sunday Resources at <http://gcah.org/resources/heritage-sunday-2018/>. While May 20 is the recommended date for Heritage Sunday in 2018, a church can celebrate it on another Sunday and many of the resources are good for any time.

Mobilize Your Church for a Better Ministry Story – A one day seminar about how your church can connect with the community around it. It will take place at the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg on **Wednesday, June 6**. Paul Nixon (author of multiple books on Christian leadership in a fast-changing age and president of The Epicenter Group, a coaching and leadership development organization) and his staff will show participants how to do a 1-1 relational meeting in community and will give them time to assess their ministries and make action plans throughout the day. The event and registration page for Mobilize Leadership Summit can be accessed via <https://goo.gl/eg2gWR>. For more information, see the **Mobilize Your Church attachment**.



(5/1) **Celebration Cruise** – Wayne & Molly Butler will be hosting a Celebration Cruise to Cuba through Educational Opportunities (the group that recently sponsored the recent trip to the Holy Land). The dates are January 13-21, 2019 aboard the Royal Caribbean Empress of the Seas. Sailing from Miami to Mexico & Cuba, the 8-day cruise will include stops in Cozumel, Mexico, Cienfuegos, Cuba and two days in Havana before returning to Miami. Rev. Dr. Luis Leon (pastor at St. John’s Episcopal

Church in Washington, DC) will be the guest speaker and the musical guest will be Paul Saik, an accomplished vocalist & pianist. Cruise brochures and registration forms are available in the district office or by contacting Wayne at waynebutler@unyumc.org. Or you can also go www.eo.travel and search for Tour = FL19, Date= 011319, Code A. If you register online, please include Wayne’s name as your tour host with the **Host ID # 11245** so you can be registered as part of our group. Even though we’ll no longer be in the district, it would be great to travel with some of you and reconnect next January.

UMCOM grants available to local churches - Each year, United Methodist Communications offers grants to help support communications. In 2017, new church start grants were awarded to four UNYAC churches and six churches received website development grants. Applications are now available for 2018 UMCOM grants. [Click here](#) to view more information about the 2018 grants and to see if your church qualifies.



~ Newsletters & Calendar Items ~

(New) (6/5) Inspiration for Daily Living from United Methodist Now. June is the month when the U.S. celebrates Father's Day which inspired this special dads' edition of UM Now. [Here](#) is the link.

(New) (6/5) Communication: Resources for Living – Click [here](#) for information about things you can do over the summer. As late spring days greet us with sunshine and renewal, may we greet our communities with the light, love and grace of Christ. Stories can make us think, make us laugh, make us remember; they can inspire us to action, even change the world. Is your church telling its story? You can get ideas about how to share your story by clicking [here](#).

(New) (6/5) Seneca St. Spring Newsletter – Want to know what's going on at Seneca St. UMC? Just click [here!](#)

(5/18) 5 New Ideas for Discipleship Ministries! Every month they send just 5 ways you can better equip Vital Congregations and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Here is the [May edition](#).

(5/18) 2018 Camp and Retreat Ministries spring newsletter available – The most recent Camp and Retreat Ministries (CRM) *Xenia News* newsletter is now available on the Conference website and Issuu.com. [Click here](#) to read this issue, which includes: a letter from CRM executive assistant Joan Newlon (who shares exciting news), updates from CRM staff, exciting programs taking place this summer, and news from each of the CRM sites.

(New) (6/5) June/July Resource Center Newsletter – You can find VBS materials, CD and DVD to use in teaching, and much more! Click this [link](#) to read the entire edition. If you have questions, please contact Karen Campolieto, Media Resource Center Coordinator, at karencampolieto@unyumc.org.

(5/18) Training in 20 minutes?! If you and your team want to learn new skills to help your church grow, but don't have a lot of time, micro-training courses are the perfect answer. These free 20-minute "burst of knowledge" experiences from United Methodist Communications equip you with communication practices to apply right away! Explore the [fast-track sessions](#) for enhancing your ministry, ranging from effective videos to Facebook outreach.

