



March 16, 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 Tuesday, April 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.

2017 Trustee and Finance Committee Reports were due February 15 – Many have not yet been received in the district office. Please remember to send them in ASAP.



2017 Audit Reminder – Please remember to send a copy of your church audit to the district office by March 15. *It must be on the Audit form found on the conference website.* (2017 Audit Form) Thank you to the churches listed below who have already submitted their reports.

Don't forget to have your Ad Board approve the audit and send a copy of the minutes to Julie!

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alabama Basom | Eden | Lyndonville |
| Alexander | Elma | Marilla |
| Amherst: Asbury | Fillmore Chapel | Middleport |
| Amherst: Christ | Gowanda | Niagara Falls: St. James |
| Arcade | Harris Hill | Orchard Park: Emmanuel |
| Attica: Trinity | Hartland | Protection |
| Barker: Faith | Holland | Springville: First |
| Batavia: First | Hope of Niagara County | W. Seneca: Covenant |
| Buffalo: Cleveland Hill | Indian Falls | W. Seneca: New Hope |
| Buffalo: South Park | Lockport: Clinton St. | Wilson: Exley |
| Clarence | Lockport: Emmanuel | Williston |

Calendar of Events			
March 24	8:00am-Noon	Men's Worship & Work Morning	Asbury Camp & Retreat Center Silver Lake
March 30		Good Friday – Office Closed	
April 13-14		Lay Servant Training Cornerstone District	Christ UMC 633 Linwood Ave., Olean
April 21	12:30-4:00pm	Imagine No Racism Kickoff Event	Clarence UMC 10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence
April 29	2:00-5:00pm	Jason Moore Seminar "5 Things Your Visitors Are Thinking But Won't Ask"	Kenmore UMC 32 Landers Rd., Kenmore
May 20		14 th Annual Laity Banquet	Samuel's Grande Manor 8750 Main St., Clarence
May 22	9:30am-3:00pm	Right Start Transition Workshop For clergy with new appointments or retiring	Springville: First UMC 474 E. Main St., Springville
May 30-June 2		Annual Conference	Onondaga Community College Syracuse
August 15-18		School of Congregational Development	San Diego, California
September 7-8		United Methodist Men hosted retreat Transformation through Christ: Turn 180°	Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center Windsor

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Rev. F. Ray Hazlett who passed away last week. Rev. Hazlett retired in 2010 and was living in Tennessee. He served at Williamsville and Amherst: Trinity churches. No other details are available at this time.

Please pray for the community and congregations in Buffalo at Korean, Lincoln Memorial and Metropolitan and clergy Jim Barnes, Karen Smith and Heather Stierheim.

~ Local Church News ~

(New) Wilson: Exley UMC (338 Lake St., Wilson; 716-751-6057) Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt & free pancake breakfast will be held at Exley UMC on **Saturday, March 24**. Breakfast will be served from 9-10am followed immediately by the egg hunt, Easter story with songs, crafts, games and face painting. Please RSVP to the church by March 21 with number of people attending.

(New) Buffalo: Metropolitan UMC (657 Best St., Buffalo) **Saturday, March 24** from 10am-Noon. All are invited to join us for our Community "Breakfast at Metro." Our Special Guest Speaker will be Sandra C. Stachewicz from the Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education Division. Please join us for food, fellowship, good information and to see what God is doing for all believers. We encourage each of you to come out to support this great community effort and it's FREE! Don't spend your money going out somewhere else, come on over to Metro and enjoy a good, *free* hot breakfast and great fellowship. Pastor Angela R. Stewart, Pastor.

(New) Forestville UMC (3 Park St., Forestville) Forestville, Four Corners, Gowanda and Versailles UMCs are joining together for a Maundy Thursday service that will include Holy Communion and a dramatic reading of the final 24-hours of Jesus' life. The service will be held at Forestville on **Thursday, March 29** at 6:30 p.m.

(New) W. Seneca: Covenant UMC (539 Main St., W. Seneca; just off Union Rd.) The West Seneca Community of Churches will be hosting THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST on **Good Friday, March 30**, from noon – 3 pm. This worship service recounts the seven phrases Christ spoke while on the cross during his crucifixion. The clergy presenting the service will be Jim Furey, Jason Drapeau, Roger Griffiths, Tom Dalbo, Ed Ihde, Phil Cunningham, Dennis Krueger, and Renee Engels. Please join us at Covenant UMC for this special Good Friday time of devotion. All are welcome to come and go at any time as the message is continual for the three hours. Handicapped entrance is at the back of the church. For further information contact 716-864-2989.

(New) Buffalo: South Park UMC (73 Ashton Pl., Buffalo) A solemn Watch Service at 7pm on **Saturday, March 31**.

(New) Easter Sunrise Service at 7am on **April 1** at Buffalo Botanical Garden Gazebo on South Park Ave., hosted by Seneca Street UMC.

(New) Hope of Niagara County UMC (2914 Upper Mountain Rd., Sanborn) On **Easter Sunday, April 1**, Hope UMC will host a lakeside sunrise worship service at Bonds Lake Park on Lower Mountain Road, Lewiston at 7AM with a breakfast potluck to follow at the park, weather permitting. All are welcome!! Please bring chairs, friends and pastries. Beverages are provided. Our rain location will be at the church. Easter Services will be held during our regular worship hours at 9:30am at St. James UMC and 11 am at Hope UMC. Be prepared to be touched by God this Lent by drawing close to God in worship. No Sunday School that day.

Lockport: Clinton St. UMC (50 N. Adam St., Lockport; corner of Clinton St.) Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner and Bake Sale will take place on **Saturday, April 7** from 4-6pm. Take out dinners; limited seating available. Gluten free, dairy free and meatless options also available. \$8 adult; \$5 for kids under 12.



(New) Indian Falls UMC (7908 Alleghany Rd., Corfu; 585-762-9105) A District UMM Breakfast Cluster will take place at Indian Falls UMC on **Saturday, April 22** at 8am. All men are invited, please call the church to RSVP.

(New) Amherst: Christ (350 Saratoga Rd., Amherst) Save the dates! May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we are offering several events that you are invited to attend. **Wednesday, May 9** from 6:30-8:00pm, "Under My Helmet," presented by Keith O'Neil, former NFL play and mental health advocate. He will speak about his journey with bipolar disorder. **Wednesday, May 16 & 23** from 5:30-7:00pm, "Bridges of Hope," a soup & bread supper with conversation led by Pastor Daryl Bennett.

~ Lenten Fish Fry News ~



UMC of the Abundant Harvest (Knowlesville Fellowship Hall, 3619 Knowlesville Road, Knowlesville) invites you to come and join us on **Fridays during Lent** for our fish fries. Takeouts begin at 4pm, with dine in beginning at 4:30pm The menu consists of batter dipped fish, baked potato or french fries, coleslaw or apple sauce, New England clam chowder, Manhattan clam chowder or Italian wedding soup, rolls/butter, beverage and dessert – all of the above for only \$10. For more info, call 585-798-3173, check our website at www.abundantharvestny.org or check us out on Facebook. Come and enjoy a good meal and Christian fellowship.

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.

Pendleton Center UMC (6864 Campbell Blvd., N. Tonawanda) Our famous Fish Fry Dinners will be held from **4-7pm every Friday thru 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.

~ Annual Conference News ~

(3/2) **Budget Books and Ministry Shares Information** – With Annual Conference right around the corner (May 30-June 2), now is the time to become familiar with the 2019 Conference Budget. [Click here](#) to gain an overview of how Ministry Shares support the Upper New York Budget in a new, dynamic video, starring many youth and adults across the Conference. [Click here](#) to view our updated *2019 Narrative Budget* booklet online. Printed copies of the *Narrative Budget* booklets are currently available at the United Methodist Center. Contact your District office to request your copy.



(3/2) **Study leader and ordination speaker announced** – The quadrennium theme "Together in Prayer" continues at the 2018 session of the Upper New York Conference with a sub-theme of "Boldly Living Our Call." The Rev. Dr. Gregory Jones of Duke Divinity School will be the guest study leader. His emphasis will be on living our call in the Wesleyan Way. Bishop Dennis Proctor of the Northeastern Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church will be this year's ordination speaker. [Click here](#) to learn more about Rev. Jones and Bishop Proctor.

What you need to know about 2018 Annual Conference

(3/2) **Getting There** – Unlike the past few years, this year's Annual Conference is not taking place at the Oncenter; it is taking place at Onondaga Community College (OCC) SRC Arena. [Click here](#) to read the first article that explains how to get there and also details about accommodation options.

(New) (3/16) **Transportation and meal updates** – This year, as opposed to previous years, shuttle buses are only being offered in the morning and evening for the first three days, and all day on Saturday. [Click here](#) to learn how to get to the SRC Arena, and to download a shuttle bus schedule. Meals are available at the SRC Arena and meals or snacks can be purchased at The ROAD, an UNY New Faith Community, located about a mile from the SRC Arena. [Click here](#) to learn more about meals and the hours that The ROAD will be serving food.

~ District and Conference News ~

(3/2) **Jason Moore Seminar!** Join us for a hands-on learning experience designed to help participants better connect and build lasting relationship with visitors led by Jason Moore. *5 Things Your Visitors Are Thinking But Won't Ask* will be held at Kenmore UMC (32 Landers Rd., Kenmore) on **Sunday, April 29** from 2-5pm. Cost is \$10 per person or \$50 maximum per church. *Watch for registration information.* See the **Guest Readiness Seminar attachment** for more information.





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. **Niagara Frontier's will be at Clarence UMC.** [Click here](#) to read Bishop Webb's letter.



(2/16) **Registration for 2018 Summer Programs is now open!** Don't forget to take advantage of our Early Bird (\$10 before May 1), Sibling (\$20 per camper), and Refer-A-Friend (\$40 for the referring friend) Discounts! We've got big things planned this summer and we want YOU to be part of it! Register today! Discover five awesome sites with over 200 programs. Summer Camp provides endless laughter, meaningful worship, and important friendships. Retreats provide a unique experience in a beautiful setting. [Click here](#) to discover the best

program for you or your child based on age, interests, and sites. If there are any questions, please contact us at (toll free) 855-414-6400 or info@campsandretreats.org.

(2/2) **United Methodist Women** – Please see the **UMW Breakfast attachment** for information and registration for the **Saturday, March 24** Communion Breakfast and Memorial Service events. They will take place at Lyndonville UMC and Hamburg UMC.

(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.



~ Safe Sanctuary Training ~

(New) Medina UMC (11004 W. Center St. Ext., Medina; 585-798-2142) is hosting a training session on **Saturday, April 7** from 10am-1pm. Please call the church to register.

~ Lay Servant Ministries ~

(New) CLM Training Session – All district CLMs are invited to a training session at Pendleton Center UMC (6864 Campbell Blvd., N. Tonawanda) on **Sunday, April 15** at 12:45 pm. The topic is "How to draw the meaning out of a passage of scripture."



(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.

(3/2) **Course Leaders Needed!** We need to set up a calendar of Lay Servant courses in our district and are looking for Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, Certified Lay Ministers and clergy to lead these courses. Having a variety of courses available gives those who need training more opportunities to come together with other followers of Christ, build relationships, and experience other churches (outside their own). A catalog of Advanced Lay Servant courses available to download at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-catalog>. We ask that you prayerfully consider teaching a course this year.

Courses can be offered on weekends or evenings (5 weeks for 2 hours a week). A "retreat" setting may also be possible, whether at a host church or another site. *The good news is that if you need a training course for yourself, leading a course fulfills that requirement!* We are specifically looking for more Basic Lay Servant course opportunities since there are many people who need that course as a foundation for their education

If you would like to lead a course or have questions, please contact Linda Barczykowski (lindab125@outlook.com) or Tracy Hagler (thagler0125@yahoo.com) so that we have all pertinent information. *Any training for laity within the Upper New York Conference will be advertised at the district and conference levels.*

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

(New) (3/16) The Upper New York Conference is accepting applications for **Imagine No Racism Regional Coordinators**. Qualified candidates will help connect, resource, and supervise Imagine No Racism District Advocates across the UNY Conference. There are four openings and each position entails compiling data, attending regular trainings, supplying curriculum and materials, in addition to other responsibilities. A high-school diploma or equivalent along with three to five years of relevant experience with computer skills required. [Click here](#) to read the job description and [click here](#) to apply by March 26.



(New) (3/16) **Youth invited to participate in Mission of Peace mission trip to the Philippines in 2019** – The Upper New York Conference is looking for four youth members to participate in the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Council on Youth Ministries upcoming Mission of Peace (MOP) mission trip to the Philippines next year. If selected, each youth member must raise money to support their MOP and, upon their return, share their experience. [Click here](#) to learn more and to download a fillable PDF to apply. The deadline for submission is April 9.

(New) (3/16) The Upper New York Conference is seeking to fill the **position of Conference Treasurer**. The job entails budget coordination, central treasury operations, financial reporting, supervision of staff in addition to other responsibilities. A Bachelor's degree is required, CPA is preferred with a minimum of five years experience in accounting or related field. [Click here](#) to learn more and to apply for the position. Application deadline is April 4.

(2/16) **Are you a handy person?** The District Office was given a quilt that we would like to hang in the office, but need someone to do it. You will need to come in and see the size and where we want it to go in order to figure out the best way to hang it. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Julie in the District Office.

(2/16) **Director of Music Ministry sought** – Batavia: First UMC is seeking candidates to fill the position of Director of Music Ministry (8 hours weekly) leads choir, bell choir and oversees music ministry - blend of both traditional and contemporary music. Candidates must have an interest in helping people grow in Christian faith, excellent communication skills and experience in the field of music. Submit resume by e-mail: fristumc@rochester.rr.com or mail: Batavia First United Methodist Church, 8221 Lewiston Road, Batavia, NY 14020.

~ Opportunities, Ministry Aids and “Stuff” ~

(New) (3/16) **ERT Training and Recertification at Clifton Springs UMC** – UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) training equips individuals to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disaster. When disaster strikes, ERTs fill a specific need to clean out flood-damaged homes, remove debris, place tarps on homes, and otherwise help to prevent further damage. The next course takes place **Saturday, May 12** at Clifton Springs UMC, 1 East Main Street, Clifton Springs from 8am-5pm or 10am-2:30pm to recertify.

* The Early Response Team course is facilitated by Roger and Donna Cullen. This course is eight hours.

* The ERT Recertification is for current or recently expired ERT badge holders. Brian Greenwald facilitates this four-hour course.

* ERT training cost of \$25 includes the ERT manual, background check, supplies, and badge.

* Recertification cost is \$21.50 and includes materials, supplies, background check, and badge.

Questions should be directed to the Cullens at unyvim@unyumc.org or Brian at bngreenwald@windstream.net.

(3/2) **Laity, clergy spark hope at the Hamburg UMC** – The winter issue of the *Advocate* focuses on the ministry of the laity, which can clearly be seen at Hamburg United Methodist Church. Clergy and laity have come together to lay the foundation for the Sparks of Hope Recovery Support Center at the church. Hamburg UMC sits in the midst of the heroin and opioid epidemic that has ravaged Western New York. Starting in 2016 and continuing through 2017, Hamburg UMC's pastor, Rev. Jan Hubbard, other clergy, and volunteers from Hamburg UMC have worked to implement programming for families and individuals at the church's Sparks of Hope building. Sparks of Hope aims to increase awareness through educational programs for families; prevent at-risk young people from falling into addiction through youth mentor groups; provide support/help for families of the addicted through support groups; and offer faith-based recovery support services for recovering individuals. [Click here](#) to read more in the *Advocate* (pages 32-33).





(2/16) **Sidewalk Prophets Concert** – On **Saturday, May 12** at 7pm you have a chance to see the Sidewalk Prophets in concert! General admission is \$10 and can be purchased online at <https://swprophets.eventbrite.com>. Early Entry and VIP tickets are also available, but ONLY from the website above. There is a personal invite from the lead singer that can be shown/downloaded for church use from <https://youtu.be/T-M97rGnzCo>. A promo video with the venue location can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/kRbGrAK.aos>. If you want a block of tickets, you can contact Luke Skura at Springville: First UMC for information. Feel free to share any social media posts about this event!

(3/2) **What do you know about Solar Energy?** What do you know about renewable energy? If you would like to learn more, come to University UMC, 410 Minnesota Ave., Buffalo, on **Saturday, March 17** at 10:30am. The church is considering installation and a representative of the company will be here to speak and answer questions. There will be another speaker to share why it would be good for our church and the environment for the church to do this. There will be time for questions and answers.



(3/2) **OUTWARD! event coming soon!** The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) will host OUTWARD! 2018 from **April 13-15** at the Syracuse-Liverpool Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway in Liverpool. This year's event has a different focus. The schedule will include opportunities for hands-on mission work. But the event will also feature some beloved traditions, including workshops, late-night options, Spirit-filled worship experiences, and an awesome band, SAMECITY. This year's worship speaker is Michael Jordan, dean of the chapel and chair of the biblical studies, theology and philosophy department at Houghton College. [Click here](#) for more information and to see a slideshow of last year's event. See the **Outward attachment** for the registration form.

(2/16) **An Information Session about Foster Care for Children** will be held on **Wednesday, March 21** from 6-8pm at the American Legion Post in Sanborn. If you have ever thought about being a foster home, you should attend this free workshop! Please see the **Foster Info Session attachment** for more information and how to RSVP. Penny Stenzel is the daughter of Rev. Wayne West (retired) and works with this organization. You can contact her at 716-462-1722 or PennyStenzel@berkshirefarm.org if you have any questions.

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

~ Newsletters & Calendar Items ~

(New) (3/16) **United Methodist Now; Inspiration for Daily Living** – A variety of articles and links, including a Holy Week quiz, is found in this [edition](#).

(New) (3/16) **UM Communications; Resources for Ministry** – This [issue](#) focuses on UMCOR and how recipients are paying it forward.

(3/2) The **March issue of Upper New York's Media Resource Center newsletter** is now available. The Media Resource Center - a free lending library supported through your shared ministry dollars - publishes the monthly newsletter, which features new resources that are currently available or coming soon, along with assorted informational articles about the resource center and other available resources. [Click here](#) to view and/or download the current newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Karen Campolieto, Media Resource Center Coordinator at karencampolieto@unyumc.org.

(New) (3/16) **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 [March edition](#).