

(New) Engaging with Skye Farm: Your Local Camp and Retreat Ministry Site; Robyn Vernon, Camp/Retreat Director: Want to learn about ways your congregation can get involved with Skye Farm? Want an update on how the site is doing and what Skye Farm is up to? This workshop will share what's happening at Skye Farm and explore how we can be a resource for your local congregation. Camp and retreat ministries is a powerful way to not only invest in your youth but in the life and community of your congregation.

Exploring Opportunities for Lay Servant Ministry; Darlene Suto, Albany District Lay Servant Director: In the United Methodist Church, both lay and clergy are called to ministry. Explore some areas of service through the Lay Servant Ministries and CLM programs to learn more about those areas where you might feel called to use your strengths in service for the Lord.

(New) The Next Right Step; Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens, Director of Missional Excellence; UNY Conference. Congregations that make a missional impact take time to assess, learn, and plan the next right step for their ministry. Participants will get a sneak peek at the upcoming resource from Missional Excellence about missional action planning.

Congregational Care; Rev. Debbie Earthrowl, Adirondack/ Albany District Superintendent: Part of being the church is caring for ALL of our members and for others in the community! So, how do we get organized to be more intentional and comprehensive in our care? Let's get started!

(New) Crossing the Continental Divide: An Introduction to the Peace Building Work of Braver Angels; Bruce France, Adirondack District Lay Leader: Founded shortly after the 2016 election, Braver Angels has worked tirelessly to help people talk with those they disagree with politically. This workshop provides participants with an introduction to Braver Angels and an overview of its principles. During this presentation participants will participate in several discussion activities, watch a video of a Red/Blue workshop in action, learn about how to have better conversations and hear about other Braver Angels' experiences.

Opportunities for Youth Ministries; Pastor Quincie Yamin (First UMC of Voorheesville), Pastor Mat Yamin (Albany: Pine Grove UMC and Castleton: St. Paul's UMC); This workshop focuses on equipping United Methodist churches and pastors with practical strategies to engage youth in meaningful ministry. We'll explore how to develop youth-led initiatives, create spaces for youth voices in worship and service, and foster strong intergenerational connections within the congregation. By addressing the unique challenges facing young people today, this session will provide tools to support their spiritual growth and prepare them as future leaders in the faith community. Leave with actionable insights to inspire and empower the next generation.

Adirondack/Albany District Day:

Informed to Transform



*A series of workshops designed to
nurture and grow Disciples of Jesus Christ*

October 25, 2025

8:45 AM to 3 PM

Registration begins at 8:15 AM

Saratoga Springs UMC

175 Fifth Ave., Saratoga Springs (12866)

Local Church Finances; Rev. Susan Ranous, Director of Christian Stewardship for the UNY Conference: Are you a Finance chair, a treasurer, a financial secretary, a pastor or just someone interested? Everyone has a job to do so the financial picture of the church comes together. This workshop will give you the basic knowledge needed to understand the various tasks, procedures necessary and steps needed.

(New) Called to Serve: Exploring Mission Opportunities in the UMC; Kristina Clark, Associate Director of Missional Excellence; UNY Conference: The UMC offers a world of ways to put faith into action. We'll explore mission opportunities that connect local congregations to communities near and far, including youth mission opportunities, Volunteers in Mission (VIM) sites, Global Ministries initiatives, and Disaster Response efforts. Whether you feel called to serve locally or across the globe, you'll learn how our mission networks can equip, guide, and inspire you.

Accountable Discipleship; Bruce France, Adirondack District Lay Leader: As children of God, we are called to live in God's household and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Accountable discipleship is a distinctly Methodist way of Christian formation and making sure discipleship happens. This session will cover the basics of accountable discipleship using scripture readings and John Wesley sermons that support this practice.

Vital Small Church Ministry; Rev. Debbie Earthrowl, District Superintendent: Explore the unique character, context, and gifts of your small church and discern the opportunities for ministry that God has for you. We'll have conversation about the present character and gifting of your church, and what adjustments you might make to better live into the call that God has for you now and into the future.

Creating, Planning and Facilitating Worship; Rev. Heather Williams, Saratoga Springs UMC: No matter our size, location, or resources, we all gather for worship each week as a faith community. To create, plan, and facilitate worship in new and relevant ways we do best by learning from one another. I believe whatever worship style you lead, it must be done with passion in encounter with our faith story. Our time together will be spent sharing and creating teams and best practices.

Christian Yoga; Rev. Meredith Vanderminden, Queensbury UMC: A worship experience with gentle, inspiring movement! This time together is suited to all levels of experience and abilities. Using Christian language and imagery, we'll hear a Scripture, share prayer concerns, sing, and move fluidly through accessible poses chosen to help you tune into the Spirit of Christ that dwells within you. Bring a mat if you are comfortable moving on the floor. Chairs will be provided for those who want more stability or prefer to sit higher. Wear clothes you can comfortably move in.

Stewardship; Rev. Susan Ranous, Director of Christian Stewardship; UNY Conference: A culture of generosity enables the church to do the ministry God is calling it to do. Stewardship of personal life, creation, time and talent and finances transforms discipleship! Generosity isn't just the here and now, but continues into the future and beyond! This workshop will talk about regular operational giving, designated giving, capital giving and planned giving.

Mission Insite; Rev. Debbie Earthrowl, District Superintendent: Do you really know all the people who live near your church location? Do you know how they believe, what ministry they desire, etc.? Do you know the predicted demographic trends for your area? Mission Insite provides information about our communities to help us better understand our local mission field and the opportunities we have for serving and discipling. A report will be provided for your area.

(New) Offers and Needs Market; Kristina Clark, Associate Director of Missional Excellence for the UNY Conference: Discover the power of mutual aid in this interactive, facilitated workshop that guides participants to uncover the skills, resources, and opportunities already present within their community. Through a guided process, each person shares what they can offer, such as time, talents, tools, connections, or knowledge. And what they need, whether help with a project, mentorship, collaboration, or resources.

Soul Collage, Rev. Meredith Vanderminden, Queensbury UMC: Soul Collage is an expressive arts practice done best while in community with fellow seekers of God. We'll work with simple materials and some simple questions. No creative skill is needed. This practice works for anyone willing to be open to the movement of the Spirit. This practice develops creativity and intuition, encourages discovery, and allows space for the grace of God to work in your life.

Covenant Discipleship Groups; Bruce France, Adirondack District Lay Leader: Covenant Discipleship Groups (CDG), based on the Wesley Class Meetings, provide mutual accountability for holy living and growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. This session will explore what, how and why of CDG. Revisit an important method Wesley used and how that same method can help your congregation today.

(New) Clergy and Laity Partnership; Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens, Director of Missional Excellence for the UNY Conference: Healthy congregations practice a dynamic partnership of laity and clergy. Each plays an essential role in the ministry of a local congregation, and like any solid relationship takes investment, practice, and clarity of expectations. Explore the Biblical and theological foundations for a partnership, and define action steps to deepen the partnership in your congregation.