

guard their doors.

And may the work that they do cause them to grow in wisdom and stature with You and each other.

This semester especially, with all its challenges and uncertainties, may they still be excited to learn and teach

and through all their experiences, may they live into beautiful, divine and holy moments.

With a thankful heart and a hopeful spirit, I offer these words.

And so it is!

Blessed Be.

In Brief

World Communion Sunday is Sunday Oct. 4, 2020

United Methodists are connectional. Connectional giving – all of us giving together – is fuel for ministry. It enables us to share the concerns of many people. This idea is established on the desire to meet the needs of ALL God’s people. It is grounded in our need to give in order to be spiritually healthy, complete children of God.

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. When you give towards one of the six Special Sundays, you enable vital ministries that change the world, one life at a time. Our individual gifts of support make us a better church for the sake of God’s world.

Sunday Oct. 4, 2020 is World Communion Sunday.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

On World Communion Sunday, you have the opportunity to give an offering to support scholars in their education. Because of our giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.

In The United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday is one of six Special Sunday offerings. On the first Sunday in October, our designated gifts benefit students around the world by providing scholarships, mentoring, and training.

As we come together to receive Holy Communion along with Christians around the world, we recognize our unity and shared commitment to building God’s kingdom on earth. Together, we help raise up new leaders around the world, equipping them to be agents of change. Please give generously on Oct.

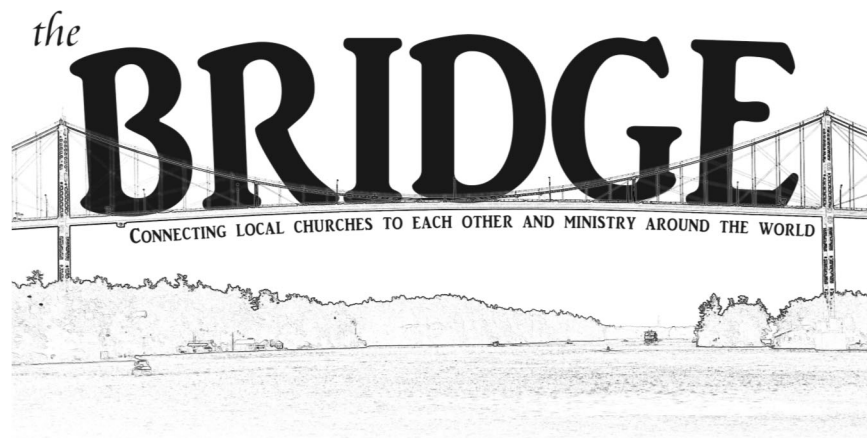
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Visit <http://bit.ly/UMCSpecialSundayGiving> to give an online donation for World Communion Sunday.

The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world. For more news and stories visit:

www.unyumc.org

Find Information and resources about how to improve your church’s digital discipleship at <https://www.unyumc.org/about/digital-discipleship>



The Upper New York Conference’s vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God’s love with our neighbors in all places.

A look inside!

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Bishop Webb's message to the UNY Conference

On Sept. 8, Upper New York (UNY) Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb, sent a video message to the Upper New York Conference. In his message, he expresses gratitude for every clergy person, lay person, and participant in any of the UNY churches for the faithful ministry they continue to offer in the name of Jesus Christ at this difficult time.

Bishop Webb expresses sorrow for the UNY Conference as they continue to suffer from the consequences of the coronavirus, including economic insecurity, the sickness and death of loved ones, and the emotional and spiritual toll that may not be identified for months, if not years.

Bishop Webb acknowledges the fact that this fall will not be one of usual ex-

citement as a new school year starts and churches open their doors wide new programs and ministries. He expresses support for clergy with and members with school-aged children who must navigate new models of learning. Bishop exclaims that the Gospel speaks into the emotional and spiritual needs that people have right now.

Bishop Webb said, this time is "an opportunity for individuals to be invited to encounter the good news of Jesus Christ."

Bishop Webb also discusses the deep hurt many are experiencing due to the division and injustice in our society right now. He urges Conference members to continue their work at eradicating racism through the Imagine No Racism initiative.



Bishop Webb concludes his encouraging video by saying, "These are hard days. These are days filled with possibil-

ity for the Gospel."

Visit <http://bit.ly/BishopWebbsept8> to watch the video.

Blessing for students, teachers, professors, and staff



By Chaplain Rhonda Chester, United Methodist Ecumenical Chaplain and pastor at Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University

Each of us long for new beginnings that allow our soul to expand and meet the challenges we face. This Fall, as we begin a new academic year, we face many challenges as we adapt to new ways of living, learning and being in community.

Here is a blessing for students, teachers, professors and staff:

May children, youth, and young adults everywhere be open to the blessing of a brand new school year.

May the radiance of your soul light up all opportunities to do good work and to be good humans.

As you enter the virtual and in-person spaces, may you do so with anticipation for the new discoveries of your ability to adapt and learn.

May your minds and hearts be excited to learn new ideas and face new challenges.

May you find new friends and new teachers whose support, presence, and wisdom keep you focused.

May you teachers/professors and staff be filled with enthusiasm as you share new, important and useful ideas. May you be constantly aware that you are in a position to renew and transform the minds of your students.

May your students be uplifted and grateful to you for your wisdom and ex-

pertise. May you find reciprocity in your respect and appreciation for one another. Always be mindful in your work, present and available for those who seek your help.

May this new academic year refresh and reawaken you to how valuable you are.

Giver of Life, bless the spaces between teachers and learners.

Grant them all the resources they would need to successfully make it through another academic year.

Satisfy them with good health and long life.

Send peace and goodwill to always

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