



into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people," we also celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church

and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

In Brief

From the desk of Bishop Webb: Violence in our country

In response to the recent Atlanta shootings and other acts of violence throughout our country the past week, Upper New York (UNY) Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb sent a letter to the UNY Conference on March 23, 2021, expressing the many prayers that are needed as well as the fact that we must continue to stand against all forms of violence in whatever form they take. Visit <http://bit.ly/BishopWebbMarch23> to read the letter.

UNY Conference Commission on Religion & Race response to violence

Crimes targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have risen dramatically since the beginning of the pandemic. The recent horrific murder of eight people in spas outside Atlanta, including six women of Asian descent, highlights an urgent need to combat this unconscionable rise of crimes and violence directed toward AAPI.

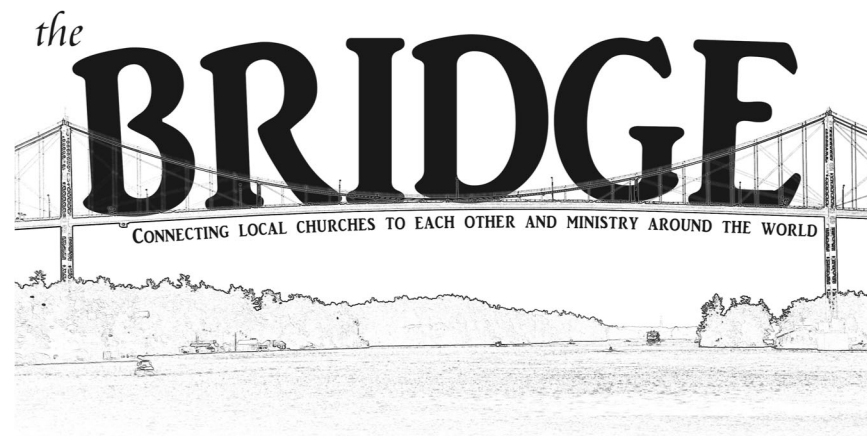
The UNY Conference Commission on Religion & Race prepared a statement as a response to the Atlanta shootings and has useful suggestions on ways you can continue to confront implicit bias and dismantle racism in any way we can.

Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYCCORRMarch23> to read the full statement.

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

The 2021 Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference will be held remotely June 17-19. Visit <https://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference> to learn more.



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.

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Here are some interesting facts about Easter

Happy Easter! Let's dive into some facts about this important season for Christians.

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is why services on this night generally include the washing of feet or other acts

of physical care as an integral part of the celebration.

While John's gospel does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper among the events of this night, the other gospels do. Christians therefore keep this night with celebrations both at the basin (footwashing) and at the Lord's Table (Holy Communion).

Where did Good Friday get its name?

The source of our term for the Friday before Easter, "Good Friday," is not clear. It may be a corruption of the English phrase "God's Friday," according to Professor Laurence Hull Stookey in *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* (p. 96). It is the common name for the day among English- and Dutch-speaking people. It is a day that pro-



claims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is good because God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ. As seen in John's gospel, particularly, God was in control. God was not making the best of a bad situation but was working out God's intention for the world — winning salvation for all people. We call it "good" because we look backward at the crucifixion through the lens of Easter!

Remember, Easter is not just one day, it's 50 days

Easter for Christians is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on

Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Easter is also more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early Church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians.

This extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. It's the season when we remember our baptisms and how through this sacrament we are, according to the liturgy, "incorporated

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