



North Main Street United Methodist Church
316 North Main Street, Gloversville, New York 12078
"Love Grows Here"
Church Office 518-725-7323
nmainstmumc@gmail.com

MARCH/APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



“All of our services are on Facebook weekly at 9:15 and on our Website every week. “

Once again, the Lenten journey has begun. A crucial aspect of the Lenten journey is the invitation to make a choice. First we need to choose whether or not we even want to participate in this journey. Ash Wednesday gave us the opportunity to say yes to the choice. But that decision is just the beginning of our journey. To make a decision to participate seems easy, but keeping the choices we make is not easy. Even with Jesus walking beside us each day, we have trouble.

Many people find it hard to accept the fact that God does not desert us. We do not understand how we receive this kind of grace. None of us fully understand God's eternal love and presence in our lives. Yet, God has forever identified with the human dilemma. God understands. All in your life may fall away, but God will never fall away. He does not desert us in our hour of need. He hears our cries as well as the cries of the church. He hears the cries of His children.

Sometimes it is difficult to remember to trust that God is there for us. As we move forward into the Lenten Season and the journey to Easter Morning we should make the reminder to ourselves that God will not desert us. This message should be at the forefront of all that we do.

In this season of Easter Preparation, we make ready our hearts and minds to worship Christ, in whom we have new life, on Easter Sunday. In this season, we try to remove distractions and lean into spiritual practices to make ourselves more available to God. Some will practice abstinence and some will give up things that make them feel deprived. Instead, it is fitting that we start this season with a reminder of God's overflowing love for humanity. Let our worship of God be motivated by his deep, abiding love for us so that in turn we can do our best to do something for someone else. God gave us his Son and Jesus offers us hope along with love and guidance.

Pastor Joyce

Joyce Royal

Food Pantry Report – January

The weather was very cold this month and so the turnout was quite low even with the holiday. We had planned for 96 families we ended up with only 55 families. There were 79 adults, 34 children and 46 seniors. I was there on the 18th in case there were any late comers but no one was there, I expect to have a few calls before the end of the month.

We gave out Italian sausages, butter, eggs, and cheese. The bags had pasta along with the canned vegetables, fruit, and spaghetti sauce. There were the choices of cold cereal, juice, and shelf stable milk. We will be restocking before the next month's pantry day. We also had a good supply of diapers for those who needed them.

Our pet ministry is still doing very well. We had food requests for 14 dogs and 28 cats. We have received monetary donations for pet food and will need to restock there also. Our thanks to all those who have contributed.

Thanks to all those who donate to the funding of our pantry and those who work so hard to make our pantry a success. We are also thankful for the grants that we receive. We thank God that we have the chance to help those in our community who are in need. I am concentrating on keeping the costs down while getting enough food items for those in need. We now have quite a few bags already waiting for next month and frozen meats also. Our shelves need to be restocked since we have had such a big turnout the last few months.

Food Pantry Report – February

February was another very cold month but the turnout was very good. We had planned for 84 families we ended up with 87 families. There were 124 adults, 37 children and 61 seniors. We had 16 new families this month.

We gave out chicken patties, Italian sausages, butter, and eggs. We had some pork chops and cheese from last month that we used as well. The bags had instant potatoes along with the canned vegetables, fruit, pasta, and sauce. There were the choices of cold cereal, juice, and shelf stable milk. We ran out of all our coffee and tea. We will be restocking before the next month's pantry day.

Our pet ministry is still doing well. We had food requests for 22 dogs and 34 cats. We will need to restock there also.

Thanks to all those who donate to the funding of our pantry and those who work so hard to make our pantry a success. We thank God that we have the chance to help those in our community who are in need. Trying to keep the costs down while getting enough food items for those in need is ongoing. We are thankful for the grant money we have received and those who put the work into applying for them.

Thank you,
Edna Bennet

Free Lunch

The New Year has found us finally offering indoor meals the way it was before covid. We still offer to-go bags if someone wants one, but most are happy to sit down and visit. It is so nice to see people taking seats next to strangers and conversing with them, young people waiting on older strangers. It's really bringing out the best in people and I get great satisfaction from observing the interaction. This is so important to me and was one of the goals when free lunch first started 12 years ago! We also have SO much more to offer meal-wise. I have to get used to the ordering structure at the Regional Food Bank, though. I thought I was ordering two jars of peanut butter, when actually I ordered two CASES of it. I predict a day of PB&J sandwiches in the near future! Oh well. No one has ever complained about that. I also have some flyers advertising lunch. If you know of a place where people in need might see it, and you can place one there, please let me know and I can get one to you. Thank you!

WICS

As we start 2024, we are looking forward to helping our community, as usual. We have delivered our personal care bags and disbursed the money raised to the organizations that we support for 2023, and now we start over. It is always a blessing to help out where needed. Enclosed is the form to donate to our annual foodless food sale. If you are so inclined, you can leave your donation in the church office or give it to me, Nancy Marsh. Checks can be made out to NMSUMC WICS. We're also planning more fun fundraisers throughout the year. Thank you all for always generously supporting our missions.

Nancy Marsh

Gift Bags

The Women in Christian Service with the Mission Team provided Christmas Gift bags to the Family Counseling Center Domestic Violence program and Haven of Hope in Fonda. The women are so grateful for the bags that are filled with personal items for them to enjoy.

Family Counseling Bags



**Nancy Marsh & Pat Brookins
At Haven of Hope**



**Jackie Capasso helped
distribute bags**



Birthdays

Daniel Kwak – March 7
Ethel Lorenc – March 7
Gay Brady – March 8
Zachary Byrnes – March 12
Sharon Rodrigue – March 19
Beverly Bartlett – March 22
Peter Schoonmaker – March 26
Matthew Towne – March 30
Teresia Davis – March 31

Carole Salvione – April 2
Dakota Rulison – April 11
Don Williams – April 18
Cheryl Bielli – April 19
Joan Allen – April 24
Sim Morey – April 28
Linda Howland – April 29

Newsletter

If you have a poem, saying, story or positive thoughts and would care to share, please email them to nmarsh73@yahoo.com to get them added to the newsletter which comes out every other month. Thank you!

Neighborhood Engagement Event

The Second Annual Winterfest Neighborhood Engagement was held on Thursday, February 22 at the Gloversville Public Library. Approximately 20 services were there to inform the public about offerings for things from health insurance to police availabilities. North Main had a great presence with Sally and Richard Kwak, Jackie Capasso, Pastor Joyce, Nancy Estes and her therapy dog, Abra, as well as Adirondack storyteller Don Williams. Dorothy and Ron Holly came to take photos for the newsletter. Mayor DeSantis judged the children's poster contest "Winter Wonderland in Gloversville". Pastor Joyce is the clergy representative to the NEU with the goal of informing the public about the services that North Main offers weekly, including the Free Lunch and the Food Pantry, along with children's activities.





Annual Bakeless Bake Sale 2024



The following is the average cost of baking delicious items:

Chocolate Chip Cookies: .17 cents per cookie x 24 = \$4.00 a batch

Basic Chocolate Cake: Cake \$3.75 and Icing \$2.50 = \$6.25

Apple Pie: 10" pan called for 3lbs of apples @ \$2.69 a lb. So, that's almost \$10 just for the apples, two crusts and sugar, plus pan = Over \$10-\$12 each

Muffins: The cost of Duncan Hines Baker Style Blueberry Muffin Mix is \$3.59. Adding the cost of one egg, then dividing by 12 servings per package, you get \$.34 cents per muffin. \$7.16 per batch

Brownies with Nuts: Pillsbury's Traditional Fudge Brownie Mix, which makes 20 brownies, costs \$2.59. When you add the cost of one egg, a half cup of vegetable oil and a cup of chopped nuts the Brownies cost about \$.22 cents each x 24 = \$5.28 a batch

A Bakeless Bake Sale means – no need to search for ingredients – No need to huddle over a hot stove – Forget about shopping and recipe boxes!

If you donated 1 Pie, 1 Batch of Brownies, 1 Batch of Muffins and 1 Cake....

You would have spent \$28.69. Why not relax and send us a donation instead? No baking, no taking, no worries, and you get to just stay home!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

NO-BAKE BAKERY ITEMS AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Thank you!!! Your donation is appreciated!

Please make checks payable to Women in Christian Service



★ ★ ★ ★ North Main St United Methodist Church ★ ★ ★ ★

FRIDAY LENTEN FISH FRY!



TAKE OUT ONLY!

EACH DINNER ONLY **\$16** | **North Main St UMC**
316 N Main St Gloversville, NY 12078

TICKETS AVAILABLE PRE-SALE ONLY!

March 22
4pm-6pm | **Fresh Fried Fish**
Served with a Baked Potato
Cole Slaw & a Roll

Questions or To Purchase Tickets
Call the office 518-725-7323

Easter Flowers or Memory Box

If you would like to order flowers for Easter "In Honor" or "In Memory" of someone, please return the slip below with payment, no later than **MARCH 19th, 2024**. Checks should be made out to **North Main U.M.C.** Thank you for your help in making Palm Sunday and Easter not only inspiring, but beautiful. We will try our best to get the flower you requested!

(Please circle appropriate choices and quantity, please print all information.)

<u>Lily</u> \$25	<u>Tulips</u> \$25	<u>Memory Box</u>
White	Assorted Colors	\$20, \$25, \$30

In Memory
Of: _____

In Honor
Of: _____

From: _____

March

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:30 Church Service in Chapel with Social Distancing	4 11:30 – 12:30 Free Lunch 1:00 Bible Study	5	6	7	8 Food Pick up	9
10 10:30 Church Service in Sanctuary with Social Distancing	11 11:30 – 12:30 Free Lunch 1:00 Bible Study	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 Church Service in Sanctuary with Social Distancing	18 11:30 – 12:30 Free Lunch	19	20	21	22 Food Pick up Lenten Fish Fry Dinner 4-6 p.m. Take-out only.	23
Palm Sunday 24 10:30 Church Service in Sanctuary with Social Distancing	25 11:30 – 12:30 Free Lunch 100 Bible Study	26	27	28	29	30
Easter Sunday 31 10:30 Church Service in Sanctuary with Social Distancing						



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** The newsletter may be accessed also on-line at <https://NMSUMC.org/newsletter/> **