

North Main Street United Methodist Church
316 North Main Street, Gloversville, New York 12078
"Love Grows Here"

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MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



Message from Pastor Joyce Royal

It's Easter time again and the time of Lent is here, and it certainly seems like we are just getting through Christmas and all the "overeating" and "present giving". In **Lent**, many Christians commit to **fasting**, as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days. This is commonly known as one's **Lenten** sacrifice and completely opposite of what most people do at Christmas. The Lenten time starts with Ash Wednesday, which is February 26, this year. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. Fasting is the act of doing with less, but sometimes we can do more than just give up something for Lent. We can add something to our daily routine to make the time of Lent more enjoyable for us as well as others who may not partake in fasting. When we give up something that we do daily, we add more time to our day to be available to help others. So, what if we add saying a prayer for someone to our Lenten time. I like to send cards to shut ins from my church family during this time. A note or a card can be as helpful to them as fasting is to us.

The time of Lent, through fasting and abstaining, may be an important reminder of what it means to suffer. This small suffering should not be met with misery, but with great joy as we better understand the suffering that people who have no one feel at this time of the year. What joy we can bring to someone when they receive a phone call, a note or card, or maybe even an invitation to a meal when they are otherwise lonely.

This year at North Main United Methodist we will be starting our Wednesday evening Lenten Services on **Ash Wednesday, February 26th, at 6:00**. The next Wednesday services will be provided by the Lay Ministry Team. This is an exciting time for them to do the service and learn more about preparing sermons as they will be starting their next Ministry Class in March, "Called to Preach". I hope you will come and support them as you have myself. Maybe that's what you can do for Lent. Add to the support of the Lay Ministry Team and pray for them as they move forward in sharing this year's series entitled "Go Forth for Jesus".

In addition we will be starting our Lenten Bible Study "Invitation to the Old Testament" which starts on February 19, at 2:00. This will be a class participation series with beautifully illustrated scenes of the Holy Land and the Old Testament readings. I am looking forward to learning more about why we



have come to call Jesus, The Light of the World. From this Study we can then go forth for Jesus during the Lenten season and the resurrection on Easter morning.

Wishing you all a blessed and healthy 40 days filled with service to others that hopefully will bring great joy to each of you.

Pastor Joyce

Parsonage Report

We once again ask everyone to please be patient as we move through the final phase of the work on the Parsonage. This has been time consuming and a lot of work. Many thanks to all the food pantry recipients for their patience too. Adirondack Flooring has completed the new flooring. The new roof is done as well as the garage roof. Once all work is completed, the building will be put up for sale. If you know of a non-profit that could use the building that would be ideal for everyone;

Trustee's Report

The Trustees have been working through some issues with the Fellowship Hall drainage system. There are on- going issues with maintenance for the Trustees at all times during the year with Winter being the worst. Thanks to all the members for their dedication to the work of maintaining our over 100 year old building. The fire extinguisher inspection is completed with no issues and next will be the annual fire inspection and we anticipate no issues.

We have recently hired a new custodian for the interior maintenance. Please welcome Ron Talbott, a/k/a Pastor Ron.

Wednesday Work Group

There are plenty of things to do around our church that our custodian does not have time to complete. Picking up papers, weeding the Memory Garden are just a few. If you see something that needs doing, please do it. If you can't do it, put a note in the custodian box by the office or the Trustees.

Pastoral Care

Our team continues to learn new things that we can do to reach out to our Congregation in pastoral care. We have started our Monthly Devotional time at Kingsboro Towers which has been well attended and is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM.

Fund Raising

Our on-going Terry Lynn Fund Raiser has been bringing in some funds. This is an easy way to get these delicious nuts and candy. Just go to the Website. Use <https://www.northmainstUMC.terrilynn.com> It's easy and a great source of fund raising.

Pastor Joyce Royal

Pastoral Care Team

As part of the Pastoral Care Team, I send out cards to members. I also telephone members. As most of you know, you received a Christmas card this special season. I also send out other cards.

I am always in need of greeting cards – all varieties. If you have any cards that you don't need, please consider donating them to the Pastoral Care Team, in care of me. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Carol B. Johnson
(518) 844-3354

Prayer Chain

I have a question for you Do you like to pray? Do you like to pray for others? If your answer is “yes”, please join us. We need more pray-ers. It's really easy. You get a phone call, then you pray, when you normally pray. The more prayers the person gets, the more our Lord appreciates it. Please contact me and I will put you on the list. As I just stated, it's easy.

Carol B. Johnson
(518) 844-3354

January Food Pantry Report

We started off this year much the same as we did in 2019. It was cold and blustery. Our volunteers were as always faithful in their duty. Today we had 2 newly certified volunteers helping us, David Kibbe and Kayce Frederick. Pastor Joyce presented the required Civil Rights training on Friday January 17th so that they were able to help with this first distribution of 2020. Tom Kevlin and Carol Johnson also took the workshop. Tom will be helping later in the year. We appreciate the extra time that these people put in to help with this mission.

At this distribution we were able to serve 44 families including 1 new family. We provided food for 64 adults, 23 children and 13 seniors. A total of 100 members of our community were provided with

food. 32 families participated in the pet food mission this month. We were able to provide food for 33 dogs and 44 cats, so a total of 77 animals benefited from the pet food mission.

Our building seems to be holding its own. Both the equipment and the heating system are functioning very well. We are looking forward to having our floors installed so that distribution day will be made much easier. We are continuing to take advantage of all the USDA food that we can order from the Regional Food Bank . This really helps to keep our costs down and it allows us to supply our members with healthy options. As an example, I was able to order 2 lb. blocks of cheese and quarts of shelf stable 1% milk for February at no cost.

We appreciate our caring congregation and Pastor Joyce for all that they do, both financially and physically, to keep this mission going forward. Without this support it would not survive.

Our next pantry day is February 17th. The Food Pantry is looking forward to a successful, healthy and safe 2020.

Yours in Christian Service,
June Parker

Free Lunch

This past year was busy as usual. We served a total of 1400 firsts and 132 seconds. We are blessed with community support from other churches and civic organizations as well as support from our congregation. Because we received some grant money, we were able to purchase a cast iron frying pan and a new food processor.

Thank you to all of our faithful workers and God bless everyone who helps us out in any way. We will be starting our 8th year this month!

WICS

After taking the winter off, we will be starting our 2020 season with a covered dish supper on Tuesday, March 10th at 5 pm. Our plan is to have Sheriff Richard Giardino as our guest speaker if his schedule allows. We will also be planning our fundraising strategy for the year. New members are always welcome. Join us for a relaxing, fun, informative evening.

Nancy Marsh

Membership Team

We are slowly reorganizing the membership team which sort of lost its way for a brief time. If you were on the team, please let us know. The more help, the better. We are trying to update the church mailing list. It seems that some have changed phone numbers, addresses, etc. and we would like to be able to have the current info. If any of your contact info has changed and you would like to update it, please let the church office know. Phone # 518-725-7323. Thank you.

Carol Johnson and Nancy Marsh

ACC

Great News! Save the date! After a number of years, the African Children's Choir is returning! We have secured the date of Wednesday, October 7th. This will be a great event. We will be in need of host families, help with advertising, putting on a pot luck supper and ushering during the concert. If you have never been to one of their concerts you are in for a treat. The whole experience is so inspiring! If you have a spare room and can host a couple of children with an adult for two nights, please let me know. You will find it so rewarding. Thank you.

Nancy Marsh

March Birthdays

Zachary Byrns – March 12
Joshua Antonucci – March 18
Beverly Bartlett – March 22
Isabella Marshall – March 24
Ryan Davis – March 26
Samantha Bielli – March 29
Teresia Davis – March 31

No March Anniversaries

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 1st – 10th Annual

Come to Fellowship Hall right after church and vote the best. \$5.00 donations are appreciated to taste all of the entries and vote for your favorite. Invite your friends to participate or just come and join the fun.

Friday, April 3rd
Annual Lenten Fish Fry 4 – 6 p.m.



Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Get yours early. We sell out every year. Meals include fresh fried fish, cole slaw, roll, baked potato and cookie and are **take out only**. Tickets are available in the office and from Fund Raiser Team Members before and after church. Donations of homemade cookies appreciated

Out of the Mouths of Babes

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year old brother Joel were sitting together in church Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally his big sister had had enough. “You’re not supposed to talk out loud in church.” “Why? Who’s going to stop me?” Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, “See those two people standing by the door? They’re hushers.”

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5 and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait’” Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan, you be Jesus!”

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, “What was Jesus’ mother’s name?” One child answered, “Mary.” The teacher then asked, “Who knows what Jesus’ father’s name was? A little boy said, “Verge.” Confused, the teacher asked, “Where did you get that?” The boy said, “Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n’ Mary.”

The newsletter may
on-line at



be accessed

NMSUMC/org/newslettter

