



**North Main Street United Methodist Church**  
**316 North Main Street, Gloversville, New York 12078**  
*"Love Grows Here"*  
**Church Office 518-725-7323**  
[nmainstumc@gmail.com](mailto:nmainstumc@gmail.com)

## MARCH/APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. The church season of Lent is marked by Ash Wednesday on one side and Easter on the other. Lent gives Christians the opportunity to prepare for the gifts and glory of Easter by reflecting on our need for God's salvation and restoration in our life as well as our need for God's overwhelming grace. The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness. It was a time to remember that we are created out of the dust of the earth. It was a time to be restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. As a way of understanding, Ash Wednesday was authorized by the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. According to Christian scholars, Ash Wednesday was not considered to be a biblical requirement, but the practice of repenting in dust and ashes accompanied by fasting can be found in several of the Scriptures. Ash Wednesday follows Shrove Tuesday as a ritual symbol of contrition/confession/repentance from the activities of previous days. The symbolic ashes are typically created from burnt palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. They are mixed with olive oil to create a gritty paste to be placed on the foreheads or on the hands of the faithful in the shape of the cross. This gesture acts as a sign of confession, repentance, and turning back to God, through the practice of Christian spiritual disciplines and can serve as excellent examples of what it means to repent, to have a change of heart, to spend more intentional time with God for the forty-day Season of Lent. Somewhere in Lent, there's a message from God. I think the message is about love. Love happens to be the most talked about and discussed topic of all time. In the New Revised Standard translation of the Bible, there are 489 verses with the word "love" in them, 262 of those appear in the New Testament alone. How can we participate this Lenten season in this.. by self-examination of how we love others as well as who do we love. We can show love by prayer for others as we have prayed for them every Sunday through our prayer list and prayer chain, by fasting, and by self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. This Lenten Season I invite you to add something to your life, more than giving up something. Do Something for someone else...Show your love in some small way. This Lenten Season, take the Gift of Love and share it with others.

Pastor Joyce Royal

*Joyce Royal*

## Ash Wednesday

An Ash Wednesday Service, signaling the start of Lent and 40 days until Easter, was held in the Chapel on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Joyce was assisted by Sally Kwak and James Medbury, and she asked the congregation to consider doing a kindness for someone else rather than giving something up. Ashes, made from last year's palms, were applied before the service ended. Several members accompanied Pastor Joyce to the front of the church where she changed the color of the scarf on the cross to purple.



## Glove City Coalition Winter Fest



On a cold Saturday, February 21, North Main participated in the second Winter Fest for the Glove City Coalition as part of our outreach ministry. North Main had 36 Rabbits for the youth to decorate with tails and eyes and beads to make a beautiful hanging ornament. Thank you to Georgia's Granddaughter Madison for painting them all ahead of time during her Spring Break. The kids loved the craft part. A big thanks to Marilyn Cornell for helping assemble them for the smaller Children.

Tom Kevlins group from the Broadalbin Lions Club also worked next to us with 25 bird houses for the kids to assemble. They loved that part of the Festival and they were gone in an hour.

A Special thanks to Abra, our Therapy Dog, for greeting everyone and making them feel super welcome. Abra met a mascot and enjoyed spending time with him also.

The Glove City Coalition is North Main Street UMC's opportunity to reach out to the community and the youth of our area. Next will be the Summer Fest at the Rail Trail Park on July 22, 2026.

## **Food Pantry - January**

The weather was frigid this month. It was very cold and there were no people waiting in line for long times as usual. We had 55 families come through with 8 new families. We had a total of 57 adults, 13 children and 51 seniors. We had several people come over from the free lunch program too.

This month we gave out fish sticks, butter, and eggs for the first people and then we were giving out the leftover frozen items from last month. The dry bags along with the usual canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, scalloped potato mix, beef stew, pasta, and muffin mix. There were the choices of cold cereal and juice. We had mayonnaise or oil for an extra choice. We did have coffee this month which was appreciated along with some tea bags. We will be restocking before the next month's pantry.

Our pet ministry is still doing very well. We had requests for 26 cats and 18 dogs. We will restock for next month also.

Since we had the large donation this month of canned goods, pasta, and mixes along with toiletries and cleaning goods from last month we did not need to order more. We will be sorting things out and giving the items out for a couple months.

Again, 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 were glad that Anne was feeling better and could be there but we missed Mary as she was ill. We all need to take care of ourselves this winter. We thank God that we have the chance to help those in our community who are in need.

## **Food Pantry – February**

The weather was nice this month. It was cold but the sun came out. There was a steady pace of people but not the long lines as usual. We had 63 families this month with 10 new families. We had a total of 49 adults, 28 children and 59 seniors.



This month we gave out hot dogs, cheese, and butter. We did not get any eggs this month either. The dry bags along with the usual canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, pasta mix, canned chicken or tuna, elbows, soup, and pork and beans. There were the choices of cold cereal and juice or apples. We had mayonnaise or oil for an extra choice. We did have coffee this month which was appreciated along with some tea bags. We will be restocking before the next month's pantry.

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Again, 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 had a very nice luncheon on Feb, 5<sup>th</sup> for all the workers at the pantry and the free lunch program. We were able to all meet and enjoy pizza and salad.

We all need to take care of ourselves this winter. We thank God that we have the chance to help those in our community who are in need.

## **WICS**

As of right now, we are on hiatus. It's simply too difficult to try and raise money. Years ago we had meetings with speakers and picnics and luncheons. Rummage sales would earn us hundreds to donate to worthy causes, but it's just not feasible for the few remaining members to do these things any more. It saddens us to have to decide this. If anyone can think of something easy/fun to do, just let us know. I will still receive Tastefully Simple catalogs for those of you who need to replenish or want to try new items. The Spring catalog should be out soon. Thank you all for your past support. Happy Easter!

## **Free Lunch**

On the first Monday in March, it will be 14 years since we started this mission. The help and support that we have received has been amazing! We thank everyone for anything that you may have done to support us. Somehow we always manage to feed everyone who shows up. God does provide and we have faith that he will continue to provide. Our freezers and cabinets are full and we waste nothing! Leftovers from today get frozen and turned into soups and casseroles in the future. I think I finally have ordering from the food bank figured out. No mistakes in the past two orders!

On food pantry day in February we gave out about 100 lunches. That's counting seconds, but still. We had enough soup and sandwiches, baked goods and apples for everyone! Hopefully warmer weather will allow more to come and enjoy a meal. Happy Spring everyone!

*Nancy Marsh*

## **Fundraising Team**

We have been working on fundraisers for the year and we will be starting off with our Annual Fish Fry on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 PM \*\*\* \$18 – TAKE OUT ONLY

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Plaza's Italian Bistro will be held on October 14, 2026 and this year we will hold two McDonald's Fundraiser nights. One will be in May and the other in November. We will have more information as we get closer to the event.

The money raised from the Fish Fry and the McDonald's Fundraisers go to our Fuel Fund so your support is greatly appreciated!

*James Medbury*

### **Captain's Meal**

A dedicated group of volunteers, including Pastor Joyce, Sally Kwak, Charlotte Locatelli and Kasey Frederick, provide a nourishing meal to homeless teenagers on the first Wednesday of every month. They prepared a chicken, rice, broccoli casserole, garlic knots and cookies for the February meal. The teenagers are very appreciative.



### **Appreciation Dinner**

On February 5th several volunteers who support the Free Lunch program and Food Pantry were invited to lunch in Fellowship Hall to thank them for their support. They enjoyed fresh pizza from the Railyard, salad and assorted cookies for dessert.

### **Birthdays**

*Daniel Kwak* – March 7  
*Ethel Lorenc* – March 7  
*Aiden Boyer* – 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  
*Jamas LaBarge* – April 16  
*Don Williams* – April 18  
*Cheryl Bielli* – April 19  
*Joan Allen* – April 24  
*Sim Morey* – April 28

**Very Happy Birthday Wishes to our Wonderful Therapy Dog  
Abra – March 7**



# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Second Sunday in Lent 10:30 Service in Sanctuary	2 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch 1:15 Bible Study	3	4 Captains Meal	5	6	7
8 Third Sunday in Lent 10:30 Service in Chapel	9 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch 1:15 Bible Study	10	11	12	13 Food Pick-Up	14
15 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30 Service in Sanctuary	16 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch 10:00-1:00 Food Pantry	17 10:30 Lay Servants at Wells House	18	19	20	21
22 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30 Service in Sanctuary  Administrative / Trustee Meeting -	23 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch 1:15 Bible Study	24	25	26	27 Food Pick-Up  Annual Fish Fry 3:00-6:00 Take Out Only	28
29 Passion/Palm Sunday 10:30 Service in Sanctuary	30 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch 1:15 Bible Study	31				

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Captains Meal	2	3 <b>Good Friday</b>	4
5 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 10:30 Service in Sanctuary <b>Communion</b>	6 11:30 – 12:30 Free Lunch 1:15 Bible Study	7	8	9	10 Food Pick up	11
12 10:30 Service in Sanctuary	13 11:30 – 12:30 Free Lunch 1:15 Bible Study	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 Service in Sanctuary	20 11:30 – 12:30 Free Lunch 10:00 – 1:00 Food Pantry	21 10:30 Lay Servants at Wells House	22	23	24 Food Pick up	25
26 10:30 Service in Sanctuary	27 11:30 – 12:30 Free Lunch 1:15 Bible Study	28	29	30		