



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

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



~~God So Loved the World~~~

"The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^{the} the Son of God. Luke 1: 35

Christmas Services will be on Facebook this Year as well as our website



This year, like many years before, poinsettia plants will fill the alter at North Main UMC. Have you ever wondered why we do this? The shape of the **poinsettia** flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity. It wasn't until about 1836 that the plant formally attained its popular name of

"Poinsettia" after the man who first brought the plant to the United States and ignited a holiday tradition that continues to this day. This is one tradition we can continue this year as many years before.

Our Christmas services will be different this year in all the churches throughout the world as well as at North Main. As we proceed toward the end of 2020, most of us have great expectations for 2021. This has been a year like no other year before. But the Christmas message is still the same. Part of the wonder of the story of Jesus is how the ancient message is made new. When the people went streaming into the desert to hear John the Baptist preach, it wasn't for the novelty of the message that they went. They had heard the words before. Rather, they went for the power of old words made new. Same message as before, but with a new meaning. John's presence and preaching made the ancient message fresh. Jesus, of course, did one better and made the ancient message flesh in the form of a tiny baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. John's message of expectation was powerful, and precisely because of its familiarity, just like it is today. The wilderness, of all places, is where the gospel of Jesus Christ begins. That new message is rooted in the old message that God's delivering of his people always begins in the wilderness. This is the old message made new today. This year we will be delivered in a totally different way as we continue to experience the pandemic that is affecting the entire world.

As the old message it is still ever new, for each time it is preached, we can still feel the presence of Jesus Christ at Christmas. This is the same message we have all heard many times before, but this year may it have a new message for all us. This old message may just be the new message we have been waiting for. May it be so this year more than any other year before.

Merry Christmas to Everyone and may the year 2021 be a year of new beginnings for all of us.

Pastor Joyce

Joyce Royal

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

I had 11 prayer requests for the Prayer Chain in the month of November. Please, we need people to join us on the Prayer Chain. It takes no time away from you. You get a phone call and you say a prayer. We have proof prayer works. A member of our church family put a sister on the Prayer Chain. The sister is older and had COVID. She is now doing much better. Prayer works. God listens but ultimately does what he feels is best. So, please join us. You can make a difference.

Also in November I sent out 11 cards. They vary from Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy and Thinking of You. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving a card, please let me know.

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Prayer Chain Members

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MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Nancy Marsh and I are still working on the membership list. We need dates for birthdays and anniversaries and up-to-date phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If you haven't updated your information, please let Nancy or me know. Thank you.

Carol B. Johnson

MISSIONS TEAM

So far, since Joyce became our Pastor, we have given out over 53 prayer shawls. Each month on the second Sunday service the prayer shawls are blessed.

I'd like to thank Valerie Kevlin, co-chairman, for getting the Christmas angels from Salvation Army and for setting them up. Also, I'd like to thank James Medbury for contacting Ryan Lorey, FC Coordinator for the Toy Drive, and getting the box for donations for the Salvation Army. The box is for extra presents from people who don't want to take a Christmas angel.

One Sunday recently the ambulance, Ryan Lorey, two young girls, representing different organizations in the community, plus several members of our church family and Pastor Joyce, had our picture taken in front of the church. It was a warm, sunny day and a memorable experience.

Carol B. Johnson



Our beautiful sanctuary at Christmas

FREE LUNCH

We've been serving between 20-70 meals each week. We've started serving hot soup and chili on cold days. Take out, of course. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we couldn't have our annual Christmas buffet and party. Thank you to our faithful supporters and helpers!

WICS

We did hold a brief meeting in December just to wrap up the year and make our donations. Four women attended. It was nice to socialize a bit. We sat at separate tables to social distance. We had just under \$1400 that we raised this year. We made \$302 on our garage sale, \$165 on our "bakeless" sale and around \$540 on our Tastefully Simple sale. We haven't sold all of that free merchandise, yet, so we still are owed about \$130 of this. We also received a VERY generous donation of \$500 from a "friend". It was decided to split up the money this way:

NMSUMC fuel fund \$300
Haven of Hope \$125
James A. Brennan Humane Society \$125
Domestic Abuse Safe House \$125
Gloversville Senior Center \$150
Shirley J. Luck Senior Center \$150
North Main Food Pantry \$125
Mountain Valley Hospice \$125

This leaves us a bit of money in our account for emergencies. Pray we don't need it.

Nancy Marsh



RED BIRD MISSION 'CARAVAN'

This year's trip to the Red Bird Mission was very successful. We took 2,025 shoeboxes filled with personal hygiene items, 25 boxes of diapers, over 75 new sheet sets, over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies, handmade scarves, and other miscellaneous items. We drove one 26-foot truck to Kentucky and intend to take another 26-foot truck with clothing and food sometime in March of 2021.

This year we kept a record of the hours and miles put into this mission. Our drivers drove approximately 4,662 miles picking up donations throughout the Upper New York Conference and driving to Kentucky. The team spent over 400 hours on this mission.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

On Saturday, November 14, @ 3:30 our Annual Church Conference was held over Zoom with 12 members of the Administrative Council in attendance. The Conference was led by our new DS, Rev Abel Roy.

The Minutes of the last Conference were approved as well as the Annual Audit.

The new 2021 Budget was also approved.

The following people were approved for Certification:

Pastor Joyce, Certified Lay Minister

Judy Davis, Certified Lay Speaker

Carol Johnson, James Medbury and Judy Antonucci, Certified Lay Servants.

Also, unanimously elected as Trustees, Bob Mabey, Don Williams and Ethel Lorenc

The meeting adjourned with prayer, led by Sally Kwak.

Pastor Joyce

North Main St. UMC Food Pantry Monthly Report – December 20

It was another cold day for the pantry but we had planned on the weather. We had all the foods bagged up for quick movement of those needing food. Pastor Joyce took names outside and gave out sign-up sheets so there was not a delay in intake.

We had a snag in our order that was due on the 18th. The Regional Bank had to cancel the order due to the storm that hit on Thursday. We had all the items we needed for the pantry but could not give the eggs or apples that were ordered. With the hams and fish sticks along with the dry bag items, I think everyone received a good selection of foods. Our previous order was 11182 lbs. of food so we had a good amount on hand.

We had 72 families attend which included 14 new families. There were 102 adults, 36 children and 42 seniors that the food will feed.

The pet ministry serviced 54 families with 59 dogs and 74 cats.

I plan on making up a report in January to summarize the year's pantry orders along with the totals reported each month.

I pray you all have a wonderful safe holiday. Thank you,

Edna Bennett

****Saturday Food Pantry – January 16th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to accommodate people who cannot make it to the Monday, January 18th Pantry.***

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>John Pickard</i>	January 6	<i>Dianne Sanford</i>	January 18
<i>Jason Topliff</i>	January 11	<i>Sheila McDonald</i>	January 18
<i>Dorothy Holly</i>	January 12	<i>Shirley Mormile</i>	January 21
<i>Cindy DeGolyer</i>	January 17	<i>Werner Paul</i>	January 22

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Vrenda Marshall</i>	February 4	<i>Lorie Bode</i>	February 14
<i>Elaine Pickard</i>	February 4	<i>Nancy Estes</i>	February 21
<i>Nancy Morey</i>	February 11	<i>Ted Salvione</i>	February 25
<i>Gerald Doull</i>	February 13	<i>Louise Robbins</i>	February 26

ANNIVERSARIES

June and Ron Parker – January 28, 1992

