



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

Church Office 518-725-7323 E-mail nmumc1@frontiernet.net

## MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

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*All Services are on Facebook as well as our Website.*

As most of us can recall, it was a year ago that we received instructions to close our Church to "in person" services due to the Covid 19 virus. If you were like me, you thought it would be a few weeks and then we would be back to normal. That was part of my plan, but apparently it was not God's plan. If you want to make God's day, just tell him about your plans and see how much they differ. God's plan for North Main UMC and my plans appear to be different. Many people are trying to figure out where God stands in all of this. Trying to accept God's plan for our churches has not been easy for any of us. All we can actually say is, "if Covid is a message from God, what is the message?" We live in a time when we have the most sophisticated instruments of health care of any country than at any other time in the history of the world. Our technology for providing health care has never been more advanced. Most of this healing is for the physical body healing, not the emotional or spiritual. Are we to believe that the healing Jesus offers in the Gospels is for the physical body only like our advanced healing is for today's world? Illness is the condition where you are bounded by yourself alone, collapsed in upon yourself and isolated from others. That is something that we have dealt with for the past year. Being alone and isolated. Jesus heals this illness by restoring a fullness of life that breaks the bounds of self pre-occupation and opens up a world of love, forgiveness and deep relationships of compassion, mercy and peace. Praying for people who are alone can heal them in the way Jesus healed, not just physical but restoring to a life of fullness. Jesus' healing must mean more than physical restoration and healing, because we have all actually experienced people being healed; even though their physical condition did not change. But they were restored to peace and wholeness of heart.

This past year has added a new layer of technical skills that many of us have never had to use before. Christmas Eve was a challenge as we did the entire service on Facebook and on our website. Both Facebook and NMSUMC.org have picked up a considerable following. However, if your plan looks like mine, I would like to see that end soon and get back to a full Congregational Service. Communion has been a challenge every month and Ash Wednesday had its moments also. Zoom has become my second language. Our Easter services will be different this year in all the churches throughout the world as well as at North Main. What they will actually look like must be somewhere in God's plan for us, whatever that may be.

Because we have been healed in so many ways, because we have been claimed and loved and accepted in ways that surprise us even still, we need to be committed to serve in the name of the one who loves us and serves us by answering our prayers.

Pastor Joyce

*Joyce Royal*

## **Trustees Report**

The Trustees have been busy even with Winter here.

First: Our new plow person has been doing an excellent job at maintaining the parking lot and the sidewalks and ramps. If you see Clayton outside working, please tell him what a great job he is doing.

Second: We have had to replace the hot water tank in the Food Pantry and do a major repair on the hot water tank in the kitchen of the church building.

Third, Extensive work has been completed on the drain systems, both underground and on the roof.

Fourth: The boiler and fire extinguisher Inspections have been satisfactorily completed.

A big thank you to all the Trustees who work diligently to keep our building safe and secure.

### **Food Pantry Report - January**

We tried something new this month by having the pantry open on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> as well as the normal Monday (the 18<sup>th</sup>). The weather was snowy and cold for both days. The turnout was lower than expected.

We had 47 families attend which included 5 new families. There were 73 adults, 19 children and 28 seniors. Of these 15 came Saturday.

The pet ministry serviced 26 families with 26 dogs and 46 cats.

I was thinking that if we decide to continue to have a Saturday pantry day in the future, then maybe we could alternate every other month with a Saturday and a Monday pantry. I don't think we need to do both days. As long as we advertise the schedule, we should be able to help all those in need.

Let me know what everyone thinks.

### **Food Pantry Report - February**

The weather was snowy and cold for our Monday pantry. The turnout was lower than expected. I am not sure what the cause for the low turnout but we will keep being there for those who come.

We had 32 families attend which included 3 new families. There were 50 adults, 17 children and 20 seniors.

The pet ministry serviced 23 families with 23 dogs and 35 cats.

I pray you all stay safe.

Thank you,  
***Edna Bennett***

## Pantry totals    2020

	Households	Adults	Children	Seniors	Lbs ordered
Jan	44	64	23	13	2504
Feb	61	92	36	31	2165
Mar	50	87	39	19	2618
Apr	70	123	57	28	1546
May	43	54	16	28	3423
Jun	48	77	26	29	760
Jul	46	23	68	24	1874
Aug	62	103	36	25	1531
Sept	61	93	49	20	1870
Oct	61	100	43	28	2480
Nov	79	129	51	40	2879
Dec	72	102	36	42	1222
Totals	697	1047	480	327	24872
Average	58	87	40	27	2073

## Pet Ministry

	Families	Dogs	Cats
Jan	32	33	44
Feb	39	46	82
Mar	34	41	50
Apr	44	58	88
May	23	28	37
Jun	21	23	59
Jul	34	44	56
Aug	16	26	0
Sept	41	51	98
Oct	49	48	97
Nov	57	33	106
Dec	54	59	74
Totals	444	490	791
Average	37	41	66

## WICS

Our annual donations have been well received by the organizations that we contribute to. All were very grateful, especially this year during the pandemic. Many stated that donations have dropped off so our donation means that much more. Thank you to all who contribute to and/or work on our fundraisers. Your help is ALWAYS appreciated. Following is a copy of the Haven of Hope annual report which was sent to us. This is where some of our money goes.

Sadly, the African Children's Choir concert has been postponed indefinitely. Those who donated toward the booking fee all agreed to donate the \$500 fee to the choir at this time. The feeling was that the children aren't able to perform, therefore are unable to raise funds and we believe they could use the donation. Hopefully, it won't be too long before they can safely perform, again, and we can proceed with plans to host them. It certainly gives us something joyful to look forward to.

The new Spring/ Summer Tastefully Simple catalogs are out, so in a few weeks we will be having our Spring fundraiser. Many new items as well as most old favorites will be available. Speaking of fundraising, you can always order Terrilynn fruit and nuts from the church. Both of these fundraisers offer many gift ideas.

FYI.... Lately we have been finding bags of clothes, household items, etc. left outside of the Fellowship Hall door. Please note that we DO NOT have rummage sales nor do we offer free clothing any more. It's just too much for us to handle. If you have items that you no longer want or need, please donate them to a second hand shop. There are numerous stores for this around Gloversville. We will be having our annual flea market in the summer, BUT we don't want donations until then and we don't want any clothing. Thank you.

### **Haven of Hope Farm & Residence, Inc. Annual Report of Activities 2020**

#### **Programming and Services**

2020 was Haven of Hope's eighth year of providing services. Ten women and three children were assisted as residents and eight transitioned women with a total of eighteen children were provided ongoing support and services. In 2020, the farm residence was under construction for two months during which it was vacant. Despite a myriad of challenges, HOH assisted a total of 18 women and 21 children. Services provided were childcare, parenting classes, time and money management classes, referrals and transportation to mental health and wellness programs, employment in our work experience program (bakery), housing, moving assistance, furniture, household supplies, food, personal hygiene items, college scholarships, school supplies and college textbooks, children's clothing, coats, shoes, boots, books and toys. We assisted with three family unifications and one resident obtained social security disability.

#### **Our Plans for a Day Care Center Have Changed**

COVID has affected every family in our community, every church, business, and organization. We have all had to pull back a bit. If you look for the positive though, I'm certain you'll find it. For our organization it meant taking stock of what we had in hand and what was really needed to fulfill our mission. The plans for a stand-alone day-care center have been redirected to a complete renovation of the ground level of our farmhouse. We are dedicating the entire floor to safe, child friendly learning and play. In essence it will be a daycare within our farm residence. We have always prioritized family unification goals, which often include supervised visits at the farm. This redesigned space will accommodate and enhance the quality of those visits. This space will also be used to provide childcare for our women's children while they work on goals and as they participate in our work experience programs. Construction is nearly completed using the funds already raised for our center! Work will move to the outside of the building to create a safe play area this spring. Playground equipment has been funded by the Children's Aid Association.

#### **Farm House Interior Renovations**

The Jaffe family, longtime supporters, made a generous donation towards much needed renovations. Two of our four bathrooms were completely remodeled, floors and walls are ceramic tiled, and have all new fixtures, lighting, GFI electric, plumbing and ventilation. They are beautiful and made to last!

A community grant from St. Mary's Ascension group enabled us to purchase carpet for both staircases and area rugs for four bedrooms. Rev. Ginny devoted hours on this project, removing old carpeting and refreshing wood floor finishes, God bless her, she completed most of this project single handedly!

What a difference these improvements have made, creating a much cleaner, functional, and healthier environment for our residents.

### **Staffing Changes at Haven of Hope**

In August we had to make some tough decisions regarding our daytime staff consisting of a full time program director and part time home manager. With the pandemic causing dropping donations and the inability to hold fundraising events, the two salaries were no longer sustainable. In September we made a commitment to hire a live in home manager in lieu of the two daytime positions. It has long been a desire to have night supervision at the farm and we are happy to say that Chris and Pam have remained active with our organization as volunteers.

### **Our Work Experience Programs**

The income and employment opportunities generated from our bakery and market stand have become increasingly important to our organization and employees so the market stand is no longer a seasonal operation, it is open year around Friday and Saturday 9am to 4pm and Sundays 12 to 2pm. Only transitioned clients are eligible for employment in our bakery.

### **Where do We Grow From Here?**

The farm house needs more living space, and the market stand needs to be expanded to include the bakery operations. Haven of Hope is selling a seven acre parcel of land which will reduce our mortgage and give us a little extra to start this next phase of growth. The existing bakery will be converted to bedrooms and the commercial kitchen will be moved to a new addition built onto the market stand. We are selling the land adjacent to our market stand to a builder with the hope it would make utilities such as natural gas, electric and sewer more affordable to access to accommodate the expanded operations of our store. Another side benefit of this plan, we recognize the need for more housing in our community. We hope you are as excited about these plans as we are!

***Pat Brooking, Executive Director***

## **Free Lunch**

We're still serving grab and go bag lunches and we have been able to incorporate hot meals such as soup and Mac and cheese. Our average number is about 20 served each week. The meals are very appreciated. Thank you so much to our donors. We hope everyone is staying safe, wearing a mask and avoiding large crowds. Hopefully we can get back to some form of normalcy, soon. God bless us and keep us healthy.

***Nancy Marsh***

## **Pastoral Care Team**

Good Day, everyone. I hope everyone is well. For December, I had 15 prayer requests for the prayer chain. Remember, prayer works. Maybe not in your time line - but in God's. And, not as we want, but in God's infinite wisdom, a better way. Also, in December, I sent out 10 cards. These are "birthday", "get well", "sympathy", and "thinking of you". I also sent out 102 Christmas cards. If you or someone you know has not received a card from me, please let me know.

For the year of 2020, I had a total of 154 prayer requests and I sent out a total of 288 cards.

Peace be with you,

***Carol B. Johnson***

(518) 844-3354 or (518) 921-9902

## March Birthdays

*Gay Brady – March 8*  
*Beverly Bartlett – March 22*  
*Peter Schoonmaker – March 26*  
*Darlene Brower – March 28*  
*Teresia Davis – March 31*

## EASTER FLOWERS



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 14<sup>th</sup> 2021**. 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.

(Please circle appropriate choices and please **print** all information). Price is based on the size and type of plant you wish.

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Lily  
White  
\$25

Tulips  
Pink or Yellow  
\$25

Hyacinths  
Blue or Pink  
\$25

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

*The newsletter may be accessed on-line at [NMSUMC.org/newsletter](http://NMSUMC.org/newsletter)*