



North Main Street United Methodist Church
316 North Main Street, Gloversville, New York 12078
"Love Grows Here"
Church Office 518-725-7323
nmumc1@frontiernet.net

MARCH/APRIL 2023 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.

Our Methodist denomination will be facing several decisions in the next year, and once again it will be important for us to remember that love is the most important gift that Jesus gave us and he will be there to walk beside us as we move forward with any change that may come our way. Many people will "go along" and not pray to God for guidance. Do we dare to place our trust in God? God has promised to guide us and be with us as we continue this journey. Jesus offers us hope along with love and guidance.

What is impossible with man is never impossible with Jesus as long as we remember that God so loved this World that he sent his only son.

Pastor Joyce

Mid Winter Break Vacation Bible School

The STORY of MOSES



During the week of February 20th Sally Kwak held a two day vacation Bible school for the children! What better story to teach about than the story of Moses from birth on. They watched videos, did worksheets, stem experiments, arts and crafts, some musical chairs and so much more. Sally Kwak has an imagination

that shows through so much when she plays things for the children. The children, with Miss Sally, traveled through the desert to eat manna, parted the Red Sea, got some homework to do (which they actually did), and they made stained glass cup lanterns all while learning of his birth, the burning bush, freeing the Israelites of Pharaoh's control, the Red Sea parting and the 10 commandments. Fun was had by all. Thank you, Sally, for all you do for the congregation and their children.



Food Pantry – January 2023

It was a chilly day on the 16th. I was thinking that with the holiday there might be quite a few people visiting the pantry. The turnout was smaller than expected this month. We had prepared for 80 families. We had 61 families attending which included 5 new visitors. The totals were 69 adults, 40 children and 51 seniors. We offered nice whole chickens, pork chops and cheese. Due to shortages at the food bank, we were unable to give out eggs or bread this month. We had pie crusts for those that wanted them. The premade bags included the canned vegetables and fruits, shelf stable milk, pasta, spaghetti sauce, stuffing, and soup. There was also a choice of cereals, rice, juice, coffee and other misc. items.

Our pet ministry is still doing ok. We had food requests for 18 dogs and 16 cats. We now rely on donations or purchases for our stock. Our thanks to all those who have contributed.

The costs for the food from the Food Bank are increasing as are all the costs lately. We are trying to keep the costs down and still give the people the food they need.

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 pleased to have received the funding grant thanks to Pastor Joyce's work. This helps a great deal. Hope all are safe now that we seem to finally be getting winter weather.

Food Pantry – February 2023

It was chilly day on President's Day for our pantry. There were a number of people waiting for us to open at 10:00. We had expected about 75 families and we had 70. We had 11 new visitors. The totals were 78 adults, 30 children and 63 seniors. We offered eggs, butter, cheese, hamburger and a choice of fish fillets or fish sticks. We were unable to give out bread this month but we had some pie crusts from last month in the freezer for those that wanted them. The premade bags included the canned vegetables and fruits, flour, pasta, and soup. There was also a choice of cereals, rice, juice, coffee and other misc. items.

Our pet ministry is still doing well. We had food requests for 22 dogs and 33 cats. We have received monetary donations for pet food and now have a supply of both cat and dog food on hand. Our thanks to all those who have contributed.

The ramps that were installed at the exit door are very helpful for those leaving with their bags of food. The carts the people use run nicely down the ramp.

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 pleased to have received the funding grant thanks to Pastor Joyce's work. This helps a great deal.

Edna Bennett

Marilyn Cornell Working
At Food Pantry



Free Lunch

Our lunches are going strong at about 25 served most weeks, and 60 on food pantry day! Thanks to donations from the senior center we've been getting breads, rolls and baked goods. We also had a 23 lb. turkey donated! We've already made enough soup for two weeks and have frozen turkey for salads and casseroles. Thank you Nancy Morey! Ron Parker and I are managing, but we do miss Penna. We'll get through until she returns from working tax season.

WICS

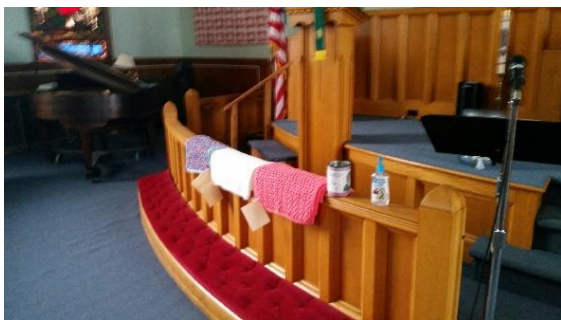
We recently held an actual meeting to discuss ways to fund raise and what our missions are. It was nice to get together in person and have lunch. It's been quite a while because of covid, but we finally feel comfortable, again. Our mission is mostly to help women and families in whatever way they might have a need. We support Haven of Hope and women who are victims of domestic violence. Also, victims of fires who have lost everything and the senior centers. In May, we will be doing the bags of toiletries and personal items to give to Haven and the Counseling Center for women escaping abusive situations. If you care to put a bag or two together, please see Pastor Joyce. She has funds for you to purchase items to fill the bags.

We are going to hold a bakeless bake sale in a couple of weeks. More info will be forthcoming. We've also decided to reinstate a voluntary dues amount for members. The amount that you give for dues is totally up to you. All agree that garage sales, etc., are getting to be too much for us to do, and are trying to find easier ways to fundraise. We will be selling Tastefully Simple this spring and fall and will have our actual bake/craft sale on Election Day. If you are able to help in any way, please see one of our members. Speaking of members, if you would care to join us, we'd love to see new faces. We can always use new ideas and help implementing them. Sadly, another longtime member has passed away. Shirley Galpin belonged to the UMW and then as we changed to WICS she remained a member. She always worked hard on the rummage sales and other events. In the past few years, she started going to a church closer to her home in Mayfield, but she still attended picnics and parties with us. We have made a donation in her memory to the NMSUMC fuel fund. She will be missed.

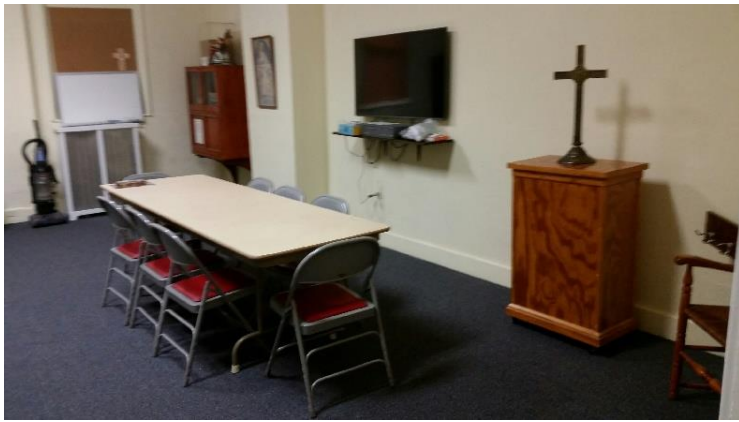
FYI

If you haven't seen your name on the birthday/anniversary list in the newsletter and would like it added, please let me know and I will see that it gets put on. We've been trying to update mailing, birthdays and anniversary info, but it's very difficult. Many people have moved, changed phone numbers, etc. so we lose contact. If you know of someone who might be interested in receiving the newsletter, please help us by getting current info to us. Thank you!

Nancy Marsh



Our Prayer Shawl Mission is going strong thanks to the many members who contribute



The renovated Sunday Schoolroom

New carpet thanks to Val and Tom Kevlin
TV thanks to Steve Wood in memory
of his wife Geraldine.

Painting by Tom, Dave Sammons,
Sally Kwak, Ron and Dorothy Holly

New carpet in choir room
thanks to Val and Tom Kevlin



Check out our library
if you're looking for
something good to read

March/April Birthdays

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

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

Anniversaries

Marlene and Jim Thomson – April 12, 1985



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 28TH, 2023**. 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 quantity. Please print all information.)

Lily \$25

Tulips \$25

Hyacinth \$25

White

Assorted Colors

Assorted Colors

In Memory

Of: _____

In Honor

Of: _____

From: _____