

# The Church Bell

*Newtonville United Methodist Church*

568 Loudon Road, P.O. Box 7

Newtonville, NY 12128

(corner of Loudon & Maxwell Roads)

518-785-6789

April 2021

*"Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like."*

**-Lao Tzu**

As a person who really loves winter, I find spring a challenging time. Just this past weekend I began taking apart our skating rink, and I have put away the cross-country skis. There are elements of spring that I do appreciate, like the maple sap dripping from spouts that will soon become syrup and the start of baseball season. Still, it takes a bit of resolve for me to accept that seasons change whether we want them to or not.

The natural flow of spring to summer will bring camping trips, and opportunities to canoe, and hopefully more gatherings with family and friends. In more regular times it would have included outdoor concerts and baseball games, but we'll have to see how that goes. In any case, each season brings its own joys and its own challenges. Each season calls us to something new or reignites a former passion. Each season is a unique gift.

From time to time someone will ask me how one deals with the long, cold winters I knew growing up in the Adirondacks. My response is always the same: "You make peace with it." Enduring an Adirondack winter is easiest when you learn to ski, and skate, and snowshoe, and appreciate the season for what it is. Any season is the same; we get out of it what we put it, find harmony in accepting reality, know peace when we let it flow.

Scripture offers us two key insights on the nature of God. The first is that God doesn't change. God is immutable, steadfast, constant, faithful. God is God, then, now, always. The second, however, is that God is always doing a new thing. God isn't a one-off creator, setting the world in motion and stepping away. God is moving, and taking us along. We can resist, but it only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality, and God be God.

Peace for the journey,  
*Pastor Steve*

## **Inside:**

- ~Calendar page 6
- ~ Celebrations page 4
- ~ News & Notes page 2
- ~ Promises page 5

Keep in touch with  
Pastor Steve - call or  
text his cell phone:  
**518-322-7746**  
or email him:  
**boston.redsoxfan**  
**@hotmail.com**

***The Mission of Newtonville United Methodist Church is to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.***

# News and Notes

## EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

We will be offering two worship opportunities for Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. In addition to our regular 10am indoor service, there will be outdoor worship at 8:30am in the upper parking area by the playground. Bring your own chair, stay masked and socially distanced, and we will have a time of prayer, scripture, a brief message, and singing. Yes, singing! *Reservations will be required for indoor service as usual*, but not for the outdoor service. Both services will also be livestreamed to our Facebook group and uploaded to our YouTube channel.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

We will be celebrating Palm/Passion Sunday with Holy Communion on March 28. There will also be a pre-recorded Good Friday service posted to our YouTube channel with a link on Facebook.

## GUEST MUSICIANS SOUGHT

Is anyone interested in coming to lend their musical talents to the loft? We hope to have guest musicians every other Sunday and want to extend this invitation. I will be me on one side and you on the other being super safe and distant. I've got a monitor hooked up so that you can hear the piano as if it was right beside you.

Let me know!

Brandon 315-360-1628

## TRUSTEES

Trustees will meet on **Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6:30pm** in the Grace Krause Lounge.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance will next on **Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30pm** via Zoom.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council will meet next on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7pm** (probably) via Zoom.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR 2021 VIRTUAL CROP WALK!

The Crop Hunger Walk needs you to help end hunger one step at a time!

The 2021 CROP Hunger Walk is going virtual again this year due to the Coronavirus. On Sunday, **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, walkers are encouraged to "Walk Together – Apart".

Take a walk with your family or a group in your own neighborhood, around the block or in a park. Since the walk is virtual, you can invite friends and relatives from anywhere to join in! If it's rainy, choose another day!

Anne Sheffer has envelopes that she will get to anyone collecting donations. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP.

A Newtonville UMC CROP Walk Team page has been set up at [www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny) for on-line donations.

Many local food pantries and soup kitchens benefit from the funds raised, along with global hunger relief which is much needed and appreciated at this time.

For more information, contact Anne Sheffer (518) 489-2180 or [asheffer816@gmail.com](mailto:asheffer816@gmail.com)

## BROOKS BARBECUE 2021 DATES SET

Dates are:

Thursday, May 13

Thursday, June 10

Wednesday, July 28

Thursday, September 16

Thursday, October 7

## WORSHIP UPDATES:

We are open for in-person worship. Please make a reservation via the eventbrite website if you plan to attend. You may also find a reservation link on the home page of our website.

## **BISHOP WEBB APPOINTS NEW PASTOR**

Bishop Mark Webb of the Upper New York Annual Conference intends to appoint Rev. Nick Bufano as pastor of Newtonville UMC, effective July 1, 2021. Reverend Bufano currently serves as senior pastor at West Towson United Methodist Cooperative Parish, near Baltimore, Maryland, where he has been since 2019. Before West Towson, from 2009, he had served as the Parish Pastor of the Jarrettsville-Ayres Chapel Cooperative Parish.

Reverend Nick graduated from the Lancaster Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry Degree. Before that, he had earned a Master of Divinity Degree at Lancaster, with a concentration in Spiritual Direction.

He is ordained as a Full Elder in the Baltimore Washington Conference in May of 2018.

The SPRC has had the privilege of meeting him by Zoom. He is down-to-earth and personable. His passion is empowering people to take chances with new ministries. He is also passionate about creating engaging, Christ-centered, and exciting worship opportunities each Sunday.

*Kingsley Osei, Chair, Staff-Parish Relations*



We will be welcoming Pastor Nick, daughters Gabriela (16) Alison (19) and son Joshua (22) and Nick's wife Joy.

## **GREETINGS NEWTONVILLE UMC!**

*I am sending you this note with the hopes of introducing myself, and my family to you just a little bit, prior to our arrival this summer. First, let me just say how extremely excited I am, and what a privilege it is for me to be coming to you as your new pastor. I am thankful to Bishop Webb, and to our District Superintendent Rev. Debbie Earthrowl for their*

*prayerful listening and discerning as they made this appointment. I feel very confident that we are a good match, and that God has big plans for our ministry together! Thanks also to your SPRC, and for the warm welcome I have already begun to receive via email and messages.*

*So...a little bit about me and my family. Joy and I have been married for 26 years this July 5, and we have three wonderful children: Joshua (22), Alison (19) and Gaby (16). We also have two amazing grandchildren: Addison (2) and Stella (3 months). And then there is our German Shepherd Greta who is 8! We have spent the last 15 years, living, working, and serving churches in Baltimore, Maryland, and yet have been apart from our extended family for all of these years, and are so looking forward to coming home to New York. My family is in Syracuse, and Joy's family lives in Hopewell Junction NY, near Poughkeepsie. Our new home in Latham will offer us the opportunity to re-connect and spend time with both families, and that is a true blessing for all of us!*

*As a pastor I am most excited about worship, preaching, and teaching, and am most comfortable doing those things. I also feel called to lead the churches I serve outside the walls of our sanctuary, so that we can bring the light of Christ to our neighbors, and to those who need it most, which often includes those who don't make it to church on Sunday. Deep listening to others and being present for those who need a visit (home, hospital, and wherever) are both things that are central to my ministry as well. I am a people person, who gets most of my energy from building new relationships and being in the presence of others.*

*I look forward to joining you all in July, and to our first weekend in worship together. I am praying already for Pastor Steve, and for you, as you walk these last months of transition together. I ask your prayers for my remaining months here in Maryland, and for my family's transition to New York. Be assured of my continued prayers, as we begin this journey together.*

*Blessings!  
Pastor Nick*

# Celebrations!

## April Birthdays

- 2 - Sally Coonley**
- 3 - Avril Guity**
- 10 - Kate Palmer**
- 15 - Jon Schneider**
- 17 - Daniel Schneider**
- 26 - Kemise Essien**

NUMC would like to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries! Please share these dates with the office: [newtonvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:newtonvilleumc@gmail.com).

### SKYE FARM 2021 OPPORTUNITIES:

Registration for cabin and lodge rentals and Skye Farm Weekends is now open at [skyefarm.campbrainregistration.com](http://skyefarm.campbrainregistration.com), and more information about Skye Farm Weekends and rentals can be found on the [website, skyefarmcamp.org/event](http://skyefarmcamp.org/event). If you have any questions about all the goings-on at Skye Farm in 2021, contact them by emailing [info@skyefarmcamp.org](mailto:info@skyefarmcamp.org) or by calling the office at (518) 494-7170. Although it will still look quite different from years past, it will allow us to welcome more people from different walks of life to spend time at camp in new ways.

### UPPER ROOM

Daily Devotionals are available at <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>.

If you know of someone who doesn't have internet access and would like a booklet please contact the church office and we will make arrangements to get one to them.

There is also an app available for both Upper Room and Alive Now, so you can get them right on your phone or tablet.

### ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Are you or is someone you know in need of financial assistance? The church has received gifts from individuals' stimulus checks to use the funds to help those who may be in financial need during this difficult time.

If you know of someone who may be struggling to feed their family, pay utilities, or otherwise meet basic expenses, please [contact Pastor Steve](#).

If you are interested in adding to this fund please send your gift to the church, *attention: Kathy Franklin*. All donations and distributions will remain fully anonymous.



# Keeping Our Promises

Prayers ~ Presence ~ Gifts ~ Service ~ Witness



## IN OUR PRAYERS

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** For the family of Ferne Moffatt (Linda Armitage's Mother) who passed away; Sally Coonley dealing with health issues and has moved into the Eddy Nursing Home in Troy; others dealing with health issues; Archie Maker, Kathy Maker, Barb Rasmussen; Piper Toby, Eleanor Loos, Pat Loz, Christopher Biggs; Amelia Brennock, Stephanie Sherman, Ann Crocker Lawton, Susan C.; those dealing with addiction and those struggling to manage anxiety and fight depression. *Contact the office to add or remove a prayer request.*

*Cards or calls would be appreciated, (although visits are not permitted at this time):*

Cecelia Fluewelling - 19 Pasinella Way, Cohoes, NY 12047

## APRIL VOLUNTEERS:

*Usher Rotation assisting Bill Smith and Art Bowen*

April 4 (Easter): Nancy Goddard and Donna Buda

April 11: Karin Wheatley and Tom Assimon

April 18: Pat Gogol and Bob Kircher

April 25: Geoff Whittle and Clifton Fowles

## *Worship Assistant Rotation*

April 4 (Easter): Liz McGeough-Gamache

April 11: Gary Thompson

April 18: Joan Jensen

April 25: Frank Essien

## FOR UPDATES

Be sure to check the "News and Updates" weekly e-mails from the church office for the latest information on study, worship and other opportunities.

## ***Our Gifts February 2021***

|                                                              |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Average Undesignated Income needed per month \$17,498</b> |                 |
| Pledges                                                      | \$11,724        |
| Plate                                                        | \$130           |
| Preschool                                                    | \$3,141         |
| Building Rent                                                | \$600           |
| Festival                                                     | \$800           |
| Heat                                                         | \$810           |
| Initial Offering                                             | \$35            |
| <b>Undesignated Income Total</b>                             | <b>\$17,240</b> |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>                                      |                 |
| Building Fund                                                | \$3,062         |
| Human Relations                                              | \$110           |
| DS Mission                                                   | \$100           |
| Retired Ministers                                            | 85              |
| UMCOR                                                        | 100             |
| Youth                                                        | 40              |
| Pastor Discretionary                                         | 200             |

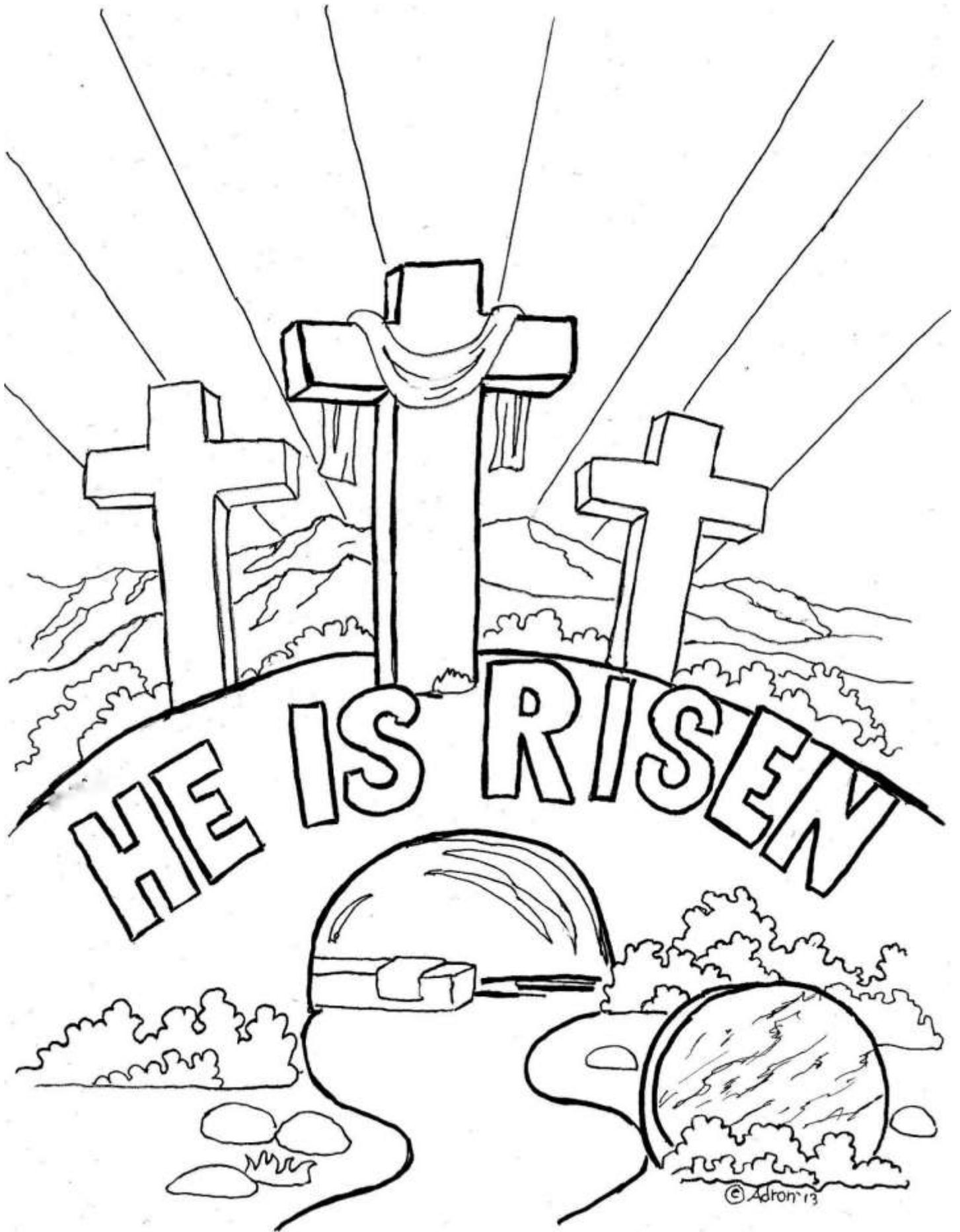
## FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Offerings can be mailed to the office, either in your regular offering envelopes or marked "Attn: Kathy Franklin" to P.O. Box 7, Newtonville, NY 12128. The GivePlus app is another option that can be downloaded to either iPhone or Android. Simply search by zip code 12128. For electronic giving on a regular basis, please contact the church office and we will put Kathy in touch with you to set that up through Vanco. We sincerely appreciate your continued financial support.

# April

# 2021

| Sun                                                                              | Mon                                                                               | Tue                                                | Wed | Thu                                                        | Fri                                  | Sat                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Christ is Risen!</i>                                                          |                                                                                   |                                                    |     | 1<br>Maundy Thursday<br>5pm TOPS<br>7pm BSA<br>PLC meeting | 2<br>Good Friday<br>Pastor's Sabbath | 3<br>Holy Saturday            |
| 4<br>Easter Sunday<br>8:30 outdoor<br>Worship<br>10:00am<br>Worship<br>6:00pm AA | 5<br>6:30pm<br>Trustees<br>GKL<br>10:15am Tri-<br>City Banjo<br>Band<br>6:00pm AA | 6<br>6:00pm AA                                     | 7   | 8<br>5:00pm<br>TOPS                                        | 9<br>Pastor's<br>Sabbath             | 10<br>10:00am<br>Sewing Guild |
| 11<br>10:00am<br>Worship<br>3:00pm BSA<br>Troop Meeting<br>6:00pm AA             | 12<br>1:00pm<br>Prayer Shawl<br>Rm 4<br>6:00pm AA                                 | 13<br>6:30pm<br>Finance<br>6:00pm AA<br>6:00pm SOS | 14  | 15<br>5:00pm<br>TOPS                                       | 16<br>Pastor's<br>Sabbath            | 17                            |
| 18<br>10:00am<br>Worship<br>3:00pm BSA<br>Troop Meeting<br>6:00pm AA             | 19<br>10:15am Tri-<br>City Banjo<br>Band<br>6:00pm AA                             | 20<br>6:00pm AA                                    | 21  | 22<br>5:00pm<br>TOPS                                       | 23<br>Pastor's<br>Sabbath            | 24                            |
| 25<br>10:00am<br>Worship<br>3:00pm BSA<br>Troop Meeting<br>6:00pm AA             | 26<br>1:00pm<br>Prayer Shawl<br>Rm 4<br>6:00pm AA                                 | 27<br>6:00pm AA                                    | 28  | 29<br>5:00pm<br>TOPS                                       | 30<br>Pastor's<br>Sabbath            |                               |



HE IS RISEN

Join us!  
Bring a  
friend, Invite  
a neighbor!

## April At-a-Glance

- 1 – Maundy Thursday
- 2 – Good Friday
- 4 – Easter Sunday
- 5 – Trustees meeting 6:30pm GKL
- 12 – Prayer Shawl 1pm room 4
- 13 – Finance 6:30 via Zoom
- 18 – UMCOR Native American Sunday
- 26 – Prayer Shawl 1pm room 4

|                           |                                                                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lead Pastor</b>        | Steven M. Smith                                                        |
| <b>Music Director</b>     | Brandon Malowski                                                       |
| <b>Pastoral Assistant</b> | Bill Rainbolt                                                          |
| <b>Admin. Assistant</b>   | Karin Wheatley                                                         |
| <b>Sexton</b>             | Richard Bryant                                                         |
| <b>Preschool Director</b> | Karin Wheatley                                                         |
| <b>Office Hours</b>       | Mon, Wed, & Thurs 12-3pm                                               |
| <b>Telephone</b>          | 518-785-6789                                                           |
| <b>Email</b>              | <a href="mailto:NewtonvilleUMC@gmail.com">NewtonvilleUMC@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Website</b>            | <a href="http://www.numc.net">www.numc.net</a>                         |
| <b>Facebook Group</b>     | "Newtonville United Methodist Church"                                  |

**Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday,  
& Thursday  
12p.m. – 3p.m.**  
Videos of worship services can be found  
online at  
[www.facebook.com/groups/newtonville](https://www.facebook.com/groups/newtonville)  
& on the Newtonville UMC YouTube  
channel.

## The Church Bell

Newtonville United Methodist Church  
568 Loudon Road, P.O. Box 7  
Newtonville, NY 12128

**Return Service Requested**

First Class  
Postage  
Required

Our #1 goal at NUMC, for which the pastor and the congregation will be held accountable, is to  
"welcome ALL people to our church with Christian love in word and deed."