



# 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

March ~ April 2026

Greetings NUMC!

I pray this March/April 2026 edition of The Bell finds you well, and staying warm, as we still appear to be in the throes of winter for a little while longer! This past Sunday we found ourselves needing to cancel worship and our Celebration of Ministry for the second time since our original January date, and so because of that we will be meeting briefly during coffee hour on Sunday, March 8 to celebrate, to plan, to look at our Lay Leadership report for 2026, and also to have a look at a summary of our 2026 Budget. Please join us in the sanctuary, and bring your coffee and snacks!

Lent is a perfect time to invite someone to join you for worship. I encourage you to be thinking about who in your own life might find worship at Newtonville a good experience. Think about someone who might be seeking a safe, welcoming space, where questions are not only allowed but encouraged. Consider someone who would enjoy the beautiful music, a space open to children and families, and a weekly message both focused on justice and absent of judgment. Lastly, think of someone who you know who might have had a poor experience of church, and might be seeking a space where they will be accepted for who they are, no questions asked. And then invite them. God will take care of the rest!

Finally, our Holy Week schedule is below. Please mark your calendars, and bring your family and friends for this most sacred time of the church year.

**Maundy Thursday** (April 2): McKownville United Methodist Church at 7pm  
**Good Friday** (April 3): Newtonville United Methodist Church at 12 noon  
**Easter Sunday** (April 5): Newtonville United Methodist Church at 10am

I look forward to seeing you in church.

Blessings,  
Pastor Nick

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Keep in touch with  
Pastor Nick - call or text  
his cell phone:  
**(443) 813-7584**  
or email him:  
**pastornickbufano@  
gmail.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

## TRUSTEE REPORT

Thank you to all we who have donated funds towards the deficit we incurred during the water pipe break. The trustees will be checking the water meter monthly so that we are aware of our water usage. The parsonage had many trees removed that were compromised and trimmed to help with the health of the trees. All tile floors will be stripped and waxed after the garage sale.

**Next meeting Monday, March 30, 2026 at 6:30 PM.**

## BROOKS BARBEQUE

As we anticipate the arrival of Spring Brooks barbecues come to mind. Please mark your calendars for these dates. **May 7th, June 4th, Sept. 10th, Oct. 1st.** As many of you know, I have taken over this responsibility. These are big shoes to fill as Kathy Franklin and Kathy Mascelli have organized these for many years. Please prayerfully consider being a co-chair for one or more of these dates.

Donna M. Buda

## NUMC GARAGE SALE

**NUMC'S ANNUAL  
GARAGE SALE**

**Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM**  
You may pay \$5 for entry at 8 am  
There is a bag sale at 1:30 PM - \$5/bag

<p><b>ITEMS FOR SALE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Appliances</li><li>Furniture</li><li>Garden Tools, Plants</li><li>Holiday Decor</li><li>Jewelry</li><li>Household Tools</li><li>Housewares</li><li>Linens</li><li>Toys, Books</li><li>Baked Goods</li></ul>	
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Donations accepted Monday, April 13 through Wednesday, April 22  
Donations may be left by downstairs elevator.  
All items must be clean and in good repair.  
NOT ACCEPTING: clothing, CDs/DVDs, nuts, bolts, screws, hardware, craft items, encyclopedias, outdated items such as car seats and cribs  
All sales are final. Cash only.  
Newtonville United Methodist Church at the corner of Maxwell Rd and Route 9  
(near Siena College), Newtonville, NY

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We have had a "Prayer Shawl Ministry" at Newtonville for many years. Initially, we met in the evening, but as we got older it was easier to meet at 1:00 in the afternoon. Several of us still do, but we would love to have the group increase. You don't necessarily have to knit or crochet. If you just want to come and enjoy the company and good conversation you would be more than welcome. **We meet on the second and fourth Monday in room 10 at 1:00 PM.** Please come and join us. God bless everyone,  
Kathy Maker

## LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is as busy as ever. Thank you to all who continue to make donations. Food items are very helpful as it is hard to keep up with the demand! Soon the weather will be warming and we will be able to add cans and glass again to the Pantry. Thank you to all who help with this mission. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, we often need substitutes for a day here and there when the regular volunteers are away. If you would like to help, occasionally send me an email. We would love to have you join us!

Sue Brooks [Susanpbrooks@yahoo.com](mailto:Susanpbrooks@yahoo.com)

## CHURCH LIBRARY

I am in charge of the Church Library, located to right of Krause Lounge thru door. I am doing some reorganizing and updating. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know. If you check a book out sign the card and put it in basket. When you return a book, put card back into book. Gail has a book exchange by the elevator. Those books you can just take and keep.

Gary Thompson (retired librarian)  
Retired Library Director Siena College

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Church Council meeting will be announced.

## FINANCE MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet **Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**

## TRUSTEES MEETING

Trustees will meet **Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** in Room 4

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND LACE UP YOUR WALKING SHOES!!**

The 2026 John U. Miller Memorial CROP Hunger Walk in Albany will take place on Sunday, May 3, 2026, starting and ending from St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Hackett Blvd. More information will be available as the date approaches. Contact Anne Sheffer ([asheffer816@gmail.com](mailto:asheffer816@gmail.com) or 518-489-2180) for further information.

## **PRESCHOOL 2026-2027**

We are now enrolling students for the 2026–2027 school year! Parents can choose a schedule that works best for their family — 2, 3, 4, or 5 days per week. If you'd like to learn more or schedule a tour, Ms. Fiza is available to meet with new families. Tours must be arranged in advance by email. Contact us at: [newtonvillepreschool1@gmail.com](mailto:newtonvillepreschool1@gmail.com) We look forward to welcoming new families to our preschool community.  
Fiza

## **Albany/Adirondack Districts United Women in Faith Spring Meeting Saturday, April 18, 2026 at the Newtonville United Methodist Church**

Registration begins at 8:45 am. Followed by fellowship  
The topic is "FRAUD PREVENTION AND AWARENESS"  
There will be a representative from AARP, Josephine Ashworth, who is a retired state worker, consultant, and AARP Volunteer. She will talk about their Fraud Watch Program. Michele Vadney, Project Coordinator with Albany Guardian Society, will also speak on services offered with an emphasis on cyber security.  
**Register by April 10<sup>th</sup>. Forms will be left in the Grace Krause Lounge or you may send an email to [snowbird3937@gmail.com](mailto:snowbird3937@gmail.com), or call 518-265-6187**  
There is a cost of \$12.00 per person which includes breakfast and lunch

## **OUTREACH - CAPITAL CITY RESCUE MISSION Mission News Update:**

We have been able to continue our mission of serving dinner on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month for the entire year. We really enjoyed having a Siena student, Zoey coming each month. What a wonderful addition to our team. Hoping in 2026 that we will be able to volunteer 4 times a year at the Regional Food Bank.  
Three to four volunteers are needed each month to serve the guests. Young volunteers must be at least 16 years old and accompanied by an adult. Parking is available next to the kitchen; or if you need a ride, contact Kathy or Gail.  
Mandatory: face masks, hair net, gloves and apron, which are all part of what the Mission supplies to the volunteers.  
Please contact me if you are interested in this program or have any questions: Gail Cotler, 518-441-4853 phone/text or [gailcotler@gmail.com](mailto:gailcotler@gmail.com).

## **UPCOMING WORSHIP THEMES:**

### **1st Sunday/Communion Sunday:**

We will engage more fully in the communion liturgy.

### **2nd Sunday/Mission Sunday:**

Following the sermon, we will have a "Mission Moment", which will include a conversation about a specific mission focus for the month, and a mission project that we will complete right during worship!

### **3rd Sunday/Peace with Justice Sunday:**

We will begin to focus on our Reconciling and Anti-Racism work, and take a moment during this service to engage in conversation and activism around this important work.

### **4th Sunday/Youth Sunday:**

Young people will take on worship leadership roles during this service, and our Children's Church kids will share a song, or a skit, or something relevant to their experience here at NUMC.

### **5th Sunday/Variety of Voices Sunday:**

Guest preachers will share their wisdom and experiences with us on the months that have a 5th Sunday. We will look to bring in folks with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

## **WATCH LIVE / PAST SERVICES ON YOUTUBE:**

The YouTube link for the worship livestream is below. Click on the link, and once on our page, click on the word "LIVE" and you'll be connected to our live broadcast. If you want to watch later in the day, you click on this same link and follow the same process. I look forward to seeing you Sunday morning or anytime you are able to tune in!  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQyivslUcE-7o-AUWFs3C8g>

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - ZOOM**

We encourage you to give Zoom Bible Study a try on Wednesday evenings! We meet on Zoom at 7pm The link will be sent out each week. All are welcome!

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Easter flower order forms available Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> with orders needed to be placed with the office by Tuesday March 17.

# Celebrations!

## March Birthdays

- 1 - Brooke Romania
- 7 - Stephen Doran
- 10 - Sue Brooks
- 11 - Kathy Franklin
- 17 - Heidi Elmendorf
- 24 - Kim Babson
- 26 Chester Widomski

## LENT SERVICE AND WORSHIP

Newtonville, Pine Grove, McKownville and Voorheesville UMC's gathered together at Pine Grove for Ash Wednesday worship

Rev. Quincie Yamin brought a powerful message. Thanks to Pine Grove for being such wonderful hosts!



## DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE CONCERT

NUMC members attended a concert and shared a story of service, inclusion and support at the Saratoga United Methodist Church on Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>



## April Birthdays

- 3 - Avril Guity
- 15 - John Schneider
- 17 - Daniel Schneider
- 24 - Stuart Rogers
- 26 - Kemise Essien



# Keeping Our Promises

Prayers ~ Presence ~ Gifts ~ Service ~ Witness



## In Our Prayers

### PRAYER CONCERNS

*Prayers for those dealing with health issues; Beth, Kathy Maker, Bill Smith, Bill Rainbolt, Piper Toby, Pat Loz, Christopher Biggs, Stephanie Sherman, Ann Crocker Lawton, Susan C.; those dealing with addiction and those struggling to manage anxiety and fight depression.*

*Please contact the office to add or remove a prayer request. (518)-785-6789*

### MARCH APRIL VOLUNTEERS:

*Ushers* Art Bowen Head Usher

March 1: Geoff Whittle & Clifton Fowles  
March 8: Wendy Spendiff & Gail Cotler  
March 15: David & Elizabeth McGeough-Gamache  
March 22: Gail Cotler & Geoff Whittle  
March 29: Palm Sunday: Stuart & Amy Rogers

April 5: Easter Sunday: David & Elizabeth McGeough-Gamache  
April 12: Wendy Spendiff & Geoff Whittle  
April 19: Stuart & Amy Rogers  
April 26: Gail Cotler & Clifton Fowles

### *Worship Assistant Rotation*

March 1: Gary Thompson  
March 8: Elizabeth McGeough-Gamache  
March 15: Charles Bonsu  
March 22: Wendy Spendiff  
March 29: Palm Sunday: Pam LaCasio

April 5: Easter Sunday: Frank Essien  
April 12: Geoff Brooks  
April 19: Stephanie Perez  
April 26: Kaylee Spendiff

### Our Gifts December 25

Average Undesignated Income needed for 2 months	
<b>\$37,048</b>	
Pledges	\$12,198
Plate	\$400
Initial Offering	\$0
Heat	\$350
Festival - Offering	\$0
Thanksgiving	\$70
Christmas	\$228
Brooks BBQ	\$0
Garage Sale	\$45
Building Rent	\$2000
Youth Coordinator	\$0
Preschool	\$2,065
Other Income	\$0
<b>Undesignated Income total:</b>	<b>\$17,356</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
Building Fund	\$1,679
Youth/Child Programs	\$90
Student Day	\$575
Native Am Ministry	\$0
Human Relations Day	\$0
Peace with Justice	\$0
Retired Ministers	\$0
World Communion	\$0
UMCOR Sunday	\$0
US Disasters	\$0
Int'l Disasters	\$0
Boy Scouts	\$0
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$0
Mission Income	\$0
Little Food Pantry	\$1000
Easter Flowers	\$0
Water Bill 2025	\$0
Prayer Shawl	\$0
Ornaments	\$200
	<b>\$3,544</b>

### FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Offerings can be mailed to the office, Newtonville United Methodist Church 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 the Financial Secretary in touch with you to set that up through Vanco. We sincerely appreciate your continued financial support

# March

# 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Church 3:00pm RST	2	3	4 7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM	5	6	7
8 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Church 3:00pm RST	9 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm AA	10 Finance Committee 6:30pm 6:00pm AA 6:30pm RCA 7:00pm RST	11 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM	12 7:00pm RST	13	14
15 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Church 3:00pm RST	16 6:00pm AA	17 6:00pm AA 6:30pm RCA 7:00pm RST	18 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM	19 7:00pm RST	20	21
22 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Church 3:00pm RST	23 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm AA	24 10:00am Banjo Band 6:00pm AA 6:30pm RCA 7:00pm RST	25 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM	26 9:00am TOPS 7:00pm RST	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Church 3:00pm RST	30 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm AA 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	31 6:00pm AA 7:00pm RST				

# April

# 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00pm AA <b>7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM</b>	2 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday service at McKownville UMC 7:00pm RST	3 Noon Good Friday Service at NUMC	4
5 <b>Easter</b> 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Church 3:00pm RST	6 6:00pm AA	7 6:00pm AA 7:00pm RST	8 6:00pm AA <b>7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM</b>	9 7:00pm RST	10	11
12 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Church 3:00pm RST	13 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm AA	14 6:00pm AA 7:00pm RST	15 6:00pm AA <b>7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM</b>	16 7:00pm RST	17	18 Spring District UWF gathering 8:45 AM registration opens
19 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Church 3:00pm RST	20 6:00pm AA	21 6:00pm AA 7:00pm RST	22 6:00pm AA <b>7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM</b>	23 7:00pm RST	24	25 <b>NUMC Garage Sale</b>
26	27 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm AA 6:30pm Trustees	28	29 6:00pm AA <b>7:00pm Bible Study ZOOM</b>	30		

## Calendar At-a-Glance

### March Calendar

4 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom  
9 – Prayer Shawl 1pm Room 10  
10 – Finance Committee 6:30pm  
11 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom  
18 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom  
23 – Prayer Shawl 1 pm Room 10  
25 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom  
30 – Trustees Meeting 6:30pm Room 4

### April Calendar

1 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom  
3 – Good Friday service – Noon  
8 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom  
13 – Prayer Shawl 1 pm Room 10  
15 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom  
22 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom  
25 Garage Sale 8:30am (early bird  
8:00am)  
27 – Prayer shawl 1pm Room 10  
29 – Bible Study 7pm Zoom

**Pastor** Rev. Dr. Nick Bufano

**Music Director** Brandon Malowski

**Administrative Asst.** Carrie Boyer

**Youth and Family Ministries .** Joy Bufano

**Custodian** Olga & Daria Zhukorsha

**Preschool Director** Fiza Rohail

**Office Hours** 11am-3:30pm Tue; 9:30am-2pm Thu

**Telephone** 518-785-6789

**Email** [NewtonvilleUMC@gmail.com](mailto:NewtonvilleUMC@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.numc.net](http://www.numc.net)

**Facebook Group** "Newtonville United Methodist Church"

**Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11am-3:30pm;  
Thursdays, 9:30am-2pm**

**Live worship services Sundays at 10am  
& Recordings**

**can be found online at**

[www.youtube.com/@newtonvilleumc9872](http://www.youtube.com/@newtonvilleumc9872)

## The Church Bell

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

**Return Service Requested**

*First Class  
Postage  
Required*