

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

January 2021

“There are no mere theatergoers present, for each listener will be looking into his own heart. The stage is eternity, and the listener... stands before God during the talk. But the main concern is earnestness: that the listeners by themselves, with themselves, and to themselves, in the silence before God, may speak with the help of this address.”

– Soren Kierkegaard

As the calendar turns and we bid farewell to 2020, we unfortunately return to virtual-only worship. Hopefully this will only be a (relatively) short time, as we allow COVID rates to diminish and it becomes safer to once again gather in person. We will keep the worship format the same as it has been, including the use of worship assistants, so that we will be able to resume quickly and easily once the opportunity is available.

One thing about virtual worship is that it does require more of us. Of course, those who hadn't yet returned to in-person are all too aware of that. For the rest of us it will be a reminder. Something teachers have faced with their shift to virtual learning is that students are used to being passively entertained or informed when viewing a screen. Schooling however, like worship, isn't passive – it's participatory.

Philosopher and theologian Soren Kierkegaard reminds us that there are no passive participants in worship. It's not theater, film, or television show. Live or viewed later as a recording, what we see is not, in and of itself, worship. What makes it such is that we bring to it, what we do with it, whether we are active participants or simply bystanders, whether we allow ourselves to into God's presence.

In order to help you participate more fully in the liturgy and prayers we post each week a printable bulletin. Whether you print it out or view it on another electronic device, it's a way for you to involve yourself more fully in worship, speak the prayer responses aloud, look up the scripture for yourself in your Bible. This is your performance for God, where you become the actor, offering your heart, mind, and soul in worship.

Peace for the journey,
Pastor Steve

Inside:

- ~Calendar page 5
- ~ Celebrations page 3
- ~ News & Notes page 2
- ~ Promises page 4

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

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY:

Our Nancy Goddard, who, in addition to being a member of NUMC, serves as our District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, is offering a Bible study survey of the New Testament, using the study guide, ***DISCIPLE Fast Track: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study New Testament***. This course is designed to help busy people encounter the Bible in order to grow in faith. Daily readings for private devotion and reflection, as well as materials to help understand the Bible, its content and its development, are provided. Although it is an Advanced Lay Servant course, it is open to everyone. It begins Saturday, January 9, 2021, meeting every Saturday for twelve weeks, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. or 10:30 – noon (2 sessions to accommodate all registrants), via Zoom. An Old Testament Fast Track study was offered this fall and has received overwhelming praise for meeting its goal of providing participants with needed structure, a sense of accountability and the encouragement of fellow sojourners.

Participants must purchase ***Disciple Fast Track: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study New Testament Study Manual*** from Cokesbury. The cost is \$10.00. Contact Nancy at bngoddard@davespc.net for a registration form.

TRUSTEES

Trustees will meet on **Monday, January 4, 2021** at 6:30pm via Zoom.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council will meet next via Zoom on **Tuesday, January 19, 2021** at 7pm.



NUMC LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

NUMC continues to supply our community with food and essential supplies during the winter months. We ask that you not leave items in the pantry that could freeze when the weather is predicted to be extremely cold. In particular, canned goods/glass jars can freeze and spoil. Ideas for items to leave in the pantry include: crackers, rice meals, macaroni and cheese, hot chocolate, popcorn, beef jerky, snacks, dried soup mixes and paper products.

Volunteers are asked to use [SignUpGenius.com](https://www.signupgenius.com) (Little Food Pantry/Blessing Box) to register their availability. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849acae28a2fc1-little>) If a volunteer does not have a key to the church, please contact Pam Palmer, and arrangements will be made for access.

Any issues or concerns should be sent to ppalmer55@nycap.rr.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance will next via Zoom on **Tuesday, February 9, 2021**.

STAFF PARISH

Staff Parish will meet **Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm**.

Celebrations!

January Birthdays

- 4 - David Pe'rez
- 6 - Laura Romania
- 9 - Erica Buda Doran
- 11 - Judy Mills
- 13 - Trevor Elmendorf
- 14 - Nastia Elmendorf
- 23 - Claire Romania
- 31 - Mark Olstad



ADOPT A FAMILY

Once again this year the congregation of NUMC donated generously to our Adopt a Family mission. We were able to provide a family of six with not only enough food and necessary supplies to see them through the school break but also with Christmas stockings, hats, gloves, scarves and Walmart gift cards.

At the last minute, we were notified of a second family that was struggling this Christmas. There was enough money in the fund to also donate generously to this family!

Thank you to all who donated money and gifts. A special thank you to Donna Ware and Gail Taylor who were instrumental in finding these special families for us.

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

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.



Keeping Our Promises

Prayers ~ Presence ~ Gifts ~ Service ~ Witness



IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayers for **Megan**, Donna Buda's niece, and husband, **Josh**, who prematurely welcomed daughter, **Beatrice Shea**, on October 11th. There are some complications for both mom and baby; **Archie Maker** dealing with health issues; **Kathy Maker** as her ankle recovers; those dealing with health issues: **Barb Rasmussen**; **Dennis and Alicia Rizzo** dealing with a difficult diagnoses; **Piper Toby**, she is 10 and is having health issues; **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 no visits permitted at this time):

Ethel Pufpaff - Our Lady of Mercy Room 223, 2 Mercycare Ln., Guilderland, NY 12084
Cecelia Fluewelling - 19 Pasinella Way, Cohoes, NY 12047

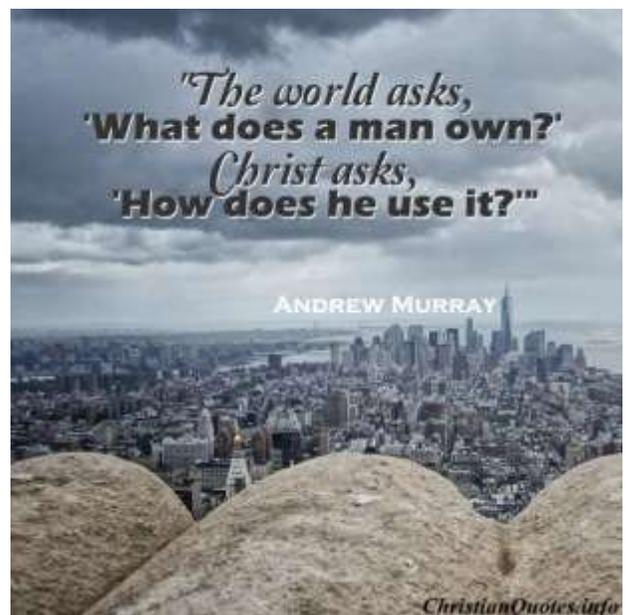
NUMC REOPENING TASKFORCE

Out of concern over rising rates of both COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations the NUMC Reopening Taskforce, has decided that it is most responsible for us to pause in-person worship through the month of January. This includes no in-person worship on Sunday mornings. Pastor Steve will still be live streaming a service each Sunday at 10am.

We share your disappointment. We also share a common commitment to be responsible members of our community and to care for the most vulnerable among us, following the example of Jesus.

Our Gifts November 2020

Average Undesignated Income needed per month \$18,182	
Pledges	\$12,702
Plate	\$600
Preschool	\$2,266
Virtual Garage Sale	\$40
Festival	\$1,733
Building Rent	\$1,500
Heat	\$5
Miscellaneous	\$355
Undesignated Income Total	\$19,201
Designated Funds	
Building Fund	\$2,395
DS Mission	\$300
Student Day	\$180



January

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day Pastor's Sabbath	2
3 10:00am Facebook Worship -Church Conference 6:00pm AA	4 10:15am Tri-City Banjo Band 6:00pm AA 6:30 Trustees via Zoom	5 6:00pm AA	6 Epiphany 6:00pm BSA Troop 1701	7 5:00pm TOPS	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 10:00am Sewing Guild
10 10:00am Facebook Worship 6:00pm AA	11 6:00pm AA	12 6:00pm AA 6:00pm SOS	13 6:00pm BSA Troop 1701	14 5:00pm TOPS 7:00pm BSA PLC meeting	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16
17 10:00am Facebook Worship 6:00pm AA	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Preschool Closed 10:15am Tri-City Banjo Band 6:00pm AA	19 6:00pm AA 7pm Church Council (Zoom)	20 6:00pm BSA Troop 1701	21 5:00pm TOPS	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23
24 10:00am Facebook Worship 6:00pm AA	25 6:00pm AA	26 6:00pm AA 7pm Staff Parish Zoom	27 6:00pm BSA Troop 1701	28 5:00pm TOPS	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30
31 10:00am Facebook Worship 6:00pm AA						

Join us!
Bring a
friend, Invite
a neighbor!

January At-a-Glance

- 3 – Church Conference scheduled Zoom
- 4 – Trustees meeting 6:30pm Zoom
- 17 – Human Relations Sunday
- 18 – Office closed to observe MLK Jr. Day
- 19 – Church Council 7pm Zoom
- 26 – Staff Parish meeting 7pm Zoom

Lead Pastor	Steven M. Smith
Music Director	Brandon Malowski
Pastoral Assistant	Bill Rainbolt
Secretary	Karin Wheatley
Sexton	Richard Bryant
Preschool Director	Karin Wheatley
Office Hours	Mon, Wed, & Thurs 12-3pm
Telephone	518-785-6789
Email	NewtonvilleUMC@gmail.com
Website	www.numc.net
Facebook Group	"Newtonville United Methodist Church"

**Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday,
& Thursday
12p.m. – 3p.m.**
Videos of the sermons can be found
online at
www.facebook.com/newtonvilleumc

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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."