



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

November December 2023

Greetings NUMC!

It is hard to believe that I am writing my column for the November and December months! So far, this year has been lively, exciting, and full of new growth in all areas of our life here at Newtonville UMC. One only has to look around on a Sunday morning to see that our worship attendance has grown back to what it was just prior to the pandemic, and of course we have many folks continuing to worship with us online each week as well. Each week we have guests who come for the first time, and just based on their first experience, come back again, and then make the decision to make Newtonville their church home. Our Children's Time, our Sunday School, and even our youth group numbers are on the rise, under the capable leadership of Stephanie Ramkissoon, our new Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministries. Your faithful giving allows us to remain financially stable, and it also allows us to venture into trying new ministry ideas, while continuing to support the many ways we currently reach out to the community. All in all, we are growing, and moving faithfully into the future together, and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us in the coming months!

I want to extend a true thank you to Brian Hayes and Donna Buda, who have both stepped into the important role of Trustee Co-Chair. Under their capable leadership, the careful care of our building and grounds is continuing, and many exciting projects are coming in the future. Please contact Brian or Donna with any trustee concerns. Thanks again to both!

This past weekend we held our first ever Trunk or Treat. Stephanie did an amazing job coordinating this event, while also taking the time to reach out all over the local community to let folks know what was happening. We had over 30 children and families come through for candy, snacks, games, and fun music (thanks to Sandy Rivenburg!). Lots of new people stopped to talk with us, and many showed interest in checking out our worship service, and our Sunday School! It was a great outreach event. Thanks also to all of the wonderful trunk decorators!

It's hard to believe that we could be talking about Advent and Christmas already, but I wanted to get out some information early, as we will be singing Christmas carols before we know it! During Advent, we will be walking together through a worship/sermon series called "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" We'll look at all of the ways we can find joy in our midst, during a season that is sometimes difficult all in of itself, but also made more challenging by the events in the world around us. Yet we will find Joy in Jesus! More to come about that. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will have our normal **10am worship service in the morning**, which will be the *4th Sunday of Advent*, and then at **7pm on Christmas Eve**, we will gather for our traditional *family friendly* candlelight service. Much more to come about that, but I wanted get this info our early.

I look forward to seeing you all in church!

Peace,
Nick

Inside:

- ~ Calendars
pages 6 & 7
- ~ Celebrations
page 4
- ~ News & Notes
page 2 & 3
- ~ Promises
page 5

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

RED BIRD MISSION SHOE BOXES

The Mission team at Endwell United Methodist Church is again coordinating the collection and delivery of shoeboxes for the Red Bird Mission, located in Beverly, Kentucky. The Red Bird Missionary Conference is one of three United Methodist missionary conferences in the United States. It is the most comprehensive mission effort of the United Methodist Church, providing outreach and services that minister to the whole person—spiritual, physical, social, and economic.

Shoe Boxes are due back on **Thursday, November 2** to be ready for delivery to Calvary UMC where they will be loaded onto a truck for delivery to Endwell UMC and from there way to Red Bird Mission.

Prayer Shawl Ministry has been knitting and crocheting sets of hats, scarves and mittens to send to Red Bird Mission along with the shoe boxes.

2023 & 2024 BROOKS BARBECUE

We had another successful Brooks barbecue year thanks to the generous help of many, many people. We made a total profit of \$14,607.

In 2024 we have decided to do 4 barbecues rather than 5. This will have no significant impact on our profit as we are increasing the price of a chicken dinner by \$2. A chicken dinner will cost \$15. Everyone else in the area has already been charging \$15 or more.

The **2024 dates** are:

Thursday May 9

Thursday, June 6

Thursday, September 12

Thursday, October 3

USCRI WINTER COAT DRIVE

USCRI-Albany needs new or gently used winter coats for our clients. We are also collecting hats, scarves, gloves and mittens, and like-new boots. Use our Amazon Wishlist link to donate:

<https://bit.ly/3NkgVML> or schedule a drop off at 99 Pine Street from 9am-4:30pm Monday - Friday. For questions or to schedule a drop off, please email Kelley Gourley, kgourleyuscrimail.org

FROM THE SPRC...

Newtonville United Methodist has welcomed Olga and Daria from Ukraine to join our church family as our new custodial staff. This arrangement is part of our outreach ministry to our local community and the world at large. It was made possible through the efforts of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Pastor Nick, in consultation with the Trustees, working with the local US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Bible study continues with 5 sessions of **Faithful and Inclusive** videos in person each Sunday morning following service in Room 4 and again via Zoom Wednesdays from 7-8:30. You are invited to attend either or both sessions each week. All are welcome!

Our NUMC church work day took place on Saturday, October 21st and was a success. Thank you to all the volunteers that attended, along with the volunteers that did work before hand. Our historical building always needs TLC. If it weren't for all the volunteers our building wouldn't look /function as well as it does not only for the parishioners but also the community organizations that use our facility. Thank you.

Donna M. Buda
Trustee Chairperson

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

There are two groups that have been formed around social justice. One is working on anti-racism education and action for us as a congregation. The other is working on LGBTQ inclusion, and how we can best be a truly inclusive and affirming spiritual home for all people here at NUMC. Both groups are open to all who are interested. Please see Pastor Nick if you'd like to participate, and look for information and education opportunities coming from these groups in the near future.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES TASK FORCE

There is a group of your Newtonville church family who desires to facilitate education, discussion, and discernment to explore becoming a reconciling congregation. A reconciling congregation is committed to achieving LGBTQAI+ justice and full inclusion in the life and leadership of The United Methodist Church, both in policy and in practice.

Why? Very simply, because it is the right thing to do. Explicitly welcoming all of God's children in every form as they were created by God to be fully part of our family is to carry out Jesus' command: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

We are currently studying a series of videos and discussion to provide everyone with opportunities to learn more.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please speak with any one of us or with Pastor Nick.

Our task force currently includes:

Liz McGeough-Gamache
Nancy Goddard
Kingsley Osei
Stefanie Perez
Sandy Stevenson

Thank you for your open hearts, open minds, and open spirits as we embark on this journey together.

OUTREACH - CAPITAL CITY RESCUE MISSION

Newtonville United Methodist Church is doing an outreach program for the Capital City Rescue Mission. We have volunteered to serve dinner on the **2nd Monday of each month from 5:00 – 7:30pm.**

Five 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 across from the Mission in a closed DMV parking lot; or meet at NUMC to car pool.

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.

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>

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council meeting will meet on **November 14 at 7PM** in the Grace Krauss Lounge.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee will meet on **Tuesday November 21 at 6:30pm** in Room 4.

TRUSTEES

Trustees will meet **November 6 and December 4**

Celebrations!

November Birthdays

- 1 - Barbara Rasmussen
- 9 - Glen Sheffer
- 13 - Tina Sheridan
- 16 - Kara Olstad
- 23 - Kathy Maker
- 26 - Pamela Palmer

December Birthdays

- 6 - Karin Wheatley
- 6 - Julie Scorzelli
- 7 - Katelyn Scorzelli
- 7 - Rudi Romania
- 14 - Margaret Blanco
- 15 - Bill Smith
- 17 - William Essien
- 18 - Cheryl Smith
- 29 - Jay Smith
- 30 - Matthew Mascelli

UPDATE ON THE OLD METHODIST CEMETERY:

The origins of our Church begin with the West or Union Church on Old Niskayuna Road. Founded in 1799, it remained there until 1859 when it moved to the Newtonville location.

I worked to restore the West Church cemetery (1811-1882), which some of you visited when I had an open house a few years ago. However, it was on private property, the owner died and the property was purchased by the Albany International Airport. There is a no trespassing sign, so no one is allowed to enter at this time.

I have been in touch with the airport authorities. They told me that there are no current plans to disturb the cemetery and that they may allow us limited access as necessary, if we contact them. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Gary Thompson, Church Historian



Keeping Our Promises



Prayers ~ Presence ~ Gifts ~ Service ~ Witness

In Our Prayers

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for the family of Tina Sheridan who passed away in October. Beth, a friend and neighbor of Diane Davison; those dealing with health issues; Kathy Maker, Bill Smith, Bill Rainbolt, Barb Rasmussen, Piper Toby, Eleanor Loos, Pat Loz, Christopher Biggs, 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.*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS:

Usher Rotation Art Bowen Head Usher

Nov 5: Liz and David McGeough-Gamache
Nov 12: Nancy Goddard and Gail Cotler
Nov 19: Tom Assimon
Nov 26: Clifton Fowles and Geoff Whittle

Dec 3: Liz and David McGeough-Gamache
Dec 10: Nancy Goddard and Gail Cotler
Dec 17: Tom Assimon
Dec 24 (morning): Clifton Fowles and Geoff Whittle
Dec 24 (evening): Liz and David McGeough-Gamache
Dec 31: Nancy Goddard and Gail Cotler

Worship Assistant Rotation

Nov 5: Gary Thompson
Nov 12: Sandy Rivenburg
Nov 19: Kaylee Spendiff
Nov 26: Wendy Spendiff

Dec 3: Frank Essien
Dec 10: Joan Jensen
Dec 17: Pam LaCasio
Dec 24 (morning): Charles Bonsu
Dec 24 (evening):
Dec 31: Gary Thompson

Our Gifts August & September 2023

Average Undesignated Income needed for 1 month \$37,330	
Pledges	\$20,927
Plate	\$877
Youth Coordinator	\$1,250
Preschool	\$4,705
Building Rent	\$900
Brooks BBQ	\$6,700
Undesignated Income total:	\$35,359
<i>Designated Funds</i>	
Building Fund	2,865
DS Mission	\$200
Little Food Pantry	\$20
Youth/Children	\$80
Prayer Shawl	\$40
UMCOR Maui Fire	\$1,100
UMCOR US Disasters	\$4,000

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.

November

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00pm AA	2 10:00am TOPS 7:00pm BSA PLC meeting	3	4 4:00pm Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner
5 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 11:00am Faithful and Inclusive 6:00pm AA	6 6:00pm AA 6:30pm Trustees meeting	7 Election Day No Preschool 10:00am Banjo Band 6:00pm AA 6:30pm RCA 7:00pm LC Square Dancers	8 9:00am District Event 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Faithful and Inclusive Study	9 10:00am TOPS 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm BSA Comm Meeting	10 No Preschool Veterans Day (substitute)	11 Veterans Day 10:00am Sewing Guild
12 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 6:00pm AA	13 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Reconciling Ministries Meeting	14 6:00pm AA 6:00pm SOS 7:00pm LC Square Dancers	15 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Faithful and Inclusive Study	16 10:00am TOPS	17	18 11:00am BSA Meeting
19 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 11:00am Faithful and Inclusive 6:00pm AA	20 6:00pm AA	21 10:00am Banjo Band 6:00pm AA 6:30pm RCA 7:00pm LC Square Dancers	22 No Preschool 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study	23 Thanksgiving Day 10:00am TOPS	24	25
26 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 11:00am Faithful and Inclusive 6:00pm AA	27 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm AA	28 6:00pm AA 7:00pm LC Square Dancers	29 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study	30 10:00am TOPS 6:00pm Girl Scouts		

December

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 6:00pm AA	4 6:00pm AA 6:30pm Trustees meeting	5 10:00am Banjo Band 6:00pm AA 6:30pm RCA 7:00pm LC Square Dancers	6 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study	7 10:00am TOPS 7:00pm BSA PLC meeting	8	9 10:00am Sewing Guild
10 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 6:00pm AA	11 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:00pm AA	12 6:00pm AA 6:00pm SOS 7:00pm LC Square Dancers	13 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study	14 10:00am TOPS 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm BSA Comm	15	16
17 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 6:00pm AA	18 6:00pm AA	19 10:00am Banjo Band 6:00pm AA 6:30pm RCA 7:00pm LC Square Dancers	20 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study	21 10:00am TOPS	22	23
24 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day office closed 6:00pm AA	26 6:00pm AA 7:00pm LC Square Dancers	27 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Bible Study	28 10:00am TOPS	29	30
31 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Church 6:00pm AA						

Calendar At-a-Glance

November Calendar

1- Faith and Inclusion Study 7pm
5 - Faith and Inclusion Study 11am
6 - Trustees meeting 6:30pm
8 - Faith and Inclusion Study 7pm
13 - Prayer Shawl 1pm, room 4
13 - Reconciling Committee 7pm
15 - Bible Study ZOOM 7pm
22 - Bible Study ZOOM 7pm
26 - UMCOR Student Sunday Offering
27 - Prayer Shawl 1pm, room 10
29 - Bible Study ZOOM 7pm

December Calendar

3 - First Sunday in Advent
4 - Trustees meeting 6:30pm
6 - Bible Study ZOOM 7pm
10 - Second Sunday in Advent
10 - Heat Offering
11 - Prayer Shawl 1pm, room 10
13 - Bible Study ZOOM 7pm
17 - Third Sunday in Advent
20 - Bible Study ZOOM 7pm
24 - Fourth Sunday in Advent
24 - Christmas Eve Evening Services

Join us!
Bring a
friend,
Invite a
neighbor!

Pastor Rev. Dr. Nick Bufano
Music Director Brandon Malowski
Administrative Asst. Karin Wheatley
Youth and Family Ministries . Stephanie Ramkisoan
Custodian Olga & Daria Zhukorsha
Preschool Director Fiza Rohail
Office Hours 12pm – 3pm M, W, Th
Telephone 518-785-6789
Email NewtonvilleUMC@gmail.com
Website www.numc.net
Facebook Group "Newtonville United Methodist Church"

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., & Thurs
12pm – 3pm

Live & Videos of worship services
can be found online at

www.facebook.com/groups/newtonville

The Church Bell

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

Return Service Requested

First Class
Postage
Required