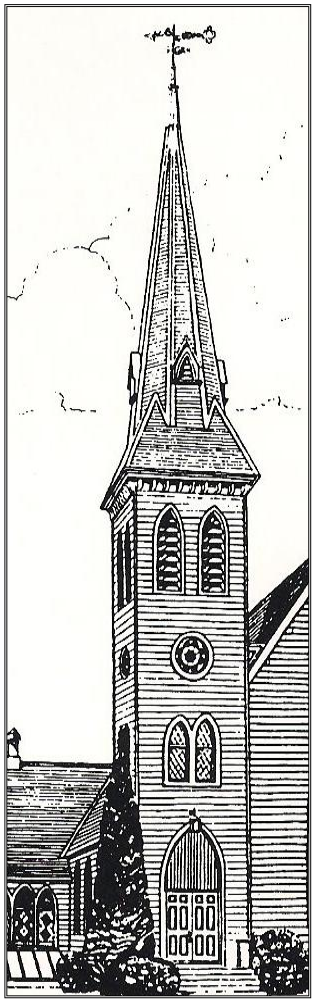

The Church Bell

Newtonville United Methodist Church
568 Loudon Road, P.O. Box 7
Newtonville, NY 12128
(corner of Loudon & Maxwell Roads)
518-785-6789

November ~ December 2026

Greetings NUMC!

As I am writing this newsletter article, I am excited to already be thinking about Advent 2026! Believe it or not, it is just around the corner, with the 1st Sunday of Advent arriving on Sunday, Nov. 29. We will once again be taking our Advent journey using materials and an Advent devotional from *A Sanctified Art*, which is a collective of clergy and lay folks who are also exceptionally creative artists, poets, and writers. The theme for this year is "Until the Dawn: Actions for the Work of Advent." See below for a description of our journey for this season…

"Every Advent, we light candles and speak of hope. We wait for the good news that God is born. We prepare with pageants and presents. Yet, in the midst of our busy waiting, we know all too well that the world is not as it should be. Wars rage on, violence persists, new tragedies unfold. God's promises are real, and God's promised day has not yet come. This tension keeps us yearning—for a new day, a new way, a world made new.

This series focuses on the actions we can take as we move through the night with hope for tomorrow. Night is a time when the way forward may seem unclear, when our senses are heightened and fear may creep in. And the darkness also brings gifts—rest, regeneration, dreams, intimacy with God. In our sacred stories, angels often arrive in the night, calling for courageous action and singing good news. In the night, Mary's labor pains crescendo and Christ is born. In the night, shepherds and Magi follow the stars to get closer to God. And so, in the metaphorical night, we will carry on with the work that is ours to do."

Come and be present with us in worship this Advent, as we pray together and seek God's wisdom and then determine just what the work is that we are called to do. Advent is also a really great time to invite a friend to church. The beauty and simplicity of the season often brings comfort to first-time church goers, and also to those who might consider returning to church for the first time in a long time. Think about who you might invite, go ahead and extend that invitation, and then bring them with you to church!

Our church sign currently reads …**Your questions, your doubts, and your story are welcome here!** I believe with all of my heart that this is a statement that truly reflects our faith community here at NUMC. I challenge you this Advent to let folks know all about it, and to invite them in to experience it in person. I give thanks to God for each of you, and for all of the ways you make our faith community the unique and welcoming place that it is!

See you in Church!
Pastor 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

TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustees would like to thank volunteers that helped with Fall workday. Please note that there are shovels and ice melt by each doorway. Feel free to use it if you think the sidewalk needs to be de-iced. A snow removal contract has been signed in the amount of $4,800.
We are in the process of getting the cottage ready for the new Sexton. There will be construction happening the second week of November replacing the cracked tub.
We encourage anyone that is interested to become a member of Trustees. **We meet every other month. Next meeting Monday, November 23rd at 6:30 PM**.
Donna M. Buda
Chair of Trustee Committee

BROOKS – 2027 DATES

We had a very successful Brooks season with a profit of $14, 050! This would not have been possible without all the volunteers. What a wonderful church community we have here at NUMC! **The dates for 2027 have been set by Brooks Barbecue. They are May 6, June 3, Sept. 9 and Sept. 30.**
Donna M. Buda

2027 NUMC GARAGE SALE

Mark your calendar!
The 2027 garage sale has been scheduled for Saturday, April 24. It's not too early to start setting aside items that you would like to donate. We accept appliances, furniture, garden and household tools, sports equipment, holiday decorations, jewelry, housewares, linens, glassware, toys, plants, books and puzzles.
All donations must be clean and in good repair. We will NOT accept clothing, records, CD's, DVD's, nuts, bolts, screws, hardware, craft items, encyclopedias or outdated item such as car seats and cribs. **We will not begin to accept donations until Monday, April 12 as we have no place to store items ahead of time.**
If you think you might be interested in helping to set up or the day of the sale please contact Kathy Franklin. Her email address is auntiedoll@earthlink.net. Her cell # is 518-698-6149.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to our new Food Pantry volunteers. We are fully staffed again which means we have volunteers who are willing to fill the pantry once a week and we have someone for every day of the week. Substitutes are always welcome so please feel free to volunteer.
Need in the community is still high and with the weather turning colder food is in even higher demand for many people.
Thank you very much to those of you who contribute food items to the Pantry - they don't go unnoticed and we are grateful. Monetary contributions are welcome as well - just place a check made out to NUMC in the plate offering and designate on your check that it is for the Food Pantry. It takes a village!!
Sue Brooks

CHURCH LIBRARY

How to use church library: The books are arranged by the Dewey Decimal System. You can look at the chart by the stained-glass windows to look for a subject by number. There also are shelf labels for some topics of special interest (e.g. Jesus or prayers).
There is a special set of shelves in the corner for Bible Study, including Bibles, dictionaries of the Bible and Interpretations of the Bible stories.
You are welcome to borrow a book. Just return it when you are done.
Submitted by Gary Thompson

View the Bulletin and Service from our Website

You can view (and print if you'd like!) the church bulletin for the upcoming Sunday from our website's home page. **We also added a link to our live worship on the homepage (you can view past services as well.)** Our website: www.numc.net

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - ZOOM

We encourage you to give Zoom Bible Study a try at 7 PM on ZOOM every Wednesday. The link is sent out each week on Wednesday mornings.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Church Council meeting will be announced.

FINANCE MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, **November 4 at 6 PM.**

TRUSTEES MEETING

The Trustees Committee will meet **Monday,. November 23 at 6:30 PM.**

CHURCH CONFERENCE DAY

The Albany District Conference Day will be held Saturday, **Nov. 14 at Calvary UMC,** 15 Ridge Place, Latham. Our conference is scheduled for 2:15 PM, but all are invited and encouraged to attend the entire day; worship begins at 9 AM and there are many interesting workshops available throughout the day. Lunch is included! There is a link to register for the Conference and workshops (if you desire) in the Weekly Update. If you don't receive the weekly news, and are interested in attending, please contact Carrie in the office (518) 785-6789 or send her an email newtonvilleumc@gmail.com

COOKIES, CAROLS and COCOA – Dec. 17th!

We hope you will join us our annual Cookies, Carols and Cocoa gathering at 6:30 PM Thursday, Dec. 17 in Grace Krauss Lounge. **Look for details in upcoming Weekly Updates.**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We hope you will join us for the Thursday, **December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM.**

POINSETTIAS/HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

As we plan for the holiday season poinsettias have been ordered and details will be shared soon regarding the personalized ornaments for the tree. Watch your Weekly Church Update for more information.

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. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQyjvslUcE-7o-AUWFs3C8g

OUTREACH - CAPITAL CITY RESCUE MISSION

Mission News Update:

Christmas Backpacks for Men's Emergency Shelter for Christmas Night Guest - new items needed:
Hats
Gloves
Hand warmers
Deodorant
Travel tissues
Chapstick
Gail and Kathy are ordering the hats and gloves. We were given the ordering site for these items and will have them delivered directly to Mission. The Volunteer Coordinator wants warmth, quality and specific sizes. Anyone that wishes to donate toward these items, please see Gail or Kathy. Kathy will place bins for the other items needed. Please know how grateful the Mission is for NUMC always supporting their needs.
Gail & Kathy

Sign up for Adirondack/Albany District Newsletter

If you don't already receive it, we encourage you to sign up for the Adirondack/Albany District Newsletter, which is sent via email on Thursdays. You'll receive the latest news from around the District and Conference. To subscribe, send an email to Joanna Feuer (our former administrative assistant, now serving as the Districts' Superintendency Assistant!) @ joannafeuer@unyumc.org You can also find local church events in the Albany and Adirondack Districts on the Albany and Adirondack District's Facebook Page.

Celebrations!

November Birthdays

9 – Glen Sheffer
16- Kara Olstad
23 – Kathy Maker

December Birthdays

7 – Rudi Romania
14 – Margaret Blanco
17 – William Essien
18 – Cheryl Smith
22 – George Erfurt III
23 – Tammy Hanley
30 – Matthew Mascelli

NUMC ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

POTLUCK SOUP/SUPPER AND GAME NIGHT

Keeping Our Promises

Prayers ~ Presence ~ Gifts ~ Service ~ Witness

In Our Prayers

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for those dealing with health issues; Brenda Slingerland, Bill Rainbolt, Pat Loz, Gene Hanchett; the Ware family; for those grieving: the Essien family and the Sheffer family; for well-being: Harold, Norelis and Adriana; for those dealing with addiction and those struggling to manage anxiety and fight depression. Also for our military, anyone affected by war, hunger or oppression in any form. *Please contact Carrie in the church office to add or remove a prayer request (518) 785-6789*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS:

Ushers Art Bowen Head Usher
November 1: Carrie Boyer & Geoff Whittle
November 8: Cheryl Assimon & Wendy Spendiff
November 15: Clifton Fowles & Gail Cotler
November 22: Elizabeth & David McGeough-Gamache
November 29: Cheryl Assimon & Geoff Whittle

December 6: Clifton Fowles & Gail Cotler
December 13: Carrie Boyer & Geoff Whittle
December 20: Cheryl Assimon & Wendy Spendiff
December 27: Elizabeth & David McGeough-Gamache

Worship Assistant Rotation
November 1: Kaylee Spendiff
November 8: Pam LaCasio
November 15: Stefanie Perez
November 22: Cheryl Assimon
November 29: Geoff Brooks

December 6: Pam LaCasio
December 13: Gary Thompson
December 20: Stefanie Perez
December 27: Cheryl Assimon

Children's Message
September 6, 13 & 27: Joy Bufano
September 20: Jennifer Dengler
October 4: Wendy Spendiff
October 11, 25: Joy Bufano
October 17: Jennifer Dengler

Our Gifts September 2026

Average *Undesignated Income* needed for 3 months **$55,439**	
Pledges	$9,574
Plate	$173
Initial Offering	$5
Heat	$0
Festival Offering (Easter/T'Giving/X'Mas)	$0
Brooks BBQ	$3,599
Garage Sale	$53
Building Rent	$1,600
Youth Coordinator	$0
Preschool	$0
Undesignated Income total:	**$15,004**
Designated Funds	
Building Fund	$834
Youth/Child Programs	$240
Student Day	$0
Native Am Ministry	$0
Human Relations Day	$0
Peace with Justice	$5
Retired Ministers	$0
World Communion	$0
UMCOR Sunday	$0
Other Conf. Benevolence	$0
Columbia Mission	$1000
Missions	$0
Little Food Pantry	$175
Total Income	**$2,249**

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.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST	2 6 PM AA	3 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 7 PM RST	4 6 PM AA 6 PM Finance Committee 7 PM Boy Scouts **7 PM Bible Study Zoom**	5 7 PM RST	6 6:30 PM NA	7
8 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST	9 6 PM AA	10 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 6 PM SOS 7 PM RST	11 Veteran's Day 6 PM AA 7 PM Boy Scouts **7 PM Bible Study Zoom**	12 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM RST	13 6:30 PM NA	14 10 AM Sewing Guild
15 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST	16 6 PM AA	17 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 7 PM RST	18 6 PM AA 7 PM Boy Scouts **7 PM Bible Study Zoom**	19 7 PM RST	20 6:30 PM NA	21
22 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST	23 6 PM AA **6:30 PM Trustees Meeting**	24 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 6:30 PM RCA 7 PM RST	25 6 PM AA 7 PM Boy Scouts	26 Thanksgiving 7 PM RST	6:30 PM NA 27	28
29 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST **1st Sunday of Advent**	30 6 PM AA			Key: RST: Restoration and Salvation Tabernacle AA- Alcoholics Anonymous	Key: SOS: Survivors of Suicide NA – Narcotics Anonymous	

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 7 PM RST	2 6 PM AA 7 PM Boy Scouts **7 PM Bible Study Zoom**	3 7 PM RST	4 6:30 PM NA	5
6 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST **2nd Sunday of Advent**	7 6 PM AA	8 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 6 PM SOS 7 PM RST	9 6 PM AA 7 PM Boy Scouts **7 PM Bible Study Zoom**	10 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM RST	11 6:30 PM NA	12 10 AM Sewing Guild
13 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST **3rd Sunday of Advent**	14 6 PM AA	15 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 7 PM RST	16 6 PM AA 7 PM Boy Scouts **7 PM Bible Study Zoom**	17 **6:30 PM Cookies, Carols and Cocoa** 7 PM RST	18 6:30 PM NA	19
20 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST **4th Sunday of Advent**	21 6 PM AA	22 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 7 PM RST	23 6 PM AA 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Boy Scouts **7 PM Bible Study Zoom**	24 **7 PM Christmas Eve Service** 7 PM RST	25 6:30 PM NA	26
27 **10 AM Worship** **10:15 AM Youth Church** 3 PM RST	28 6 PM AA	29 10 AM Banjo Band 6 PM AA 7 PM RST	30 6 PM AA **7 PM Bible Study Zoom**	31 7 PM RST		
Key: RST: Restoration and Salvation Tabernacle AA- Alcoholics Anonymous	Key: SOS: Survivors of Suicide NA – Narcotics Anonymous					

Church Events: Calendar At-a-Glance

November Calendar

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Worship and Youth Church
4 – Finance Committee Meeting
4, 11, 18 - Bible Study
23 – Trustees Meeting

December Calendar

6, 13, 20, 27 – Worship and Youth Church
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Bible Study
17 – Cookies, Carols and Cocoa!
24 – Christmas Eve Service

Pastor	*Rev. Dr. Nick Bufano*
Music Director	*Brandon Malowski*
Administrative Asst.	*Carrie Boyer*
Youth and Family Ministries	*Joy Bufano*
Custodian	
Office Hours	*11am-3:30pm Tue; 9:30am-2pm Thu*
Telephone	*518-785-6789*
Email	*NewtonvilleUMC@gmail.com*
Website	*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

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Return Service Requested

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