



We are called to be a welcoming community of loving servants of Jesus Christ.

The Evangel March 2023

Prayer Requests

Please lift in prayer...

Justin Birtwell & family on the loss of his father, Roger;

Ongoing prayers for...

Pam; her friend Ruth; Tracy diagnosed with cancer; Steven; Richard in hospital; Debbie recovering from knee replacement; SuZanne Williams' mother in law Jackie and brother in law Rob; Madeleine; Vernice Murphy and family; Lou Palmer; Doug's sister Shelly; Fran; Tony; Laurie; and Michelle

and...

prayers of healing for those effected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey & Syria as well as those who continue to be impacted by the war in Ukraine.

As we begin the season of Lent, may the world be reminded of the words by former President Jimmy Carter...

“WE SHOULD LIVE OUR LIVES AS THOUGH CHRIST WERE COMING THIS AFTERNOON.”

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Jesus said, "Which of these proved a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

LUKE 10: 36-37 (THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN)



For most of us Christians, the toughest part of the assignment isn't believing right, it's doing right - putting into practice the loving, serving spirit that Jesus himself showed and requires of us. This becomes especially important (and difficult) when we consider our relationship with those whom we don't know as well or agree with as much or care for to the same degree that we do those in our circle of family and friends.

When confronted with someone "strange" we may find it especially hard to "go and do likewise."

This Lent, we are going to work together on what it means to love by immersing ourselves in the Gospel of Luke. Our immersion will be based on a new book by UM Pastor Adam Hamilton: *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws.*

There will be 3 ways in particular for YOU to be involved:

1. Read through the Gospel of Luke on your own during Lent. Adam has set up a reading schedule of approximately 15 minutes per day at this link: [40 Day Reading Plan Chart](#).
2. Participate in worship during the Sundays of Lent, Feb 26-April 2 when we will focus each week on a passage from Luke. There will also be special presentations during the month of March.
3. Join the small group that meets each Tuesday evening Feb 28 to April 4 from 7 to 8:30 PM to read and discuss the book. Using Bible study, discussion questions and video segments shot in the Holy Land, the study looks at different aspects of Luke's Jesus and his mission: how he came for the lost; his deep respect for women; the parables unique to Luke and the long journey to Jerusalem and the cross. This will be a popular study across the UMC so if you are interested, please order your book soon at [Cokesbury](#) or [Amazon.com](#) or your bookseller of choice

Lori

Be sure to read Pastor Lori's latest blog. Now found online at [numc.us](#).

Office Schedule

The office will have a varied schedule for the next few weeks. Please note the following closures:

Friday, March 3
Friday, March 10
Friday, March 31
Tuesday, April 4

Curbside Dinner

It's Time to place your order for your Corned Beef & Cabbage Curbside Dinner!

The menu includes:

Corned Beef Brisket
Cabbage
Garden Salad (no dressing)
Potatoes
Carrots
Roll &
Dessert.

The cost is \$17 for Adults & \$16 for anyone 62 and older (gluten free +\$1.00).

Pick-up is available from 4 to 7pm on March 11 with an order deadline of March 6.



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT NUMC.US LATELY?

Our website is the information hub to everything happening at NUMC!

Want to host coffee hour or sign-up as a worship volunteer? It's there! Everything from announcements to online giving is always available at numc.us... even if the office is closed!

***Don't hesitate.
See just how simple it is to use our online options starting with...***

Easter Flowers are now available to order online. Simply click on the link below and then select the "Order Now" button for "Easter Flowers". Then follow the directions provided.

[Order Easter Flowers Online](#)

Forms will also be available in the Sunday Morning bulletins... but why wait? **Order today!**

We also need additional volunteers to help make our worship experience the best it can be. Consider signing up to host fellowship or as a worship volunteer, etc. The opportunities are all available via the following links.

[Fellowship Hour](#) (*volunteer to host*)
[Altar Flowers](#) (*recognize or celebrate a loved one or occasion*)
[Worship Volunteers](#) (*great ways to get involved!*)
[Online Giving](#) (*so convenient!*)

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

The UMCOR Sunday offering on March 19 underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs, allowing UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to the communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can act swiftly when responding to disasters around the world and act as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

Please follow the following link to learn what the United Methodist Committee on Relief is currently doing with international partners in response to recent tragedies:

[UMCOR Global Ministries](#)

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH...

In light of all the turbulence and violence of our world, the Newtown Interfaith Clergy Association will sponsor a **Gathering for Peace** on Sunday, March 19 at 5pm at Trinity Episcopal Church.

There will be beautiful music, sacred readings, prayers and time for drawing closer to one's soul and to God.

An offering will also be taken to benefit an organization (tbd) that works for peace.

Please stay tuned to Pastor Lori's emails for further details.

Congregational Adath Israel Visit

Our confirmation class will attend Shabbat services with our Jewish siblings March 17, with the service beginning at 7:30pm. Rabbi Robert Schectman will speak with us after worship to explain what we have seen and heard and answer any questions.

Anyone in the congregation is welcome to join us. This may be especially interesting for anyone who has never attended a service in a synagogue before and wonders how it is different or similar to our own.

Help Needed

Dorothy Day House

On Sunday, March 26 members of the confirmation program will prepare a lunch for the clients of Dorothy Day House in Danbury.

With the youth, mentors and parents we have plenty of volunteers in the kitchen, but we seek your help with food donations of bread, cold cuts, peanut butter, jelly, apples, bananas, and snack bags of chips and/or granola bars.

There is a sign up sheet posted on the numc.us website with the specific quantities needed. Please click [here](#) to be directed to volunteer!

A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Do you own a Hymnal? If not, there are some in the narthex at NUMC which are yours for the taking! These books' bindings need a little TLC, so we have 'retired' them from the pews.

This edition of the United Methodist Hymnal was published in 1989, and has been supplemented by the two small hymnals in our pews, one black and one green.



Did you know that hymn books have a history of making available not only the music and texts of hymns, but many aids to worship including: prayers, services for communion, baptism, weddings, funerals, and responses for the Psalms, all organized around the Christian Year which begins at Advent? These can be a great addition to worship for those who join us online.

As we enter the Lenten season, we will try to walk with Jesus these forty days which lead to the cross and the resurrection on Easter! You are invited to have a take at home and uncover its worth!

Blessings,

Sue

Coffee & Conversation

Coffee and Conversation is back on a special day, Sunday, March 12, immediately following worship. Grab coffee and a goodie then join us in the Betts.

MISSION AND OUTREACH is partnering with Soldiers Angels to support the...

“Warm Feet for Warriors” drive.

Socks are one of the most requested items from service men and women so we are requesting donations of all kinds:

low, high, or ankle
decorative or plain
white or colored
dressy or casual
male or female

All adult sizes are welcome and will be mailed to both enlisted soldiers and veterans.

A box will be placed in the narthex at the beginning of March and the collection deadline is March 26.

Please help us show our appreciation to all those who serve, both past and present.

With gratitude,

Lynette

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Looking Ahead

Mission & Outreach is beginning preparations for a **"Victorian Tea."** A little spring fellowship and a wonderful opportunity to invite members from the surrounding community back into Rauner Hall. Be on the lookout for more information in the April Evangel, but for now **Save The Date, April 29!**



A NYC Field Trip Sunday, April 23

The confirmation class is taking a field trip to John Street UMC in New York City, the oldest continuing Methodist congregation in the United States. We're taking the opportunity to "worship out" and learn some interesting facts about early Methodism as we view artifacts from the first congregations who gathered in the mid 1700s. All are invited and encouraged to join us on this field trip!

*Please let **Pastor Lori** know if you are interested in attending!*

AN EASTER EGG HUNT

A poster for an Easter Egg Hunt event. The background is teal with several colorful Easter eggs (orange, yellow, green, red) scattered around. In the center is a white bunny head. The text is white and yellow. At the bottom right, there is a pink sticky note with white text.

JOIN US FOR A FUN FAMILY EVENT

Easter Egg Hunt

April 1 from 9:30 to 11am

Our Wesley & NUMC families are invited to attend an Egg Hunt at Rauner Hall.

In addition to the hunt, children can have their picture taken with the bunny & participate in a small craft. A snack will also be provided.

Please RSVP by March 22nd to Rae Steare at churchoffice@newtown-umc.org. Remember to include the total family members attending as well as the number of children participating.

We hope you and your children can attend!

**March Evangel
Deadline
March 22**

*It's never too early to
make submissions!*

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week 2023 begins with **Palm Sunday** on April 2. We are still in the process of determining our schedule for the week so please stay tuned to Pastor Lori's emails for updates.



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Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3/1 Doris Samson
Vincent & Sandy Venitelli 🍷
- 3/2 Alan Pearlman
- 3/6 Jordan D'Amico
Caroline Malin *Happy 21st* 🎉
- 3/7 Barb Carlson *Happy 21st* 🎉
Cheryl Ghent
- 3/8 Alex Trumpeta *Happy 21st* 🎉
- 3/11 Julie Barbeau
Elaine Landau *WOW!* 🍷
Stefan Leon-Gambetta
- 3/14 Marvin Paige
- 3/15 Gary & Kathi Weller 🍷
Dan Wiedemann
- 3/17 Betsy Paynter
Jacqueline Stakel
- 3/18 Emily Blewett
- 3/20 Jerry & PJ Yochum 🍷
- 3/21 Sarah Lynch
- 3/23 Heidi Poarch
Peter Masella
- 3/24 Steve Agnew
Karan Goodhue
Kendra Kilson
- 3/26 Mel & Dorothy
Kramer-Kawakami 🍷
- 3/27 Alek Budd
- 3/28 Ryan Clancy
Allison Rambone
Cindy Rice
- 3/31 Courtney Carlson
Tracey McManus
Charlotte Springmeyer

NEWS FROM YOUR PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

The month of March is a busy one at WLC!

On Monday, March 6 we kick off our "Key to Kindness" program. Each classroom will receive the school "key" and select community service projects in which to engage.



So far we know we will be supporting Ben's Bells by painting kindness coins, beads and ornaments which are then sold in their store. Additional information can be found online at bensbells.org.

If you are involved with an organization and think we could help, please reach out to me at wesleyfuchs@gmail.com. I would love to explore ideas on how we can work together to teach the importance of service to our children.

On Tuesday, March 7, the Ashurst Academy of Irish Dance will perform for us in Rauner Hall. If you're free, please join us at 10:00am and learn a little about Irish Dancing!

We have also established a *Parents Advisory Committee* that will meet monthly to plan activities and events. Work has already begun on a joint Easter Egg Hunt with NUMC. Mark your calendars for the morning of April 1. If you have little ones you know would enjoy the event, please register by contacting the **church office!** Hope to see you there!

Diane Fuchs

Director, Wesley Learning Center,
a NAEYC accredited program for children ages 2 to 6.
wesleyfuchs@gmail.com
203.426.6149



Church Staff
Rev. Lori R. Miller, Pastor
Rev. E. Sue Klein, Deacon & Minister of Music
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