

# NEWFANE UMC NEWS - APRIL 2020

## Holy Week

As I write this, where we will observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter, is unknown. There are still differences of opinion among our government leaders as to whether we will be gathering or social distancing as we get into April.

In some ways, if we are still staying home and avoiding groups of people, we may have a new perspective of



what the Disciples were experiencing as Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified, and resurrected. Throughout what the gospel tells us of the Disciples during that time they were somewhat separated from one another and observed from a distance. They were likely anxious, confused, and frightened. They did not have the advantage of seeing what was going on from a view outside of what they were personally seeing in the context of what they understand Jesus had taught them.

Resurrection, the appearance of Jesus among them behind closed doors, and The Holy Spirit helping them understand had not yet happened.

We are going through a time which can bring anxiety, loneliness, confusion because there is much we do not know. Usually those times bring us together in groups to support one another. This time we are asked to stay away from each other and most of us are missing that face to face time.

“Do not be afraid,” is a reoccurring encouragement throughout the gospels. God is with us. God holds us through whatever this life brings our way.

This is a time to be cautious, to protect the health of others, to follow the requests of professionals, but it is not a time to be afraid. Our Missions Team has pulled together a way to “check in” on one another and our congregation is working with the Town to help with emergency food needs.

Phone and mail seem to be the best way to stay in contact with much of our faith community right now. If you need a number or address call me at 716-257-1639 and leave a message. I will get back

to you as soon as possible. “Check in” team leaders are letting me know how all of you are doing.

I am preparing online worship services through Easter Sunday, a well as traditional ones if we are back together.

Times and how to access those services will be announced in emails and on Facebook as we know more.



Matthew 21:1-11 is the main scripture lesson for Palm Sunday

**Our time together on Maundy Thursday will include John 13:1-17, 31b-35.**



**Good Friday looks at John 18:1-19:42**



**Easter Sunday will look at John 20:1-18**

You are all in my prayers! Pastor Marilyn

## FINANCE

As many of you know our church has struggled financially over the past few years. Unfortunately, this year has been no different. We started 2020 with a positive balance of \$4,120.28 in our Current Expense account and as of February 29, 2020 we have a negative balance of (\$1,689.73). Our year to date income as of February 29, 2020 was \$20,311.06 and our year to date expenses equaled \$26,121.07. Our expenses have been \$5,810.01 higher than our income and we have not paid our shared ministry payment of \$2,189.00 in February. So our year to date expenses would have been \$7,999.01 more than our income if we made this payment.

With the current situation of the COVID-19 virus it doesn't look like March or April will be much better. We have taken proactive steps to try and reduce our expenses while the church building is closed and have reduced the heat in the building to 50 degrees. We understand some of you may have been laid off due to this virus, but we hope if you are still working and able that you continue your tithes and offerings even when we can't meet face to face for Worship. We have a few ways this can still be accomplished. You could mail your pledge to P.O. Box 69, Newfane, NY or you could visit our website ([www.newfanemethodist.org](http://www.newfanemethodist.org)) and click on the "donate" tab to make a donation electronically. You could download the GivePlusMobile app on your smartphone and give that way or you can scan the QR code below with your smartphones camera and it will redirect you to our secure online giving page. If you have any questions please contact the church office for assistance.

Like to be in Charge – to organize things? The Finance Team has an opportunity for you! We need a chair for the Pulled Pork dinner drive-through. Mike Tomaino is taking care of obtaining and roasting the pork. Kevin Luckman has a file with the "to do" lists from years past, and there are already some volunteers willing to help. Basically, the team needs someone to make sure all the moving parts come together. This fundraiser is budgeted as an anticipated revenue and in what is a tight budget year, is critical to helping keep the doors open and the lights on. Please let Kevin or Pastor Marilyn know if you are willing to help in this way. Much of the "leg work" can be done in the comfort of your own easy chair.



## Prayers

~Brent Smith	~Bill Creek	#Michael Schauer		
*Caryn	*Bob	*Travis Averill		*Bev Blewett
*Judy Schmitt	*Nancy Kelkenberg	*Virginia Fitch	*Jean Coleman	*Debbie Hamm
*Doug & Mary Hemingway	*John Stark	*John Peterson	Janice Smith	*Pam Moreland
-Don & Ellen Ende	-Nelson Schultz	-Eleanor Miles		
- Jane Downey-Roesch (Pastor Marilyn's mom)				

### **Known Prayer concerns:**

- Our entire church family trying to creatively stay home.
- Those who are separated from loved ones, especially those in nursing homes and hospitals where no one can visit them.
- All of our medical teams and those who support them, especially those assigned to the COVID-19 floors.
- Our first responders, those making sure we can access food and medicines we need, the restaurants making sure take out and delivery does not go away, and anyone working to help keep us all safe.

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- |                                   |  |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2. Alan Rosenbaum                 | 12. Lyn Ende                             | 22. Sharon Molisani                   |
| 3. Bethany Smith<br>Judith Pettit | Carol Miller-Landis<br>Brandon Witkop    | 24. Patricia Schultz                  |
| 5. Bryce Hirschman                | Eric Wright                              | 25. Andrea Adinolfi                   |
| 6. Jack Gow                       | 13. Stephanie Rosenbaum                  | 26. Dave Ende<br>Bob Sweeney          |
| 7. Phyllis Stickney               | Devin Gilson                             | 28. Lindsay Stickney                  |
| 10. Kathy Dillabough.             | 14. Pat Fitch                            | 29. JoAnne Huntington<br>Pam Poole    |
| 11. Kate Gominiak                 | 16. Patricia Fralick<br>Gregory Stephens | 30. Kevin Luckman, Jr.<br>Brian Scott |
|                                   | 19. Carrie (Gow) Rutkowski               |                                       |

## **Lay Leader Ponderings April 2020**

How has God been active in your life? Has He answered prayer? Provided understanding or insight? Provided guidance? Comfort? Correction? Do you notice it? Do you look for it? Do you share your stories?

Part of being a disciple of Christ is being a first-hand witness – sharing our personal stories of God’s amazing Presence and action in our lives. We need to practice the skills involved in telling our stories. I would like to invite you to do that here. Send me your stories by e-mail or write them out and give them to me or put them in my mailbox and I will include them in our monthly newsletter. If you would prefer to remain anonymous your name will not be included, but we all need the practice in telling the wonders and glories of God.

Diane Schweigert has graciously provided a story from her life to start us off.

One gorgeous Saturday in September, I was “stuck” in a church basement at a craft show. Very few people attended and fewer people were purchasing from me.

I muttered “God, what am I doing here?” and immediately a lady came to my table. I commented on her pretty blouse – BUT – she heard me mention a pin she was wearing.

Well, that pin was a “House Pin” made by a Christian company founded by a woman who herself had once been homeless. All proceeds went to local charities helping/lifting others out of homelessness.

Many of you know that I – and our church - have made a commitment to our local “Habitat for Humanity” and we work towards raising funds, identifying Partner Families, and “pounding nails.”

Well, that God directed introduction to “house pins” became a major part of fundraising for our Newfane builds.

And that was the fastest answer to a prayer anyone will imagine. A God Thing.

Please share your own stories with us!

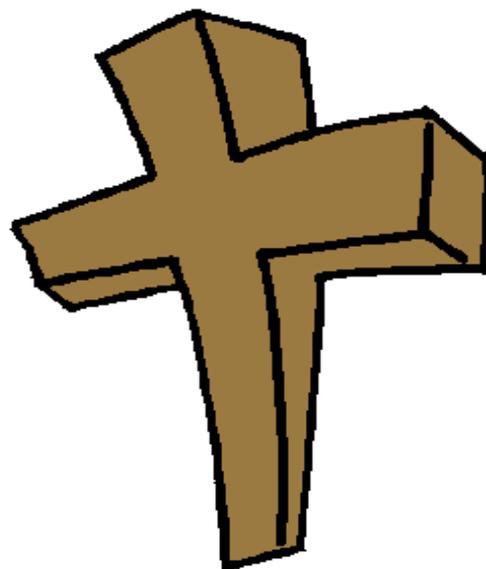
Lyn Ende, Lay Leader, CLM

# KID'S PAGE

## Easter Word Search

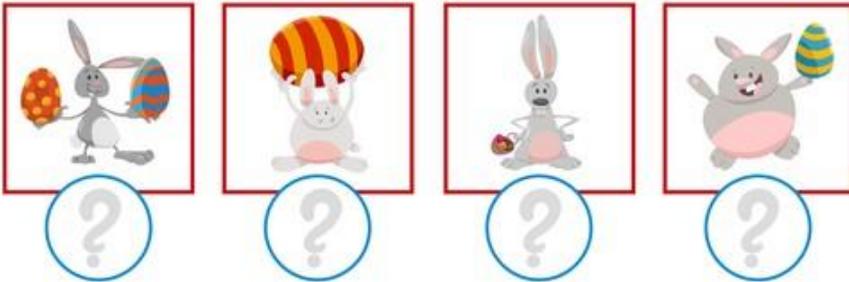
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APOSTLES  
CHRIST  
CROSS  
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HOLY  
JESUS  
KING  
LAMB  
LOVE



MARY  
REDEMPTION  
RESURRECTION  
RISEN  
ROMANS  
ROOSTER  
SACRIFICE  
SALVATION  
SAVIOR  
THORNS

# Kids page



## HOW MANY?



- ANSWER
-  3
  -  18
  -  10
  -  9

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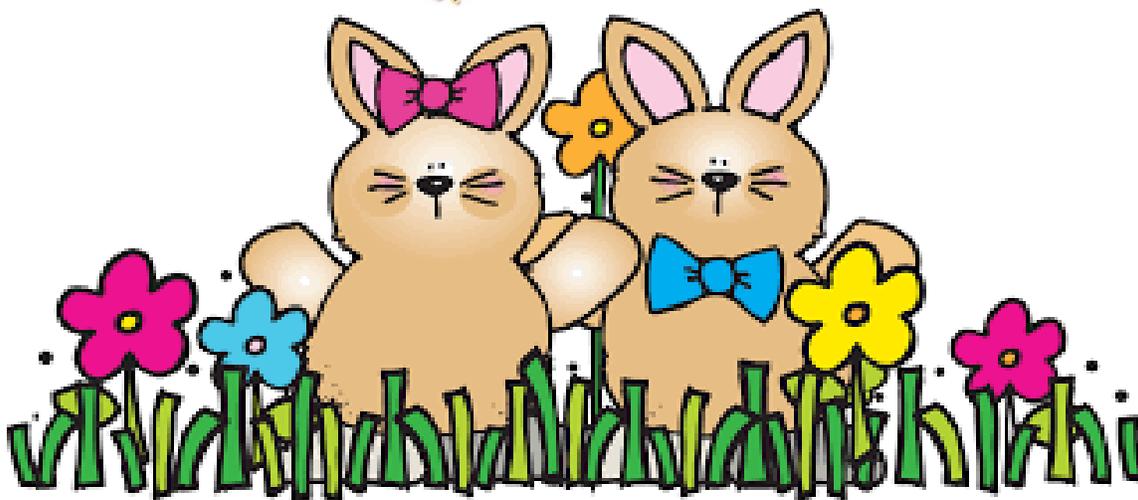
United Methodist Church of Newfane  
2699 Main Street  
P. O. Box 69  
Newfane, NY 14108

**APRIL 2020**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

**APRIL**



**United Methodist Church of Newfane**

P.O. Box 69, 2699 Main Street, Newfane, NY 14108  
(716) 778-7011

Church Mission Statement:  
**“Pray First, Walk Together  
and Transform Lives for Christ”**

Rev. Marilyn Kasperek, Pastor

e-mail: [newfanemethodist@verizon.net](mailto:newfanemethodist@verizon.net)

**Worship Hours:**

September – May – 11:00 a.m.  
June, July, August – 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday School:**

September – May – 9:45 a.m.