

# Chosen & Precious



The Resurrected One is chosen and precious. This is a series about Christ, about the one we call Lord, the one we follow, the one we obey. It is also a series about us—our identity is in Christ, and we are blessed in that hope.

Week 1 – I Peter 2:2-10  
“Like Living Stones”  
May 10

Week 2 – Psalm 66:8-20  
“Come and Hear”  
May 17

Week 3 – John 17:1-11  
“Showing the Glory of Christ in Us”  
May 24

Join us online on Facebook ® at 11 a.m. Sunday morning or watch anytime during the week. Invite someone to check it out.

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## Smile!

As I work on this newsletter article, I am thinking about many of the things impacting our community while we “Stay at Home” and what it will take to keep everyone safe when it is time to come back together. As I read the guidelines being issued by many levels of our government, as well as by our denomination it is clear this will be a process, not a quick return to what was. In many ways that is a good thing. We have had time to think about priorities, what needs to be on the calendar, what doesn’t, who we miss spending time with, who we have connected with in new ways, even if from a distance.

Social distancing and mask wearing may be around well after we can come together in small groups. It probably won’t feel so intrusive if we have lost a loved one or watched someone care about struggle with this virus, but as we considered last week, it won’t feel intrusive at all if we are living and loving as Christ does.

I have discovered that one of the things masks “mask” is our facial expressions. I find myself smiling at someone as I pass them on the street only to remember they can’t see that smile. I miss those smile exchanges.

Yet, as I hear of each of you checking in on others, taking groceries, dropping off meals, making masks, getting together online, praying for one another, I realize, those smiles are still there.

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Smiles shown in the best way possible, taking care of one another, having sincere love for each other, love that doesn’t look for what is in it for me; but a love based in the living and enduring Word of God.

Keep smiling!  
Hope to see you soon!  
Pastor Marilyn

## Praying together

There are many opportunities to pray with one another throughout the week. Watch posts on Facebook®, check out the prayer requests in our Monday emails, call someone and spend time together praying, the possibilities are limitless. Prayer works, and keeps us connected to God and each other.



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Bishop Mark Webb reminds us that prayer is a powerful tool and as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, is inviting clergy and laity to join together on a ZOOM meeting May 13 at 7 p.m. Invitations to join will be sent on Tuesday, May 12. This is an opportunity to join Bishop Webb and your brothers and sisters throughout the Conference in prayer.

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## Community Outreach

Hello all!

While we haven't been able to gather together to formulate plans, The missions committee has been active.

~This past month, we wanted to both recognize, and thank the hard working staff at NEWFANE Rehabilitation and Health Care Center; for taking care of the fragile population during this pandemic. We dropped off 3 large baskets of healthy treats; , fruit, cheeses, nuts, etc. that we're certainly appreciated.

~We have also been calling, texting, messaging, and making personal calls, (while maintaining social distance) to our Church family. Remember , we may be isolating, but we are not alone! If you need something, or know of someone who has a need, please let us know. And remember, we are ALL missionaries, so, call your neighbor, check on friends and family, help if you can, and share the love of God in a tangible way. This pandemic is a bitter-sweet opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ.

~did you EVER think we would be wearing masks in public? Thank you to Rita LaFountain, Kathy Perry, and Sue Neidlinger for donating materials. If you need one, call Amy, she has them for you. And, if she runs out, we will make more.

~**Current project**, supporting an increased need at our local Food Pantry. If you can donate dry goods, please deliver them to Church on the days and times that Amy is working. You can call down the elevator, there will be a tub/tote/box to put your donations in.

so, that's what we have been up to. We anticipate our communities needs to become greater as the Covid -19: Corona Virus Pandemic plays out. And we as the Church, hope and pray to recognize what we can do, to love our neighbors. Thanks everyone, stay safe, take good care of yourselves and each other, love and peace, Diane Schweigert



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If you know someone who needs some help to get through this time please let Pastor Marilyn know.

## Lay Leader Ponderings – May 2020

From the beginning of last month's newsletter article:

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?

The article for April was written before quarantine went into effect. Answers to the questions above look a lot different this month than they did last month.

At the beginning of the quarantine I thought we were only looking at a couple of weeks of shut-down. Now? God alone knows.

God knows.

I believe that God is using this time, this season, to draw people to Him, to encourage us to find new and different ways to reach out, to stay connected. I see God's activity much more clearly right now. I feel His comfort and His strength. In the stillness I feel His Presence and His love.

Lyn Ende, Lay Leader, CLM

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY

- |                    |                      |                      |                     |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Don Hamman      | 8. Leanne Durgan     | 16. Will Gross       | 26. Jeff Scott      |
| 2. Kay Damelates   | 11. Ken Hannah       | Colin Huntington     | Elizabeth Schrader  |
| Jacob Smith        | Ryne Huppi           | 18. Evelyn Gow       | Isla May Clark      |
| Landon Noon        | Kyra Huppi           | 19. Shelby Nerber    | 27. Madison Kuebler |
| 4. Amie Schirching | 12. Scott Russell    | 20. Joan Krauss      | Brian Nankey        |
| Mallory Schultz    | 13. Lori Mills       | 21. Ryan Ende        | 28. Jordan Renz     |
| 5. Chris Hannah    | Marcus Phillips      | Mary Carol Snyder    | 30. Sandy Allen     |
| Julie Russell      | 14. Nicholas Tomaino | 22. Ethan Gow        | Merle Scott         |
| Denise Hugaboom    | Erin Hannah          | Nicole Mills         | Jim Miller          |
| 6. Jamie Noon      | Rita LaFountain      | 23. Jennifer Arcovio | Abbie Huntington    |
| Pat Kelkenberg     |                      | 24. Kaitland Murphy  |                     |
| 7. Liam Noon       |                      | 25. Chuck Hoy        |                     |
|                    |                      | Zoie Wedekind        |                     |
|                    |                      | Milena Agee          |                     |
|                    |                      | Finn Kucsmas         |                     |

## FINANCE

We give because we are God's partner in ministry. We give through our tithes and offerings, our time and our talents. We have seen several examples of God's ministry at work through our giving during this time we spend apart. To name a few of these examples: sewing masks, delivering masks, donating food to the food pantry, making phone calls and writing notes to a friend, neighbor our one of our church family members and even making care baskets that were delivered to heroes on the front line at the Newfane Nursing Home. You can be God's partner in ministry by continuing your tithes and offerings, continue making masks, making phone calls, writing notes, donating food and so on.

We have been pleased to see as a congregation you are continuing your financial support of the church's ministry by mailing in your tithes and offerings, as well as signing up for electronic giving. Your continued support is helping us meet those budget needs that continue even when we cannot be physically together. **Thank you!!!** Just a reminder you can always 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.

We started 2020 with a positive balance of \$4,120.28 in our Current Expense account and as of March 31, 2020 we have a positive balance of \$1,419.28. Our year to date income as of March 31, 2020 was \$34,052.99 and our year to date expenses equaled \$36,753.99. Our expenses have been \$2,701.00 higher than our income and we have not paid our shared ministry payments for February and March which totals \$4,378.00. So our year to date expenses would have been \$7,079 more than our income if we made these payment. Our goal is to be able to pay all apportionments by the end of year as we have now been able to accomplish for the last number of years.

As you may already know through the church email we applied for the Paycheck Protection Program which is part of the CARES act that was passed. Our loan was originally submitted on April 13. On April 14<sup>th</sup> Bank of Akron contacted us and requested additional documentation and forms that needed to be filled out. We quickly obtained that information and resubmitted our application on April 15<sup>th</sup>. On April 16<sup>th</sup> the program ran out of money before our loan was approved. A second round of funding was approved on April 24<sup>th</sup> and we were notified on April 25<sup>th</sup> Bank of Akron was submitting our application to the Small Business Administration which is who the loans are approved through on April 27<sup>th</sup>. On April 29<sup>th</sup> we learned that we have been approved for this loan and should have the funding within 10 days. We are thankful we have been approved and the loan proceeds once received will be used for covered expenses including payroll and utilities expenses which will make us eligible for this loan to turn into a forgivable grant. This loan should be able to help cover these expenses as a few of our fundraisers that were planned have already been postponed and other fundraisers later in the year may be in jeopardy as well.



If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please feel free to share them.  
Next Finance meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Kevin Luckman, Chairperson

# Kids page



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**Sometimes being out in the rain is fun, other times we need someone with an umbrella to help us out of the storm. Regardless of how complicated the path, Jesus will be there to walk with you.**