

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Lay Leader Ponderings September 2020

The photo above is the east side of the Sunday School wing of Newfane United Methodist Church. It is utilitarian. It is bland. It is *BORING*.

One day as I was sitting in my truck waiting for other people to arrive for some pre-pandemic activity, staring at that bland, boring wall, I thought “That wall would look nice with a mural on it.” A mural would brighten up that side of the church building. Something that would invite people into our space, that would show that Newfane United Methodist Church is a caring, loving, FUN, faith community. Something that would engage our neighbors.

What do other people think?

Any ideas for what the mural should be? One big mural or several smaller ones? Our summer sermon series on Simon Peter, the fisherman, got me thinking of an Andy Griffith type silhouette of a child and adult carrying fishing poles, and “Going Fishing.” But upon further reflection, I thought that was not necessarily inviting to people outside of our faith community, so I am asking for input from the faith community. Please let me know what you think: Yes, a mural sounds good or No, that’s a horrible idea. If you like the idea of a mural, please offer suggestions for the subject matter if you have any. You may communicate via phone, email, or in-person to Bill Neidlinger, Judy Hugaboom, or me. Please do so by September 20th so that responses can be discussed at the Church Council meeting September 21. Thank you.

Lyn Ende, Lay Leader, CLM

Shirley Fox will be turning 98 years old and **Dan Cushman** will be turning 91 years old on September 21st. Let’s have fun and make their day special by showering them with birthday cards for their special day.

Shirley’s address is: 7000 Charlotteville Road, Newfane, NY 14108

Dan’s address is: 2444 Transit Road, Newfane, NY 14108

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

It has certainly been a different kind of summer this year, but our church has continued to serve our parishioners and the community in new, safe and creative ways. I have attended Sunday worship services inside the building, outside the building and on-line in the past two months. Each service is a little bit different from the other two, and the preferred service connects with people in such personal ways. Pastor Marilyn is currently working on plans to possibly expand even more and restart Sunday school.

Thank you to everyone who continues to check in with our members and friends. If you know of anyone who needs a call or visit with Pastor Marilyn, please give her a call at 716-257-1639. The Farmer's Market and church food booth continues to grow each week. It's been very nice to see so many people again, face-to-face, on Wednesday afternoons!

The Newfane Community Food Pantry is in need of brown paper grocery bags, if anyone has extras. With the Covid regulations, clients are not able to bring their own reusable bags to the pantry at this time and packing their food has been challenging. I would be happy to pick them up from you and deliver to the pantry. My number is 778-5662. Thank you!

Judy Hugaboom

Missions Committee

*Keeping Connected: Since our last newsletter report, the group has continued to reach out to our fellow parishioners via calls, messages, emails and visits. We encourage each and every one of you to do the same. In this season of pandemic, so many people are experiencing the effects of isolation, let's help one another.

*Movie Night: In support of our younger people, the Committee hosted an Outdoor Movie Night, showing a family friendly film "Marmaduke". Popcorn and drinks were provided, and social distancing practiced.

*Upcoming Plans, we are working on a few projects, perhaps another Submarine Sale, and a Drive Through Community Supper. We will announce as soon as we have plans in place

* Food Pantry Need; with the rules and regulations surrounding Covid 19, the Newfane Community Food Pantry again needs our help. BROWN PAPER BAGS for food distribution. If you would like to donate the bags, please drop at church during working hours, OR, make a donation marked specifically for BAGS FOR FOOD PANTRY. Tops Supermarket will partner with us, 5 cents a bag.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Laura Monheim | 7. Payton Smith | 21. Shirley Fox |
| Ryan Finn | Karen Sellers | Dan Cushman |
| Marley Helferty | 8. Callan Robinson | 22. Kristin Boyer |
| Sarah Davey | 9. Makenna Keys | 24. Bryan Rider |
| Nicholas Arcovio | James Long | 26. Colby Boyer |
| Brendan Arcovio | 11. Rachel Kuebler | 27. Lee Vermeulen |
| | Bethany Kureczka | 28. Carol Greisser |
| 2. Debbie Mills | 12. Chloe Kastrewa | 29. Michael Durgan |
| 3. Kerry Collins-Gross | 14. Michael Schultz | 30. Sue Brown |
| 4. Keely Say | Jane Stein | |
| 5. Linda Anderson | 15. Marisa Arcovio | |
| Robert Burnett | 17. Amy Luckman | |
| 6. Aaron Robinson | 19. Robin Dy | |
| Nolan Kureczka | | |
| Maureen Mathewson | | |

Church Council

This is a very difficult time in our lives. Usually in the hard times, such as war, we have been able to come to church for prayer and support. We have not been able to for the past six months, it has been different. Services online have been good, but are not for everyone. Outdoor services have been steadily increasing in attendance, but what happens when the weather gets bad? Indoors and in our Sanctuary we have many safety limitations. What will our future look like at Newfane United Methodist Church? We do know that we are reaching many people online that typically we have not reached in the past, we are lucky that we did install all of the new A/V and Digital equipment. We are blessed that we have parishioners to put on this "production". Some churches that had implemented safety rules and carefully reopened have had to close their doors again due to rising case numbers of the coronavirus locally. We seem to be doing very well in New York State and Newfane, at this time. It would be great to open up fully, but hurt, if we had to shut down again. We are going to have to accept the fact that this is going to be our reality for awhile longer. When we can get back altogether, we want everyone included, and want to hear your voice on what our future will look like. We will get through this, with God's help.

Bill Neidlinger, Church Council Chair

WORSHIP in the PARK

Worship in the Park will be held on Sunday, September 13th at 11:00 am at the Lions Club Shelter in Krull Park. This year instead of having a pot-luck picnic we will be ordering Chicken BBQ dinners from Olcott UMC that day. You must place your order by September 1st with Amy at the church office – 778-7011 or call her at 778-5274. Payment of \$10 is due when you order. Someone will go to Olcott UMC to get everyone's dinners and bring them back to the Lion's club Shelter and we will eat together. The Family and Fellowship committee will provide drinks.

Care Boxes for our recent Graduates

We did not have an opportunity to recognize our recent graduates before some of them left for college. We would like to do so by pulling together Care Boxes with items helpful when they hit a stressful day, get caught with no snacks, end up quarantined or sick, or just need a break.

If you would like to donate any of the following to include in their boxes please leave them on the memorial room table before September 15.

- *Thermometer (does not need to be fancy)
- *Body Lotion/baby oil
- *Toothbrush, Toothpaste,
- *Shampoo/Conditioner,
- *Hair comb/brush, Hair Ties or a hat

- *Cough Drops
- *Something to bring fever down, help with aches
- *Tissues
- *Ziplock bags (useful for disposal of potentially contagious tissues)
- *Snacks
- *Candy
- *Instant soup
- *masks
- *Hand sanitizer
- *Disinfectant wipes and cleaners
- *Disposable gloves 20 pairs per box
- *Some sort of distraction- such as a coloring book and crayons or a deck of cards,
- *Powdered drink mix to mix in water
- A note of encouragement – share a story of when you were away from home and lonely, stressed, or sick.

We will add a light blanket throw and some suggested information forms for them to keep in the box. As well as a couple of cards of encouragement they can read as needed.

FINANCE

We started 2020 with a positive balance of \$4,120.28 in our Current Expense account and as of July 31, 2020 we have a positive balance of \$8,989.69, however, we have not paid our shared ministries for February, March, April, May, June and July totaling \$13,134.00. Our year to date income as of July 31, 2020 was \$85,507.16 and our year to date expenses equaled \$80,637.75. Our income has been \$4,869.41 higher than our expenses. If the previous payments were made our year to date expenses would have been \$8,264.59 more than our income. We were able to pay our August apportionments in full!

Thank you to all who have been attending our weekly Farmer's Market every Wednesday from 4:30 – 7pm. The market will run through September 30, 2020. Thank you to all who attended our food booth during the Newfane Harvest Car Cruise on Saturday, August 22nd. Thank you for your support and continued support of our church!

If you shop on Amazon we ask that you use Amazon Smile (www.amazon Smile.com) and set the Newfane United Methodist Church as the charitable organization that you would like to support, 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to the church automatically. The prices and products are the exact same as you would find on the regular Amazon website. If you already have an Amazon account you can still use that to log in on Amazon Smile and still enjoy your Prime Benefits.

We have submitted the documentation and applied for forgiveness of our Federal PPP loan that we received in May on July 31st. We hope and expect this loan will be turned into a grant. As soon as we hear one way or another we will let you know in our monthly article.

During the pandemic we have been counting money around the 15th and the 30th of each month.

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) 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. Thank you to all of those continuing your tithes and offerings during this time.



If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please feel free to share them.

Next Finance meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10th at 7:00 PM in the dining room.

Kevin Luckman, Chairperson

Pastor's Ponderings

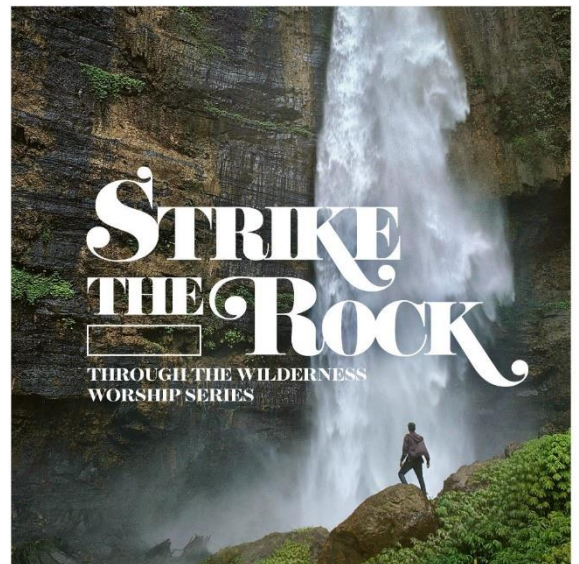
Through the Wilderness



I think many of us feel as if we are in a wilderness time, unsure of what is hiding behind the rocks, concerned over when we can be nourished in body and spirit in the way that resonates with which we are accustomed. Some of us disorientated by the changing sands and frustrated the map we have is outdated. We are not sure what or who to believe, and truth is not as clear as we once trusted.

As we move from our time with Simon Peter and lessons learned on how maturity as a Disciple develops, we are jumping back to the Old Testament, to the wilderness. To look at struggles found in Exodus and Psalms through the lens of our current journey as a faith community.

During the month of September, we will gather the same way we have throughout the summer - 10 a.m. in-person worship in the sanctuary (Please save a seat) and 11:15 a.m. worship outside. **EXCEPTION – Sunday, September 13 Worship in Krull Park 11:00 a.m. see details in separate article.** Please note we will continue the outside worship as long as the weather makes that possible, and we are in the process of developing plans for when it become too cold to do so. (see separate article).



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. Pastor Marilyn

Draft Fall 2020

Worship/Sunday School plan

We have a unique opportunity to address the safety protocols for our congregation while creating new ways for others to connect with our worship and spiritual growth opportunities during this time in the wilderness.

An initial plan follows. It is a fluid plan, subject to change as we live into new ways to be the faith community known as United Methodists in Newfane NY. Your suggestions and questions are welcome.

Sundays

9:45 a.m. Family worship

(families with young children to teens planning to participate in Sunday School would have priority seating for this service)

ENVIRONMENT:

Casual

Seating by reserved family unit or (bubble, group that has been in close contact on a regular basis)

Masks and social distancing necessary

WORSHIP STYLE:

Casual with elements of traditional worship

Music Videos

Opening focused on children – music, scripture, Children’s Moment (recorded for insertion in online/in person worship later that morning)

Children/Youth excused to go to Class for follow up activities related to morning message approximately 10:05 a.m.

Adults stay in sanctuary for message and time for Q&A

Children/Youth return to sanctuary 10:35 a.m.

Closing includes prayer, music video, benediction (out by 11:50 a.m.)



11:15 a.m. In-person/Online worship

(anyone, “Save a Seat” pre-registration helpful)

ENVIRONMENT:

In sanctuary seating by reserved family unit or bubble, (group that has been in close contact on a regular basis)

In sanctuary masks, social distancing, and one-way travel required.

WORSHIP STYLE: Primarily traditional worship elements

Organist, vocalists, instrumentalists

Traditional format

Concludes between noon and 12:15 p.m.

ANYTIME – not necessarily Sunday

(small groups/watch parties)

ENVIRONMENT:

Home of someone in your “Bubble”

Level of pre-cautions based on who is present and/or number present

WORSHIP STYLE: Use written copies of Sunday’s message and/or recording of Sunday’s 11:15 a.m. Service as basis of worship. Discussion points/children’s activities available. Live interaction with pastor on phone/online possible depending on the time set for the gathering, response to any questions, comments shared with entire group in communication style (note, email, phone call, etc.) before the group comes together again when meeting at a time pastor not available..

KID'S PAGE



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Blessings of Fall

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2020

Church Mission Statement:

“Pray First, Walk Together

TO:



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United Methodist Church of Newfane

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

Rev. Marilyn J. Kasperek, Pastor
e-mail: newfanemethodist@verizon.net

Worship Hours:
September
10 a.m. in-sanctuary
11:15 a.m. outside

Sunday School:
October
time and format tbd