

NEWARK FIRST UMC
OUTREACH CENTER
301 South Main Street
PO Box 189
Newark, NY 14513

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEWARK, NY
PERMIT NO. 5



THE MESSENGER



A Word from the Pastor

Rev. Garry McCaffery



“⁵ But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” (Matthew 28:5-7, NKJV).

I am tired! I'm tired of the cold. I'm tired of snow. I'm tired of darkness. I'm tired of gray skies. I'm tired and worn out and stressed out over all the news stories. Stories of death, murder, tragedy, war, fighting, right, left, and in-between. I'm tired of people pointing at each other and declaring that everything in life is the fault of the other, while never taking a close look at the self and asking, “where am I responsible?” Social media has me worn out too. I just can't keep up with what's trending. I can't measure up to everyone else's “highlight” reel. I feel a sense of defeat and disconnect. Is there any light to be seen? Any hope? An ounce of encouragement? Isn't this how we all feel at times?

I wonder if the early followers of Jesus also had any of these feelings? I wonder if there was a time they felt tired, stressed out, and overburdened? In all honesty, we know they did. We have the record written out in the gospels. The first few days of April this year found us at the tail end of Holy Week. The last Sunday of March we celebrated the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. By the end of worship, we walked with Jesus to the cross, suffered through his death, and felt our hearts sink as his body was placed into the tomb. We listened to the story again on Holy Thursday through the Tenebrae readings from John's gospel. Our hearts may have been heavy, and our spirits may have felt shrouded in darkness.

This heaviness of heart was upon the disciples on the first day of the week, early in the morning. In each of the gospels we find the women going to the tomb of Jesus very early in the day. They are going to further anoint the body of Jesus and, as they walk to the tomb, they are wondering who will roll the stone away for them. When they arrive they find the stone has already been rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. In the above verses we find they are told, “Do not be afraid...He is not here; for He is risen, as He said...” Imagine their surprise! The one they had seen die, was not dead anymore. They were given the news that Jesus is risen from the dead. Their hearts that had been crushed began to revive, began to fill up with hope at these words! The women were then told to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was alive and would be meeting with them in Galilee.

The first day of the week was beginning in much the same way as the last day of the week ended. It was dark, heavy, and the feelings of hopelessness abounded. But within a few short hours light was dawning in the hearts of the disciples and other followers of Jesus as they learned He is risen from the dead...just as He had promised. As the word spread and as Jesus appeared to them, their hope, joy, and love began to bloom, blossom, and grow! Their once defeated hearts turned to the joy of victory! Their spirit of heaviness turned to the spirit of praise and thanksgiving!



Our Ministers

Rev. Garry E. McCaffery Rev. Della Ludwig
Music Director: Stephanie Mercer
Director of Chancel and Bell Choirs: Kathy Cornwell
Lay Leader: Kyle Houser
Ad Council Chair: Nancy Schrader
Admin Asst.: Brenda Carner:

Church Office Tues-Fri 9-1 (315.331.3895)
E-Mail: NewarkFUMC@gmail.com
Website: NewarkFirstUMC.org

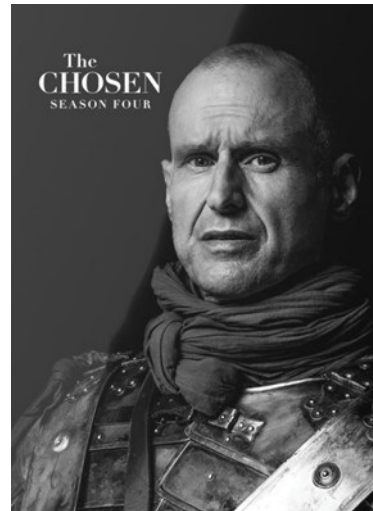


Continued from Pg. 1

As I remember these things and I think about the resurrection, my tiredness, my anxiety, my disconnect, all begin to dissipate as I think about the new life I have in Christ. Oh, all the problems in the world still exist. The news stories stay the same and social media still has the power to make me feel I don't measure up, if I let it. But something the world can never take away from me is the joy I have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Jesus has overcome the world and my relationship with Him gives me hope and brings His light into my life. I don't have to stay tired. No. I am energized by God's love and grace given to me in Christ. Instead of being tired, I am now inspired to go and do as the angel told the women to do. "Go and tell the disciples that He is risen from the dead..."(Matthew 28:7). To go into the world and proclaim, "there is hope, there is new life! Jesus Christ is risen!"

The winter has been long and the darkness in our lives may feel relentless. However, the love of Christ is greater, longer, stronger, and brighter and more powerful than any of the darkness in our lives. So, as the month of April begins, lets rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let's tell the world so others can come to know joy and be brought out of the dark!

Blessings!
Pastor Garry



Coming Soon!
Study Group for The Chosen Season 4
Beginning Wednesday, April 22nd
at
9:30 a.m. in the Lounge
Facilitated by: Pastor Garry

Beginning Wednesday, April 22nd, we will be continuing our journey through The Chosen series. You are invited to join us on this journey. Even if you haven't participated before, come and join us! It is never too late to get started as we explore the life of Jesus and his disciples. We start with prayer, enjoy some light refreshments, and then watch an episode. Afterwards we spend some time reflecting and talking about the events we've seen and how they align with what we read in the gospels.

Together we have a good time of fellowship, sharing, and growing together in the love of Christ for each other.



EMMANUEL OUTREACH CENTER NEWS

April 2nd Holy Thursday 7pm
Tenebrae Service

Message
“The Cross: It’s Abiding Value”
Pastor Garry



April 12th

Message
“Living with the Lights on”
Pastor Della

*Psalm 16:1-11 *John 20:19-31

April 5th EASTER SUNDAY
Communion

Message
“The Empty Cross and the Empty Tomb”
Pastor Garry

*Colossians 1:19-20 *John 20:1-18

April 19th

Message:
“Learning to see the light”
Pastor Della

*Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 *Luke 24:13-35

April 26th

Message
“Our Loving Shepherd”
Pastor Garry

*Psalm 23 *John 10:1-10



Community Easter Dinner at the Emmanuel Outreach Center

As the season of Easter approaches, we are reminded that some of the most meaningful moments in the life of Jesus happened around a table. Again and again in the Gospels, Christ gathered people together to share food, conversation, and fellowship. At those tables strangers became neighbors, burdens were set down for a while, and hearts were lifted in the simple grace of being together.

In that same spirit, our community is invited to gather for a **Free Community Easter Dinner** on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, at the **Emmanuel Outreach Center**. We will begin serving the meal at **11:00 a.m.**, welcoming all who would like to share in this time of fellowship.

Guests are welcome to **enjoy the meal in-house**, sitting together with friends and neighbors, or **carry-out meals will be available** for those who prefer to take a meal home. However you choose to join us, the invitation is open and heartfelt.

This special meal is made possible through the generous partnership of **Motivate Change**, a movement dedicated to inspiring positive transformation in individuals and society, and the **Wayne County Youth Advocacy Program (YAP)**. Their commitment to strengthening community and supporting our neighbors reflects the very heart of the Easter message—hope renewed, lives uplifted, and people brought together in compassion.

Easter is a season of new life, and often that new life begins in the simplest ways: a warm meal, a welcoming table, a conversation shared between neighbors who may not yet know one another well. When we gather to break bread together, we are reminded that we belong to one another.

We hope you will join us for this joyful occasion. Come hungry, come as you are, and come ready to share in the warmth of community. There is always room at the table. We look forward to welcoming you.



Birthdays

Paul Heasley	3
David Wetmore	4
Gail DeFisher	7
Jean Hoe	7
Michele Vair	7
Edward Weykman	8
Maggie Hallagan	10
Chelsea Leone	11
Troy DeCann	11
Mary Grace Deppen	14
Rene Turton	14
Jean Lansberry	14
Nathan Sheckler	14
Ben Cepulo	16
Cindy Herrmann	19
Margaret Cepulo	20
Mara Cornwell	23
Lois Ludwig	30
Dan Seppeler	30



Anniversaries

Once again
No Anniversaries this month



Emmanuel Outreach Center
A NEWARK FIRST UMC MISSION

Learn more about
volunteering at

Free Lunch Program
315-359-3769

Newark Food Closet
315-351-6474

Senior Lunch Program
315-879-2484

Bearing One Another's Burdens

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
Galatians 6:2

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the early Christian community in Galatia, a group of believers learning how to live together as the body of Christ. They were discovering that faith was not meant to be lived alone. Following Jesus meant caring for one another in practical, everyday ways—offering encouragement, sharing resources, and standing beside those who were struggling. Paul reminds them that when we help carry another person’s burden, we are not simply doing a kind deed; we are living out the very heart of Christ’s teaching.

The same is true for us today. Each person we meet carries unseen weights—worry, grief, loneliness, or uncertainty. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is simply walk beside someone for a while. A listening ear, a helping hand, or a small act of kindness can lighten a load more than we realize. In caring for one another, we reflect the love Christ first showed us.

Beyond Barn Doors: Carrying Lent into Everyday Life

Each year the season of Lent invites Christians into a sacred rhythm of reflection, repentance, and renewal. The forty days leading to Easter have long been a time for slowing down, taking honest stock of our lives, and opening our hearts more deeply to the transforming grace of God. Lent asks us gentle but important questions: *Where have we wandered? What needs tending in the fields of our lives? And where might God be calling us back to restoration?*

This year our congregation explored those questions together through “**Abandoned Barns: A Lenten Journey Toward Restoration.**” Twenty-six members of the congregation and surrounding community gathered weekly for conversation, prayer, and reflection, while many others journeyed through the study independently. What emerged was a meaningful season of shared spiritual discovery.

The study centered on a simple but powerful image familiar to anyone who travels the back roads of the Finger Lakes: the abandoned barn. Once the heart of a farm, these weathered structures often stand quietly in fields—leaning a little, boards worn by time, yet still bearing witness to the life they once held. Throughout our study, these barns became a metaphor for the human heart.

Like those barns, our lives can slowly accumulate neglect. Over time, certain habits or burdens can distance us from the life God intends. Each week our group reflected on one of the common human frailties that can quietly settle into the soul: worldliness, moral compromise, pride, fear, unforgiveness, and spiritual apathy. With honesty and grace, participants explored how these struggles appear in everyday life and how God gently invites us toward healing and renewal.

Alongside conversation and prayer, participants also experienced worship through creative and tactile practices. Some spent time crafting stained glass pieces that symbolized the light of Christ shining through the fractures of our lives. Others created prayer beads, offering silent petitions with each movement of their hands. Still others designed prayer shawls as a reminder that God’s love surrounds and shelters us. These practices helped transform reflection into lived prayer.

One participant shared a story that beautifully captured the spirit of the study. She spoke about how driving along the country roads around the Finger Lakes used to bring a quiet sadness whenever she noticed abandoned barns scattered across the landscape. But after this Lenten journey, she said those same barns now stir something different within her. Instead of simply seeing neglect, she now sees invitation—each barn becoming a quiet reminder to tend the spaces of her own heart and to notice how God meets us in the ordinary landscapes of our daily lives.

As the year continues to unfold, we invite everyone in our congregation to share in this spirit of reflection. Perhaps you have your own “barn” that God is gently restoring—a place long overlooked but ready for renewal. We encourage you to share your reflections, stories, and prayers with one another as we continue our journey together.

I want extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who shared in this Lenten journey. Thank you for the time you set aside, for the honesty of your reflections, and for the wisdom you offered one another along the way. May the seeds planted during this season continue to grow quietly in the fields of our lives. I wish you peace, renewal, and the full blessing of the resurrection.



Newarkfirstumc.org

Thank you for making the sanctuary come alive with flowers, in honor and memory of loved ones.

Given By:

Rob & Jean Hoe in memory of Pamela Rease
Fox Grass in memory of family members
Gail DeFisher in memory of Pete & Steven DeFisher
Mary Jane Donnelly in memory of Ray Beckens
Dottie Gaudons in memory of Allen Gaudons
Lois Ludwig in memory of Fred Ludwig
John Greene in memory of Phyllis Greene
Nancy Briggs in memory of William Briggs
Elie Bump in memory of George Bump
Alma O’Conner in memory of Edward O’Connor
Julie Churey, Ellen Murphy & Laura Gorman
in memory of Charles Stott & in honor of Sara Stott
Irene Deemer in memory of Bob Deemer
Carol Hyman in memory of Leslie & Helen Hyman
Stu & Julie Blodgett in memory of Richard & Donna Goff
and In honor of Lynn Blodgett
Tawny DeCann in memory of Gayle Palmer
Harold & Nancy Welcher in memory of family gone home
Kirk Palmatier in memory of Blanche Palmatier
and Don & Nancy Palmatier
Rich & Jerri Martin in memory of John Martin
Bill & Judy Mckown in memory of Bill Mckown Jr.
and Amanda Mckown



Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your gift to Care Net.
Your generosity is a blessing and a beautiful reflection of God’s love in action.
We are grateful for your partnership in this ministry and pray that God richly blesses you.
In Christ.

The Care Net team



Emmanuel Outreach Center is in need of new men’s and women’s socks.
If you can help, please put your donations in the basket in the Narthex.
Thank you so much for your help with this Outreach.

Newarkfirstumc.org



**CHURCH
YARD
SALE**

May 6-9th

NEW SALE
TIMES

NO WEDNESDAY this year
Thursday May 7, 9am-5pm
Friday May 8, 12-7pm
Saturday May 9, 9-11pm

**Scout Troop 122
Fundraiser Dinner**

Tickets available in the church office



Thank you for donating money during our **Blessing Baskets** collection. We continue to provide funds for our various mission projects. (All totals include \$100 from UWIF and \$200 from Missions budget)



2026	
* January	
Care Net	\$504.25
* February	
Family Promise	\$646.00
* March	
Heifer International	
* April	
EOC Free Lunch Program	
* May	
UMCOR	
* June	
Helpful hearts	
* July	
NOMADS	
* August	
Newark Food Closet	
* September	
TBD	
* October	
TBD	
* November	
Mighty Oaks Foundation	
* December	
EOC Holiday Distribution	

The **Free Lunch Program** has been going strong for over 30 years, thanks in part to the dedication of Manny and Alice Crespo. They have faithfully managed the program for over 25 years!

DID YOU KNOW...

- *All of the food for lunch is lovingly prepared and served by volunteers!
- *The program started as a Thanksgiving Day dinner in 1993 and has since expanded to provide lunch 5 days a week Monday-Friday 11:00pm to 12:00pm but the doors open at 10:00am for coffee, breakfast treats and a welcoming place for community connections.
- *Working with food link they also provide carry away boxes of dairy, produce and sandwich supplies.
- *You can share your talent by helping to prepare or serve a meal, stocking shelves and cleaning up or just in sharing your time and compassionate listening ear.
- *Alice touched Jo's heart when she spoke about the importance of these lunches to the community. They are so much more than providing nutrition! They provide fellowship, love and companionship so you

know you are never alone.



The work of this committee is so important and we would love to have more members involved in this ministry. If you feel the calling to this mission, we would love to have you. If you are interested, please reach out to us.

Contact information:
 Church office:
 Phone: (315)331-3895
 Email: Newarkfumc@gmail.com
 Chair: Diane Sheckler
 Email: dianasheckler@gmail.com
 Chad Sheckler
 Email: casheckler@gmail.com



The United Methodists of Upper New York announced the permanent closure of the **Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center** in Moravia, NY, on March 3, 2026, after over 75 years of operation. The decision followed a 2025 "Sabbath" period, driven by a \$1.2 million deficit, over \$2 million in needed repairs, and a sharp decline in attendance.

More information on the conference website

This spring we have several ways to show support for our mission and would like to update the community on those opportunities.

We are hoping to hold our 3rd Annual Vegas Night on Saturday April 11, 2026 at the Palmyra VFW. We will need a minimum number of ticket sales to move forward with this event! IF 25 of you bring a side kick we will be able to move forward!

Our next event is Night Without A Bed Saturday May 30-31st at Ginegaw Park in Walworth. You can enter our Cardboard House Decorating Contest, spend the night in your car, and purchase food for dinner or breakfast time!

Our 2nd Annual Dice Run with the Palmyra VFW is set for Saturday June 13, 2026. Ride, volunteer or just come for the dinner portion!

Lastly, We will be doing our 2nd Annual Movie Night in Newark at Rose City Drive In. Come enjoy a family friendly movie or volunteer to help out!

You can go to <https://www.fpwayneny.org/events> to register for events or call Anne directly at (315) 665-0037 to secure your registration. To volunteer, need more information on the event or looking to sponsor you can contact me at epomerantz@fpwayneny.org.

We continue to provide Case Management to over 25 families and we are still interviewing for our 2 open shelters as several families were able to utilize our ROTH program to be diverted directly into their own home!

We are grateful to all the support Newark First United Methodist has been providing our mission in order to help make a difference for families in our community! Please keep it coming because every child deserves a home!

All my respect,
Evonne D. Pomerantz
Executive Director



Dear First United Methodist Church,

We wanted to thank you for your \$671.00 donation that you made on 3/17/26. We have set aside \$200 for family dinners and groceries. We appreciate your support and every act of your generosity helps further our mission. We are more aware than ever that in these times of economic stress, family homelessness is becoming more relevant in our community. Family Promise is doing everything in our power to end homelessness, one family at a time. Our shelters have successfully transitioned 65 families since the opening on October 2, 2018. The average stay for a family has been 93 days and has seen 75 adults and 148 children within their walls. Our R.O.T.H. program has assisted 213 families since August 2021, serving a total of 627 children in our community. Both programs provide our Graduates support, to remain sustainable after they leave or receive assistance from us. Most of the families we help are just like ours, but they have not been able to overcome a difficult situation. That is where Family Promise can help! Your ongoing support of that mission allows us to continue that important work.

When we help parents meet their basic needs and give them the opportunity to create a vision for the future, their dreams of providing a better life for their children are realized. This is able to happen due to our mission to help families experiencing homelessness and low-income families achieve independence through a community-based response. Our Vision is a nation where every family has a home, a livelihood, and a chance to build a better future.

to support parents as they build a better future for their families, we supply them with essentials so they can focus on finding better housing, jobs and strengthening relationships with their children.

Thank you again for your generous support!

Respectfully

Evonne D. Pomerantz

Caring Connections

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Sometimes when I ask Jesus to change my situation, He does. Other times when I ask, he keeps me right where I am. I don't understand the reason behind His plan, but I know He has one. I need to trust, remain patient, and be thankful.

Many of our friends and neighbors who are unable to come to church are struggling with these thoughts. Let's support them with a call, note, email, text or visit this month.

Eileen

	Grace Kreuger	Doris Humbert	
Jean Lansberry	Penny Proper	Maggie Mathis	Elmer Trunick (E.T.)
Margaret Rundel	Betty VanAuken	Hazel Herdman	Lois Ludwig
Beatrice & Curt Richardson	Jean Strobridge	Elaine Herman	

Please contact Marcy Elmore (315.945.5243) for contact information for the above friends



This month of April we will be collecting jello, pudding and vegetable soup for the Food Closet at E.O.C. Please bring your food gifts for our friends and neighbors, leave them in the baskets at the front of the sanctuary along the altar. We will bless the food on the last Sunday of the month. Ron and Kirk will deliver the food later in the week!

Thank you for your help with this very important mission.

Eileen

