

**NEWARK FIRST UMC**  
301 South Main Street  
P. O. Box 189  
Newark, NY 14513

**EMMANUEL  
OUTREACH CENTER**  
301 South Miller Street  
Newark, NY 14513

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



### 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  
E.O.C. Free Lunch Program 315.359.3769  
Food Pantry 315.331.6474



# THE MESSENGER

## A Word from the Pastor

*Rev. Garry McCaffery*

*“<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8, NIV).*



May

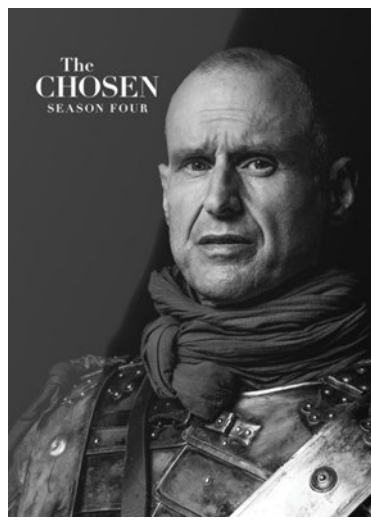
I love Springtime! I love the fact that each day there is more light, there is more music as the birds sing their melodious praises to God, and there is more joy on the faces of those I meet. The hard, icy, and crusty shell that seems to encase us during the long winter months has melted away. More than that, the joy of Easter still floods our souls as we are only a few weeks away from having celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord. May lies before us with lush green grass, beautiful flowers of red, yellow, purple, pink, and other vibrant colors. So many wonderful things to bolster our spirit and lift our heads up in praise and thanksgiving.

In the opening scripture, Paul is encouraging the Philippian believers to think on and focus on those things which will bring joy and delight to the heart. These things will also help us to focus on the positive attributes of others as we grow in our relationships. All too often we can find fault with other people. Someone does something we don't like and we quickly respond with, "I knew it! That's just like them to be nasty, or rude, or selfish." Then we begin to look for other negative qualities that justify our ignoring people or not wanting anything to do with them. Even within the church, if we are not careful and aware of our attitude, we wind up doing the same thing. We see the negative and the downside and we look for things that are wrong. Then we wonder why our hearts are downcast and our spirit feels heavy. We are heavy hearted because our focus is on the wrong things. Rather than what is "wrong", Paul is encouraging us to focus on what is "right" and good.

The way we think truly makes a difference. Quite often we see what we expect to see. If we look for everything around us to be negative, we will certainly find it to be the case. However, if we expect to see things in a positive way, we will likely find it to be so. This is not to say that everything in life is going to be fantastic all the time and that we will never face any difficulties. To think this way would be naïve and contrary to the world we know and experience. Paul, of all people, was very aware of this. When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he was in prison. Prison, which is not a great place to be, was even worse in the days of Paul in the first century. Nevertheless, his faith made it possible for him to encourage the church and help them understand the importance of offering grace to one another. Part of this grace was to focus on and think on those things which were "true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable".

Imagine how much brighter our world will be when we shift our thinking to look for the blessings of God and the blessings God has provided through our relationship with others. We can make such a huge difference in the world and those around us if we put into practice this strategy of thinking about the goodness of God. The colors around us will become more vibrant as we allow joy to fill our hearts while thinking about these good and excellent things.

Blessings!  
Pastor Garry



**There is still time to join!  
Study Group for The Chosen Season 4  
Meets on Wednesdays  
at  
9:30 a.m. in the Lounge  
Facilitated by: Pastor Garry**

We are continuing our journey through The Chosen series. You are welcome to join us on this journey. Even if you haven't participated before, come and be with 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.

**Sunday May 3rd  
COMMUNION**

**Message**  
"Just Like Jesus"  
Pastor Garry

\*Acts 7:55-60 \*John 14:1-14



**Sunday May 17th**

**Message**  
"The Meaning of Membership"  
(Part one)  
Pastor Garry

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

**Sunday May 10th**

**Message**  
"You Are Not Alone"  
Pastor Garry

\*Acts 17:22-31 \*John 14:15-21

**May 24th**

**Message**  
"The Meaning of Membership"  
(Part two)  
Pastor Garry

\* Romans 13:3-13 Matthew 11:25-30

**May 31st**



*Birthdays  
& Anniversaries*

- Meredith Croucher 1
- Deb Flannery 4
- Patricia Metcalf 5
- Pastor Garry 7
- Amy Weyman 8
- Andrea Hoe 10
- Pastor Della 13
- Lisa Graves 15
- Alice Crespo 18
- Dan Rease 25
- Helene Ruffalo 27
- Jeanne Strobridge 28
- Julie Flannery 30
- Larry Russell 31



- Robert & Lucille Sprong 2
- Joe & Margaret Cepulo 11
- Bonnie & Thomas Jackson Wright 28
- Ralph & Joyce Miller 28



May 28-30



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**

## Caring Connections

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105*

Every year during December it is dark in the mornings, and in the afternoons as we are coming to the shortest day of the year. Still on December 22nd I know it will start, little by little, getting lighter each day and I keep to that promise each year. The skylight in my bathroom gives light as well as the night lights around my condo. The path to the clubhouse in Florida is lit by lamp posts so I can easily walk instead of driving my car. Now here it is Spring and the mornings are lighter earlier and the evenings bright with sunsets. Light boosts your energy level and makes you want to get outside and enjoy the vibrant colors of the forsythia and daffodils and listen to the birds sing. I need light!!!!!! I bet you can think of ways you need light.

Jesus is our lamp as He lights our path. He wants His light to shine in each of us. We can be the light of the world. The children played Little Bells years ago, and my favorite piece was "This Little Light of Mine"

Please remember our friends who cannot come to church, make a call, e-mail, text, or best yet make a visit, let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Let your light shine.



This month of May we will be collecting vegetable soup, Jello, puddings and boxed macaroni (not spaghetti, they have plenty at the moment) 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*

Emmanuel Outreach Center is grateful to welcome **Wanda Fontanez** as a dedicated volunteer with the Free Lunch Program. Wanda has quickly become an important part of the team, assisting not only with meal preparation and service, but also helping manage pantry inventory. In addition, she carefully tracks the number of meals served, as well as the distribution counts for produce boxes and Dinner Tonight groceries. Her willingness to serve in so many ways is a tremendous gift, and we extend a heartfelt welcome and many thanks to Wanda for all she does.

As Easter approached, more than fifty **Easter groceries** were distributed to help families and individuals enjoy a special holiday meal. Each sack included a ham, eggs, potatoes, seasonal fruits and vegetables, and a few Easter treats. These bags helped make Easter tables a little fuller and brighter for many in our community.

**The Temple** also continued its monthly distribution of personal hygiene items. These supplies include soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, Depends, pads, and other essentials that are often difficult for families to afford. Donations to support The Temple's ongoing ministry are always appreciated.



  
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

 **Medical Equipment**  
Available at the EOC!

  
**Checklist**

- Wheelchairs
- Transfer Chairs
- Shower Chairs
- Commodes
- Walkers
- Canes & Crutches
- Chuck Pads
- And More!

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)**

<b>2026</b>	
* <b>January</b>	
Care Net	<b>\$504.25</b>
* <b>February</b>	
Family Promise	<b>\$646.00</b>
* <b>March</b>	
Heifer International	<b>\$841.65</b>
* <b>April</b>	
EOC Free Lunch Program	
* <b>May</b>	
UMCOR	
* <b>June</b>	
Helpful hearts	
* <b>July</b>	
NOMADS	
* <b>August</b>	
Newark Food Closet	
* <b>September</b>	
TBD	
* <b>October</b>	
TBD	
* <b>November</b>	
Mighty Oaks Foundation	
* <b>December</b>	
EOC Holiday Distribution	

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:**

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



In May, we join our United Methodist connection in a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief and development arm of the church. UMCOR comes alongside individuals, families and communities affected by natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events – to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope.

**Your donations equip UMCOR to respond quickly when disaster strikes and to stay for the long term. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the Blessing Basket collection in May will help cover the costs of this nonprofit UMC organization and allows for 100% of gifts given in response to disasters to assist with the disaster.**

Thanks to UMCOR's reliable infrastructure, expert leadership and trained volunteers, every dollar received is leveraged to work as hard as possible, meeting the needs of people in crisis around the world. UMCOR equips and partners with churches, annual conferences and local organizations to help communities rebuild, even when rebuilding takes years.

**When you give generously to support UMCOR, you embody God's love in action.**

Giving in The United Methodist Church is more than a financial act — it's a bold expression of faith. It fuels ministry across borders, languages, and cultures, and becomes a witness to God's expansive love. Our generosity fuels hope, relief and ongoing recovery for communities in need — a powerful reminder that we are never alone in times of crisis. Together we are united in impact.



Spring has arrived! We are interviewing families for an opening in our shelter. We have been able to provide ROTH one time financial assistance to 4 families Jan-Mar and have several currently in the queue we are moving forward with in the next 4-6 weeks. That is a total of 7 Adults and 8 children who have been able to obtain or sustain housing in our county! We also continue to provide 12 months of Case Management to 23 families in total.

Family Promise of Wayne County NY Inc (FPWC) have several fundraisers coming up so please mark your calendars and hop onto our website <https://www.fpwayneny.org/events>, facebook event page, or call Anne directly at (315) 665-0037 to register for them. They are Night Without A Bed @ Ginegaw Park in Walworth Saturday May 30-Sunday May 31st, Palmyra VFW is holding a 2nd Annual Dice Run Saturday June 13th, and Rose City Drive In is holding our 2nd Annual Movie Night on Thursday June 18th (movie and event flier will be coming soon). As seasons change so do our callings in life and responsibilities. It is with a heavy heart that I submitted my resignation in mid March and my last day was April 10th. With a change in health and family dynamics I had to focus on what fits best for my family's needs moving forward. I am so grateful for my time here with FPWC and even though I am unable to move forward as staff I am delighted to be taking a spot on their board moving forward and assisting with Grant Writing.

There are many ways FPWC is in need of volunteers. There are 5 open spots on the board (board is our voice, our face at events, our mediator in finding sponsors), Finance Committee (handles budget, monthly internal audits, collaborating for external audits, annual taxes), Fundraising Committee (plans events, markets events, assists at events, gathers volunteers, connects sponsors for events), Marketing Committee (updates website, posts on media, creation/submitted fliers, Press Releases), Policy & Procedures Committee (reviews P&P, make updates, presents updates to board, organizes paper/electronic documents), and looking at a Volunteer Committee moving forward (recruit, train, direct each in how their strengths can be utilized, maintains updated record of all, handles refreshers, organizes Monday Dinner sign up/communications, and holds annual volunteer lunch in)

There are so many ways one's strengths can assist in the growth of FPWC and their success moving forward I hope. I hope today you look within to see if any of these possibilities align with something you feel called to support.

All my love and respect,

Evonne D. Pomerantz

Former Executive Director



Evonne has now moved into a different position and Nancy Ramos is the current Executive Director of Family Promise. We wish them both well, as they enter these new ventures. We will be hearing from Nancy in our next issue.