



Heartbeat *news*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NEW HARTFORD – JULY 2020

First UMC Continues Ministry to Those in Need of Food

Partnering with New Harvest and Turning Point in Utica

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Deacon Becky Guthrie has joined with New Harvest, a United Methodist New Faith Community in Utica, and Turning Point, a non-denominational church which is now worshipping in the former Asbury UMC church building on Rutger Street in Utica, to provide food assistance to folks in the Utica area. Each Thursday, volunteers wearing face masks gather at the Turning Point church. Lunches are

prepared and delivered within a four-block radius of turning Point, as well as Kennedy Plaza Apartments in Utica, and in the area surrounding the Neighborhood Center, where New Harvest was meeting for worship prior to the pandemic. Currently there are 330 lunches delivered. Initially, volunteers canvassed the neighborhood to see who was in need of lunch being delivered. Through word of mouth, the response has grown each week. Now the

food ministry is ready to move into a new phase of distribution for the summer. Those who want to receive a lunch will be asked to pick up lunches at Turning Point Church. This will help give a chance to take the connection with the community to a new level as well as invite those receiving food to connect to the church and receive spiritual food also. Though Deacon Becky is volunteering at this time, others from First UMC are asked to pray for the food ministry and offer financial support, if they feel God's leading to give.
(See p. 2)

Mission and Outreach

Deacon Becky Guthrie and First UMC of New Hartford are partnering with New Harvest New Faith Community and Turning Point Church on Rutger Street in Utica to provide a free weekly lunch to those in the areas around the churches. Prayers and financial support are most welcome at this time.

Checks to **First UMC**, *memo: Downtown Utica Ministry*, can be mailed to the church at 105 Genesee Street, New Hartford, NY 13413, or dropped off to the outdoor mail slot at church.

Galatians 6:2
"Carry each others' burdens"

The church is grateful for all the tithes and offerings you are so faithfully providing during this extraordinary time.

Ministry of Congregational Care - May

- 45 phone calls were made
- 7 cards were sent
- 2,790 lunches were provided to date in Utica

Ministry Is Happening!

Worship Livestream:

10 a.m. Sundays, firstumconline.org, click "Live Stream Links, View", then, "Online Links, First UMC YouTube"

Bible Study provided by Deacon Becky:

Six Streams in the Life of Jesus -

<https://firstumconline.org/online-bible-study-1>

Women's Bible Study:

10:30 a.m. Saturdays,
benison@twcny.rr.com, for a link.

Faith, Fellowship and Fitness:

9 a.m. Saturdays. Send email to:
cqarrabr@roadrunner.com,
for information. All women are welcome to take part in uplifting exercise and praise.

Connecting with Clergy

You can connect with Pastor Brad or Deacon Becky while the building is physically closed. Please call 315-733-4227 and leave a message.



Church Council Weighs Reopening of In-Person Worship

As New York State has entered Phase 4 of NY Forward, many are wondering what the plan is for church. This is not a short and easy answer. There are many guidelines in place for in-person worship to resume, both from New York State and The Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, which encompasses our local First United Methodist Church in New Hartford.

Some of the guidelines include: deep cleaning, social distancing of six feet or more; wearing masks; removing extra furniture, hymnals and Bibles from common areas; signage; hand sanitizing stations; monitoring attendance for contact tracing; and limiting the number of people to reduce capacity. So far, our church's custodian, Jonathan Panzone, has been carefully cleaning every inch of the church thoroughly and removing extra items from common spaces. Signage on masks, safety procedures and hygiene are posted.

At the June 25th Church Council meeting, the Council voted overwhelmingly to not open to in-person worship at this time because it is not safe to do so. The health and safety of all attendees, especially those who are considered vulnerable due to age or other medical conditions, is the most important factor in this decision. There is also concern among some Council Members that attending worship with social distancing and wearing masks, as well as no singing, will not be the type of worship experience folks are used to and is of a lower quality than is already being provided through online worship. Finally, there is fear among Council Members that there will be those attending worship who will not adhere to the safety guidelines and put others at risk for contracting COVID-19.

The Council has agreed to revisit the state of the pandemic in one month and see if it is safe to reopen in-person worship. Please know that we love and care about each person and miss you. Please join in online worship opportunities and stay connected through telephone, cards and online communication. We are 100 percent certain God will see us through this challenging time.

UMCOR Offers COVID-19 Response

United Methodist Committee On Relief continues to respond in times of disaster through people like you.

We have been able to provide tangible assistance to people in need -- helping those who suffer here in the U.S. and around the world -- with \$1.3 million in direct aid for food and grocery cards, hygiene products, PPE, water and sanitation support.

100% of your gift to the UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund will be used to meet the basic needs of people who are hoping for your response.

Will you please give, today?

<https://advance.umcmision.org/p-2025-umcor-covid-19-response-fund.aspx>

July Birthdays

1 – Brianna Wilbur
Brandon Wilbur
3 – Elizabeth Brewer
6 – Ed Ingersoll
9 – Coky Humphreys
11- Sharen Sweet
14 – Donald Cantwell
18 – Patricia Powers
19 – Beverly Cantwell
20 – Patricia Przuluke
21 – James Mason
25 – Charles Terpstra
29 – Kimberly Hubbard

August Birthdays

1 – Heather Brown
3 – Joyce Burch
14 – Becky Guthrie
Tina Hartwell
17 – Cathy Ford
Natalie Frost
20 – Brian Fortuna
Janet Henderson
23 – Dayton Elseth
Maya Smith
29 – Caleb King

Anniversaries

July 9 - Clint and Peg Pinkham
July 11 – Charles and Joyce Terpstra
July 15 – Mark and Kimberly Hubbard
July 18 – Brett and Kerri Cook
July 27 – James and Nancy Mason
Aug. 6 - Michael and Sue Timian
Aug.12 – Harry and Sandy Inman
Aug. 14 – Douglas and Candy Wilbur
Aug. 16 – Scott and Paula Healy
Aug. 17 – Roger and Beryl Griffith
Aug. 29 – Joe and Sara Egan
Aug. 31 – Robert Wood and Anne Gill-Wood

Soldier Care Packages

If you know someone who is active duty or deployed in the military effort and would like to add them to our prayer list, please send the soldier's name and rank to me. When your soldier is no longer in the military, please let me know so their name is taken off. If your soldier is deployed, send an overseas address and we would be happy to send monthly packages to him/her.

Send to Peg at: newyorkoma@roadrunner.com

Those on active duty or deployed in the military effort:

Major Elissa Adams
Major Benjamin Adams
Pvt. Jesse Babicz
James Barker
SFC Brian Boyt
PFC David Guiterez
Jon Huff

Sgt. Keenan Marin
SSgt. Simon Miguel-Romero
Captain Patricia Linck McEaney
Rev Dr. Keith Manry
Tyrell Thompkins
Captain Schuyler Van Buren

Thank you all for your unwavering support. WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Thanks to All Who are Supporting God's Church with Financial Giving

During this unprecedented time of virtual church services due to the spread of COVID-19, we are grateful for your generosity and encourage you to give to the church electronically, rather than in person. There are two options for setting up a regular electronic donation to the church, either weekly semi-monthly, or monthly. You can visit the church website at: <https://firstumconline.org/giving-2>, scroll down to the "GIVE NOW" button, click or tap it and enter the information requested. Or complete an electronic giving form and drop it off or mail it in to the church office. We will input the information and return the form to you. For 10 years church members have successfully supported God's church this way. We use VANCO, a very secure Automated Clearing House endorsed by the United Methodist Church, for transactions. Contact the church office to receive a form: office@firstumconline.org, 315-733-4227. Thank you for faithful giving and thank God for continued faithfulness to us.

Jim Mason, Treasurer/Cell: (315) 269-9342/Email: james4748@adelphia.net