



# Heartbeat *news*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF NEW HARTFORD  
APRIL 2021

## CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

*Hallelujah! The tomb is empty! Christ is alive!*

Let's praise God for the gift of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through this miracle God gives each of us eternal life in Christ if we ask for forgiveness from our sins and accept Jesus as our Savior. Join in the celebration of our amazing rescue from sin and death Easter Sunday. Worship April 4<sup>th</sup>, at either 9:30 or 11 a.m.in-person at church or virtually via the livestream at: <https://firstumconline.org/live-stream>.



## Church Contacts

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## In-Person Worship Resumes Palm Sunday Live Stream Continues with New Times

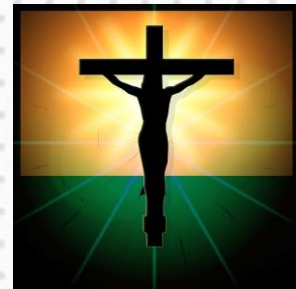


**Beginning March 28, Palm Sunday**, in-person worship resumes at 9:30 a.m. with Classic Worship in the sanctuary and 11 a.m. with Praise Worship in the Fellowship Hall. Both worship experiences will be live-streamed at those times—9:30 and 11 a.m. Join together to remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Find the live stream link on the website: <https://firstumconline.org/live-stream>

**Palm crosses** will be available outside the church building Saturday, **March 27**. If you would like to pick up palm crosses, find them outside the front entrance of the church **beginning at 9 a.m.**, first come first served.

**Good Friday Worship** takes place at 7 p.m. **April 2** with a virtual worship experience remembering Jesus' trial, passion and crucifixion. This worship experience is presented by the Mohawk District Leadership Team, including Pastor Brad Chesebro. It will be livestreamed from the Church website.

<https://firstumconline.org/live-stream>



**Easter Sunday Worship is April 4**, both at 9:30 a.m. with Classic Worship in the sanctuary and 11 a.m. with Praise Worship in the Fellowship Hall. This is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection from death on the cross. These worship experiences will be live-streamed. Find the live stream link on the website:

<https://firstumconline.org/live-stream>

## **Deacon Becky Farewell from Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee**

The SPPRC and all church committee members are saddened to learn that Deacon Becky Guthrie has recently resigned her post at NHUMC and has expanded her duties with the Mohawk Valley Health System involving patient visitations and counseling services. Deacon Becky's last day is March 31<sup>st</sup>. A donation has been made to *It Takes A Village Diaper Bank* which provides basic essential items to needy families of newborns and infants in Waterville and 30 other vicinities. This a ministry of the Waterville United Methodist Church. If you wish to make an additional contribution in Deacon Becky's name, send or drop your donation at First UMC of New Hartford. So we know where to send your donation, please write on envelope, "It Takes A Village". Cards for Deacon Becky may also be dropped off or mailed to the church. We wish Deacon Becky Godspeed for our dear friend and the very best in her future endeavors. We shall miss her greatly.

Brian J. Fortuna  
Chairperson/Staff Parish Relations Committee

## **Important Announcement from the Deacon**

Greetings church! I write this letter with mixed emotions. I have journeyed with you all for almost 4 years and have loved this journey. What a joy it has been to have the opportunity to be used by God to work toward bringing hope and wholeness to this body of Christ. We began as strangers and, I feel, have become friends.

The mixed emotions exist because it is with sadness that I must share my decision to step down from my appointment at First UMC, but also with excitement to share my next step. I am answering a new call to move out into the world to seek missions in and around our district.

I fell in love with and became a United Methodist because of John Wesley's vision of the importance of mission. It was this vision that caused me to be ordained as a Deacon rather than an Elder. I assure you that I am not leaving due to any other circumstances than God's prompting. I am leaving in good relationship with Pastor Brad, the church leadership, and congregation members. As I step away from ministry *to the church*, I step more fully into ministry *out in* (Deacon Becky continued on next page)

(Important Announcement from Deacon Becky continued from previous page)  
*the world*. I will have the freedom to seek out missions that are in place that can use the extra help as well as stay open to the possibility that God will use me to create new missional outreach.

Although God has been calling me to make this move for some months, I avoided that call because it was such a painful decision. I have already begun grieving the coming loss of the intimacy that I have developed with all of you at First UMC. In my grief, I could not see God's vision unfolding in a way that would allow us time to adjust to this new stage in my life and the life of the church. But God's mercy came when I was given the plan that I am now putting into place. I will officially step down on March 31. Even so, unlike elders and licensed local pastors who are re-appointed, I have no obligation to distance myself for a year. It is with joy that I can say that I am allowed to be reached if needed.

For instance:

- 1) I plan to be available for grief support and counseling.
  
- 2) I also hope to train a gifted leader to take over the Visitation Team so that the team will be ready to offer care through personal visits when our nursing homes are open and home visits are possible. If you feel so led, please contact me and we will get you trained!
  
- 3) As the protestant chaplain at our local hospitals, I will continue to be available to visit members and family/friends who are hospitalized in our local hospitals.

I can be reached either through Jennifer in the church office (315-733-4227), or through the chaplain's office at the hospital (315-624-6218).

As is true for all of us, I only have a glimmer of the vision God has for my life. I look forward to the unfolding of that vision and hope that you will pray for me as well as the future of FUMC.

Even in the sadness of endings, there is joy in new beginnings. May we always trust in God's sustaining love and provision.

In Christian love and friendship,

Deacon Becky



## Pastoral Change Announcement from First UMC SPRC

Dear Church Family,

I want to let our New Hartford First United Methodist family know about a leadership transition in our church. Our Pastor, Brad Chesebro, is being appointed to another congregation in our United Methodist connection, The Foothills UMC in Gloversville, New York. The effective date for this change is July 1, 2021. Brad has served us well for 6 years. He has helped lead us through many needed changes and brought passion, hope and excitement to our church. Together, we have laughed and cried, prayed and worshipped, together we have lived and the New Hartford Church has grown and become healthier. If you're like me, when you hear this, you may feel stunned, and then sad. You may wonder, "What's next?" I want to help you through that process. Our Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet with our District Superintendent and outline what we believe to be New Hartford's values and vision for living out the Great Commandment and Commission. We will be sharing with him what we envision for the church in the coming years – the hopes, dreams and challenges we might face. That conversation will help the Upper NY Cabinet (made up of the Bishop and District Superintendents all over NY) identify a pastor with gifts that will serve as a strong match to our local church's ministry context. If you have questions about the process, I encourage you to reach out to me, Barry Damsky or Cindy Muder, 1st UMC Leadership Team. We have a change in our pastor, but what is not changing, our church's leadership is committed to the important mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There will be opportunities in Pastor Brad's final weeks to celebrate our shared ministry and thank him for the gifts he has brought into the lives of those of us at First UMC. Please take time in the coming weeks to wish Pastor Brad blessings in his new appointment. I know he will appreciate your prayers and support during this time of transition.

Peace in Christ,

Brian Fortuna  
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson



### Hospital Visitation Reopening

~ Rev. Becky Guthrie

I am happy to report that Mohawk Valley Health System (St. Elizabeth's, St. Luke's, and Faxon Hospitals) is open for visitors with guidelines beginning March 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Restrictions include:

- 1) Visiting hours 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 4 – 6 p.m.
- 2) Only two visitors per day (only one is allowed into a patient's room during each two-hour period). If more than one visitor arrives, they will be denied entry into patient areas.
- 3) Visitors must maintain social distancing even in patient rooms.
- 4) **Covid patients are not included in visitation availability at this time.** However, exceptions include the following circumstances as defined by NYS Dept. of Health:
  - + Labor, delivery, and remainder of their stay
  - + Pediatrics
  - + Patients with medically necessary support person (i.e. intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, cognitive impairments, dementia)
  - + Patients in end-of-life situations
- 5) If visitor has temperature greater than 100.0 degrees, they will be denied entry. And must wear hospital mask. Age 18 and older.
- 6) Cafeterias are not open to visitors—employees only at this time

## **April Birthdays**

Louis Diana	April 7
Sharmane Johnson, Adrene Moran	April 12
Ralph Humphreys	April 19
Kerri Cook	April 23
Judy Schenk	April 28
Nancy Ellinwood, Dorrie Triola	April 29

## **April Anniversaries**

Terry & Sharmane Johnson	April 7
Ed & Elaine Ingersoll	April 9
John & Prudence Smith	April 16

## **Soldier Care Package Ministry**

If you know someone who is active duty or deployed in the military effort and you would like to add them to the prayer list, send the soldier's name and rank to: Peg Pinkham, [newyorkoma@roadrunner.com](mailto:newyorkoma@roadrunner.com). If your soldier is deployed, please send an overseas address and we would be happy to send monthly packages to him/her. Thank you for your support of this ministry. We are making a difference!

Please pray for these people on active duty or deployed in the military effort:

Maj. Elissa Adams  
Maj. Benjamin Adams  
Pvt. Jesse Babicz  
James Barker  
SFC Brian Boyt  
PFC David Guiterez  
Jon Huff  
Captain Patricia Linck McEaney  
Rev Dr. Keith Manry  
Sgt. Keenan Marin  
SSgt. Simon Miguel-Romero  
Tyrell Thompkins  
Captain Schuyler Van Buren

If you have given one of the names on this list for prayer and they are no longer in the active military service, please let us know. Thanks! Peg Pinkham