

*First United Methodist Church of New Hartford*

# The Heartbeat

*April 2026*

## **Easter Joy - Celebrating Our Risen Savior**

Easter Sunday is a great celebration with **6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service** and **10 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship** with Holy Communion. Beginning at 6:30 a.m., we gather in the Narthex to remember how the first witnesses



went to Jesus' tomb early that blessed Easter morning and found it empty. As those early followers did, we will experience the wonder that Christ is no longer in the grave, but lives! Following Sunrise Service, there will be a light **breakfast at 7 a.m. in the Cafe**. All are free to join in. Bring a dish to share if you like (not required). At 10 a.m., we worship in the sanctuary with traditional hymns, music from both choirs and the Praise

Team, an inspirational message from Pastor Dave and Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. Please come worship and raise your Hallelujahs to our awesome God! Your Easter guests, family members and friends are all invited to come along for this special service.

## **Holy Week Worship**

Maundy Thursday - 7 p.m., April 2, a service of the bread and cup around the table with symbolic handwashing as we remember Jesus' Last Supper. This service will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday - 7 p.m., April 3, a service to remember Jesus' suffering and death as a payment for our sins so we can receive God's grace and mercy. This service will take place in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday - April 5, Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. Easter worship 10 a.m. Breakfast approx. 7 a.m. Bring a dish to share if you like. Or just come!

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## **Sprout & Bloom Preschool had a busy first semester** - By Amy Benson

We started this exciting new ministry in September when Sprout & Bloom Preschool Learning Center opened. We took off running and have barely slowed down since then!

Our students have been busy growing and learning through hands-on learning and play. They had a Thanksgiving Feast in November, and a Gift of Words party in December, complete with a Gift of Words tree that they shared with our congregation. The 4 year old class will be starting a Music unit in February, learning about instruments with Amy and having a sing-a-long with Jan. Cindy M. has been sharing cooking lessons with the children and Hugh has been reading to them weekly.

We welcome volunteers! We are still working on becoming a licensed care facility, and are (hopefully) in the final stretch of that becoming a reality. In the meantime, we have started a Nanny Share program, where a small number of students stay for the afternoon hours. This provides needed care for these families, as well as increased revenue for our church.

We're looking forward to what the future holds for this ministry - a summer camp program, and potential expansion of our 4 year old class. It's a delight to hear the sounds of children laughing and learning coming from our classrooms again and a blessing to have the opportunity to touch the lives of our kids and their families.

***Did you know?*** Sprout and Bloom Preschool will be participating in the **2026 Hannaford Helps Schools Program April 5 through May 30, 2026**. Shoppers can earn **School Dollars** by purchasing specially marked participating products at Hannaford. For every **four participating products purchased**, customers will receive **three School Dollars**. For **Hannaford To Go**, look for the **red apple icon** to identify qualifying products and you will get a **unique code via** email.

To redeem your School Dollars:

1. Visit the Hannaford Helps Schools website or app.
  2. Enter the **unique code** from printout or email along with the **store number**.
  3. Select our school to apply the funds.
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## **Sweats, Boxers and More!** - By Linda Weatherup

The First UMC Mission for April and May will be collecting items for the Morrow Warming Center at Cornerstone Church. After talking to Pastor Mike Ballman we decided to join their mission of helping the homeless people in our area. They are in need of sweatpants (new or gently used), hoodies (new or gently used), sweatshirts (new or gently used), new boxer-style (not briefs) underwear, new underwear for women, socks, small cans of shaving cream, razors, small bottles of shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and small tubes of toothpaste, small deodorants, etc. This is a great opportunity to help those in need in our community. Please join us in doing God's work. Matthew 25:40 (NIV) "...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". Please bring your donations to the Mission and Outreach table in the Gathering Space at Church. Any questions, please see Linda Weatherup or Carol Bandyck.

## **Spring Rummage Sale Time**

The Spring Rummage Sale at Church is April 30, May 1 and 2. Stay tuned for hours and drop off dates. We will need help to set up in advance, work at the sale and clean up afterward. Many hands will help make the workload lighter for all.

We will be accepting donated items in good shape: household items, collectibles, books, clothing, holiday/seasonal decorations, outside garden tools and decorations. If it is in good condition and you think it might fill a want or need for someone, donate it. There will be designated drop off times. Please drop off only during these times. We cannot have items piled in the Fellowship Hall or on the stage because many other activities take place in this same space. Pack items neatly in boxes or crates. Please pack similar items together and label boxes.

It's great to declutter our homes and get usable items to others while helping God's church at the same time. We appreciate each donation of time and goods.

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## Church Finances

**February 2026 Income - \$14,420**

**February 2026 Expenses - \*\$28,951**

**\*Expenses for February were up mostly due to utility costs**

**Soldier Prayer List:** If you know of someone who is on active duty or deployed in active military service and would like to add them to the prayer list, please send the soldier's name and rank to [newyorkoma@roadrunner.com](mailto:newyorkoma@roadrunner.com). If your soldier is deployed or in active military service, please send an address. We would love to send monthly packages and/or letters. Please pray for these active duty or deployed military personnel. Donations from the congregation for the packages are appreciated.

### Prayer List:

Major Elissa Adams (Granddaughter, Roger Griffith)

Rev. Dr. Keith Manry (Friend, Carole Gehrig)

MMN2 Karlton Fake (Son, Linda Aloisio)

### April Birthdays

7 - Barbara Couture  
12 - Sharmane Johnson  
19 - Ralph Humphreys  
28 - Judy Schenk  
29 - Nancy Ellinwood

### April Anniversaries

7 - Terry and Sharmane Johnson  
9 - Ed and Elaine Ingersoll (60th)

### May Birthdays

10 - Cindy Shobe  
13 - Peg Pinkham  
28 - Anne Gill-Wood  
29 - Gary Hopping

### May Anniversary

15 - Barry and Cynthia Damsky

