

FIRST UMC OF  
NEW HARTFORD

105 Genesee St.  
New Hartford, NY  
315-733-4227



## In-Person Worship Expected to Resume March 28—Palm Sunday

The First United Methodist Church Council voted to resume In-Person Worship Services with a **target date of March 28, 2021**. The Council cited increased vaccination rates among the population and a downward trend in COVID-19 infection rates in our county as the basis for this decision. There will still be safety precautions in place when the ability to gather physically resumes until a time when The Upper New York Conference and New York State advise we are allowed to meet without them. Mask-wearing, space between people, health questions and other protocols are expected. More information will be given closer to time as these plans are not fully developed yet. The Church Council recognizes that not all people will be fully vaccinated by March 28 and some may not choose to get vaccinated. It is important to protect everyone's health as an act of Christian love, even though so many may be weary of pandemic restrictions.

We are currently making plans so everyone who wants to worship in-person may do so. Sign-ups are likely to be part of this process so there is a safe plan for everyone present.

It was noted that an online worship experience will need to continue as folks have embraced this new way to worship and it may still be needed for those who cannot gather in the building.



Happy Birthday &  
Happy Anniversary!

January

Congregation

Care Ministry

*Deacon Becky*

- ◆ *25 Calls*
- ◆ *5 Visits*

# March Celebrations

## Birthdays

2—Joan Miner	12—Sara Egan	21—Tosha Elseth
3—Bob Porter	13—Debbie Richards	25—Molly Gibson
6—Bob Wood	16—Shannon Williams	30—Beryl Griffith
7—Frank Frost Jr	17—Clint Pinkham	30—JoAnn Morris
8—Joyce Terpstra	20—Mike Timian	

## Anniversaries

5 – Ron and Laurie Jones

## Soldier Prayer List

**Soldier Care Package Ministry**—If you know of someone who is active duty or deployed in the military effort and you would like to add them to our prayer list, send soldier's name and rank to Peg Pinkham, [newyorkoma@roadrunner.com](mailto:newyorkoma@roadrunner.com). If your soldier is deployed, send an overseas address and we would be happy to send monthly packages. Thank you for your unwavering support of this ministry.

The following are those on active duty or deployed in the military effort. Continued prayers are appreciated. **WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

Major Elissa Adams	Major 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 us one of the names on this list and they are no longer in the active military service, please let me know. Thanks! Peg Pinkham

Our church is filled with gratitude for all the gifts you continue to share—gifts of time, talents and treasures. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support for God’s church so ministry will be able to forge ahead for the future. We are very appreciative. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Through great efforts by the church’s treasurer, Jim Mason, First UMC secured two Paycheck Protection Program loans from the U.S. Government Small Business Association. The first loan of \$34,900 has been forgiven because of the finance team’s efforts to ensure it was used according to the stipulations of the loan. That means the church doesn’t have to pay back this \$34,900, which was crucial to keep paying staff as financial giving dropped off sharply during the pandemic.

Now Jim Mason has completed the application process successfully and secured a second PPP loan of \$35,580. We fully expect that this loan will be used in accordance with the stipulations and also be forgiven. We are filled with gratitude to God for Jim’s work for the Lord and the blessing of these loans to keep the church afloat and keep paying staff.

However, the fact that giving is greatly reduced during this time remains. We understand that some are facing their own personal financial decline during this pandemic and that some have not been giving without an in-person way to do so. These two things combined have formed a budget shortfall for 2021, even with the church’s extraordinary efforts to reduce expenses while the building has been closed for in-person worship and the painful decision to not budget for any shared giving payments to the UMC in 2021 was made. Typically the church gives thousands of dollars a year to support the missions and work of the UMC through our Upper New York Annual Conference. This year that budgeted amount is zero, which is unfortunate because First UMC had worked hard to stay on a trajectory to get back to paying 100% of our Shared Giving dollars to the UNY Conference as we did for many years, but in recent times had been much less than 100%.

More discussion on this will be happening in the coming months. For your own copy of the church’s 2021 budget, please contact the church office by telephone or email, 315-733-4227, or [office@firstumconline.org](mailto:office@firstumconline.org).



## Taste and See that the Lord is Good

**3 p.m., Saturdays, Mar. 6 and 20 via Zoom**

Gather together from your own kitchen for a Saturday afternoon on Zoom and cook up delicious, healthy meals ready in a snap. Perfect for cooks of all experience levels. Recipes and directions provided with a side of devotions to perfectly compliment the meal. *A shopping list and zoom link will be sent with reservation—office@unyumc.org.*

You can also use this cooking experience to add on an OPTIONAL side of outreach to others by making arrangements for a socially-distant meal drop off to someone who could use some yummy food to give them a lift and help share your tasty creation. Feel free to double the recipe and the blessing you can share. All are welcome to join in!

### Go On an Online Fast for Lent

Take some time to unplug from your cell phone, email and social media for a day, week or other designated time. This fast will allow more time to read or pray during the "fast." Challenge yourself to engage differently--perhaps a handwritten note, thank you card or letter for your parents, children or spouse. Or take some time to read a few psalms or a book of the Bible. Think of ways you could serve others during the pandemic time. After several fasting periods you will be able to build up your spiritual muscle and grow in your relationship with God. Maybe you will keep this helpful new habit beyond Lent?