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Office Hours

Pastor Dave

Monday & Tuesday

8:00-5:00ish

Office Manager Makayla

Monday & Thursday

9:00-12:00

See, I am bringing you good *tidings* of great joy for all the people...Luke 2:10

TIDINGS

Volume 22 issue 1

January 2022



Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to start this message with a heartfelt Happy New Year! This time of year, when I am driving through various neighborhoods, I find myself wondering what sorts of celebrations or traditions they might have. Lots of folks watch their TV's, tuning in to the Times Square celebration as they wait for the ball to drop. Others host parties, some clean their homes. Some churches gather for watch night services. There is definitely something special about "New Years." I think maybe its because the ending of one year, and the beginning of the next one is an opportunity to close the door on the difficulties and hardships of the previous year. It is a time when we set aside the mistakes and missteps, as we look forward to new starts, and hopeful futures.

When we encounter and embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ its like "New Years." Revelations 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And in Hebrews 8:12 "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." In the fullness of our lives, God through Christ, heals us, forgives, transforms us, and fills us with faith, hope, joy, and love. A new us is born in Christ, just as a New Year is born on January 1st. But like the new year, we can still make mistakes, we can still misstep. But even knowing that, the promises of God can fill us with hope, and strengthen us for the journey ahead. This "New Year" I encourage you to add a new tradition. Instead of January 1st being your new start, let every day in 2022 be a new start. Live fully into every new moment with the promises of a God who loves you, and appreciate everyday as the gift that it is!

Pastor David J. Martin

ZOOM Only In January

Happy New Year Siblings in Christ,

I just wanted to let everyone know that for the month of January we will be worshipping virtually via zoom only. The current positivity rate is above 20% and though it seems like all of you who have been coming to worship are vaccinated, the newest strain of COVID is quite contagious. They expect that after we have peaked in mid January rates will drop. I am hoping we can be back in the building with you by the first or second week of February. As always, we encourage everyone to please wear your mask in public, maintain social distance and get vaccinated or boosted. We do these things as a sign of our Christian love for our neighbors!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave

Christmas Card Mailbox

The North Church Christmas Card mailbox will be available starting December 1st for the exchange of cards with your church family and friends. The box is located in the back of the sanctuary and has slots organized alphabetically by last initial. Please remember to check for cards you may have received each week. The mailbox will be available until January 9th.

You are welcome to deliver cards to friends and neighbors who have not been present to pick up their cards.

After the mailbox is put away remaining cards can be found on the counter under the mailboxes just outside the sanctuary.



Books and Family Games for the Village

Thank you to everyone for so generously donating books and games for the children in the Village program. It was a great success! The staff was very appreciative of the gifts and the special efforts to match them to the interests of the children.

IMPORTANT information regarding in person worship!!!

1. Everyone must wear a mask in the building.
2. There will be no congregational singing until it's safe to do so (except during outdoor worship). Singing causes, us to express our breath in a way that significantly increases the chance of transmission. We would have to social distance some 30 ft making corporate worship impossible. We truly regret this. The Music Director, Chris Collins, will be working hard at finding alternatives for this activity, she already has lots of great ideas! When we worship outdoors, we will have congregational singing.
3. All who enter the worship space must sanitize their hands. If they leave the worship space to use the bathroom, they must re-sanitize at the door. We also strongly encourage you to wash your hands in the bathroom as well.
4. Entrances and exits are one way. Entry will be via the office door (on the portico), exits will be via the double glass doors onto the portico. Exiting for the bathroom will be through the memorial room door. No exceptions.
5. Offering plates will be available near the ushers on tables by the entrance and exits. The offering will not be taken during worship. Please make your offering as you come in or as you leave.
6. The chairs will be set up 6 ft apart in any direction. Only family members living in the same household may move their chairs to be next to one another. However, if those chairs are closer than 6 ft to someone NOT in their household, the family will have to make another arraignment to get their chairs together.
7. Starting May 16th, we could have a few tables set up (café style) for families to sit together. Please call in advance and let us know if your family would like a table.
8. We strongly urge everyone to maintain social distancing while in the building. This means there will be no fellowship/coffee hour. Please refrain from hugging, shaking hands and other behaviors that could potentially transmit the virus. We are not out of the woods just yet!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102141139>

Passcode: 1234

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 831 0214 1139

Service Opportunity



We have a wonderful opportunity for you to serve NUMC! We have an opening for a Zoom host for our Sunday services. NUMC will be continuing to offer Zoom access to Sunday services to those who are not comfortable with or not able to attend in person. This ministry has been very important to many members of our congregation and guests. It is a link to our church family and is in keeping with our traditions of outreach and caring for our neighbors.

Being a host is easy and fun! It is only a once a month commitment and it comes with free training! We have a very detailed guide and there is typically someone at the Zoom worship service that is there to help as well.

If you are interested please reach out via email to Vickie at vlhadge@yahoo.com

MACC Services

The **Community Kitchen** is open,
giving out hot lunches on Tuesdays,
Wednesdays & Thursdays.

Bag lunches are available on
Mondays, Fridays & Saturdays

Lunch is served between **11:30am &**

12:45pm each day (no appointment necessary)

You can reach the kitchen @ **860-647-8003 x 21**



The **Community Emergency Food Pantry** provides
groceries by appointment only. Please call **860-647-8003 x 28**

The **Community Threads Thrift Shoppe** hours are Mon
through Fri 10am – 2pm and Sat 10am – 1pm

860-647-8003 x 29

For **Community Outreach and Emergency Services**

Please call **860-647-8003 x 31**

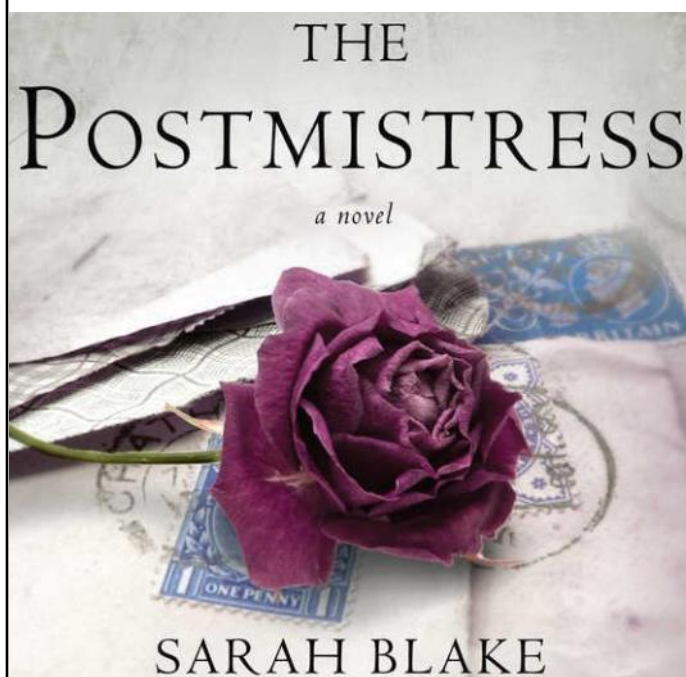
**Food donations can be dropped off at the Community
Emergency Food Pantry, located at 460 Main St. in
Manchester, CT Monday through Thursday 9am-4pm
and Friday 9am-2pm (or call to schedule a time).**

For all other donations, please call 860-647-0440.

MACC EMERGENCY NEEDS ITEMS

- Beans (Canned, All Beans: Black Brown, Red)
- Beef Stew (Canned)
- Chili (Canned)
- Cleaning Supplies
- Condiments: ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressing, etc.
- Cooking Oil
- Flour
- Fruit (Canned)
- Ground Coffee (Regular, Decaf, Instant)
- Hygiene Products for adults and children: Soap, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, wipes etc.
- Instant Potatoes (Not Mashed)
- Jelly
- Mac & Cheese
- Pasta
- Produce (Fresh Produce Mondays – Thursdays ONLY)
- Soups (Canned, All)
- Stuffing (Boxed)
- Sugar
- Vegetables (Canned)

The North Church Readers



Our second reading this season of North Church readers is *Postmistress* by Sarah Blake. This is a story of the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff during World War II. This forgotten tragedy was six times deadlier than the Titanic, killing 9 thousand people. 5,000 of those that were lost were children. Because of censorship and suppression few people know of the tragedy. The story follows the narrative of four refugees each with different homeland, each with their own secrets.

Discussion will be on February 6, 2022

See Jackie if you have any questions

January Birthdays

1st Jason Starkweather

3rd Carl Lepack

7th Emily Fitzgerald

Nathan Fitzgerald

8th Charlene Sullivan

9th Cindy Lepack

23rd Ron Starkweather

Birthday Blessings to Everyone!



FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

Crystal Price, Dottie Allen, Jean Derby, Jenna & Patty, Nellie, Ruth Mancell, Mary, Marian, Mike & Dorothy Thompson, Liz, Sarah & Friends, Ray Johnson, Austin,

Decency Wins, Sue L. Alisa Smith, Nichols Family, Joan & Charles Nichols, Mark Fitzgerald, Carol Haviland, Judy Parlee, Jack Stroup, Stephanie Oppon-Kunty, Sara Miller, Florence, Gary Chappell, Ron Starkweather, Wayne Zorger Sr., Melissa Lepack, JanMarie, Robert, Kevin Saint Hilaire, Susan Fenn, Jack Benton, Walter Johnson, Lisa Roman, Olivia Roman, Matt Turkington

Prayers for Cancer: Sheila, Ann, Beth, Elliot, Betty, Nick, Rachael, Charlotte, Ted, Janet, Muriel, Miriam, Anita, Garry, Lena, Jane, Jennifer, Judy, Joan, Myia, Tracy, Jean, Deb, Jenn, Rose, Jeffrey, Jackie, Diane, Ray, Cindy, Terry, Robin, Sheena, Geoff, Tricia, Marilyn, Dave, Henriet, Tom, Brenda, Ella, Sue, Deb C.



NORTH UMC will host BLOOD DRIVES

January 13th and 27th

DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED. CALL 1-800-GIVE LIFE
(1-800-448-3543) to schedule an appointment.

Volunteers are needed to monitor the building during the drives.

Please sign-up in the Memorial Room to help out.



Questions may be directed to Rev. Martin.



*REMINDER

**Please wear name tags
every Sunday.**

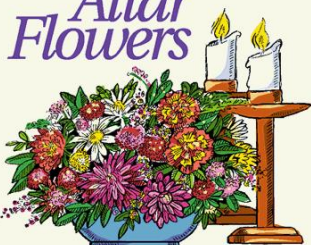
Anyone in need of a name tag, please note it on the back of your attendance slip on Sunday morning and one will be made for you.

Ad Council Meeting



TBD

Altar Flowers



Flowers are a wonderful way to acknowledge the Memory of a Loved One or to Celebrate a special person or occasion. Consider what you may have to offer, fresh and seasonal are especially nice. *Forms are available in the Memorial Room to make such requests.*

If you have any questions or prefer to order by phone, please contact Susan Fenn 860-729-6446

WAMS (Wellness And Multiple Sclerosis)!

WAMS is a positive and affirming group that focuses on living well with MS using the Overcoming MS program and is co-led by North Members Heidi Lenhardt and Vickie Hadge.

If you are newly diagnosed, have been living with MS for years, or are an MS care partner WAMS welcomes you! WAMS is a friendly, non-judgmental and safe place where privacy is protected. No matter where you are on your MS wellness journey we encourage our members to “do whatever it takes” to live well to be the healthiest they can. WAMS typically meets on the third Sunday of the month 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM ET (we will meet in person or on Zoom - details will be sent prior to each meeting).

Please reach out via email to Vickie at vlhadge@yahoo.com or Heidi wellnessandms@yahoo.com for more details!



Knitting Ministry

Our NUMC Knitting group's schedule has meetings held from 1:00pm -2:30pm. The tables will be set up so that everyone is spaced apart and masks will be required the entire time when we can meet in person, otherwise on ZOOM. The ministry will meet Mondays. All are welcome! :)

Our group is open to all with or without yarn skills. Contact: Paula Adamczyk anthony.adameczyk@snet.net or Susan Derby susanderby@cox.net with questions.

We've given MACC 51 hats, 6 scarves, 1 lap blanket and one small shawl so far this this winter. We gave 8 baby blankets to ECHN Birthing Center- Betsy, the director was thrilled to have them and sends her thanks to all.

We're all keeping busy!

Bible Study

Bible Study are every Tuesday at 6:30pm in person at Bolton or via zoom.

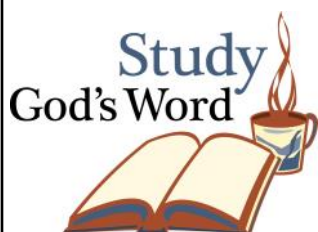
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89268730478>

Passcode: 1234

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 892 6873 0478



Online Giving

Online giving is available at:

<http://www.simplechurchgiving.net/northumc>

or scan the QR code shown below to go to the site. Set up an account and conveniently schedule your routine giving. Never miss another month or have to remember your

checkbook. One time donations can be made as well. Selecting 'Bank Account' rather than 'Credit Card' costs NUMC the least in fees, but of course all donations are welcome.

Please contact us if you have any questions about online giving. Thank You!



Grace Notes

from Christine Collins, music minister

Grace notes: 'ornamental notes, usually played quickly before the beat'. Found in all kinds of music from classical to contemporary, these little notes around the main tone embellish the story for us. They bring the tone into focus and tug on our emotional heartstrings as creatures that innately seek resolution.

As we enter into a fresh new year with both trepidation and hope I find myself searching for such resolution. When will it be 'safe' to sing again? How shall I go about rebuilding our choir and ministry? Wouldn't it be nice to go back to 'before' when we had it 'so good'? As a church, like all churches we feel strong and comforting ties with our history and tradition. Changes to our traditions are stressful and make us feel detached and fearful. As time continues on like life's metronome we find ourselves tired of the continual wait for the resolution to that final tonic note.

How do we find peace and satisfaction in a piece so dissonant and jarring with no predictable end in sight? We appreciate the grace notes, those small, seemingly insignificant moments during our day where we are reminded that God's grace surrounds us still, if we take the time to look and listen.

During the time that North Church has been socially distanced we have developed the hybrid ZOOM service and, for all its glitches and hurdles, this has become a wonderful blessing and a way to reach those who- even before the pandemic had struggled to stay in touch with our church family. This is grace. It is my hope that when we do return to the 'new normal' we don't actually return back to 'before'- as good as it was.






That said I want to embrace this technology and marry it to the message that I have been hammering at for the past fifteen years. 'Worship isn't a spectator sport'. Each and all of us experiences God's grace through different eyes and ears and your witness and sharing can be meaningful to someone who might need exactly that message. It is my hope that we might open up our traditional 'anthem' spot in Sunday's worship to such witness. Be it from the center of the sanctuary or remotely on ZOOM, share your talents with the Master. Show us a painting and tell us what inspired you to draw. Dance to a piece that moves your spirit. Read a poem- either one that you love or one that you wrote. Share the story of how God moves you to be what you are.

It is my wish that our little church, with our non traditional sanctuary and our non traditional messages might evolve more with a 'WorshipArts' platform that would include different forms of worship, dramatic, musical, artistic. For when God is the focus of the message, all of these mediums are simply another form of prayer.

During this month of January when we are still in pandemic hibernation as we await the breath of spring and the promise of rebirth, I would ask you to pray on this message and to see if you hear God's answer.

More to follow...



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------------|--|-----|--|--|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1/8 |
| 10:30 am ZOOM Online Worship | | | | | | Happy New Year! |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10:30 am ZOOM Online Worship | 1 pm Knitting Ministry  | | |  | | Tidings Submission Deadline |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10:30 am ZOOM Online Worship | | | | | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 10:30 am ZOOM Online Worship | 1 pm Knitting Ministry  | | |  | | |
| 30 | 31 | |  | | | |
| 10:30 am ZOOM Online Worship | | | | | | |

North United Methodist Church
300 Parker Street
Manchester, CT 06042

Address Service Requested



North United Methodist
300 Parker Street
Manchester, CT 06042

Pastor: David J. Martin

*Worship the Lord in the
splendor of his holiness!*

1 Corinthians 16:29

Phone: 860-649-3696
E-mail: northchurch@snet.net
Web-Site: <http://numc.axelhouse.com>

New England Conference
Web-Site: <http://www.neumc.org>

CHOIR WARM UP

9:30 am

NURSERY—upon request

10:15 am—11:45 am

WORSHIP

10:30 am Worship,
Youth and Children's Sunday
School, One-Room for Summer

FELLOWSHIP

11:30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children attend the beginning of
the service at 10:30 am and then
proceed to class following the
Children's Time. Classes dis-
miss at 11:45 am.

10:30 am

Worship

**COMMUNION
SUNDAYS**

The first Sunday of each month
is Communion Sunday, at
which time the children will
begin in Sunday School classes
and then attend church with
their families in corporate
worship at the time for
communion and will remain
until the conclusion of service.

For over 200 years,
North UMC has pro-
claimed the good news
of Jesus Christ to the
people of Manchester
CT. We invite you to
join us for worship on
Sunday mornings.

*A warm welcome
awaits you!*

**As followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ,
North United Methodist Church strives to be
an inclusive community. We welcome, respect
and celebrate persons of every race,
ethnicity, gender identity,
sexual orientation, national
origin, ability, family
status, age and economic
circumstance. We want
you to feel at home and
know that you belong
here.**

