

THE LAMPLIGHTER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WINDSOR NY

DEBRA ARNOLD, PASTOR

ISSUE 1 SPRING 2025

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

We have been on a journey over the last eight months. I am grateful for the honor of being your pastor, of returning to my roots and shepherding those who shepherd me in my youth, it has been a humbling experience. There is still a sense of disconnect due to the scheduling of Sunday morning worship, and I am interested in any ideas on how I can better connect and serve you. In the meantime, I encourage you to stay for coffee hour and fellowship with other members after Sunday Worship.

I have heard a few people say to me they don't want to bother me because they know how busy I am. Yes, I am busy, we are all busy, but I am your pastor and I am never too busy for someone in need. Please feel free to reach out to me if you need to talk or would like to meet with me in person. I will make the time to connect. I want to emphasize I have office hours in Windsor every Tuesday from 9:30am-12:30pm, but I am also available by appointment any other time.

As we enter the Lenten season, I ask you to pause and reflect about your relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Reflect on the words of the prophet Joel 2:12-13:



*“Even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”*

*“Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love
and he relents from sending calamity.”*

We are called to seek first the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God can be described as the world and how God intended it to be, starting with our lives, as they are intended to be. Ron Heifetz, founding director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Kennedy School, shares the following example about seeing the world as it is, and then imaging the world as it was meant to be.

Heifetz states in the life of a Christ-follower, in our personal lives, we are to take a fearless moral inventory seeing our lives, our thought patterns, our habits, our words and actions as they really are. And then, as we consider the words of Jesus, to imagine our lives as they are meant to be if God is reigning in our hearts. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, to pray and yearn to close the gap. I encourage you during this Lenten season to do an inventory of your heart to find the gaps where you are separated from God and to pray about the actions God wants you to take to close the gaps.

Blessings,

Pastor Deb

UPCOMING WORSHIP and STUDY: Carpool options are available for some services from Windsor UMC. Please call the church office if you need a ride.

Deposit UMC:

Wednesdays, thru April 9, 6:30-8pm Deposit Ecumenical Bible Study—*Praying the Name of God*. Each week will focus on a different name for God.

March 30—Please join us for the 5th week Joint Worship Service at 11am at the Deposit UMC followed by lunch.

April 4 – Seder Meal, 6:00pm. Reservations needed. Please contact Pastor Deb.

April 13, 3:00pm Deposit Easter Cantata *Look to the Lamb*



Other Holy Week Services:

April 17 – *A Service of the Shadows*, 6:30pm—Windsor UMC

April 18 – Good Friday Service, 6:30pm—Sanitaria Springs UMC

Easter Sunday Services will be held in individual churches.



On an icy morning February 23 from her Deposit office, Pastor Deb shared in her message, *“As we approach Ash Wednesday, Lent is a time of examining our hearts. Ask yourself are you like a desert shrub trusting in your own self, trusting in your own provision, or are you a tree planted by the water rooted in God’s love and provision.*

May we choose to trust Him and all our hearts and experience the abundant life He promises to those who do.” Jeremiah 17:8



Share your story

From dust you came and from dust you will return.

As you embark on your Lenten journey, we invite you to share what Lent means to you. How are you observing this Lenten season? What practices or traditions help draw you closer to God? We'd love to hear from you. Email your reflections, experiences, and pictures to news@unyumc.org

Grief Share

A 13-week SUPPORT GROUP hosted by Windsor UMC, 56 Chapel Street now thru May 21.

You are welcome to share in a safe and confidential space with others who are experiencing the loss of loved ones. Register online at griefshare.org, call the church office, (607) 655-1791, or stop into Room 7, **Wednesdays, 4:30pm-6:30pm.**

Your facilitators are Pastor Deb, Jenna Amberge and Carol Holland.



United Women in Faith

All women are welcome to be involved with the Windsor UMC UWIF (UMW). We normally meet monthly at church on Tuesdays at 1:00pm, unless otherwise scheduled. Notice of meetings will be announced.



APRIL 10 BEGINNING AT 5:00PM. ALL ARE WELCOME AS WE SHARE IN FELLOWSHIP, DELICIOUS HOMEMADE SOUPS AND SALADS. This will be our last dinner until September. Thank you to everyone who has supported this mission.



ANNUAL TRASH TO TREASURE SALE **SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 9AM-1PM**

in the Windsor UMC Fellowship Hall

Donations may be brought to Room 4 at the church the week of April 21.

Please **NO** clothing, shoes or electronics.

LADIES, SAVE THE DATE

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WOMEN'S LUNCHEON.

SUNDAY, MAY 18 AT 1:00PM

WINDSOR UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL

MORE DETAILS and INVITATIONS TO FOLLOW!



Upper New York Annual Conference 2025 is Thursday, May 22 thru Saturday, May 24 at the OnCenter in Syracuse, NY. If you're interested in becoming an Equalization Member, applications are available at church. Besides adults, they are looking for one young person between the ages of 12 and 17, and one young person between the ages of 18 and 30. Thank you in advance for your interest and participation.



During your Lenten Journey, Discipleship Ministries invites you to visit the link <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org> for Family Lenten Devotions and resources. The hope of Discipleship Ministries is that these will guide families into times of reflection and renewal during this holy season.



Sky Lake Senior High Winter Retreat. If you are in grades 9-12, spend the weekend **March 14-16 at Sky Lake!** Come explore snowy and muddy trails, warm up by the fire, and reconnect with summer friends while making new ones!

For further information and registration

> skylakecenter.org/events <



Special Needs Getaway 2025—March 20-22 in Riley Lodge.

Celebrate the last few days of official winter (or early spring!) as you gather with friends old and new. This retreat is designed for persons (ages 18-65) with mild- to moderate-developmental disabilities needing minimal- to-no assistance with daily living skills. Enjoy outdoor and indoor winter-spring activities like singing, worship, crafts, jigsaw puzzles, talent show, a cook "out" supper, sledding, making snow angels, or perhaps getting your boots muddy!

Ladies—REJUVENATE! It is time to come away and rest awhile as you spend a weekend at Sky Lake free of the distractions of the outside world. We are excited to welcome women over the age of 18 to our 2025 weekend will be "Secret Gardens; Noticing Unexpected Blessings". We will look for hidden surprises. We will "consider the lilies and how they grow". (Luke 12:27) Come to camp to relax and also delight your heart, finding life's blessings at our lakeside retreat.



The Windsor United Women in Faith group is offering scholarships to those women who would like to attend but may need a little extra assistance with registration fees. Please contact Jill Skinner, Jeannie Ditch or Sue Bennett for further information.

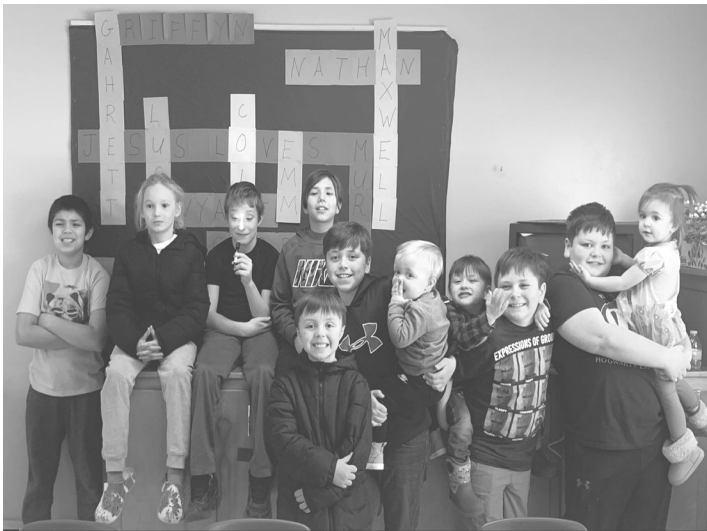
↘ **AND DON'T FORGET Summer Camp** is just a few months away! Check out the many 2025 programs on the Sky Lake site. The United Women in Faith also provides registration assistance to those campers wishing to attend. Let Jill Skinner and/or Sue in the office know if you apply to camp.

Our Sunday School kids have been busy learning how *God Loves You S'Mores!* In December, children and parents gathered for a craft day, making and decorating cookies and creating salt dough hearts, which were given to the congregation.

Another event is planned for **Friday, March 21** as the children and parents (and anyone interested in games!) gather for **Game Night**. Meet in Fellowship Hall from **5 - 7pm** and "get your game on"! Stations will be set up for different types of games and a meal will be shared! All children are welcome to attend Sunday School - Stop in and join the fun!

LEARNING...
LOVING...
LIVING...
CHRIST!





WINDSOR UMC CHURCH COUNCIL AND FINANCE TEAM NOTES:

NOTE: The Council met on January 28, 2025. We did not meet in February 2025 or November/December 2024. Minutes from all meetings can be found on the table in the church narthex. If you wish a copy sent to you, please contact Sue Bennett.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30pm. Minutes from our January meeting will be approved at that time and made available.

The Finance Team meets quarterly. Our 2025 meeting was held on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00pm.

A 2025 Budget was presented and approved by Council at the October meeting.

The 2024 church Annual Audit was completed by Gail Bagg and submitted to the conference.

Many thanks to those who provided the necessary information to Gail (especially Ellen, our Treasurer), and we thank Gail for her dedication to providing a thorough audit.

A list of Trustee work was provided in a previous Lamplighter and an update of the work as reported in the October 2024 Council minutes is as follows:

- New iPad donated by Ben Amberge. Will be working to set up the cameras and Facebook live broadcasts.
- Getting quotes for driveway repaving. Estimates are between \$40-60,000.
- Roof issues were found, addressed and repaired.
- A better price found for salting this winter.
- Interior emergency exit lights were replaced.
- New remote(s) to control the heat.
- Outside lights replaced. A neighbor commented that the lights are too bright and another one was out. Both lights are fixed.
- Heat oil pumps showing a savings of half of the cost from before. \$500.00 credit was used to re fill fuel oil.
- Jeannie asked the question about whether the speakers could be reconnected to add sound to nursery & fellowship hall. Looking into using the old iPad to connect to FB service.
- Jeannie & Roger dug up the daffodils from the flower boxes when they were taken out. The idea is to plant them in front of & around the church sign and shrubbery. Set a day of the week, November 5th at 2 pm to have folks come help with this project.

† YOU CAN SERVE YOUR CHURCH IN MANY WAYS †

There are still available opportunities for those who feel led to serve on our church committees. We welcome you to use your gifts and talents and try it for a year or 3-year terms on Trustees, SPPR and/or Lay Leadership (Nominations). A Church Council chair is also needed.

We gratefully thank those who have served and continue to contribute in providing to the effective functioning of our church, our children, our congregation and communities.

Please contact Pastor Deb with interest.

OUR GOD'S BREAD FOOD PANTRY

Is always accepting volunteers to assist with food distribution on Tuesday mornings. If you can give just an hour or two from 9am-Noon, please let Jill and/or Carol know.

It will be a blessing to them and families we



to the many we serve.

Food Pantry

Worship Committee Meeting Minutes-February 12, 2025 6:00 p.m.

(First United Methodist Church of Windsor)

Attendees: Pastor Debra Arnold, Jenna Amberge, Gail Bagg, Bob Bennett, Carol Carpenetti, Jeannie Ditch, Wendy Eggleston, Cheryl Mogenson, Linda Phelps, Nancy Washburn, Ron Washburn, Laurie Wightman and Matt Wightman

An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Debra Arnold

Gail Bagg spoke on behalf of the Tech Team. We may be looking into hearing assistance for sound in the sanctuary, possibly adding sound so that the service may be heard in the nursery, looking into adding different angles for video production of livestream (may use old iPhones or iPads). The tech team will hold a meeting involving Gail Bagg, Jenna and Ben Amberge, John McNulty, Matt, Laurie and Matthew Wightman. The meeting will be held sometime in March. Matt Wightman mentioned that one of our MEVO cameras is broken on the base from being dropped off of the pew.

Linda Phelps reported that more people are welcome to join the choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings. The committee asked if she needed any additional support. They thanked her for all that she has done to add music to the service.

Lenten Service Schedule has been set.

“Ash Wednesday Service” will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Deposit on Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. This is a time change due to Grief Share now meeting on Wednesdays (starting February 26th from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.) Originally it was planned for 6:30 p.m. Laurie will make a sign-up sheet for anyone who needs a ride or is interested in carpooling. Pastor Debra stated that she has all of the ashes that she needs.

“Easter Cantata” will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Deposit on Palm Sunday, April 13th at 3:00 p.m.

“Service of the Shadows” will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Windsor on Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 p.m. 13 people are needed to participate. (4 will be readers and 9 will be character actors). Wendy Eggleston will coordinate this. She will contact people to read. Nancy Washburn will look at the costumes that we have used from previous plays, etc. Pastor Debra has asked that the cross remain flat on the ground for that service.

“Good Friday Service” will be held at Sanitaria Springs United Methodist Church on Friday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m. Once again, there will be a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in carpooling to the service. We would meet at the church and ride together.

Jeannie Ditch will once again be taking lily orders to decorate the church.

Bob Bennett will be ordering palms for all 3 churches.

Jeannie Ditch asked if we will be going back to using ushers for the collection of the offering and greeters for the service at church. At this time, we will be looking into having ushers for Easter Sunday. Also, it was mentioned as to whether or not we would be using the youth as acolytes. If that were to happen, they would need to be to the church 15 minutes prior to the church service starting. Ben Amberge has been very good at stepping into the role of greeting people at church. It was also mentioned that we should use our nametags, so that people can get to know us by name and we can also welcome visitors.

continued ...

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At this time, there will not be a Sunrise Service for Easter Sunday, unless Windsor Churches United plans one at the cemetery across from the high school.

Carol Carpenetti is now the Lay Leader of the church replacing Carol Holland.

Grief Share will be held on Wednesday, February 26th through May 21st from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Windsor. The group will be led by Carol Holland, Jenna Amberge and Pastor Debra Arnold.

Confirmation/New Member Class will be held on Monday, February 24th through April 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (with a 1-2 week break during Easter) at the First United Methodist Church of Deposit. Each church will hold its own service for new members and confirmands.

Prayers were offered for Matt Williams (his mother passed away), Tom Birtch, who fell and broke some ribs, Roberta Warner, Bob Bode, Elaine Barrett, Pastor Deb and Cindy Martin-Finney.

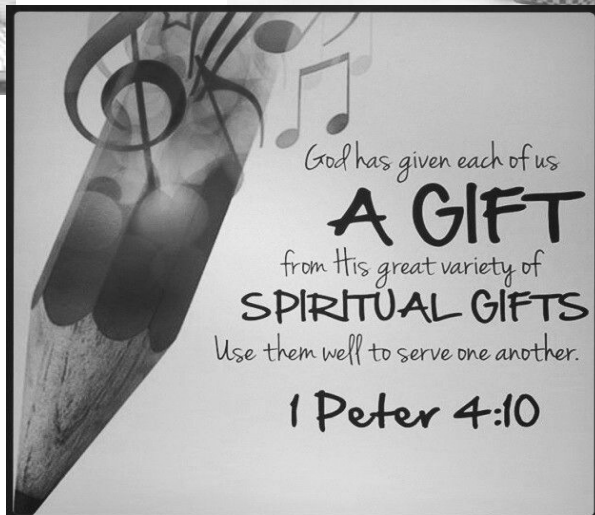
The committee asked Pastor Debra in what ways we could support her.

Closing prayer was given by Laurie Wightman. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Next meeting: TBD

Souper Bowl Sunday! Thanks to all, we collected 137 lbs. of canned soups Raviolis, etc., for our God's Bread Food Pantry!



Red Bird Shoe Box Mission





Mission Moments



As I reflect back on my first year as the Mission Committee Chairperson, there are so many things that I am grateful for with the love and support of this church. As we are in the season of Lent, I am reminded of Proverbs 16:3, which states, *“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.”*

In the Fall of 2024, we provided a take-out dinner for the Binghamton Community, which was held at Fairview United Methodist Church. This is a quarterly mission project for our church and anyone is welcome to help. In January of this year, we served 107 meals at Fairview UMC.

In November, we collected well over a hundred boxes of stuffing mixes to provide to Windsor Human Development for their community Thanksgiving baskets. Also in November, we sent 33 shoeboxes to Endwell United Methodist Church. From there, they were shipped to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. A total of over 2500 shoeboxes were packed throughout the churches in the Upper New York Region.



Each box was filled with essentials such as personal hygiene items, toys and school supplies. I am thankful for the members of the church and especially our Sunday School youth who not only helped shop for the items, but also boxed the items.

In October, we once again distributed glow necklaces on Halloween to help keep the children and adults in our community safe and visible. In December, we collected clothing items, stamps, playing cards for our Jail Ministry Outreach. In February, we had our 2nd Annual “Souper Bowl” Sunday. We collected 131 cans of soup, Spaghettios, and ravioli for our God’s Bread Food Pantry.

Our next community take-out meal will be held at Fairview UMC on Monday, April 28th. If you are interested in volunteering for this, please see Laurie Wightman or Carol Carpenetti. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

UMCOR Sunday is on March 30th and we hope that you will kindly consider a donation for this global ministry.

Our next Mission Committee Meeting will be held in Room 7 at the church on Tuesday, April 29th at 5:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend. My prayer is that we continue to “lean in, pray, listen to God, and help those in need.”

In God’s Love,

Laurie Wightman, Missions Chair

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13—ANNUAL LITTLE LAMB PALM SUNDAY LUNCH—

Everyone is invited to stay after worship as we celebrate together with an easter egg hunt, crafts and covered dish lunch! Please bring a dish to share and wear your favorite Easter bonnet!



Time to Order Easter Flowers: Jeannie Ditch will once again coordinate the ordering and purchasing of Easter lilies, tulips, daffodils to decorate our altar on Easter Sunday.

Please fill out the form and return it to Jeannie or place in the offering plate at church. Each plant will be \$10 and may be purchased in memory and/or honor of loved ones.

**WINDSOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2025 Easter Plants**

The plants will decorate our altar on Easter morning, and may be taken home after the service. Each plant is \$10 payable in cash or check (payable to Jeannie Ditch). Please return to the offering plate or to Jeannie or Susan in the church office.

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY: _____

PLEASE ORDER BY APRIL 13, 2025