



New City United Methodist Church

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March 2025 from Pastor Amanda

Seeing George's positive COVID test result just an hour before we were set to sail on our Disney Cruise was like a punch to the gut. We knew it was a possibility (Greg and I had been sick with COVID a week before), but it had been a while since he was exposed so we figured he wasn't going to get it. George tends to have a better immune system than either Gregory or me, so it seemed we were in the clear. Until that moment. Until that little line on the COVID test appeared and my heart sank. It was "yes" to COVID. And a "no" to our cruise.

To say we were upset is an understatement. Especially for Gregory. This loss was tough. George had to go to urgent care to get a doctor's note for our travel insurance, and Greg and I were waiting outside, tearful and frustrated. We needed a distraction. Across the street was a dinosaur museum. It looked chintzy from the outside. It would be something to do as we waited for George, but I hesitated -- If it was as uninspiring on the inside as it looked on the outside, it could have the effect of making our moods worse instead of better. But it's what we had available. Neither Greg nor I were expecting much, but we crossed the street and walked on in.

What a place! Two floors of exhibits, one exclusively of dinosaurs and one of ancient civilizations. It was MUCH larger than it looked on the outside. The exhibits were fantastic! Gregory loved the prehistoric fish that was large enough to eat him whole. In addition to the museum, there was a full floor of items for sale -- certified fossils, gemstones, and other artifacts from all over the world. That floor could have been a museum in and of itself. The curator was there, eager to talk to Greg and display the difference between a real velociraptor's claw and the claw's portrayed in the Jurassic Park movies. It was a fascinating experience. One I highly recommend if you're ever in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Greg and I left there smiling and with stories to tell.

What we assumed was going to be minimally entertaining, at the most, turned out to be one of our favorite moments of our trip. The museum served to get us both out of our "funk," so we could relax and enjoy the rest of our time in Florida, even if we were unable to do what we had set out for. I believe God was with us in that moment of discernment, as I was trying to decide whether to attempt the museum or not. If we had chosen to sit and mope in the car for the two

hours George was at urgent care, I have a feeling the rest of our trip would have been even harder. But God gently nudged us to lift up our heads and explore what was right in front of us. It made a huge difference.

What is in front of you that you haven't noticed before? What places have you wanted to explore, but have not yet done so because they seem less than perfect on the outside? What encounters have you avoided because either the surroundings or the people seemed a bit odd? I'm so glad we gave in and entered that museum. It allowed us to move on past the hurt and embrace the rest of our journey. Sometimes, what's right in front of us is what we need. Sometimes, that which looks chintzy actually holds exceptional value.

This Spring, may you feel God nudging you to embark upon some interesting journeys, and may you be changed for the better when you respond.

Peace,

Pastor Amanda



At the Dinosaur Store and Museum in Cocoa Beach, Florida

Birthdays

March 1-Dan Samimi
March 3-Christopher Kontos
March 5-Omodele Akingboye
March 8-Claire Seward
March 11-Ronnie Wynne
March 18-Diana Johnston
March 22-Chuck Delo
March 24-Kristina DiDonato; E.J. Bergmann
March 25-Kevin Boyd
March 27-Brook Atzl
March 30-Heather Campbell
March 31-Pete Kontos; Dorothy Mensah



Prayers...

for Burt & Senya Renfro and all those in nursing facilities;
for Doug Caulk as he continues chemo;
for Doris Atzl who has shingles;

For Pat Conroy, and the healing of his broken ankle;

For Anita Staats, who broke her knee and is in rehab;

for Judy Troia, who recently underwent emergency surgery;

for Ester Mariano, who is finding it hard to venture outside her house;

for those who are ill or injured;

for those who mourn;

for all with cancer;

for those standing up to injustice;

for our immigrants;

for the people of Gaza;

for the people of Ukraine;

for our country; for Anita's dog Ripley (and a huge THANK YOU to County Animal Hospital who continues to board him for FREE);

for airline safety and those who have been affected by recent airline disasters;

for all who are traveling.



Mission Updates OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“SERVING GOD THROUGH SERVING OUR COMMUNITY”

Food Pantry Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Our next Food Pantry Sunday will be April 6th. Donations of non-perishable food can be brought to in-person worship, or left outside the office door (first door with an overhang) anytime the week prior.

Donations paid out/given in 2024 (excluding Conference giving)

MLK Multi-Purpose Center	\$1562.50
Doctors Without Borders	885.00
Alzheimer’s Association	1299.67
Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud	1209.16
CUMAC-ECHO	2065.00
Riverkeeper	640.00
UN Women Equality	525.00
New City Fire Engine Comp. No.1	480.00
New City Volunteer Ambulance Corps	480.00
Health Lifeline Clinic	2705.00
Smile Train	766.98
<u>Project Joy</u>	<u>4070.00</u>
TOTAL	\$16,688.31

Donations paid out in 2024 to Conference

Shared Ministry/Appportionments:	\$23,096.04
Methodist scholarships:	\$305.00

Monthly Mission for 2025



JANUARY: UMC Native American Ministries (scholarships, grants, advocacy, and education)



FEBRUARY: UMCOR. Support those affected by wildfires in California



MARCH: Health Lifeline Clinic— our own Norbert Rainford’s free Nyack Clinic



APRIL: The Nature Conservancy. Preserving important habitats & beautiful places



MAY: Martin Luther King Jr. Multi-Purpose Center Nanuet. Education, food, programs



JUNE: The Trevor Project. LGBTQ+ suicide prevention hotline and support



JULY: World Central Kitchen. Feeding the hungry in the US and the world



AUGUST: Innocence Project. Proving innocence and releasing the wrongfully accused



SEPTEMBER: Hatua Likoni. Helping Kenyan youth through school & into professional careers



OCTOBER: Spring Valley UMC Food Program. We'll cook for a Thursday dinner!



NOVEMBER: Project Joy. People to People’s Christmas gifts program for Rockland children



DECEMBER: Helping Hands. Support for Rockland County homeless

New City UMC Monthly Mission for March 2025

Health Lifeline Clinic

Dr. Norbert Rainford, a longtime member of our Church, has been an integral part of this Clinic for over 7 years. This clinic has served our community for over 20 years.

“It is the opportunity to do that which we went to medical school for – to help people”. Norbert Rainford

Health Lifeline is a free clinic that provides basic medical services for those who are uninsured.

It is now located at 28 S. Franklin Street in Nyack.

No one in this clinic is paid for providing time or skills.

They depend on donations to keep the doors open and to cover the expenses such as utilities, equipment, first aid supplies, etc.

The Clinic is planning to extend hours to 10 am to 4pm, Mondays and Wednesdays

Right now, this clinic cares for 100 active patients for annual check-ups. They look to do more as Funding warrants.

Thank you for any consideration of this Mission. Donations can be made out to our Church, please note your donation is for May Mission or Health Lifeline.

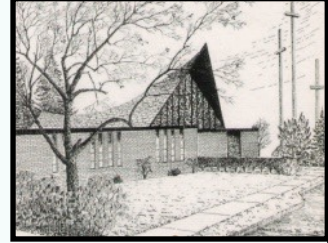
You can donate as you normally do, via check, cash or online,

Thank you!

Worship Service Time: 10:30am Both in-person in Fellowship Hall (masks optional)

and on Zoom

Worship/Sermon Topics



From now through Easter, we'll be celebrating a sermon series in worship entitled "Tell Me the Stories." We'll consider many of the stories about Jesus found in scripture and see what they can teach us today.

Wednesday, March 5: **Ash Wednesday. Soup Supper at 6:00pm. Worship with imposition of ashes at 7:00pm. Location: Pearl River UMC (130 Franklin Ave, Pearl River).**

March 9: First Sunday in Lent; **Celebration of Women's History Month with our Church & Society Committee; Bingo and Pizza after worship** (see below).

March 16: Second Sunday in Lent; "Tell Me the Stories . . ." - Week 5

March 23: Third Sunday in Lent; "Tell Me the Stories . . ." - Week 6

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent; "Tell Me the Stories . . ." - Week 7

Join us for Bingo!

Our Events Team has come up with a calendar and our first event is Bingo! Join us Sunday, March 9 after worship as we engage in the fun of the game WITH PRIZES. Pizza will be served. \$5 donation per person for pizza appreciated.

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Pastor Amanda to volunteer or with questions.

Be a Sunday School Assistant! — Get to know our kids and help out in the classroom on a rotating schedule. No prep work involved. Speak with Pastor Amanda if interested.

Thrift shop sorting—We are in need of some additional sorters on Monday mornings and during Saturday shop hours. Come join a fun group of workers who love what they do and have a great time together! Monday sorting is 9am-12pm (unless otherwise noted in worship announcements). Saturday hours are 9am-2pm. Come for an hour, come for two, come for the whole time! Totally up to you. Any and all help is appreciated.

Work Our Thrift Shop!—Thrift shop hours are Thursdays 10-12 and Saturdays 9-2. We are in need of additional volunteers as cashiers and "floaters" on BOTH days. Speak to Sue Delo.

Fellowship Hour

We need volunteers for set-up, clean-up, and to provide food.

THANK YOU to Joanne Hegarty for heading this important ministry!



Important Dates

Sunday, March 9: Church Council Meeting 9:00am on Zoom; Celebration of Women's History Month with our Church & Society Committee. Bingo and pizza after worship. See p 7.

Wednesday, March 12: Trustees Meeting 7:00pm on Zoom.

Sunday, March 16: Regional Youth Group Gathering at Thiells-Garnerville UMC, 6:00pm. See p 10.

Monday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day

Monday, March 31: Pastor Amanda off.

Angel's Attic Thrift Shop

Hours

Saturday's 9:00-2:00

Thursday's 10:00-12:00 noon

***To volunteer in any way, please call
Sue Delo (845-304-8798)***

Sorting is Monday's 9:00 am-12:00 pm

**The thrift shop will be CLOSED 3/2-3/12
and reopen on Thursday, March 13th**



Sunday School

Sunday School is up and running! We've been hearing GREAT reports from both our students and teachers since Sunday School began. Sunday School is for those Pre-K (potty trained) through 6th grade



Note of thanks from UMCOR

Note of thanks from UMCOR: "The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be -- THANK YOU! Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, YOU are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive disasters -- sharing 100% of funds with those in need! Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors."



Youth Group!

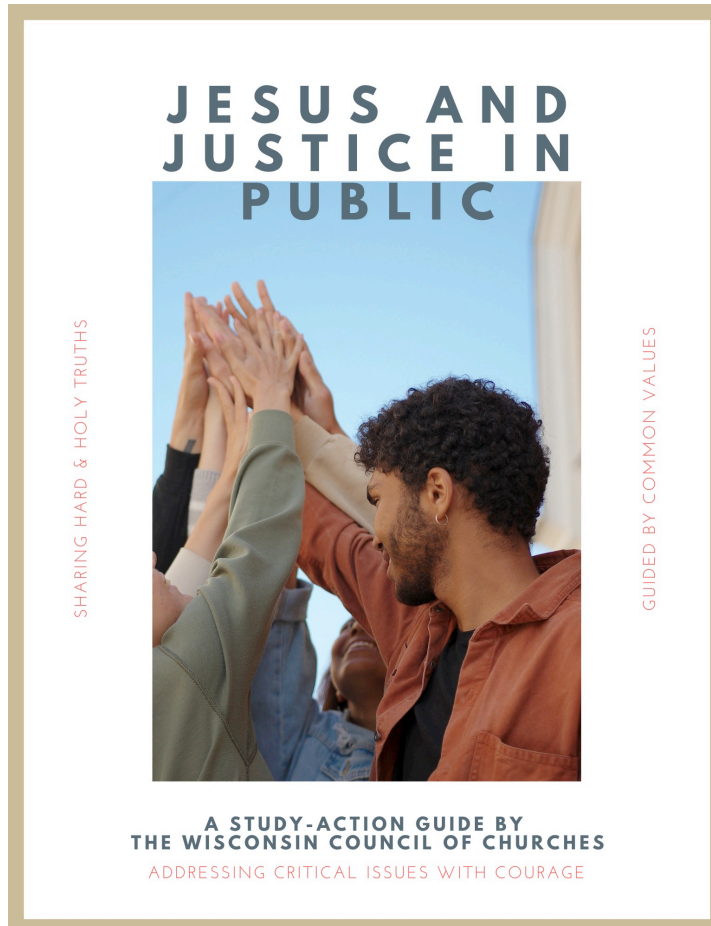
Our next Regional Youth Group gathering will be Sunday, March 16, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, at the Thiells-Garnerville UMC (102 Rosman Road, Thiells).

We had an AWESOME time at our February gathering with games, worship, and conversation. The amount of youth at this event DOUBLED from the month before.

God is good and this ministry is growing! Join us! We'll have dinner, games, worship, and fellowship. Youth Group is for those in 6th grade - high school.



BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT



We'll explore the basics of Christian political action and advocacy, considering what to keep in mind as we do the work and where to start when responding to political mandates we don't agree with.

6 Thursdays in Lent -- March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

7pm on Zoom

No outside reading required for this class. Just come for learning and conversation.

Reach out to Pastor Amanda for Zoom link and info.

Our thrift store volunteers at work (and smiling)



Regional Youth Group Gathering for February



Ken doing an AWESOME job working our A/V System



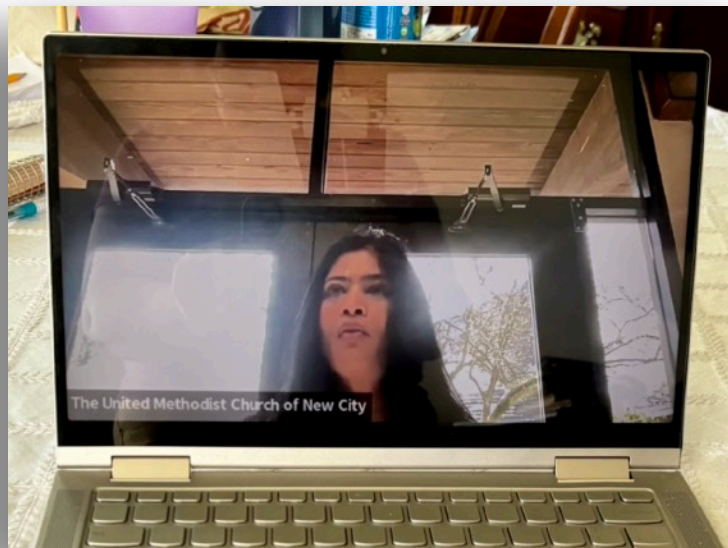
Prayers for our Country



MLK Birthday Service and African-American Heritage Service with our Church & Society Committee



Konrad and Norma preaching (thank you!)



A Visitor in the Snow

