



New London United Methodist Church News

709 W. Pine Street • New London, WI 54961
920-982-4703 • nlumc@mynewlondonumc.org
Website: www.mynewlondonumc.org

January/February 2023

Planting Mustard Seeds

While it may not seem like the time of year to be talking about planting anything – much less mustard seeds – I think we should. Why? Of course Jesus referred to the kingdom of heaven as being like a mustard seed that is sown (Matthew 13:31-32). While the mustard seed itself is very small – the mustard plant that grows from it can become quite large – like a shrub that birds can nest in. It is the improbable, extraordinary growth that comes from the tiny mustard seed that Jill Duffield keyed in on when she wrote:

God's realm entails utilizing the common and the insignificant in life-giving ways that defy expectation and human imagination. What if we really believed that the kingdom of heaven, present even now on earth, is like a tiny mustard seed that explodes in growth and spreads exponentially, invading the landscapes all around us in order to create places of relief and protection and care and joy?

... What if we embraced this truth and lived it, boldly? Imagine if we began to spread little gospel mustard seeds with prayerful hope that God would give them the growth? Perhaps we could start with a vision of the large, glorious trees we want to see ... What big, life-giving, nurturing, sheltering, beautiful trees do you long to sit under in your community? In God's beloved world? What if we started planting the mustard-sized seeds that God can grow into them?

*Reprinted from pages 104-105 in Advent in Plain Sight © 2021 Jill J. Duffield.
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As we begin 2023, what mustard-sized seeds do we need to plant in our community? What kind of trees do you think God wants to see growing here? Now is the time to start planting.

Pastor Joyce

Sun., Jan. 15 Potluck and Meeting

After worship on Sun., Jan. 15 (about 11:15 AM) you're invited to take part in a pot-luck meal and meeting in Cottrill Hall. Our Administrative Council will share some year-end reports on 2022, and we will look ahead to what 2023 may hold. Questions are always welcome! Plan to attend. Plates, silverware, and beverage will be provided. (Heaven forbid we have another blizzard that day – but Jan. 22 is the snow alternative date.)

Invite a Friend to Join You for Dinner and Worship

Have a friend you'd like to invite to church – but you think it would be easier to ask them to come for dinner first? We're having a "9 x 13 Night" on Mon., Jan. 23 at 5:45 PM (that means most of the meal is made in 9" x 13" pans!); and on Mon., Feb. 20 at 5:45 PM there will be a Mardi Gras theme meal. Following each meal there is worship at 6:30 PM.

Christmas Offering Update

Through Jan. 2, 2023 the Christmas Offering had reached a total of \$2,217.00 – which will be split between UMCOR's work in the U.S. for disaster recovery (25%), and with the people of Ukraine (25%); and to reduce the church's mortgage (50%). Thank you for your generosity!

How Do I Reach Pastor Joyce?

If you want to avoid the disappointment of not finding me at the office when you stop by, you can call before you come, or make an appointment so I'll be ready to see you. If you need to leave a message you can leave a voice mail message at church (920) 982-4703 or on the parsonage answering machine (920) 250-5543.

Helping Residents of Mission of Hope House

Do you and your family, or circle of friends, like to cook? Or are you able to pay for groceries for someone else to cook a meal, or to buy a meal from a local restaurant? There are a variety of ways in which you could help provide a meal for guests at the Mission of Hope House (MOHH). We are looking to cover the evening meal on these Thursdays: Jan. 19; Feb. 2; Feb. 16; March 2. If this is a ministry you'd like to be involved in, please talk to Pastor Joyce (church 920-982-4703) about what you could do. Thanks to Mary Dohrman and Jeanne Lee for getting us off to a good start this year by providing the meal for Jan. 5!

100% Certainty That We Will Be In the Souper Bowl!

The Super Bowl football game is scheduled for Sun., Feb. 12 – but our Souper Bowl of Caring starts in January! You know that the Community Cupboard food pantry appreciates our help in providing soup for area households. And our stats are looking good: 146 cans/packages of soup in 2018; 176 in 2019; 400 in 2020; about 200 in 2021 (when we had recorded worship and were not together in-person!); and 304 in 2022! What we can do in 2023?! Challenge someone to “match or surpass” the number of cans/packages you donate! Give a can (or two, or three!) for every person in your extended family! Give a “can a day” for each day in January! Will there be a mountain of soup in the sanctuary by Feb. 12? Or a mountain range? Do you prefer to make a financial contribution? Write a check out to NLUMC with “Souper Bowl” on the memo line. If you want to send a check directly to the food pantry make it out to: WC Community Cupboard; c/o St. Joseph Residence, 107 E. Beckert Rd., New London, WI 54961.

Zoom Bible Chat

Pastor Joyce offers a discussion group on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM on Zoom. We read the passages listed for each week and talk about them. Be ready to share your questions and reflections. You can connect to Zoom with a phone or computer (but you'll probably enjoy it more if you have the ability to see and be seen on screen). Contact Pastor Joyce by email (pastorjoyce@mynewlondonumc.org) to get the current Zoom link.

January 4: Psalm 29; Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:5-6, 11-17; Acts 10:34-43

January 11: Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42; I Corinthians 1:1-9

January 18: Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23; I Corinthians 1:10-18

January 25: Psalm 15; Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12; I Corinthians 1:18-31

February 1: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20; I Corinthians 2:1-12

February 8: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; Matthew 5:21-37; I Corinthians 3:1-9

February 15: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; Matthew 17:1-9; II Peter 1:16-21

No Zoom on Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday service instead!

When Does Lent Begin?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This year that will be Wed., Feb. 22. There will be an ecumenical worship service at 6:30 PM at First Congregational United Church of Christ at 110 E. Hancock St. (corner of Pearl St. and Hancock St). The service will include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Is It Really in Plain Sight?

Here's the good news: if you enjoyed our Advent study book and the pre-worship discussion sessions – you'll be glad to know we're using Jill J. Duffield's book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, and the first discussions will be at 9:00 AM on Sun., Feb. 26; and 5:15 PM on Mon., Feb. 27. Copies of the book are available from Pastor Joyce. **Now for the other news:** if you didn't read the Advent book and thought the Advent worship services focused on weird themes because you didn't get the connection between the book and worship – you will probably have a similar experience during Lent if you don't read the book. A few suggestions: read the book; join a discussion group; be ready for worship.

If we missed your celebration - Call 920-982-4703 to let us know

**January Celebrations
Happy Birthday**

Jane Gorges	1/13
Iris Sakowski	1/18
Diane Stilen	1/19
Steve Bushie	1/28
Lynette McGuire	1/30



**February Celebrations
Happy Birthday**

Mary Dohrman	2/01
Shirleyann Schneider	2/01
Jeanne Lee	2/05
Jill Vyse	2/09
Ronna Herminath	2/15
Garrett Heise	2/16
Rose Brazil	2/17
Steve Thompson	2/23
Diane Tews	2/24

Happy Anniversary

Jack & Lynette McGuire	2/08
Dennis & Deatra Isham	2/14
Ron & Mary Bellile	2/15

Scrip Card Program

Scrip cards can be purchased Sunday mornings before or after church, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Scrip can also be purchased anytime the church office is open: Monday 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM; Tuesday 7:00 AM to Noon, Thursdays 7:00 AM to Noon. Tell your family, friends and neighbors they can use the program too. All scrip orders are placed by noon on Sundays.



Don't Forget the "Help for the Homeless" Drive

From Feb. 12 through March 5 we will be participating in the "Help for the Homeless" Drive to collect personal care and cleaning supplies that the Salvation Army will distribute to our neighbors in need in New London. Some of the 'most needed' items are:

- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Floor Cleaner
- Disinfectant Cleaner
- Garbage Bags
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Soft Soap
- Pads/Tampons
- Razors
- Toothpaste
- SOFT Toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Deodorant (unscented)
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers & Pull-Ups (Sizes 4-6)

Please donate **NEW items ONLY**. These items are **NOT** covered by FoodShare (food stamps) but are necessary for good health and dignity for people of all ages. The collection box will be by the church office.



Prayers

Please keep our Circuit Partners in your prayers: Clintonville UMC; Seymour/Cicero: New Life UMC; Waupaca Area Regional Ministry; Manawa UMC; Iola UMC.

With our members or family members who are looking for work.

With all of our Service Men and Women who serve here and abroad for our freedom.

With Nancy Gretzinger as she is at Brewster Village.

With Pete Popke on the loss of his sister, Carol Lind, on Wednesday December 28, 2022.



Need a Prayer Reminder?

Wouldn't it be great to get an email each day with specific prayer suggestions for people and situations that are relevant to our congregation and community? That's what you'll get when you join the church's **email prayer group**. Request a sample message from Pastor Joyce (pastorjoyce@mynewlondonumc.org). After receiving the sample message you can choose to continue receiving the prayer messages, or not. Even if you choose not to be a member of the prayer group you can still call in or email your prayer requests to Pastor Joyce to be included in the next message that goes out to the group. Many thanks to everyone already participating in this ministry of prayer!

United Women in Faith

Thank you to all who donated items to the St. Joe's Christmas store. It was very much appreciated as the residents picked out gifts to give to their families.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 19, 9:00 AM at Marly's.

Mission

Thank you to everyone that donated an ornament on the Mission Tree. All of the donations will go to the New London Community Cupboard.

A Puzzling Multiplication!

Jigsaw puzzles seem to be like rabbits. We left a few out on a table in Cottrill Hall – and now there are DOZENS to choose from! Take a puzzle (or two, or three) home with you! Give one to a friend before the next snowstorm!



Save the Date!

The Bishop's Convocation of Laity Leadership will be held on Sat., March 4 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM both online and at St. Paul's - The Springs UMC in Stevens Point (600 Wilshire Blvd., Stevens Point, WI 54481). Dr. Ted Campbell will be speaking on the topic, "Be a United Methodist: What does it mean in today's world?" More information on how to register will be available soon.

January

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Regular Print—New London UMC Calendar. *Italics: Building use by Community Groups*

Head Start Staff - Monday to Friday; Head Start Children - Monday to Thursday 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Samaritan Counseling Center (SCC)

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 AM Epiphany w/Holy Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Starts (1/1-2/13)	2 <i>SCC 7-7</i> 6:30 PM Epiphany w/ Holy Communion	3	4 6:00 PM Bible Chat on Zoom	5 <i>SCC 11-7</i> MOHH Meal	6	7
8 10:15 AM Baptism of the Lord Worship	9 <i>SCC 7-7</i> 6:30 PM Baptism of the Lord Worship	10 6:30 PM Church Council mtg	11 6:00 PM Bible Chat on Zoom	12 <i>SCC 11-7</i>	13	14
15 9:15 AM Mission mtg 10:15 AM Worship 11:15 AM Potluck and All Church mtg	16 6:30 PM Worship Rev. Dr. M.L. King Jr. Birthday Observance	17	18 6:00 PM Bible Chat on Zoom	19 <i>SCC 11-7</i> 9:00 AM UWF Meet @ Marly's 1:30 PM Pastor Joyce @ St. Joe's worship service MOHH Meal	20	21
22 10:15 AM Worship	23 <i>SCC 7-7</i> 5:45 PM Free Meal 6:30 PM Worship	24 6:00 PM SPRC mtg	25 6:00 PM Bible Chat on Zoom	26 <i>SCC 11-7</i>	27	28
29 10:15 AM Worship	30 <i>SCC 7-7</i> 6:30 PM Worship	31				

February

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Samaritan Counseling Center (SCC)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Headstart in Cottrill Hall 6:00 PM Bible Chat on Zoom	<i>2</i> SCC 11-7 MOHH Meal	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 10:15 AM Worship w/Communion 11:15 AM All Church mtg	<i>6</i> SCC 7-7 6:30 PM Worship w/ Communion	<i>7</i> 6:30 PM Church Council mtg	<i>8</i> 6:00 PM Bible Chat on Zoom	<i>9</i> SCC 11-7	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 10:15 AM Worship Hope for the Homeless Drive Starts (2/12-3/5)	<i>13</i> SCC 7-7 6:30 PM Worship Souper Bowl of Caring Concludes (1/1-2/13)	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM Kwik Trip in Cottrill Hall 6:00 PM Bible Chat on Zoom	<i>16</i> SCC 11-7 9:00 AM UWF Meet @ Marly's 1:30 PM Pastor Joyce @ St. Joe's worship service MOHH Meal	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 10:15 AM Transfiguration Worship	<i>20</i> SCC 7-7 5:45 PM Free Meal 6:30 PM Transfiguration Worship	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Lent Begins 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service @ First Congregational United Church of Christ (Corner of Hancock and Pearl Streets)	<i>23</i> SCC 11-7	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:00 AM Study Group 10:15 AM Worship	<i>27</i> SCC 7-7 5:15 PM Study Group 6:30 PM Worship	<i>28</i>				