



## New City United Methodist Church

76 Congers Road  
New City NY 10956  
845-634-1758  
[www.newcityumc.org](http://www.newcityumc.org)

Rev. Amanda Hemenetz,  
Pastor  
973-978-5162  
[umcofnewcity@gmail.com](mailto:umcofnewcity@gmail.com)

Jean Craig, Editor  
[jeancraigrn@gmail.com](mailto:jeancraigrn@gmail.com)

### April 2024 from Pastor Amanda

*"Behold, I am making all things new." -- Revelation 21:5*

What a whirlwind past couple of weeks for the parsonage family! A tree down on our house (and all the insurance fun that goes with that). Living elsewhere for a couple days (THANK YOU Steve and Claire!). Greg home sick for over a week. Pastoral care emergencies. Finishing the Sanctuary Study Team's report. Getting Greg caught up on homework. Clearing out the sanctuary (completely done now--thank you to all who helped). Receiving/setting up the new chairs in Fellowship Hall. Two family/friend funerals. Switching Greg's bedroom to another because he's TOO TALL for the one he was in. Planning for Holy Week and Easter. . . We're on vacation the first week of April! Looking forward to it!

I'm feeling a little in need of resurrection. Maybe you are, too. Good thing that's the season we're in! And in spite of all the stressors of late, I feel it, and I see it. Resurrection is here! The good--The church has new chairs in Fellowship Hall which are a huge improvement over the old ones (they were breaking). We've also installed a new flat screen TV for Zoom and a new computer with better sound, both of which will improve the experience of our Zoom worship community. The completion of the Sanctuary Study Team's report means we can move on to the next step in planning the future of our sanctuary. George, Greg, and I were uninjured when the tree hit the house, and the house needs mainly minor repairs. There is a lot to be thankful for, and many signs that we are moving FORWARD.

THANK YOU for all who have helped in so many ways over the past few weeks. You have shown me that you really know what it means to BE the church. And the most wonderful thing about it? I know you'd offer the same assistance and

care to anyone and everyone else in need. You are an INCREDIBLE church family.

You are a church family that is ready for, and is/will experience, resurrection!

Happy Easter,

Pastor Amanda



## Birthdays

April 4-Nicholas Behr; Patrick Mensah

April 7-Kelley Behr; Pat Ekedal

April 14-Lisa Rohrs; Winsome Downie Rainford

April 16-Thomas Atzl

April 18-Carol Kepler; Gregory Morano; Lisa McGuy

April 19-Delia Mahaffey; Kimberly Behr

April 21-Melanie Campbell

April 23-Jean Craig

April 24-Dillon Mahaffey

April 28-Linda Kontos

April 29-Elizabeth Forchelli



## Prayers...

for Burt & Senya Renfroe and all those in nursing facilities;

for Norbert Rainford and the healing of his leg;

for Doug Caulk as he continues chemo;

for Betsy who was recently hospitalized;

for Mihea, Ben, and Daisy as they recover from injuries and illness;

for all war-torn areas, including Gaza, Israel, and Ukraine;

for those who are traveling;

for those with cancer;

for those who are or have been hospitalized;

for our mental health;

for those in hospice care;

for those who mourn;

for those whose families are estranged;

for all who struggle;

for those with respiratory illnesses;

for our educators and musicians;

for those with COVID;

for our doctors and other medical professionals;

for our church.



### **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 7th. 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.

During the month of March we collected 182 pounds of food.

Signs of Spring



MONTHLY MISSIONS FOR 2024



JANUARY: New City’s fire department and ambulance corps – support heroes who protect our church



FEBRUARY: Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center – for education, health, employment, advocacy



MARCH: United Nations gender equality project – empower women & girls everywhere



APRIL: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. – protect Hudson River & wetlands with education & advocacy



MAY: Health Lifeline Clinic – free healthcare for those in need, run by our own Dr. Norbert Rainford



JUNE: Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud – serve youth in South Dakota reservation in Charleen Caulk’s memory



JULY: Alzheimer’s research – support research and clinical trials to prevent, ameliorate and cure



AUGUST: Doctors Without Borders –care for people affected by conflict and disasters.



SEPTEMBER: Tanzanian clergy support & US Methodist student scholarships



OCTOBER: Volunteer to help in a local food program



NOVEMBER: Project Joy – give Rockland County kids clothing and toys for a joyous Christmas



DECEMBER: Alternative Christmas - support Meals on Wheels in Mary Gardella’s memory

# Mission for April

## RiverKeeper

Riverkeeper is New York's clean water advocate.

From their website:

Riverkeeper protects and restores the Hudson River from the source to the sea and safeguards drinking water supplies, through advocacy rooted in community partnership, science and law."

Here's what Riverkeeper stands for:

Guarding your waterways,  
Defending clean drinking water,  
Finding solutions.

To read more about the organization and all the good they are doing to protect our beautiful Hudson River and New York waterways, go to [riverkeeper.org](http://riverkeeper.org)

Donations by check should be made to our Church with Riverkeeper noted or via the button on our Church website [newcityumc.org](http://newcityumc.org) Thank you!!



**Worship Service Time: 10:30am**

Both in-person in Fellowship Hall (masks optional)  
and on Zoom

**Worship/Sermon Topics**

April 7--2nd Sunday of Easter. Pastor Amanda away. Konrad Soong preaching/leading worship.

April 14--3rd Sunday of Easter. "Jesus Sightings" - Week 1.\*\*

April 21--4th Sunday of Easter. Celebration of Earth Day with our Church & Society Committee.

April 28--5th Sunday of Easter. "Jesus Sightings" - Week 2.\*\*

\*\*\*"Jesus Sightings" -- During the Easter season, you are invited to share a story of when Jesus has shown up in your life. To be one of our speakers during the sermon time (5 minute time frame), reach out to Pastor Amanda. ("Jesus Sightings" will also be happening on May 5)

**Pastor Amanda will be on vacation**

**Monday, April 1 - Monday, April 8, returning Tuesday April 9.**

Warren Brandt is on-call for pastoral care emergencies. His cell is 845-800-0113.

## Volunteer Opportunities

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Contact Pastor Amanda to volunteer or with questions.

**Help with ushering & set-up/break down of our worship space** — As we're in Fellowship Hall, which is used by multiple groups throughout the week, we need to set up and break down everything, every Sunday. If you're willing to help on a rotational basis, please speak to Sue Delo or Pastor Amanda

**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.

**Prepare/Provide lunch for our Confirmation Class**—This is a great way to support our young people as they get to know Methodism and grow their faith. We meet at the Parsonage. 4 teenagers and Pastor Amanda. Contact Pastor Amanda to choose a date.

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## Fellowship Hour

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Join us following our worship service for refreshments and good company! Fellowship hour is held in Fellowship Hall. To assist with set-up, clean up, and/or to provide food, please speak with Joanne Hegarty. A sign-up sheet is available on the church bulletin board.

Join us for FOOD and FELLOWSHIP!





You are invited . . .

## Book Study for Spring 2024

# At Home in Mitford

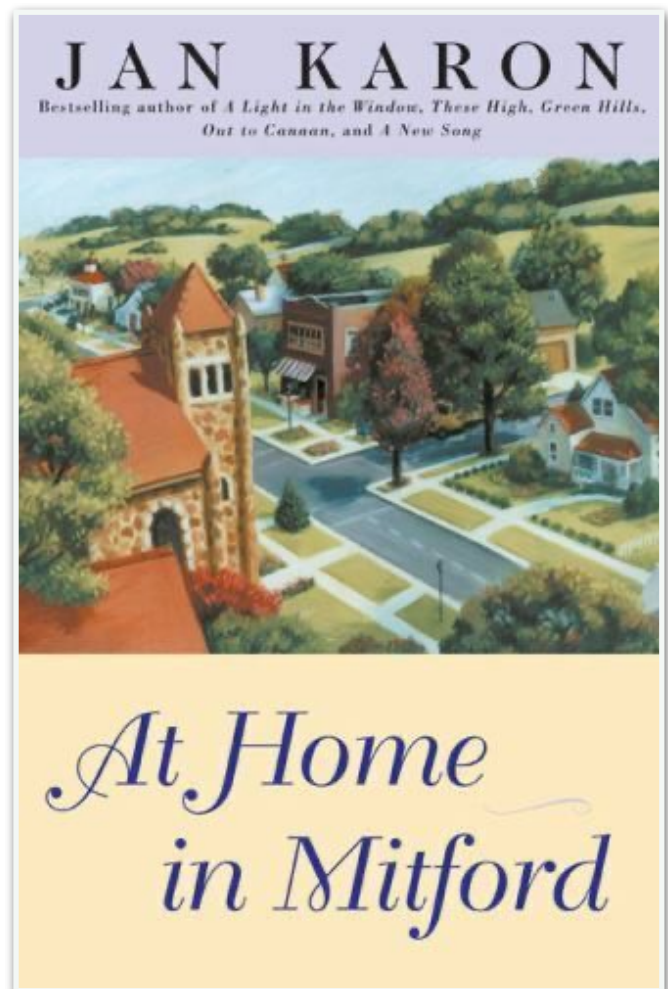
written by Jan Karon

*A fictional story of a pastor, a church, a community, and the highs and lows of faith.*

**6 Thursdays, beginning  
April 25, 7pm on Zoom.**

Participants must acquire their own book. No reading required for the first class.

**RSVP to Pastor Amanda by Monday,  
April 22** -- [umcofnewcity@gmail.com](mailto:umcofnewcity@gmail.com)  
(email); 973-978-5162 (call or text)



### Important Dates

Monday, April 1 - Monday, April 8: Pastor Amanda on vacation.

Sunday, April 7: Konrad Soong preaching/leading worship.

Wednesday, April 17: Trustees Meeting 7pm on Zoom.

Saturday, April 13: Youth Group "Lock-In" (see below).

Sunday, April 14: Church Council Meeting 9am on Zoom

Sunday, April 21: Celebration of Earth Day with our Church & Society Committee. Confirmation Class after worship.

Thursday, April 25: New book study begins (see page 9).

#### 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**



#### Youth Group Announcement

We took a break from Youth Group in March so the pastors could get ready for Holy Week, but we're back for April! A "Lock-In" is planned for Saturday, April 13, at the Pearl River UMC. 6pm - 11pm. Includes dinner and lots of fun! Youth Group is for those in 6th grade thru high school. Any questions, speak with George Hemenetz.





## **2024 Sunday school News**

March was a busy month for the children, they made Easter cards for the homeless shut-ins in New York City. An important focus for March was learning about HOLY WEEK; Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and of course Easter Sunday. They also enjoyed the Annual Easter Egg Hunt after church.



### **For April:**

The Bible verse: The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

The Lessons: Unit 2: Share

April 7: The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

April 14: Peter and John (Acts 3:1-10 )

April 21: Believers Share(Acts 4:32-3 )

April 28: Choosing the Seven (Acts 6:1-7)

Pray: Dear God, thank you for always being with us, thank you for giving us Jesus thank you for teaching us to share and to learn to take care of one another. Thank you. Amen.

Peace be with you all,

Patricia Javenes

# HOPE

(a poem written by our church's children)

Hope is believing.

Hope is praying.

Hope is wanting, and loving, and sharing.

Hope is sleeping in late.

Hope is like a big juicy steak.

Hope is when my dog plays with me.

Hope looks like a rainbow, like a cardinal, like a hummingbird.

Hope looks like God.

(created during the Children's Message on March 3, 2024)



WE ARE CALLED TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR  
PERFECT LITTLE WORLD



Remember Earth Day and our planet, our only home, all year long.

Thank You from Smile Train:

"As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, I am in awe of all the ways our dedicated Smile Makers are lighting up the world each day. Thanks to the support of kind people like you, Smile Train has grown from a single patient in 1999 into the world's largest, most effective, most sustainable cleft organization. . . By giving \$635.15 to Smile Train, you have done so much more than give a forever smile. You have quite literally saved lives. . . Thank you for giving children around the world hope for a better future and a lifetime of healthy smiles."



## Sanctuary Update

Our Sanctuary Study Committee has completed their work, and their report was submitted to and accepted by our District Superintendent. **We have received the "all clear" to move on the next step of imagining the future of our sanctuary**, which is to hold a Special Called Church Conference to receive the Sanctuary Study Committee's report and to elect members to the Building Committee. Meeting date/time/location TBD. **Volunteers are sought to put their names forth for consideration to be on the Building Committee.** This committee will work with contractors/architects to establish what we want going forward, will determine costs of such, and will bring necessary info to the rest of the congregation. Membership in this committee would be a long-standing commitment (months to years). Committee members must be open to new ideas and have the well being of our entire church and surrounding community in mind. To volunteer to be CONSIDERED, please reach out to Pastor Amanda.

### African American Heritage Service





A lovely reader

Moms saying 'Hi' to their kids on Zoom



Acolyte instructor / student



Young friends



St. Paddy's Day Ladies

