



New City United Methodist Church

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May 2025 from Pastor Amanda

By now, all the petals have fallen and the tree is green rather than pink and white, but the magnolia in the New City UMC courtyard was INCREDIBLE this year! The tree was full, the flowers large, and their sweet scent filled the space on Easter and for a couple days before. I wasn't expecting it. I was expecting it to die.

Because a couple years ago, it did die. It was close to blooming, the buds just beginning to open, when we were hit with a multi-day freeze. Soon after, those buds all fell off, without their flowers ever seeing the light of day. It was sad for me, and for many who wait for the tree each year. And as we experienced a similar freeze again this year, just a little over a week before Easter, I was worried for the tree. When a windstorm took a decent amount of the just-beginning-to-open buds off the tree the Tuesday before Easter, I thought death had begun, and I began to mourn for the tree. I assumed soon all the buds would follow, cascading to the ground without showing their colors.

But I was wrong.

As the weather warmed, so did the tree. It opened in all its splendor on Good Friday, remained at peak through Holy Saturday, and on Easter Sunday was a sight to behold, as it was full of flowers but shedding petals at the same time – all was pink and white, and raining pink and white. It was spectacular.

And as family after family, couple after couple, took pictures under the tree after worship on Easter Sunday, I found myself so happy that I had been wrong.

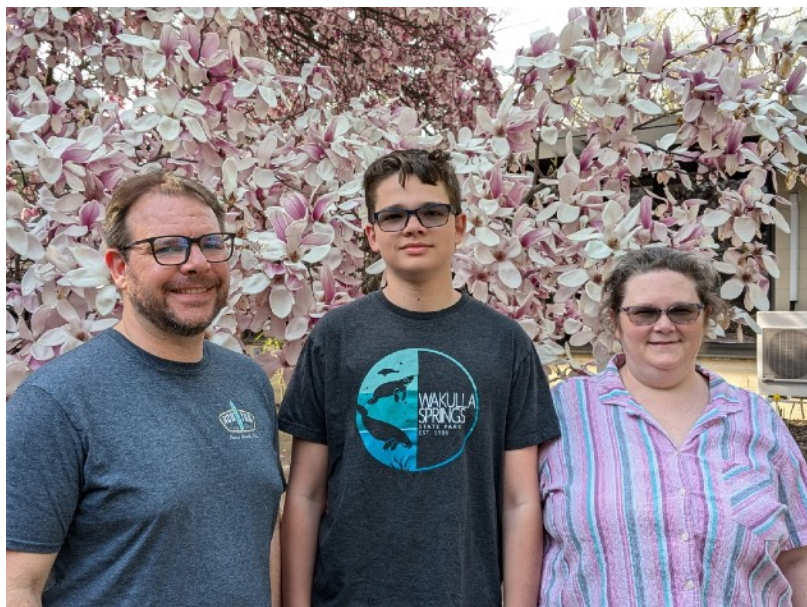
Thank you, God, for the times when we expect the worst but are wrong. Thank you that you know better than we do. Thank you that our own musings do not usually come true. Thank you for the many times we have been, and will be, proven wrong.

After all, that was the joy of Easter. When we believed Jesus was dead, but we were proven wrong.

Happy spring!

Peace,

Pastor Amanda



Birthdays

May 6-Judy Troia

May 10-Patricia Javenes

May 14-Natalie DeLeon

May 17-Eric Rohrs

May 18-Ryan Atzl; Kimberly Atzl

May 20-Russ Woolley

May 21-Aaron DeLeon

May 25-Brent DeLeon

May 28-Lauren Kontos



Prayers...

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

for Doug Caulk as he continues chemo;

For Anita Staats, as she transitions into her new apartment after rehab;

for Jeannine Alexandro as she prepares for open heart surgery;

for Ray Castel as he awaits a lung transplant;

for Bill Campbell who is experiencing health issues;

for Eleanor Frank (Jean Craig's mom) as she recovers from a broken hip;

for the Corbett family (pastor at Pearl River UMC) on the diagnosis of little Georgia's type 1 diabetes;

for those in Myanmar and Thailand after the earthquake;

for those with cancer;

for those who mourn;

for peace in our world;

for the East Ramapo School District;

for our country's leadership;

for our democracy;

for those facing medical tests;

for help in our jobs;

for the men in the Salvadorian prison;

for those with illness and/or injury;

for those in abusive relationships;

for those experiencing homelessness and/or food scarcity;

for the people of Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Russia, Israel;

for the amount of traffic we deal with;

for those who struggle to find a diagnosis;

for our thrift shop families;

for the Catholic Church on the death of Pope Francis.





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 June 1st. 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.



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

Mission for May



financial support for

The Martin Luther King Multi- Purpose Center

Taken from their website:

The Mandate: We will find any possible way to empower our children, families, and community with the strength to participate in the outgoing development of their lives, so they can ultimately make decisions as informed citizens.

Our Mission: To provide supplemental educational, health, cultural, social, and recreational programs that empower children, adults, and elders to achieve personal success, even as they contribute to the building of a stronger, sustainable society. The Center also strives to preserve the ideals of non-violence, peace, human rights, social justice, and equality, thereby keeping alive Dr. King's dream of building the "Beloved Community".

Help support our Mission: Through your generosity, the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center can continue to make a difference in the lives of the children, adults, and seniors in our community. Your gift allows us to continue the Programs and Services that the Cent4er provides.

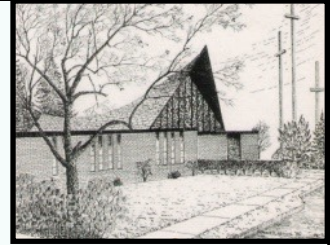
"Whenever you set out to build a temple, all labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence". – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This Center has been supporting and empowering our community for years. They are local. They enrich our society.

Donations by check should be made to our Church with MLK Center or button on our Church website: newcityumc.org. Thank you!

Worship Service Time: 10:30am

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

**Worship/Sermon Topics**

May 4: **AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Month Celebration** with our Church & Society Committee and our AAPI members and friends. Mihea Kim will be preaching. **Food Pantry Sunday. Regional Youth Group gathering at Suffern UMC 6-8pm.**

May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter. **Mother's Day.**

May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter. **Children's Celebration in worship. Picnic following worship. Last day of Sunday School.**

May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter. **Memorial Day Weekend.**

Children's Celebration and Picnic

We'll be celebrating our Sunday School children and teachers in worship on **Sunday, May 18.** Our kids are writing various parts of the service and will be leading as well! After worship, we'll enjoy a church picnic together. Bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Pastor Amanda to volunteer or with questions.

Bulletin Creators Needed! Pastor Amanda will be taking a leave of absence for 6 Sundays starting June 2. She'll be around for some basic office needs, but is requesting a volunteer (or 2 or 3) to make the worship bulletins while she's "gone." If available and willing, speak with 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.

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 5/4 - Celebration of AAPI Month in worship. Regional Youth Group gathering at Suffern UMC 6-8pm. Food Pantry Sunday.

Wednesday 5/7 - Trustees Meeting on Zoom, 7:30pm.

Sunday 5/11 - Mother's Day.

Sunday 5/18 - Church Council meeting on Zoom, 9am. Children's Celebration in worship with picnic following. Last day of Sunday School.

Sunday 5/18 - Tuesday 5/20 Pastor Amanda and Doug Caulk at Annual Conference (Wildwood, NJ).

Wednesday 5/21 - Pastor Amanda vacation day.

Monday 5/26 - Memorial Day

Sunday School Creations



Sunday School

We're already coming to the end of our season!

May 18 will be the last day of Sunday School! Plan for your child to be present as they will be leading a number of the elements of worship. Stay after worship for a church family picnic! Bring a side dish or desert to share.

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!

After our April break for Easter, we're picking up again on Sunday, May 4! We'll be at the Suffern UMC (18 Parkside Drive) from 6 - 8pm. We'll have dinner, games, conversation, and worship all Star Wars themed ('May the 4th be with you')! Youth Group is for those in 6th grade thru high school. Come have fun and make new friends!

Update on our Sanctuary

On April 13 a Special Called Church Conference was held. We voted to install shoring on the inside of the sanctuary to render the building safe and give us time to hire an architect, decide on a plan for fixing/rebuilding the roof, and fundraise. Our goal is to rent the shoring for a maximum of three years, and be ready to fix/rebuild by our 200th anniversary in 2028. Please keep the Building Committee in prayer as we proceed, and if you are ready and feel called to do so, give to the Sanctuary of Hope Fund (online at newcityumc.org , by mail, or in worship).

Pastor Amanda to take a “Spiritual Growth and Renewal” Leave of Absence

Pastor Amanda will be taking a leave of absence for six weeks, from June 2 through July 13. She will be using the time to turn her doctoral thesis into a book for other clergy. Her thesis topic was "Difficult Conversations in Worship." The book will focus on why political conversations are appropriate in the worship space and how to have them in a Christ-centered way. She feels called to this work and is excited to offer her experience to other clergy who are looking for guidance, especially considering our current times in the USA. She's not gone for good, though. While she will not be leading worship during those Sundays, she will be available for true emergencies and making sure the office functions. The rest of the time, she'll be writing, researching, reading, praying, resting, worshipping elsewhere (a rare treat for clergy), and holding us all dear in her heart. She appreciates your support in this endeavor, and is honored to be your pastor.

Easter Flowers 2025



Given in memory of . . .

By . . .

Thomas & Mary Coleman

Doris & Bill Atzl

Andrew & Lydia Atzl

Doris & Bill Atzl

Frank Brooks, Sr.

Joyce Brooks

Loved Ones

Joyce Brooks

Tré Castel

The Castel Family

Patricia & Charles McLoughlin

The Castel Family

Jake & Beef Castel

The Castel Family

Our Parents (2)

Sue & Chuck Delo

My Parents

Maureen Gallagher

Michael Maslanek

Rita Negrón Maslanek

Robert McMann

Betsy McMann

Patrick Nolan

The Nolan Family

Ted Toniuk

The Nolan Family

John Rubbo

Megan Rubbo

Carmine Rubbo

Megan Rubbo

Frank & Marie Downie (parents)

Norbert & Winsome Downie Rainford

<i>Luna & Clarence Rainford (parents)</i>	<i>Norbert & Winsome Downie Rainford</i>
<i>Neville Rainford (brother)</i>	<i>Norbert & Winsome Downie Rainford</i>
<i>Daphne Downie (cousin)</i>	<i>Norbert & Winsome Downie Rainford</i>
<i>Pauline McCalla (cousin)</i>	<i>Norbert & Winsome Downie Rainford</i>
<i>Susanna Berbano</i>	<i>Lita & Ernie Reyes</i>
<i>Lizzie Reyes</i>	<i>Lita & Ernie Reyes</i>
<i>Loved Ones</i>	<i>Lita & Ernie Reyes</i>
<i>Vicki Meseroll</i>	<i>The Troia Family</i>
<i>Loved Ones</i>	<i>The Troia Family</i>
<i>Loved Ones</i>	<i>The Edwin Woolley Family</i>
<i>Robert Forsell (beloved brother)</i>	<i>Muriel Woolley</i>

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In Honor of . . .

<i>Our Building Committee</i>	<i>The Hemenetz Family</i>
<i>Our Thrift Shop Volunteers</i>	<i>The Hemenetz Family</i>

Given to the glory of God by . . .

The Soong Family (2)

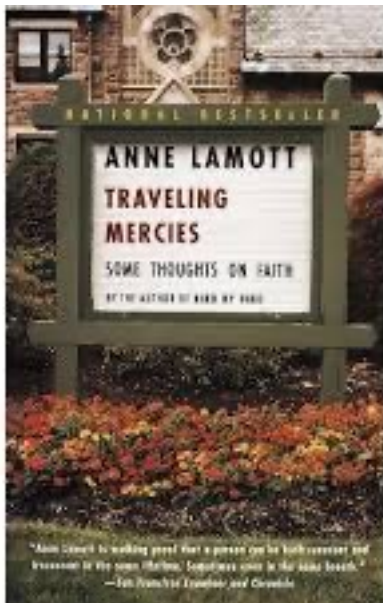
You are invited . . .

Book Study for Spring 2025

Traveling Mercies:

Some Thoughts on Faith

written by Anne Lamott



A spiritual memoir written with passion, insight, and humor

2 Wednesdays, May 14 & May 28, 7pm on Zoom.

Participants must acquire their own book. Please read the first half for the first session (through all of Part 3).

RSVP to Pastor Amanda by Monday, May 12 --
umcofnewcity@gmail.com (email); 973-978-5162 (call or text)



Earth Day Pot Luck!





Maundy Thursday
Worship and Communion



Pastor Gabby (Pearl River) and her daughter
Georgia



Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast

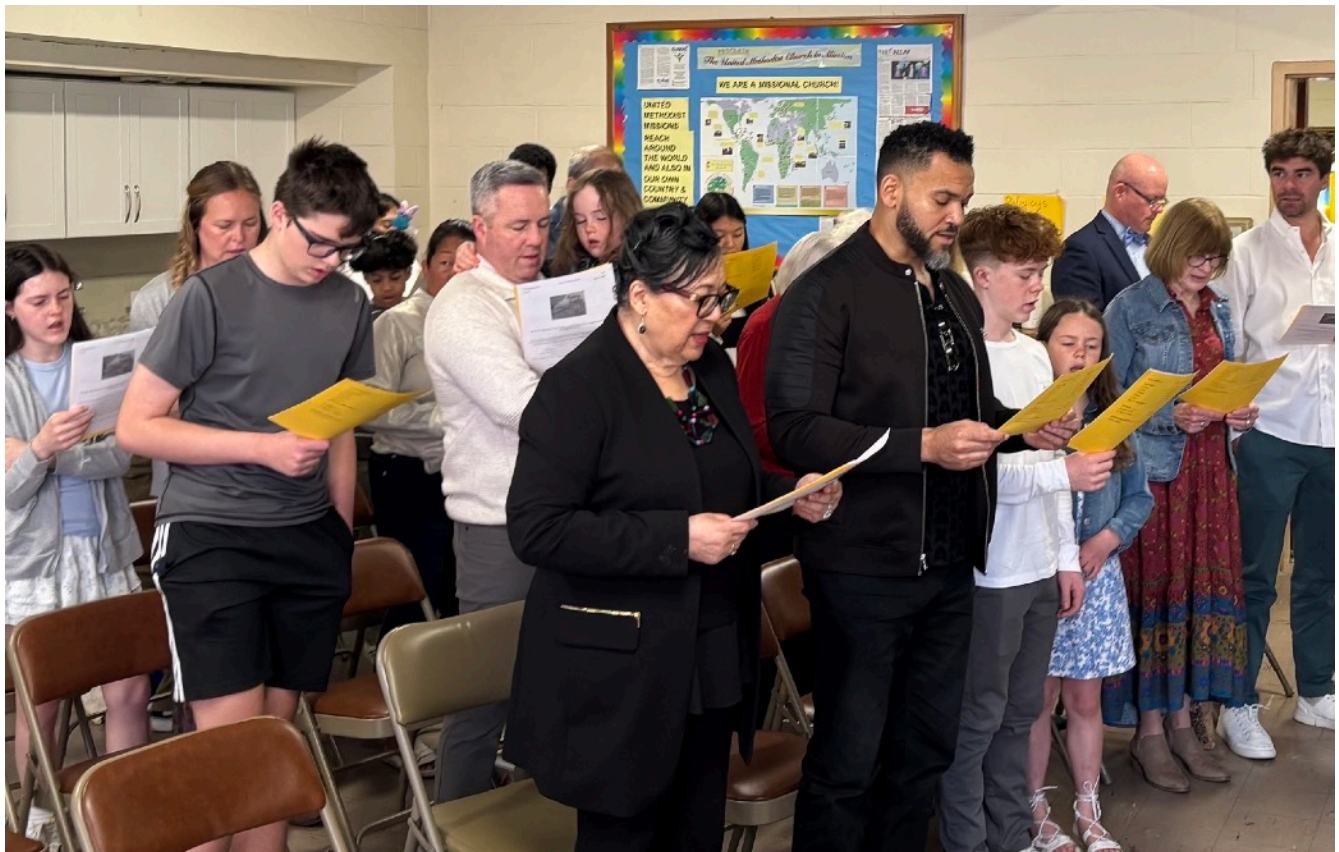


Easter Celebration Worship



Easter Worship







Easter Egg Hunt



Some special friends on Easter!



