



New City United Methodist Church

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January 2026 from Pastor Amanda

For the New Year

I don't know what 2026 will bring, but I'm sure there will be both joys and sorrows, pleasure and pain — such is life. There is always the ebb and flow of blessings and tribulation. Every year of history has brought both, and this year will be no different.

What I DO hope will be different, though, is our appreciation of the good and our response to the bad. We all take the beautiful for granted, even those of us who notice it more often than others. I hope we pay more attention in the new year, and say thank you more often to the One who gifts us with blessings. I hope you say thank you more often, too, to those whose presence and daily work make our days a little easier — the cashier at the checkout counter, the garbage collector, the farm worker, the cleaning lady.

As far as our response to difficulty, I hope we reconsider what might be best. Name calling and despair might feel somewhat productive, but they are not. I had a panic attack recently in a doctor's office, and his response has altered the way I think about any trial or tribulation. His words to me were simple -- no pity or platitudes, just "How can I help?" That's the response to difficulty I hope we can embrace. "How can I help?" Because offering help can change people, communities, and the world.

Gratitude, and "How can I help?" Those would be incredibly productive, appropriate, and Spirit-filled mottos for 2026. Mottos Jesus would agree with.

Happy New Year to you and yours.

Peace,

Pastor Amanda

Birthdays

January 11-Gregory Hemenetz

January 14-Diana Hughes

January 22-Kenneth Shaw

January 26-Christina Atzl

January 29-John Tomich

January 30-Maureen Gallagher; Bill Hughes



Prayers...

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

for Doug Caulk as he continues chemo;

for Ray Castel as he awaits a lung transplant;

for Darin McMann and his neurological issues;

For Warren Brandt as he recovers from heart surgery;

for Diana's dad, Rev. Te Jin Chung, and his health issues;

for all who have cancer;

for those who mourn;

for our military;

for the Jewish community, especially those affected by the shooting in Australia;

for the students, teachers, and staff of Brown University following the shooting there;

for all those facing or recovering from surgery;

for those with heart disease;

for our thrift shop family;

for all who are traveling;

for new babies and their families;

for those for whom the holidays are difficult.





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 Sunday, February 4th. 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.



From Jeannine:

2026 WILL BRING US MANY OPPORTUNITIES

We look forward to a wonderful year in which we can make positive differences in our world, near and far. Together, we will continue our work to fulfill our church Mission Statement: "Serving God through Serving the Community."

2026 Monthly Missions



JANUARY Hudson Valley Humane Society



FEBRUARY Black History Month. MLK Jr. Multipurpose Center



MARCH Nyack's Health Lifeline Clinic



APRIL Earth Day month World Wildlife Fund



MAY World Hunger Month Spring Valley UMC Food Program



JUNE Rockland's Pride Center



JULY New City's Center for Safety and Change- a haven and advocacy center



AUGUST Mercy Ships bring Healthcare to the poorest areas



SEPTEMBER Nanuet's Foundation Recovery Community Center



OCTOBER UNICEF- help families in need worldwide



NOVEMBER Project Joy- gifts for Rockland County Children



DECEMBER Autism Research Institute



UMC of New City - January Mission

Give Hope for Homeless Pets at Hudson Valley Humane Society

To pursue animal welfare, protect the innocent, and provide a safe haven for all animals in their care.

A no-kill Shelter Since 1981 that provides a loving refuge for abused, abandoned, and unwanted animals in Rockland County.

Your gift will help cover the costs necessary to provide their furry wards with necessary medical care, nutritious food, and gracious support to find them a forever home.

Donate today at www.newcityumc.org, scan the QR code, or give by check (made out to UMC of New City)/cash with "HVHS" noted.



Worship Service Time:

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

and on Zoom

Worship/Sermon Topics

Beginning January 11, we'll be taking a look at Jesus' early life from Biblical and other sources.

Jan 4: 2nd Sunday after Christmas. Celebration of Epiphany. Konrad Soong preaching & leading worship.

Jan 11: 1st Sunday after Epiphany. "Young Jesus" - Week 1: The Murder of the Innocents. Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Jan 18: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. "Young Jesus" - Week 2: In the Temple

Jan 25: MLK Birthday Observance Service with Our Church & Society Committee

Feb 1: 4th Sunday after Epiphany. "Young Jesus" - Week 3: From the Infancy Gospels. Sacrament of Holy Communion.



Important Dates

Wednesday, January 7: Trustees Meeting 7:30pm on Zoom

Sunday, January 11: Church Council Meeting 9:00am on Zoom; Regional Youth Group @ Pearl River 6:00-8:00pm

Monday, January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr Day

Sunday, January 25: MLK Birthday Observance Service with our Church & Society Committee; Building Committee Meeting after worship

Children's Church Table

We're trying something new for our youngest worshippers this year.

We're calling it the "Children's Church Table." Our children (pre-k through 6th grade) will be invited to move to the Children's Church Table in the "narthex" (area just outside Fellowship Hall) after the Children's Message in worship. A Table "Host" will join them, and there they'll find activities geared toward the worship theme of the day. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer as a "Host,"

please speak with Pastor Amanda. Thank you to all our "hosts" and families!

Youth Group

Our next Regional Youth Group gathering will be Sunday, January 11, at the Pearl River UMC.

6:00pm - 8:00pm.

We'll be celebrating the gifts of the 3 Kings with an "Epiphany Party!" Youth Group is for those in 6th grade thru high school. Bring a friend!

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



Thrift shop volunteers holiday celebration (thanks, Jeannine!)



Poinsettias 2025

<i>Given in memory of . . .</i>	<i>By . . .</i>
<i>John & Naomi Anthony</i>	<i>Jayon Anthony</i>
<i>Blanche McWilliams</i>	<i>Jayon Anthony</i>
<i>Frank Brooks, Sr.</i>	<i>Joyce Brooks</i>
<i>Loved Ones</i>	<i>Joyce Brooks</i>
<i>My Parents</i>	<i>Maureen Gallagher</i>
<i>Bert Hughes</i>	<i>Bill & Kathie Hughes</i>
<i>Jack Buculick</i>	<i>Bill & Kathie Hughes</i>
<i>Hector Manuel Quiles</i>	<i>Evelyn Quiles Jaegar</i>
<i>Miles & Alice Williams</i>	<i>Bishop Alfred & Shantelle Williams Johnson</i>
<i>Earl & Cora Johnson</i>	<i>Bishop Alfred & Shantelle Williams Johnson</i>
<i>Sherrie Dobbs Johnson</i>	<i>Bishop Alfred & Shantelle Williams Johnson</i>
<i>Michael Malanek</i>	<i>Rita Negrón Maslanek</i>
<i>Robert McMann</i>	<i>Betsy McMann</i>
<i>Patrick Nolan</i>	<i>Nolan Family</i>
<i>Eric Reid</i>	<i>Francis & James Reid</i>
<i>Mrs. Susana Berbano (my mother)</i>	<i>Lita Reyes</i>
<i>Lizzie Reyes (our granddaughter)</i>	<i>Lita & Ernie Reyes</i>

*Tidings**Loved Ones**Lita & Ernie Reyes**George Drescher**Debby Sandberg**Mary Gardella**Debby Sandberg**My Parents & My Brothers**Anita Staats**Vicki Meseroll**Judy Troia**Loved Ones**The Edwin Woolley Family**Robert Forsell (beloved brother)**Muriel Woolley*

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*Given in honor of . . .**By . . .*

*My friend, Jeanmarie Grahm**Debby Sandberg**Voncile Oliver**Bishop Alfred & Shantelle
Williams Johnson*



From the Innocence Project: Thank you for your generous gift of \$470 received on 10/24/2025. With this gift, you are helping to restore freedom for the innocent, transform the systems responsible for their wrongful incarceration, and advance the innocence movement. For over three decades, the Innocence Project has used DNA and other scientific advancements to

free or exonerate more than 250 people. Thank you for partnering with us to build fair, compassionate, and equitable systems of justice for everyone.

-From World Central Kitchen: Thank you for your gift in the amount of \$1,223! We are a team of first responders, mobilizing with the urgency of now to provide meals to the people who need them most. Deploying our model of quick action, leveraging local resources, and adapting in real time, WCK has provided more than 535 million meals since 2010 in response to community crisis around the world. Thank you for your belief and trust in our mission.

-From UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief): Thank you for your gift of \$895! Through your financial support, you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people 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 the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

-From the UMC of Spring Valley: On behalf of the UMC of Spring Valley and the grateful citizens of Jamaica, we extend our deepest and most heartfelt appreciation to you. Your partnership in collecting essential items for our Relief Effort following the devastating hurricane has been a true blessing. Thank you for embodying the spirit of Christ through your gracious giving. May God continue to bless your church, your ministry, and every heart that contributed to this mission of mercy.

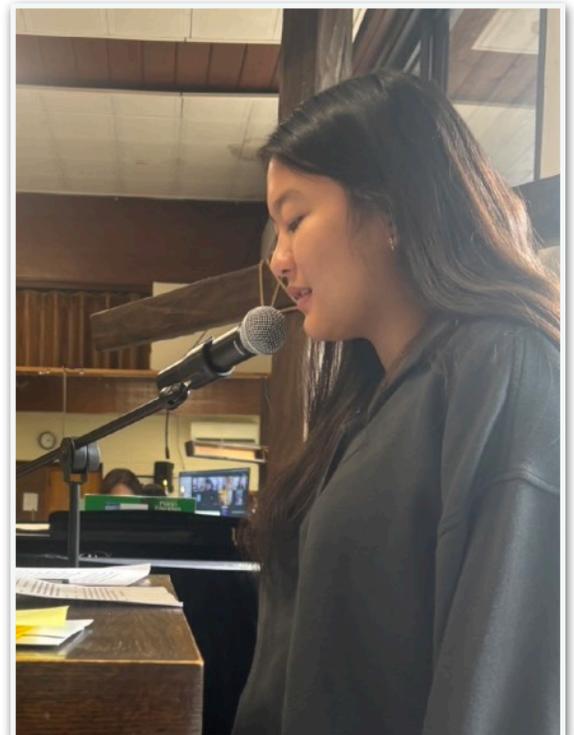
Our donations for Jamaica



Regional Thanksgiving Celebration



A great reader



Greening Service







Winter Jazz Concert





A great visit with Ester

