

JANUARY / FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



NEW MARKET UMC WINTER NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS SEASON'S ISSUE:

- Upcoming Meetings/Events
- Our After Epiphany Worship Series
- Christmas in New Market
- New Building UPDATES
- Look back on Christmas!

newmarketumc.com



PASTOR'S NOTE

BLESSINGS 2025

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. -Psalm 46: 1-5

As we approach the day when old man time of 2024 drags his butt across the threshold of the end of his year. We can pause to reflect. I am sure that many of us have had some tremendous highs and some tremendous lows. With each reflection of victories and losses we can exhale with the same words; "what a year"! It is true, time does fly. I believe it was just yesterday that a young girl in sporting goods at K-mart caught my eye, now we are discussing the upcoming Medicare plans. Life moves at breakneck speed and if we do not take the time to pause, reflect, and give thanks, it will certainly sprain if not break our neck. We need to remember that just 365 days ago, 2024 was a baby, bright with promise, bright with hope, full of dreams and wishes. We do not know what promise lies ahead in the dawn of every new day or what dread might befall us. If we are not careful it can leave us bitter, sarcastic, and bereft of resolve. That is why it is very important to remember to count your blessings every day, most importantly on the days that you absolutely do not feel like it. Like it or not there is a new baby sporting the year 2025 across its chest in a banner like the baby just won a beauty contest. Hold on, baby, is all I can say. I know this year will offer what every other

year has had to offer, joy, sorrow, happiness, sadness, fulfilled dreams, and dreams gone awry. My main comfort every year is that I am not alone, and you are not alone, we have each other, and we have the promise of God. That no matter what we experience in the coming year, God will not forsake us, God will not abandon us. This I know as a fact; some days, it seems more of a hope, but through the years, I have always been delivered into a new space of gratitude. I think this is going to be quite a year, and it will be both ways, highs and lows, mountains and valleys; let's continue to count the blessings even amongst the storms. I leave with this song by Laura Story. Play this song throughout the year, especially when you feel overwhelmed and defeated. God is with us, God will persevere in our lives.

Blessings by Laura Story

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace,
comfort for family, protection while we sleep

We pray for healing, for prosperity,
we pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
And all the while, you hear each spoken need, yet
love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings
come through raindrops?

What if Your healing comes through tears?

What if a thousand sleepless nights

Are what it takes to know You're near?

And what if trials of this life are

Your mercies in disguise?

UPCOMING WORSHIP

January 5 | Epiphany Sunday- "Greatly Disrupted"

Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12 **COMMUNION SUNDAY**

January 12 | Baptism of the Lord- "Wade in the Water"

Isaiah 43: 1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19 | Second Sunday after the Epiphany- "Mazel Tov"

Isaiah 62: 1-5, Johan 2: 1-11

January 26 | Third Sunday after the Epiphany- "As Was His Custom"

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a, Luke 4: 14-21

February 2 | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany- "No Going Back"

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13, Luke 4: 21-30 **COMMUNION SUNDAY**

February 9 | Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany- "Put Out Into the Deep"

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11, Luke 5: 1-11

February 16 | Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany- " Happy are Those"

1 Corinthians 15: 12-20, Luke 6: 17-26

February 23 | Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany-

"Against All Nature" 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50, Luke 6: 27-38



Coming Up:

Fellowship Planning Meeting: January 4 | 1 PM | Schoolhouse

New Member Discovery Class: January 11 | 9:00 AM | Pastor's Office

Lay Servant Class: January 25 | 9:00 AM | Education Building

Game Day: January 25 | 12:00 PM | Schoolhouse

Lay Servant Class: February 8 | 9:00 AM | Education Building

Souper Bowl Luncheon Setup: February 8 | 10:00 AM | Schoolhouse

Souper Bowl Luncheon: February 9 | 12:15 PM | Schoolhouse

Every Month

Men's Breakfast: 8:00 AM | Burger King in New Market (January 4, February 1)

Circle of Friends: 12:30 PM | Schoolhouse (Jan. 14, Feb 11)

Capital Campaign Meeting: 10:00 AM | Pastor's Office (Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Feb 6, 13, 20, 27)

Hope4Kids Packing: 6:00 PM | Schoolhouse (Jan. 14, Feb. 11)

SPRC: 3:00 PM | Ed. Building (February 11)

Stephen Ministry Supervisory Meeting: 7:00 PM | Sanctuary (Jan. 14, Feb. 11)

LIFT: 12:00 PM | Schoolhouse (Jan 20. Feb 17)

Every Month cont.

Full Council: 7:00 PM | Ed. Building (Jan. 21, Feb. 18)

Trustees: 6:00 PM | Ed. Building (Jan. 7, Feb. 4)

Finance: 7:00 PM | Zoom (Jan. 27)

Young Women's Bible Study: 6:00 PM | Locations TBD | (Jan. 16 and 30, Feb. 13)

Every Week:

Sunday School | 9:30AM | Ed. Building and Schoolhouse

Scripture to Life Bible Study | Tuesdays | 10 AM | Sanctuary

Bible Study | Wednesdays | 7 PM | Zoom (No meeting on Nov 27 or December 25)

9:30 AM Choir Practice | Mondays | 6:30 PM | Education Building

11 AM Choir Practice | Thursdays | 6:45PM | Education Building

Disciple Bible Study | Saturdays | 10 AM | Ed. Building



A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION

GAME DAY!!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025 | 2:00-4:00 PM

LOCATION: SCHOOLHOUSE

Kids, Teens and Adults

Spend your Saturday afternoon with church family and friends!

Bring a fun game to play—board game, card game, whatever game you enjoy!

Bring a snack to share with everyone!

Drinks will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you on a day other than Sunday!

If there is inclement weather on 1/25, we will reschedule to a future date.

SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AFTER 11 AM SERVICE

A sign-up sheet will be posted on January 26.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Nov 12-Jan 1 | Drop-off in Sanctuary

We are collecting warm weather clothing (coats, sweaters, scarves, gloves, etc.).

Contact Susan Stevens for more info:

240-277-2581

VAL UPDATE

The VAL team has been on a short hiatus after presenting the rendering to the congregation on November 24th. Since this presentation, we have hired a land surveyor who recently completed a survey of our property. In the coming months, we will file the water extension plan to bring water service to the education building from Main Street and plan to make an application for the site improvements to the Town. When there is a hearing scheduled before the Town we will alert the congregation for public testimony of support!

If anyone has any questions regarding the process or wants to know more about the project, please reach out to Pastor Scott or directly to our VAL team lead, Shawn Benjaminson (spbenjam1218@gmail.com).

PREPARING FOR FUTURE EXPANSION

On December 19th four graves were exhumed from the Education Building grounds and reinterred in the sanctuary graveyard. The graves dated from 1929 and the 1950's. The Church Council, on recommendation from the VAL (Building) Team, relocated the graves to make room for the future expansion of the Education Building. Religious ceremonies were performed by Pastor Scott during the exhumation and reinterment. The reinterred graves were placed at the rear of the sanctuary graveyard.



HOLIDAY FUN WITH NMUMC





NEW MARKET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*New Market United Methodist Church encourages
faithful discipleship for Jesus Christ by participation in
Prayer, the Word, Worship, Fellowship and Service.*



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