



New Paltz United Methodist Church

November 2023

Words from the Pastor

Rev L. Grace Harmon

For several weeks we have been exploring the Hebrew Bible through the Narrative Lectionary. I have to say, if I had known what was going to happen in world news, I might well have shied away from this choice, but God has a way of getting us where we are supposed to be, even when we really don't want to go (Just ask Jonah, speaking of the Hebrew Bible). The stories that we are reading give insight to the ancient origins of the headline news, making it harder than ever to claim that the Bible is not political. As challenging as these associations might be, I am grateful for them.



By spending the time to understand the historic and religious origins of the ongoing conflict, I hope and pray that we might equip ourselves to be voices of insight and reason. We may also find ourselves called on to act as prophets of a different paradigm, new and revealing questions, and visions of answers that do not seek to oversimplify a conflict that has been increasingly complex and deeply rooted for millennia.

This is, at its most foundational, what church should be: the place where we can come when we cannot make sense out of the world as it is, when we find hope hard to see let alone grasp, and connect to a God who transcends our petty moral concerns and calls us into sacred imagination, holy dreaming, and renewed belief that the promise of resurrection life is real and meant for us. I am always thankful when the role of church is clear, and it certainly is right now.

It is no small thing to be in a church that is ready, willing, and able to engage with the work of discipleship. As Methodists, we say we are 'making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.' Certainly, we are due for some transformation. But another, simpler way to put it is we want to live like we believe the Lord's Prayer, and church is where we figure out how to do so. And together we practice what we learn, be it in our response to world news, our efforts to feed our neighbors, or how we care for one another.

As you read about the many things happening in the life of our church, I invite you to keep the Lord's Prayer in mind: God, may the heaven of your creating and our dreams be made manifest here among us. We yearn to be fed by your Word, and also to not be dependent on the evil systems of the world, but upon you, and our community of faith. Help us to be a people unafraid to say we are wrong and seek to do better, even as we show others the same grace. In a world full

of false prophets and fake news, keep us tuned to your truth. For we are yours and we want to be so forever. Amen. And happy reading.

Let's Play Jeopardy

1. **The answer is:** Two exceptional church leaders, one current and one from the past, whom we are blessed to have.
See page 3 for the question.
2. **The answer is:** This new newsletter feature, by Sharon Roth, highlights people in our church community. The Roe Family is featured first.
See page 4 for the question.
3. **The answer is:** A gathering, important to the future life of NPUMC, scheduled for January 20, 2024.
See page 10 for the question.

Parish Trunk or Treat *Mary Edwards-Ransom*

The Grove participated in the parish Trunk or Treat Messy Church event held at St. James UMC in Kingston on Saturday, October 28. Stephanie and Mary were joined by Linda, who stepped in at the last minute for Pastor Grace, who was unable to join due to illness.



Our Harry Potter-themed trio of trunks included Platform 9 3/4, the Forbidden Forest, and the Divination classroom. In addition to lots of sweet treats, the Divination classroom was a teal pumpkin stop, which offered allergen-free treats, such as glow sticks, play doh, and popcorn! Trunk or treaters had the opportunity to borrow Stephanie's spare wand

to practice their *Incendio* and *Extinguo* spells on her candle, which was quite a thrill.



Hudson Valley Parish Charge Conference - Stronger Together

Kathy Weiss

From the opening hymn: **Welcome---** to the closing hymn: **Bind Us Together**, a gathering of believers from each of the churches in the HUDSON VALLEY PARISH worshiped together in a very real, dynamic service led by District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Karen A. Monk.

The charges / churches:

Highland: First & Plutarch
Lloyd & Port Ewen: Town of Esopus
Kingston: Clinton Avenue
Kingston: St. James
Milton-Marlboro
New Paltz & Modena: Memorial
Saugerties & Centerville
Stone Ridge: Rondout Valley

Some take aways:



Starting with Acts 2:44 -- The believers were together.

We are stronger together.....Together...We are stronger

We are not called to “save” the church. We are called to be the church.

Together -- We are to be a place of welcome... of reaching out...

Concluding with John Wesley’s Sermon # 39 == If heart is heart -- Give me your hand --
Love is due to all human beings. We do not need to think alike, we do not need to share the same opinions, we do not need to worship alike.

Love me -- commend me to God in your prayers
Provoke me to good works
Love me not in word but in deed
Join me in the worship of God—Hand in hand

Stronger Together == Together - we are stronger

The Jeopardy Question

Who are District Superintendant
Rev Karen Monk and John Wesley?

The answer

Two exceptional church leaders,
one current and one from the past,
whom we are blessed to have.

The next article is a new feature for the newsletter. Sharon Roth interviewed the Roe Family. They have been regularly attending our church in-person for quite a while now. Their daughter McKenna hands out puppet friends to all at the start of service and collects them at the end. So sweet!

The Jeopardy Question

What is "Getting to Know You"?

The answer

This new newsletter feature, by Sharon Roth, highlights people in our church community. The Roe Family is featured first.

Getting to Know You... The Roe Family

Sharon Roth

Katelin was born in Newburgh but moved to Poughkeepsie, where she met Matt through his sister-in-law. Matt knew right away she was "The One". Katelin gave him 3 chances and by the 3rd date she was hooked. She earned her Nursing degree at Dominican College and her Masters in Health Care Management. After their marriage, they moved to Highland and traveled to St Lucia, Mexico, Lake George, and Niagra Falls. They enjoyed hiking, camping, archery, photography, and going to Zoos. When McKenna and Silas were born, they began to look for a church with a Children's program. They found New Paltz United Methodist Church to be welcoming and laid back. Silas was baptized here.



NPUMC Trustees

John Bautochka



The Trustees always have work to do... We replaced a window well cover by the Grove Street entrance, took out the air conditioners, and covered the ones we could not take out, put new netting over the window well of a social hall window, painted the wall where the kids come out to the playground, got rid of the benches where we cut down the tree in the playground, took the old windows out of the library, fixed a leak in the playschool heating system, replaced a pressure relief valve on the church boiler, put new heat in the parsonage, and participated on church cleaning days.



Photos are from a recent work day where trustees and friends participated.

Adult Academy – From Civil Rights to BLM: Where the *&#% Did The Church Go?

Karen Seyfert

The first Adult Academy met October 8, 2023 and featured a talk by George McClain, freedom rider and lifelong civil rights activist. It was an excellent start for this new community offering, sponsored by three cooperating churches in New Paltz, Saint Andrews Episcopal, Redeemer Lutheran, and New Paltz United Methodist.


When George arrived in the south as a freedom rider, he was taken in by a black family. He had nothing but praise for that family and the black church they supported. He felt that that church was a model of what a local church should be.

George told us about the reactions of churches in the south to the movement. At first most white churches did not want to get involved. Sympathetic churches were a bit afraid of backlash. Later many of them came around, but there were always some who were defensive and angry. Their reaction was more commonly “Who is to blame for this trouble? Who leaked this information? What do we do if an integrated group shows up on our doorstep one Sunday?” As always, those in power try to use religion to maintain control. We are afraid of rapid change. The prophets are always opposed. It is always a small minority within a group that brings about change.

George demonstrated that if we honestly think about our own histories around race relations and tell our stories, we can encourage one another and begin to be the change makers.

Additional Adult Academies will be held on the second Sunday of each month.

The Place will rotate among the three sponsoring churches. Everyone is welcome to attend. These events are designed to be full of people from our neighborhood, not just our churches.



ADULT ACADEMY
New Perspectives on Pressing Issues

SECOND SUNDAYS AT 11

Oct. 8	From Civil Rights to BLM: Where the *&#% Did the Church Go? New Paltz United Methodist, 1 Grove St, New Paltz
Nov. 12	Daily Bread: Food Justice in the Hudson Valley Redeemer Lutheran, 90 NY Rt. 32, New Paltz
Dec. 10	In from the Cold: Housing Justice in Our Community St. Andrews Episcopal, 163 Main St New Paltz
Jan. 14*	The Longest Dark: Our Mental Health Crisis New Paltz United Methodist
Feb. 11*	The Rising: Water Temps and Climate Anxiety Redeemer Lutheran
Mar. 10*	Queer in the Here and Now: Challenge and Change Redeemer Lutheran
Apr. 14	Black Christians of New Paltz: History and Hope New Paltz United Methodist
May 12	UnChristian: Reclaiming Faith for Progressives & Activists St. Andrews Episcopal

All events are designed for in-person discussion.
Some or all may also be viewable via zoom and/or FB
*Snow dates: 1/21, 2/25, 3/17

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
AT THESE IMPORTANT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Remember to frequently check out our website... It is always being updated.
[NPUMC - New Paltz United Methodist Church \(newpaltzumc.org\)](http://newpaltzumc.org)

Care Team Update

Jane Ruback

What is the Care Team talking about? An excellent question. Here is what we have been considering.

The group talked about potential plans for a Christmas outreach. Check your mailboxes in late December!!

The group talked about possibly having a January soup delivery. But it is unclear if there are sufficient people to make the deliveries. This will be discussed and decided in our next meeting January 14th. It is a cold snowy month in January and deliveries might be tough to do. Any interest? Feel free to reach Linda Mellor or Jane Ruback.

The Mitten Tree will be set out after Thanksgiving. Always welcoming hats and gloves for this community.

We discussed the Angel Tree and how we might offer this ministry again. We have been so successful in past years. Last year we specifically supported the Afghan Refugees via the Plutarch ministry. This year what organizations might we dedicate the tree/gifts to? Keep your eye and ears open!

Our church pie baking activity is not specifically connected to Care Team but last year some of the pies were provided to the Food Giveaway. Last year we baked about 30 pies and sold about 20+. As it was last year, pies will be apple, apple crumb and pumpkin. We will send out flyers and order forms and schedule pick up times.

Helpers are needed and welcomed for the activity. We'd love more involvement. Feel free to reach out to Jane or Linda.

Pie prep, peeling apple, etc-12/21

Pie baking and boxing-12/22

Pie pick/delivery- May have some pick up 12/22, as well as 12/23, 12/24

Our next Care Team meeting is planned for January 14th 11AM following the service. Who can predict what wondrous plans will be made?

Still keeping Ukraine in our prayers



If you would like to add a financial donation to your prayers, see [GIVE - New Paltz United Methodist Church \(newpaltzumc.org\)](https://newpaltzumc.org) for "Give to Ukraine".

Our Organ

Lee Pritchard



I am writing this the Monday after the Charge Conference. In my report to Charge Conference, I wrote about our ORGAN. This is what I said; I copy that portion of my report.

I am overwhelmed with joy that the Sanctuary Organ Fund Raising Campaign last December was so successful. We now have over \$27,700 for our Organ Repair. Thank you EVERYONE – especially those who made the match to get us to this amount.

*This is what I said last year.....Oh how I would love to see this completed. Our organ and this church have so much potential – our own worship – a performance instrument for recitals and accompaniment for choral ensembles – a teaching tool for those wanting to learn to play such an instrument – collaboration opportunities – who knows accompanying the Cooperative Parish Bell Choir – perhaps have a piece commissioned. – there is no limit to the potential of a fully functional organ. We are almost half way to the needed amount of \$27,000... **And the GREAT JOY – we have been successful – which means this major repair can be completed in full.***

Now the question is when will this happen? We have had several contacts/emails/etc with the contractor – who in 2023 began his work again after Covid – and is working his way through projects started pre-Covid and with those ahead of us. It will happen – I am feeling very hopeful and will keep you all posted. You can still make a donation/gift and then we will have that cushion for rising costs. You can make a donation online at <https://newpaltzumc.org/give/online-giving/>

I am inviting you to a Thanksgiving Eve Worship of scripture and song. It will be Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00pm and will be in person and on Zoom. We will all sing the songs of praise and thanksgiving. Please join us.

Margaret and I received an email from Kathy referring to Anna's article and the gospel singer and composer Ira Sankey. Well, quick research shows: there are no hymns in our United Methodist Hymnal by Ira Sankey; we have sung a hymn by Sankey, "The Ninety and Nine"; more to come another time.

With Music, *Lee*

Remember

"Hymn Along with Lee Pritchard"

Wednesdays at 12:30 pm

Livestream from NPUMC website

Facebook Live



New Paltz Methodists Celebrate Christmas with Famous Hymnist, Ira D. Sankey in 1875

Anna Louise Bates, Church Historian



The New Paltz Methodist Episcopal Church celebrated Christmas “as only the Methodists know how” during the 1870s. The editors of the New Paltz Times reported on the annual celebration of December 24, 1875. The detailed description of the event noted that “on either side of the pulpit was a handsome Christmas Tree, laden with presents of all kinds, one for the children and one for the congregation.” Special guests punctuated the occasion. Celebrated hymnist, Ira D. Sankey, led the musical portion of the service. Sankey, “an exceptional baritone,” was a colleague of renowned preacher and revivalist Dwight L. Moody. Sankey composed moving hymns that continue to be sung in the 21st century. At the New Paltz Christmas service, Sankey led “Mr. Smith of Rifton, assisted by several ladies of the same place, and a few of this Village,” in singing some of the hymns he composed. Rev. Dr. Thomas Carter (appointed to New Paltz 1874-75) preached at the service, and after the hymns and preaching, gifts were distributed. “Each merry little heart made happy with a present, which in after years will refresh their memory of the pleasant time they had on the above occasion.” The merriment of this happy occasion no doubt owed not only to excellent planning by New Paltz Methodists but also the uplifting and historic hymns of Ira Sankey.

Sources: *New Paltz Times*, December 30, 1875; Ira David Sankey, Obituary, *The Emporia Daily Gazette*, August 20, 1908.

A note from the editors: Check out this link for more information about Ira D. Sankey.
http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/s/a/n/k/sankey_id.htm

Planned Giving

Daniel Ruback, Planned Giving Committee Chair

Planned gifts are gifts that are not made from our current income but from wills, life insurance, 401k beneficiaries and other sources. These gifts can be given to the Church’s Endowment Fund or to other purposes. If a Planned Gift is made to the Church without a designation then the Trustees hold the funds until a use is determined by the Church. These uses have traditionally been items that are long term and of a larger dollar value than can be paid for out of the Church’s annual budget. Uses in the recent past have been for the Sanctuary roof and just recently the replacement of the Parsonage furnace.

Will you join Jane and me as members of our Church’s Now and Forever Givers by naming the New Paltz United Methodist Church in your estate planning?

Our church website has a link to a booklet compiled by the Committee entitled “Planned Giving, What It Is and How To Do It” that has more information...

[More Ways to Give... - New Paltz United Methodist Church \(newpaltzumc.org\)](http://newpaltzumc.org)

Financial News

Margaret Howe

We have just completed our 2023 Charge Conference. This year it opened with our District Superintendent, Rev Karen Monk and all that she brings to wonderful worship. Members of all 12 Hudson Valley Parish churches were in attendance. Worship was followed by the individual church meetings to elect leadership, approve pastor compensation, receive/review reports from all of the committees and ministries and much more. I am always a bit disappointed but not surprised at the attendance/participation at this meeting.



Some Finance highlights for 2023:

- Through September we have met monthly expenses with the exception of Apportionments and quarterly payments to the Trustees. Apportionments are the money assessed to NPUMC for the costs of doing business as the United Methodist Church. We have paid our Apportionments in full for the last 13 years. This money comes back to us in many ways – one was our technology grant and another was the ability to apply for the Frontier Foundations grants. We will pay our full Apportionments in 2023 – however likely not to make our full payment to the Trustees.
- In July we became part of a Charge – New Paltz UMC and Modena: Memorial, pastored by Rev. Limina Grace Harmon. New Paltz is responsible for 69% of those costs related to the pastor and the parsonage monthly expenses. This is a financial benefit to both churches and is working well.
- We asked folks to think about “Adopting a Bill”. Throughout the year folks have adopted bills usually with a gift that can be applied wherever it is needed. One member adopted the monthly internet bill. This year the elevator maintenance bill was adopted in full.
- I think we are all aware that the majority of our fun(d) raising events involve food. Our in person feeding ministry/mission is what has been “on hold” – and will likely continue to be. However we have been blessed to be a church with ongoing food ministries that have continued - Food Supplement and 4th Sunday Fresh Food Give-a-Way successfully continue. However this December we will have two mini fun(d) raisers: December 9th Nani and Margaret will sell hats, mittens, scarves at the PlaySchool’s outdoor Cookie Walk. Later in December the kitchen will smell of apple pies – for sale – watch for the apple pie order form.
- We very much appreciate those who made a commitment for 2023 and are keeping that commitment current – often hard to see on a month by month basis as some folks give monthly and others quarterly in addition to those who give weekly. OnLine giving continues to be a vital way to make a gift to NPUMC. Several families give OnLine. A week does not go by without a gift from someone who is new to one of our remote platforms or has watched the Wednesday Hymn-a-Long or monthly Taize. Here is the OnLine giving link if you want to make an extra gift - [Online Giving - New Paltz United Methodist Church \(newpaltzumc.org\)](https://www.newpaltzumc.org).
 - Same as last year in order to assure we will meet our budget we are inviting you to make a 13th month gift or a designated gift to Apportionments
- We will/did not adopt a budget at the November Charge Conference – will do in January. Our financial stewardship campaign for 2024 is divided into three parts

- those who look for the annual letter to make their commitment, often with a slight increase
- those who no longer use checks and or cash but instead use “apps” on their phones
- those who have a relationship with NPUMC in some fashion and may wish to make a donation/gift to the church.

Three very different groups of persons who are wanting to give in the way that is comfortable for them – we truly are in the world of “both/and” and they are right! It is anticipated these letters will go out during November.

- This summer the Finance Committee took the time to totally update and revise the New Paltz United Methodist Church Financial Policies and Procedures. This document is very inclusive and of course a “living document”. It was reviewed by the entire Finance Committee and Administrative Board. Great work and an important task completed.
- Some good news is that 12 step groups have returned to our church for their weekly meetings. My thought is that we could have more people using our church for meetings – either on a regular basis or a one-time situation. We have a great concert space for small concerts and should be looking for the opportunity for this kind of use. There is currently some work/talk being done for some concerts in the new year.

The Jeopardy Question

What is the "Try Again Financial Visioning" discussion?

The answer

A gathering, important to the future life of NPUMC, scheduled for January 20, 2024.

I repeat - earlier in the year we started some discussions on financial visioning and in my opinion had some good discussions – however we have not followed through. I think some of this is because the conversations were/are difficult and require some deep thinking and research and prayers. Let’s try again! Please put it on your calendar – January 20th for our “Try again financial visioning discussion”.

Sometimes my heart is financially heavy and yet my spirit full – and it is – because so much still continues at NPUMC – Tai-chi, Vi Cole Study Group, Knitting Together, Fresh Food Give-a-Way, NPUMC Vegetable garden, Food Supplement, Mitten Tree, Taize, Weekly Hymn-s-long, Monday Morning Prayer Group, Prayer Blanket Ministry, Bible Studies, Small Group discussions, Anti-racism work, Confirmation Class, Weekly Worship, Tri Church Sunday School Studies, Adult Academy, and whatever might come to us.

May we continue to be the children of God creating safe places where all are accepted and welcomed, connecting the needs of people to the presence of God and transforming the world through Christ. Let the light always glow brightly on the corner of Main and Grove!

With love, Margaret



Church Lay Leadership for 2024

A big **THANK YOU** to our church leadership! We appreciate all that they do!

Here is the list of our church leaders from the current Charge Conference Booklet.

Administrative Council Chairpersons/Lay Leaders Steve Rappalyea and Jane Ruback
Note the new model: Two Ad Council Chairpersons who also serve as Lay Leaders

Board of Trustees President

John Bautochka

Finance Chairperson

Margaret Howe

Finance Vice Chairperson

Linda Mellor

Treasurers

Margaret Howe and Linda Mellor

Financial Secretary

Sharon Roth

Staff Parish Relations of the Charge

Note our Charge is New Paltz & Modena Memorial. Pastor Grace is the pastor of both churches. SPR is now comprised of members of both churches. The committee will elect a chairperson in January.

Planned Giving

Dan Ruback

Lay Members to Annual Conference
Alternates

Stephanie Parsons and Linda Loomis
Linda Mellor and Sharon Roth

Justice, Outreach, and Mission Coordinators

Stephanie Parsons and Erika Panzarino

Communication Coordinator

Margaret Howe

Newsletter Editors

Brenda Beane and Kathy Weiss

Webmasters

Linda Mellor and Sharon Roth

Sunday School Facilitator

Elizabeth Harding

Safe Sanctuary Officer

Stephanie Laffin

<p>Also, a big THANK YOU to all our church members and friends for all that they do. We are the church!</p>



Let's Celebrate



Happy Birthday!

Nov 5	Kristen Osterhoudt
Nov 9	Glenn Sohm
Nov 15	Suzanne Welch
Nov 18	MaKenna Roe
Nov 20	Kate Hymes
Nov 24	Amy Mellor
Nov 24	Scott Lawton

Dec 2	Deb Dressel
Dec 4	Alex Bialy
Dec 4	Noelle Rappleyea
Dec 7	Darlene Montini
Dec 8	Cynthia Rappleyea
Dec 17	Regina Lawton
Dec 20	Brian Harding
Dec 26	Stephanie Laffin

Happy Birthday!

Jan 2	Katelin Roe
Jan 19	Samantha Judge
Jan 24	Twana Lundin
Jan 28	Makayla Bennett
Jan 28	Pearl Lee
Jan 28	Jess Balog (Morhous)
Jan 29	Sue Ulrich

We welcome your feedback. Email the church at newpaltzumc@gmail.com. It will be forwarded to Brenda Beane and Kathy Weiss, current newsletter editors.