



# VUMC NEWS UPDATE – Spring 2021

Victor United Methodist Church  
106 E. Main St., Victor NY 14564  
585-924-2621 [www.victorumc.org](http://www.victorumc.org)

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## **From Our Pastor's Desk:**

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Lenten blessings to you all! I am mindful that the season of Lent is intended as a season of reflection, and in the midst of this reflection we are reminded that it has been a full year since we first closed our doors due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. We have sadly missed the in-person contact so often – the hearty handshakes and emotional hugs – even the capturing of folks' expressions often hidden behind our safety masks. But while we have navigated and "hung on" during this roller coaster ride of a year, we rejoice in the fact that we persevered - we have journeyed together as we celebrated holidays, birthdays, big news/little news - often online. We have found new ways to interact with our beloved friends and family while becoming best friends with ZOOM and other similar software. It has suddenly felt that we had to become experts in fields we never thought necessary before.

I heard it said recently by one of my dear friends that as they continue to journey through this season of Lent it feels as if we never left Lent from last year; that it has been a whole season of suffering and repentance that has been hard and draining on so many. To specifically quote him he shares that, "This has been the Lentiest Lent that has ever Lented." Grammar aside, I am utterly convinced of the truth of that statement. For many, including myself, this last year has been extremely difficult.

Yet, in the midst of this last year God has been and continues to speak to us. I am especially reminded of the prophet Elijah and the latter part of his ministry. In 1 Kings, Chapter 18, we hear this amazing story of how the prophet Elijah stands up to some of the rulers of Israel and the priests of the false god Baal. Elijah has this amazing victory and proves the greatness of the Lord while also ending a several year drought.

However, shortly after this amazing victory, Elijah would flee in fear from Jezebel. Elijah would express that in that most painful and dark moment he felt so very alone. Elijah would then go on to journey to Mount Horeb and have an amazing encounter with God. In 1 Kings 19:11-18 we see that after the loud wind, strong earthquake, and a great fire, Elijah would hear the Lord in the silence. In this encounter God reminds Elijah he is not alone and there is a task for him to do.

Beloved of God, I am convinced we are in a similar place this Lenten season. After some amazing victories we have journeyed alongside the world through this painful season. We have symbolically felt the ground beneath us shake, been blown about by the wind, and felt the heat of the fire around us. Yet God is with us still! Let us venture to a place to meet God. A place where we can hear the words the God echoed in Jesus "I will not leave you orphaned."

I am excited for the places God can carry us to. I encourage everyone to stay connected, and I invite you to join one of our new groups we will be starting after our Easter celebration. God is not done with us here in Victor and there will be a day when we will rejoice together in victory! Until then, let us keep climbing the mountain toward God and living out our vision statement: **Through God's grace, we will be one family that provides a safe place for all to come and grow their faith, knowledge, and love for God!**

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Benjamin Lalka*

Pastor: Benjamin Lalka  
Pastor's Email: [pastorbenlalka@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbenlalka@gmail.com)  
Pastor's Office Phone: 585-924-2621  
Administrative Secretary: Wendy Hubert  
Current Office Hours: Mon – Wed 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



**News from your Church Council:**

In November, we asked the congregation to vote on a proposed mission statement. When all the votes were counted, the congregation unanimously voted to adopt the proposal. Our new mission statement is:

***The First United Methodist Church of Victor (FUMCoV) celebrates the truth that all persons are created in God’s image and therefore all people are of sacred worth. We are a faith community that welcomes and values all people, regardless of their age, race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, religious background, economic status, or developmental and physical abilities. We embrace the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of FUMCoV, as we worship, learn, and work together to grow disciples for Jesus Christ. It is our desire that the world will know and be transformed by His unconditional love.***

A committee headed by Kevin Williams and Maria Graham will be exploring how to get our mission out to our community. Please contact Kevin if you have ideas or suggestions to share or would like to help this committee.



**Christian Education Update: Dottie Augustine**

Ms. Heather and Ms. Leslie continue to send emails on Fridays! Please take the time to read through them, listen to the songs, watch the videos, and do the activities when you are able.

Sunday school and youth group zooms will look a bit different in 2021. We understand everyone is tired of zoom calls and schedules are busy. Sunday school zooms will take place 2 times per month.

Upcoming Sunday School Zooms:

- ❖ **Sunday, March 7th at 3:30**
- ❖ **Sunday, March 21st at 3:30**
- ❖ **Sunday, April 11th at 3:30**
- ❖ **Sunday, April 25th at 3:30**

Youth Group (4th grade and up) We will be doing one in-person gathering and one Zoom per month!

Upcoming Youth Group activities:

**March 14th:** In-person gathering: *We will be doing a candy trivia night! Bring your favorite wrapped candy (at least 25 individual pieces) and a BIBLE verse that relates to your candy)*

**March 28th** 4:30: Zoom / **April 18th-** In-person, TBD



**VUMC Finance Update: Chris Dunfey**

Happy Spring....almost! It is amazing that we are already into March, and that 2021 is almost a quarter over. And soon the snow will melt away and leave behind a sad looking dirty yard. But, through that dirty yard, growth will begin to come alive. Spring will begin to bloom and little crocus, lilies, and other plants that made it through yet another hard winter, will begin to break through the once frozen ground. It reminds me of life and where we are now as a country, as a church. I will not stray into politics; I will leave that to those on Facebook. I am talking about the pandemic and Covid-19 this past year. Many of us have made it through home schooling - maybe with kids, maybe with grandkids. We have gone without seeing friends, physically, and are having family events via Zoom. However, I feel like spring is around the corner... we have got three vaccines now approved and need time to get enough people vaccinated so we can get back to a normal life. We can start to travel - who does not think about traveling? So many places to go around NY, the Finger Lakes, the US - even international travel (although that still may need to wait a while). We can have family and friends over. We can see more and more of each other again in the sanctuary! (Wow! Won't that seem odd?) It is with this feeling of optimism that I write about the church and our finances. We are not out of winter-- and our church finances are not out of winter, either. We started the year off a bit behind on our tithes and giving than where we would like to be. If you are behind, and perhaps it is just slipped your mind-- or time went faster than you planned, please consider a catch-up strategy, or think about electronic giving using your bank's bill pay program to "set it and forget it". With that said, I am optimistic that our church has weathered a heck of a winter and although we are not out of the dark days (literally), but spring, warmth, sunshine, flowers, and fragrances are all around the corner and I am really looking forward to it, I hope you are, too. God Bless, Chris





**Outreach Update: Lisa Brotsch & Nancy Kidd:**

The Outreach Team would like to thank everyone for their generosity towards Family Promise during our Valentine's Day Love Mission. We were blown away by the response we received during this mission. Family Promise was extremely happy to accept our donation. We appreciate the kindness that you have shown in helping those less fortunate.

Here is a list of what we collected:

- ✓ 22 gift cards worth \$245
- ✓ 147 postage stamps
- ✓ 7 jumbo boxes of pull up / diapers
- ✓ 9 regular size packages of pull up/ diapers
- ✓ 1 lg box of baby wipes
- ✓ 13 packages of wipes
- ✓ 6 lg containers of laundry detergent
- ✓ 4 kitchen cleaning products
- ✓ 1 lg box of toiletries
- ✓ 3 towel sets
- ✓ 5 pkgs wash cloths
- ✓ 1 pair of booties
- ✓ 3 blankets
- ✓ 1 pillowcase

Thank you to all who participated in our Valentine's Day card send out! We know how much this meant to some of our members. Thank you for always helping to feed the hungry at our Victor Farmington Food Cupboard! You are awesome!

**Victor United Methodist Church**

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**



Palm Sunday

3/28 @ 10 am



Maundy Thursday

4/01 @ 7 pm

w/ Communion



Good Friday

4/02 @ 7 pm



Easter Sunday

4/04 @ 10 am

w/ Communion

Watch live on Facebook or at your convenience on Youtube!



**Clothes Closet Update: Karen Hansen**

Thanks to the amazing volunteers and supporters of our Community Clothes Closet, we just celebrated our three-year anniversary! Amazing! Thank you! Mid- January to mid-February CC facts & figures:

- Total walk-in patrons: 68
- Total value of goods to community: \$ 37,090
- Total value of goods to patrons: \$15,099
- Total value of goods donated to other charities & disaster relief: \$19,948
- Total volunteer hours: 113.5

God bless all our volunteers: Patti L, Cindy C, Bryan K, Rose H, Diane M, Suzanne K, & Mike & Audrey G, as you are the real heart & soul of this mission!

**Current Hours: Monday 4:00- 6:00 pm**

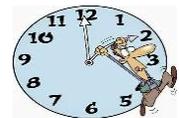
**Wednesday 10am -12 noon**

*We take donations of gently used seasonal clothing in good shape, Please, bag or box them & place in the white donation shed located in the top right corner of our parking lot. For questions or private appointments, please call Karen at (585) 703-7421.*



**Please keep the following individuals and their families in your thoughts and prayers:**

- Grace Howard
- Dot Zugner
- Skip Carey
- Ken Waters
- For our members in continuing care that have been unable to see family members.
- All those battling COVID 19 & other diseases
- Our military men and women serving worldwide



**REMINDER to "Spring Forward!"**

Daylight Savings Time begins again on Sunday, March 14th at 2:00 AM. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour ahead before bedtime on Saturday night, March 13th!



### **Fun Lenten Challenge: Outreach Team**

February 17 began the season of Lent. As a challenge to our congregation, the Outreach team will be providing suggestions for how we can GIVE OUT- in addition to GIVING UP during these six weeks.

**Week 1** : When you go to the grocery store, buy 1 or 2 extra cans of soup- or anything- and drop it off at church for the Food Cupboard.

**Week 2**: We all have many friends we have not seen this past year. They might be church friends, family friends, or neighbors. This week pick up the phone and call these friends and visit for a while. What a wonderful feeling that should be for all of us! (If you do not know how to contact your church friends, call the office, or call Nancy or Lisa)

**Week 3**: Donate a few hours of your time to the VUMC Clothes Closet. Call Karen 585-703-7421.

**Week 4**: We will be collecting dry cookie mixes for the Food Cupboard & asking that you each choose a member of our congregation and pray for them.

**Weeks 5&6**: These upcoming challenges will be posted on the Prayer Chain each week!



### **Gratitude Corner:**

- ❖ Dot Zugner would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and prayers during her recovery. All were appreciated!
- ❖ Rosie VanVoorhis thanks everyone for their prayers for her recent surgery. All went well and she is feeling good!
- ❖ Nancy Kidd would like to recognize Lisa Brotsch for all she has done to keep us connected through the Prayer Circle notices, posting our services, and a multitude of other events in the community. You are a blessing to us all, Lisa! Thank you!

*Want to thank or recognize someone in the next newsletter? Email Wendy in the VUMC office @ [umcvictory@gmail.com](mailto:umcvictory@gmail.com) anytime!*



Check out all the information on our website! Sermons, devotions, events, & other information!

[www.victorumc.org](http://www.victorumc.org)



Also  
check out our **Facebook page!**  
Search "Victor First United Methodist Church"



### **'At the Table' Tuesdays with Pastor Ben**

Join Pastor Ben (and/or special guests) for his brief, yet insightful, weekly online video series, where he shares updates as to what is going on around us, challenges us with his thoughts, all the while giving us things to ponder! Please join him next Tuesday morning for more on Youtube! Need a link? Email us at [umcvictory@gmail.com](mailto:umcvictory@gmail.com)!



### **Lectionary Bible Study Online**

Our Lectionary Bible Study continues online every Wednesday morning! We welcome you to join us! Simply send a request to [wlbrottsch@aol.com](mailto:wlbrottsch@aol.com) or [umcvictory@gmail.com](mailto:umcvictory@gmail.com) and an email invitation with a link to the bible study will be sent to you on Wednesday mornings. (see lectionary schedule on last page) Thank you!



### **Let us all continue our stewardship offerings**

Even if you are not attending worship in person this Fall, you can mail them to: 106 E. Main St, Victor NY 14564. Thank you!



### **Food Cupboard News: Lori Kay**

Lots of news from the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard to share!

1. February numbers: 610 boxes given, 274 senior, 1227 adult, 959 children, 730 households, 0 new households, total family members 2460.

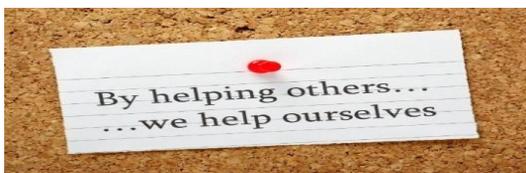
- Feb. 2017 was 410 households served, 1007 individuals
- Feb. 2018 was 433 households served, 1149 individuals
- Feb. 2019 was 431 households served, 1090 individuals
- Feb. 2020 was 435 households served, 1093 individuals

2. We are asking if families would consider "Planting a Row" for the Food Cupboard this year as they plan their gardens. Our customers have LOVED getting fresh produce this winter through a program Foodlink has going. It would be wonderful to continue offering access to fresh fruits and vegetables this summer! A lot of folks still do not know we will take fresh produce from home gardens!

3. We will also be doing a drive through food drive on March 20<sup>th</sup> collecting shelf stable proteins, small bottles of olive oil, ground cinnamon and garlic powder. The food drive will run 10-12 on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will also be running a food distribution that day.

4. A once a month thorough cleaning needs to be done at the Food Cupboard. We are asking our area churches if they would like to help us out. The third Saturday of the month a group of 6-8 could be scheduled to go in. We would love to start this month if we can. It would take approximately an hour with a group doing the cleaning. Each church group would see the Food Cupboard when no one else is around. If you would be interested in taking this on, it would only be a twice a year commitment. If you would be interested, please let me know either by e-mail or phone 924-5642.

Thanks for your help in feeding the needy.  
God bless, Lori Kay



KIWANIS CLUB OF  
FARMINGTON-VICTOR

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**ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
FREE DINNER  
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

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**MARCH 27, 2021**

**RSVP REQUIRED**

Join us for our annual **FREE** corned beef and cabbage dinner! This year we will be offering drive thru meals to go, free to local seniors.

WHEN: March 27, 2021, 1-4pm  
WHERE: St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
115 Maple Ave, Victor

**RSVP by March 20th:** Call Jean at 585.727.6128

**\*\* This is a drive through, no contact event.  
Please wear a mask and stay in your car. We will  
bring your meal to you.\*\***

 **Kiwanis**  
FARMINGTON-VICTOR

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS: Dottie Augustine**  
 On Sunday February 14th, we had 13 youth participate in our pizza and game night! This year we were obviously not able to do our typical lock-in, but this was just as much fun! We had pizza, played BINGO, played charades, and made mini-marshmallow slingshots and catapults! Wesley Hall was covered in mini marshmallows! It was quite a sight and so much fun! Here are some pictures!



CARTER



SOLIA



MADISON



COLTON



ELIZA



ZEKE



MADELINE



NOAH



ALYSSA & PASTOR BEN LALKA



ZOE



ISABEL & LILY



## March Lectionary Calendar

Wednesday, March 3rd

Mar 7 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

Wednesday, March 10th

Mar 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

Wednesday, March 17th

Mar 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

Wednesday, March 24th

Mar 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47/Mark 15:1-39, (40-

Wednesday, March 31st

Apr 4 – Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18/Mark 16:1-8

Join Pastor Ben to prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Meet online through an email link to Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. Join the Lectionary Bible Study from your home in prayerful preparation.



## April Lectionary Calendar

Wednesday, April 7th

Apr 11 - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31

Wednesday, April 14th

Apr 18– Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

Wednesday, April 21st

Apr 25 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

Wednesday, April 28th

May 2 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

Join Pastor Ben to prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Meet online through an email link to Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. Join the Lectionary Bible Study from your home in prayerful preparation.