



MASSENA
First United Methodist Church

Following Jesus' call to love our
neighbor, serve others, and
grow in faith.

189 Main Street
Massena, NY 13662
315-769-8036
massenafumc.com

April 2026

Message from the Pastor

Greetings Church Family,

He Is Risen...He Is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!

Easter is the celebration that our Lord died on the cross so that our sins may be forgiven and rose from the grave so that we will have eternal life! Yet, Christ's Resurrection is not just limited to our eternal life, but it does include our life here on earth.

First Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that as we are in Christ we are a new creation and that our old selves are dead and our new selves have risen.

Our Resurrection into a new life means we are called to Rise above the world, to Rise with Christ as His love transforms us into that new creation.

This leads me to share our next sermon series which will start on April 12th and it's all about how we can Rise Strong. Taking the concept that we have been Resurrected with Christ, we need to continue to Rise above! Here are the themes:

April 12: Rising from Skepticism (Doubting Thomas).

April 19: Rising from Denial (Peter)

April 26: Rising from Hatred (Saul/Paul)

May 3: Rising from Quarreling (The Church)

Happy Easter, everyone and please plan to join us through the month of April as we challenge ourselves to Rise Above!

Blessed to be your pastor,

Reverend Cori J. Loudon.



Pastor's
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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 13	Bonnie Devlin
April 19	Pat Matthews; Katina Thomson
April 21	Scott Marschean
April 23	Molly Hopper
April 28	Debbie Moody



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

There are no anniversaries to note in April.

MISSION OUTREACH-LOCAL

The committee has been busy planning outreach activities for the upcoming year. Thank you to all those who have brought in personal care items. They will provide "essential" items to students within the schools.

We have decided to do three major events this year. They are:

- Spring Fling/Easter Egg Hunt – March 28 from 12-2
- Kidz Karnival – August 29 from 11 -1
- Pancakes with Santa – December 5 from 10-12

Thank you again for those who donated candy. The ARC volunteers are filling Easter eggs and getting them ready for both the Spring Fling and the Easter Party for Kidz Kickstart.

We have settled on themes for our collections throughout the year. They are:

- January - March Personal Care Items
- April/May Feminine hygiene products
- July - September School Supplies and personal care items
- October– December No more hats and mittens
 No more nursing home gifts
 Collect Socks and underwear
 Adopt a student - Emily expects she will have 20

In addition, we will participate in the Ready-4-School event that is planned through the high school.

We would love more volunteers. If you have an interest and passion for reaching out and serving our community, please see Pastor Cori or Kathy Perry. Together we can make a difference in our community.



Quote of the Month

April is the month of setting goals. Dream big this month to achieve them, as your dreams have the power to turn the impossible into the possible."
– Anonymous

Bells and Choir

We have been singing every week under the direction of Sandy Donaldson. It has been a pleasure to sing together. We are trying some new music in our rehearsals.

Our bell choir rehearses every week and tries to play at least once per month. We hope to have a few more people to join us. You just need to be able to read music. We can teach you the rest. Please see Sandy Donaldson if you are interested.

Our rehearsal schedule for the adult choir is Tuesdays at 4 for bells and 4:45 for choir. However, we also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 10:00, if Tuesday evenings do not work. Come join in the fun. All are welcome to part of our group.

Thank you to all of those who bring bottles and cans for recycling. The money raised goes toward any expenses we have for music or other items we need.



Mission Hub Update

Monthly Mission Hub Planning Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Our next meeting will take place on April 1st. Everyone is welcome to attend, either in person or via Zoom.

We are looking for help identifying some simple local projects we can do for members of our congregation. This is an opportunity for us to practice our skills planning, organizing and executing as a team. If you could help us in this way we would be greatly appreciative! Feel free to reach out to Kate Connor directly if you are wondering if an idea you have might work.

Stay tuned for further details about some upcoming opportunities to serve:

Operation: Home Repair is a mission of the UMC in Schoharie County, NY. They have released their volunteer application for 2026. The project dates will be 7/6 through 7/10.

Camp Aldersgate has released their 2026 work days. They are 5/9, 6/13, 9/26 and 10/31. We will be getting more details to share about what help is needed and making plans to send a group from Massena First on at least one of the dates.

Stay connected with the Mission Hub by following updates on our Facebook page or by emailing us at missionhub.massena@gmail.com. You may also contact Kate Connor with any questions or if you are interested in getting involved.



Congregational Care

We met in March and are happy to report the following:

1. Card Ministry – Is going well. Have heard from so many people who received the card how much it meant to them. Please get to Vicki names of people needing cards either sick, sympathy or just thinking about you.
2. Welcoming - We have decided to keep bulletins downstairs and only a few upstairs for those who come in late. If you would like to be part of the team greeting and welcoming, please see Nancy Manley.
3. Hospitality – We have set up a schedule for the hospitality lunches through June. They are:
 - April – Easter with the church providing the meat
 - May – Mothers' Day brunch
 - June – Fathers' Day Barbecue with a contest about who does the best barbecue.
4. Game night is planned for April 11 from 4-6. Bring snacks and let's get together to play our favorite games.
5. Outdoor worship – we decided we wanted outdoor worship at least twice.

July in our parking lot with date tbd

August 16 at Barnhardt in the old picnic area. It's a huge area with a beautiful fireplace so we can hold it rain or shine.

6. Special thank you to Scott Marschean who has worked hard on updating our webpage. If you haven't checked, please go to www.massanafumc.org

We are always looking for more volunteers who want to get involved. Please see any member of the committee or just join us at our next meeting on April 28th at 6:00pm in the Martin Room.



Congregational Care

Church Council

Church Council is excited to say that we will have a few opportunities for people to offer some feedback and thoughts. Our Church Council is moving in the direction of visioning as we begin to ask ourselves what we want to look like in a few years, what are our strengths and what are the areas we need to work on. Within the next couple of months, you will see us asking for everyone to fill out a survey with those questions and more as we move forward.

Please begin to reflect on your thoughts about this and be ready to share. We are looking forward to receiving everyone's feedback and if you would like to be a part of this visioning, please see Pastor Cori and we would love to have you.



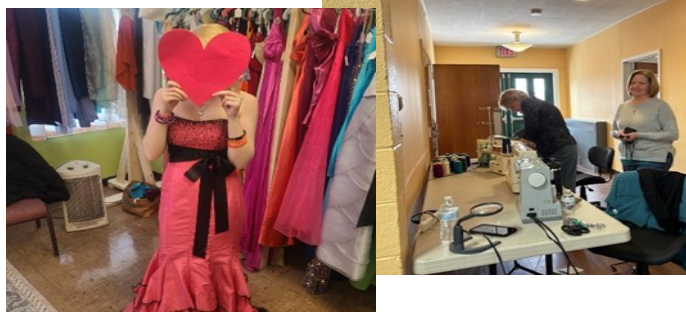
Glam Side Boutique

What started out as a wild idea, has turned into a partnership with the Massena Schools. Thanks to Val Littlejohn and her family, we received a donation of 8 cases of prom and cocktail dresses in multiple sizes. A group, meeting together came up with a plan for distributing dresses to girls in the area who may not otherwise be able to go to the prom.

With the help of Scott Marschean, and Bob Littlejohn, one of our Sunday School rooms in the Fellowship Hall that was not being used was turned into a closet and dressing rooms for these beautiful dresses. Val, Elaine Marschean, Bonnie Devlin, Debbie Moody and Tiffany Powell sorted and hung dresses, made up a beautiful bulletin board and finalized the finished room and process for the distribution. Emily from the High School, produced the advertisement and set into the works advertisement and papers for the project.

We distributed dresses on March 7 and 14 by appointment only from 10am to 6 pm. Angele LePaige did alterations on both days so that the dresses fit the girls to perfection. We have opened up two additional dates for girls to come in and get dresses. One day in April and two in early May. Also, thank you to those who contributed accessories or shoes or dresses. We will be reviewing the process and what we want to do in the future after we get through the distribution this year.

We do expect to be able to offer dresses and suits to girls, boys and men and women for weddings, parties and other occasions all for free.





Trustees' Update

The Trustees last met on March 16th with a long list of action items on the agenda. The next scheduled meeting will be on April 19th following the church service.

A new toilet was installed in the church ladies' room last month and air purged from 2 of our 3 boilers to bring them back on-line in delivering heat to the church.

A note of special thanks to Kathy Perry for working with Spectrum to restore telephone service to our fire alarm system and the elevator!

PENDING PROJECTS:

Roofing the church and Fellowship Hall roof repairs- We are still waiting on a weather window to complete this project. Rest assured that Spring Will Come!

Fellowship Hall heating upgrade- The Trustees have received two quotes for this \$100k project from Cornerstone and Aeon and we are hoping to have another quote from Hyde-Stone before making a decision about selecting equipment and the contractor.

Parsonage access- The Trustees are evaluating this project with consultation from Chris and Pastor Cori.

Elevator inspection- The elevator is due for inspection and coordination is being made with the elevator maintenance company, the inspection company and the State inspector to accomplish this task.

If there is something you see on the church property that needs attention of the Trustees, please report it to Scott Marschean, Molly Hopper, Ralph Bathelt or Kathy Perry.



Finance Update

2026 is underway and pledges and other donations are coming in steady. All of our bills have been paid and we are starting to look at themes for our 2027 campaign. Thank you for your financial contributions to the church. If you would like to review our budget or have questions on how we spend our money, please see Kathy Perry and she can provide additional information. A final report will be prepared when we get to the end of the year so you can see how we ended up the year and how we spent the money we received.

This is the money we have in our savings accounts for targeted purposes. Some of the money reflected is through grants we have written and received.

- Kidz Kickstart - \$3701.31
- Mission Hub - \$843.93
- Mission Trip - \$341.18
- Missions outreach - \$646.91
- Memorials - \$1580.92



We are also looking for a few new members of our Finance Team. If you have any interest, please see Barb Reid. The committee meets only a few times a year to set the budget, review our spending and do our year-end reports.

Kidz Kickstart

Our Thursday evening Kidz worship program is going very well. On March 26th we finished up our Kidz Winter Gamez theme with a special closing ceremony.

On April 2nd we are having a special Easter party with the Jesus Easter Story, an Egg Hunt, an Egg coloring time and a visit from the Easter bunny.

Starting April 16th, we begin our western theme called Avalanche Ranch: A Wild Ride Through God's Word! As I have prepared the program it is going to be a very fun ride indeed as we continue to learn about Jesus' love and God's grace.

Our current plan is to take a short break in July, have a carnival gathering in August to reconnect and get the families ready for our fall program. Then kick off the program in September.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who are making this service a success. There have been some Thursdays when we don't get many kids and there have been some Thursdays when we get up to 19, but all our volunteers are ready for whoever comes.



Ahhh...Spring!

