



MASSENA

First United Methodist Church

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

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March 2026

Message from the Pastor

Greetings Church Family and Happy March!

You may have heard or seen we have a Thursday Evening Children's ministry program called Kidz Kickstart and since it's started, I've received some questions so I would like to take this time and answer them in hopes to help everyone understand this new ministry.

This new ministry began with the idea of how we can reach those families where Sunday morning just doesn't work for them. We also took into consideration those families with children who have a hard time sitting through a very structured service because they need to be more active. Thus, we thought we could develop a weekly evening program geared towards kids with a faith message and activities.

The typical Thursday evening starts with the kids arriving between 5:15-5:30pm. We offer them a simple meal. The program starts with a worship song at 5:45 where the kids stand and sing with via the television and followed with a prayer by Pastor Cori. Then we have them rotate to three stations that are around 15 minutes each. One station is set up as a gathering space for Pastor Cori to share a bible story that will be the overall theme for the evening. Then we have the creation station where a volunteer will guide the kids through a craft that relates to the Bible theme and then we lead the kids in a fun game that also is connected to the theme. Then we end the gathering with another worship video and a closing prayer.

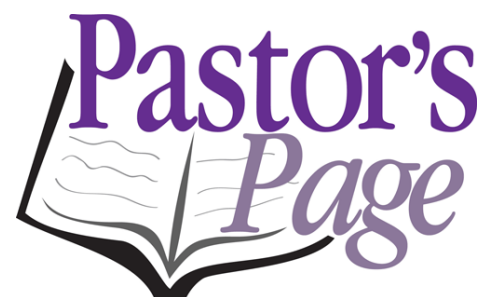
For those who are wondering - we are using vacation bible school curriculum to develop our weekly program and that allows us to keep the theme for up to 5 weeks, if not more. These curriculums also provide all the resources we need like a vacation bible school, but instead of having it every day for a week, we use one day every week to allow us to get to five weeks.

I would also like to clarify that though we are not calling it a worship service, it is in fact the intention of having this as a second service within this church. It is not meant to be a way to get families to come to convince them to come on Sundays. Though it may be set up as a fun program, it is a faith-based specially designed program to help kids learn about Jesus in fun ways and now the church can say we have two services a week. My hope is to grow this program to bring in younger families who will be just as a part of this church as those who come on Sundays.

Like any new program we have had our ebb and flow of attendance. We can see as little as three kids and we've had up to nineteen, but we can usually plan for at least ten. I can excitedly share that we have a few families who absolutely love this program and the kids are excited to come every week. It is one of their major highlights of their week and we are touching hearts as we share Jesus.

This really is an exciting opportunity for our church, and we are always looking for volunteers. Please see Pastor Cori if you are interested in becoming part of this ministry. Also if you have any family members who you think would enjoy this, please invite them.

Blessed to be your pastor,
Reverend Cori J. Loudon.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 4	Jerry Aiken
March 11	Xavier Taddonio
March 21	Nora Darling
March 22	Judi Hampton
March 25	Carolyn Love



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

There are no anniversaries to note in March.

SPPRC Report

We have met to discuss our church and its employees. We have asked Pastor Cori to change her hours in recognition of the meetings that are being conducted in the evenings to include members of the congregation who could not otherwise participate. We have developed a timetable for what we need to do in the new year to make sure we are the best employer we can be and that we respond to any concerns about our employees that are brought forward.

Our committee is the conduit between the congregation and the Pastor and the employees of the church. We need to be able to represent all voices within our church community. If there are concerns, issues, suggestions or just a pat on the back for any of our employees please bring it to any member of our committee.

Working together we will move Massena First in the direction that God is calling us as we are: Following Jesus' Call to Love our Neighbors, Serve others and Grow in Faith.

Committee members are: Kathy Perry, Shirley Lamb, Barb Reid, Charlotte Aiken, Betsy Stout, Carole Norman, Elaine Marschean and Kate Connor.



Quote of the Month

“Every March is a reminder that nature’s greatest comebacks happen after the coldest seasons.”



Bells and Choir

We have been singing every week under the direction of Sandy Donaldson. It has been a pleasure to all 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 be 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.



Trustees' Report

The Trustees postponed the scheduled meeting in February because most members were unable to attend in person, and we agreed to exchange thoughts online regarding the current projects before our next meeting on March 15th.

The “no heat in the Fellowship Hall” situation last month was repaired the following day, Praise be to God that no pipes froze in the sub-freezing temperatures, and thank you to Cornerstone for the timely repair!

Pending Projects:

Roofing the church- Thanks to Punxsutawney Phil, it is predicted that this project will be delayed for at least another 6 weeks!

Fellowship Hall heating upgrade- A project manager from Cornerstone met with us to inspect the building and make recommendations on bringing the 30-year-old heating system up to current operating standards. This will require a major investment (approximately \$100,000.00) by the Trustees to install a dependable, cost-efficient heating system which will support the growth our church into the future.

Parsonage access- We received a quote of \$ 13,500.00 to purchase a vertical wheelchair lift for the back entrance of the parsonage from Access Elevators. There would be additional costs involved for the modification of the porch and installation of the lift. The Trustees will be reviewing this project with consultation from Chris and Pastor Cori.

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.



Christian Education

1. Sunday school concluded its study of Daniel and begins a new unit for Lent "WRONG WAY" which emphasizes Jesus is the way and the vine and branches stories from John, Mark and Luke.
2. Kathy Perry will be preparing and reviewing lessons for Sunday School from the middle of March to end of May.
3. If time allows there will be a spring project for our shut-ins where the Sunday School students make a comfort pillow for our 3 nursing home residents and possible spring wreathes for their doors.
4. To get everyone on track for safe sanctuaries we are discussing a June refresher course to both renew certifications and provide new training **to those now involved in Sunday School and Kidz Kickstart or the Hub.**



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 March 4. Everyone is welcome to attend, either in person or via Zoom.

Plans are also underway for our first local mission projects. A letter was sent out requesting both ideas for simple projects we could do for members of the congregation and for interest in volunteering. We will be collecting replies through 3/31/26.

Throughout Lent, we will be collecting change for our new Missions Deployment fund!

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.



Glam Side Boutique

What started out as an idea to try, has turned into a partnership with the Massena Schools. Thank you 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 that are not being used was turned into a closet and dressing rooms for these beautiful dresses. Val, Elaine Marschean, Bonnie Devlin 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 will be distributing dresses on March 7 and 14 by appointment only from 10am to 6 pm. If you would like to help with the boutique, please see anyone of the volunteers who will be glad to have additional help.

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.



