

"In his great mercy he has given us  
new birth into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ..."

1 Peter 1:3

Early today as I pulled into the McDonald's to get a cup of Joe, I gazed across the street and there She was, as if standing majestically and reaching into the sky all at once. Our church looked extraordinary on that very less than ordinary day. The drizzle lightly came down and the mist drifted by. By weather standards it was pretty dismal, even by Western New York standards. But on this particular day in early Spring, our church shined bright in the midst of the dismal and I found my eyes fixed upon Her.

My mind went back to a few years ago when one Winter evening I found myself at the base of our church tower, looking up and realizing how small I was in comparison to it. It was also on that night that I realized that my ministry in this place was temporary, that I was one in the line of many pastors who served the Lord together with the people who call this their church home. It was also one of the numerous times that I realized that as magnificent a structure our building is, it pales in comparison to the beauty of people who make up the Body of Christ within it. And so when I behold this beautiful building, my mind quickly turns to all of you and my heart feels "strangely warmed."

So the Lord is about to do a new thing in our midst. As I contemplate moving to East Aurora and what is to come to this body, I am reminded of what has been. I find myself humbled when I remember what we have shared over the past 12 years. My thoughts reminded me of Heritage Sunday Celebrations, Vacation Bible Schools and the smiling children. I thought of Christmas Eve Services, talent shows and Cantatas, and funerals that were inspiring and some that were tragic. I remember church picnics and times at the beach, thanksgiving dinners and dessert receptions. Softball games that no matter what the score featured our "timeless" leader on the mound. First Wednesdays and YOOD Ministries and volunteers in mission to Biloxi Ms., Haiti and Honduras. And Easter Morning services where the Cross of death is transformed into a living symbol of life covered in beautiful flowers. Countless visitations and hospital visits where the healing power of God moved powerfully. Beautiful music and singing and worship where I felt the Spirit of the Lord all about.

But no matter what the memories, I always find myself going back to you, the body of Christ that calls this place home. The faithful who have traveled this journey with me. Some have chosen to leave this place; some have set sail for that distant shore. I remember them all. And all of you that remain; those who continue to make this place what it is. Again I feel my heart strangely warmed as I think of you. You are truly the life that gives life to this place and you are the ones who will take this place into the future.

God is a God of all things new and God is about to do a new thing in this place. Now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it? Know that as this journey unfolds, I will be praying for you all. May you take confidence in knowing that the Lord is with you, God knows what God is doing, and God has a plan for the people of Westfield UMC. May the uncertainty of this transition give way to hope as certain as the uncertainty of Good Friday gives way to the living hope of Easter morning.

Shalom,

*Rev. Matthew Deliberato*



# *Holy Week Services- 2016*

*Palm Passion Sunday – March 20<sup>th</sup>*

*Holy Thursday – March 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM - Gibbs Parlor  
Come to the Table: Taste and See - Stay and Pray*

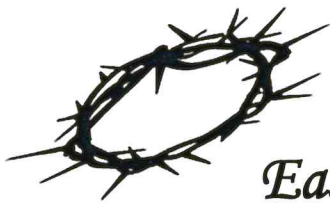
*Good Friday – March 25<sup>th</sup> - Noon  
Way of the Cross - Moore Park*

## *Easter Eve Watch*

*Sat., March 26<sup>th</sup> - 6 PM to Sun., March 27<sup>th</sup> - 6AM*

*We are asking you to set aside 1 hour, either in the church sanctuary or in your home, to take time to pray.*

*There will be a sign up sheet outside the office so we can “cover” the entire 12 hours with prayer. There will also be packets available for prayer/scripture reflections that you can use. For those that would like to pray at the church and need a key, please contact the office.*



*Easter Sunday – March 27<sup>th</sup>*

*10 AM - Combined Service*

*(No Sunday School)*

*\*Remember to bring flowers to put on the cross*