



## GOOD NEWS AMBASSADOR

**January 2020**

Church of Christ Uniting

United Methodist & Presbyterian (USA)

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Reverend Casey Bradley

315 461 6673

Organist/Choir Director: Alice Mahardy

**A**s we leave Christmas behind, with all its preparation and celebration, January can feel a little empty. All the work that we put into celebrating Christmas is over. Now what?

I came across a poem by civil rights leader and Christian theologian Howard Thurman a few years ago and I would like to share it in this newsletter as a prayer from myself to all of you:

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
    To find the lost,  
    To heal the broken,  
    To feed the hungry,  
    To release the prisoner,  
    To rebuild the nations,  
    To bring peace among others,  
    To make music in the heart.

The beautiful thing about our life as a church is that our celebrations are not empty expressions of our faith. The whole point of our Christmas celebration is to prepare us for all the days that come after December 25<sup>th</sup>. This year we have an opportunity and a sacred responsibility to be transformed by the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps we can, as a church, make this a New Year resolution, to live our faithfulness in such a way that the world becomes a transformed place where the Good News of Jesus Christ is expressed through our loving and caring for one another each day of our lives.

In the half year that I have been blessed to pastor Church of Christ Uniting I have found a community of faithfulness that is ready and eager to engage in the sacred work of ministry. I keep this community and the members of this church in my prayers constantly because I know that the work of Christmas is just beginning in this place and I trust that when we make a commitment to partner with the Lord Jesus Christ we will see the Kingdom of God unfolding in the world around us.

Blessings to you in this new year,  
Pastor Casey Bradley



### **CHANCEL CHOIR: Alice Mahardy, Director**

Melissa Belcher, Carrie Gardner, Dave Llewellyn, Marion Pitcher, Mark Reardon, Michelle Fritts, Sue Sheldon, Carol Simpson, Gene Simpson, Linda Watkins

### **Bible 101, Session 3**

As we enter a new year, our Bible 101 course moves from the political history of the Old Testament into the prophetic voices that have shaped our faith. On January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and January 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm we will explore three prophets; Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. These prophets spoke to the children of Israel during some of the most trying points in their history and continue to show us the ways in which God speaks to us and cares for us.

Pastor Casey

## **FOOD BANK**

Thanks to everyone for their donations and for volunteering for this work. Particular need is for canned goods of any kind, especially canned meat, fruits, and vegetables, spaghetti sauce, soup, cold cereal, and peanut butter. We also accept monetary donations.

Food Bank  
PO Box 140  
Richfield Springs, NY 13439

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

Classes resume Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Children go to class after a special message from Pastor Casey. Bring your children, grandchildren, even your neighbor children! Children preschool - grade 6 are welcome.



## **PRAYER CHAINS**

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." — Hebrews 13:16

When you receive a message, please call the next person. If you get an answering machine, please leave a message.

### **PRAYER CHAIN 1:**

Linda Ehlers 858-1833  
Sue Sheldon 858-2681  
Carrie Gardner 858-0694  
Geri Erwin 858-2103  
Rowena Robertson 858-0652  
Carol Simpson 868-0319

### **PRAYER CHAIN 2:**

Patti Lou Leopold 858-2706  
Shirley Dreis 858-0667  
Maureen Kennedy 858-1631  
Kate Huxtable 858-1566  
Donna Jones 858-2357  
Nancy Stronggreen 858-9483

## **EVENTS (subject to change)**

Sundays following Worship - CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL  
+Every Monday 2 pm PRAYER SHAWL & QUILTING GROUP  
+Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am EXERCISE CLASS  
+Every Wednesday night 5:30-6:30 Weight Watchers  
+Every Tues and Thurs 10am-noon FOOD PANTRY- Not 11/28  
+2nd & 4th Saturdays 11am-noon FOOD PANTRY  
+Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tues BIBLE 101 Class 6:30 pm  
+Every 4<sup>th</sup> Tues Bereavement at 7:00 pm

+Jan 5 Book Discussion 3 pm.

*Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas*

+Jan 7 Bible 101 Class at 6:30 pm

+Jan 9 Bible 101 Class at 3 pm same topic as Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

+Jan 14 COCU Board meeting 6:30 pm

+Jan 26 Annual Congregational Meeting and "Souperbowl" luncheon to follow worship.

## **SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES – revised.**

JANUARY 5 COFFEE: Priscilla Edick.

READER: Ross Jones.

USHER: Priscilla Edick & Linda Ehlers.  
Geri Erwin & Kate Huxtable.

GREETER: Maxine Armstrong.

JANUARY 12 COFFEE: Sheryl Morris.

READER: Brian Howser.

USHER: Barb Sluyter & Priscilla Edick.

GREETER: Donna Jones.

JANUARY 19 COFFEE: Diane Butts.

READER: Geri Erwin

USHER: Ross & Donna Jones.

GREETER: Priscilla Edick.

JANUARY 26 COFFEE; Carol Simpson.

READER: FaithAnn Young.

USHER: Larry Belcher & Brian Howser.

GREETER: Linda Ehlers.

The old testament book of **Isaiah** has 66 chapters, **Jeremiah** has 52, **Lamentations** only 5, and **Ezekiel** 48. The originals, written on scrolls, didn't have any chapters. Messages from God were read to gatherings of people, likely in the Synagogue, especially at large gatherings like the annual Passover feast. Later God's scribes and saints added chapter and verse numbers for study and reference, that people might carefully examine, study and remember God's words and actions. Thank God and his people that we can read it today. Please help someone learn to read whenever you can.

## **THE WOMEN'S GUILD for St. Jude's Ranch**

The Women's Guild is collecting used cards, for all occasions, to benefit St. Jude's Ranch for Children, until 1/31/2020. This benefits their Recycled Card Program.

### **DON'T THROW YOUR CARDS AWAY...RECYCLE THEM!**

Please put your used cards in the labeled box found in the Fellowship Hall. We only need the portion of the card that isn't written on, but if you want to donate the entire card, we'll take care of the rest!

Cards can also be dropped off at the church from 9-10 a.m.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or Monday afternoons from 2-4 p.m.

### **About the Program:**

St. Jude's vision is to break the cycle of abuse and neglect by mending spirits and renewing hope, by providing teens with Life & Work Skills that enable them to lead a more productive life,

### **Benefits of Program:**

\*The Teens take the Recycled Cards, cut the pictures out and anything else that can be used, to make New Cards.

\*The New Cards are sold and the proceeds are used to benefit the Program, including the teens' wages.

\*The teens are paid minimum wage as this is considered employment. For many of the teens this is their 1st job experience.

This program teaches teens: Responsibility, Job Experience, Scheduling and helps build Self-Esteem by giving them something productive to do, that they can take pride in, and be proud of.

Thank you so much for your support, and please spread the word...**DON'T THROW YOUR CARDS AWAY...RECYCLE THEM!** Give them to the Women's Guild.

Please enjoy a Happy and Blessed New Year!

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**2nd Mile giving for January is Heifer International.**

Check them out at <https://www.heifer.org/>

## **25 HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!**

1/2 Brady Young  
1/7 Barry Abrams  
1/7 Nicholas Aaron Holtz  
1/7 Norma Joy Harrison  
1/8 Justin Wolfe  
1/9 Tanya Hickman  
1/9 Ashly Marie Seamon  
1/12 John Watlins  
1/13 Isabella Valenta  
1/17 Al Stanfield  
1/17 Joshua Craft  
1/17 Steven Klem  
1/19 Max Goodrich  
1/19 John Wilde  
1/20 John Morris  
1/21 Marjorie Hubiak  
1/22 Carol Ann Simpson  
1/24 Sarah Stevens  
1/26 Lori Weiss  
1/27 Linda Hoogheem  
1/27 Deanna Wolfe  
1/28 Diane Butts  
1/29 Michael William Cristman  
1/29 Robert Fahey  
1/29 Jeffrey Gardner

## **GOVERNING BOARD POSITIONS**

Chair -- Ross Jones  
Christian Education – Michelle Fritts  
Church Growth – Jo-Ann Mead  
Communications – Faith Young  
Fellowship – Rowena Robertson  
Missions – John Morris  
Property – Ray Smith  
Stewardship – Linda Ehlers  
Worship – Kate Huxtable

## **HAPPY ANIVERSARY!**

1/11 Larry & Melissa Belcher

## **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

Please consider sharing flowers for the sanctuary. The sign-up is on the info-table.

Rowena Robertson 315-858-0652



### **SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES**

Please check any areas that you would be willing to help with. You will be “trained” and placed on a schedule. If unavailable the day scheduled, trade with another on the list, and let us know.

- Usher                             Reader  
 Sunday Greeter                 Sunday Coffee Host

- Sunday School Teacher (must be at least 18)  
 Sunday School Assistant  
 Nursery Care Provider (must be at least 18)  
 Nursery Care Assistant  
 Worship Service Acolyte

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Please place in offering plate.