



GOOD NEWS AMBASSADOR

February 2020

Church of Christ Uniting
United Methodist & Presbyterian (USA)
22 Church Street, PO Box 896
Richfield Springs NY 13439-0896
Phone: 315-858-1553

www.rschurchofchristuniting.com, cocu@verizon.net

Reverend Casey Bradley

315 461 6673

Organist/Choir Director: Alice Mahardy

It seems hard to believe that before the month is over we will have started the Lenten season. There's always tension in the Christianity over Lent. On the one hand we want to partner with Jesus by traveling through the wilderness of temptation, discovering the strength of God along the way. On the other hand, we know the ending to this story. The end of the story of Lent never changes. We know Palm Sunday awaits. We know Holy Thursday and Maundy Friday are coming. Most importantly of all, we know that Easter is about to dawn just over the horizon. In the church we set aside six weeks for Lent to mirror the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism. We are blessed to know that Lent will end. We know that the mourning of the church will be transformed to gladness. We know that the lilies of Easter will replace the ashes of Wednesday.

It is refreshing to know that our church year will not be spent in the depths of sorrow. If only all of life could have that same sense of certainty. Oftentimes in worship, especially during our prayer time at worship, we name these life uncertainties. We call them illness,

death, unemployment, floods, fires, finances, loss, grief... the list could go on and on. If only we had some assurance, some way of knowing that God will unravel joy to conquer our uncertainties the way that Easter conquers the season of mourning.

We do! We have that assurance. At the Ash Wednesday service in 2008 Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III, Dean of the National Cathedral, laid out several places where he found joy in the act of having ashes spread on his forehead. I'll share one of those joys he named while encouraging you to look up this sermon (it can be found at the National Cathedral's website cathedral.org or if you speak with me sometime this month I can share a copy of this sermon with you). The first joy goes like this: "I was overwhelmed by the sheer raw truthfulness of that act. It came crashing home—I am finite, fragile, a creature who has been given these few short years to live. My agonizing about what exactly I believed seemed less pressing; my anxieties about where my life was going seemed a waste of time. I have been given this time now ... before I return to dust, to be what I have been given to be."

I would encourage all of us to engage in a Lenten discipline of finding ordinary joy in the heart of our uncertain lives. We have received a blessed assurance by the grace of God. Lent can teach us the blessings of not squandering, forgetting, or downplaying that assurance. We are told the end of the story. We know that God will reconcile all things to Godself. Because of that we can know even in the heart of uncertainty, even in the heart of mourning, we are still held in the arms of a God of love.

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

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS for Ages 12+

Pastor Casey has announced that a Confirmation Class will be happening at COCU in the spring. Any child of God, ages 12 and beyond, are welcome to be a part of this Christian pathway. Confirmation refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment, publicly reaffirming his or her baptismal vows before the congregation. Participants will learn about the meaning of Christian faith, the history and teachings of the church, and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows they will be professing. If you or your child are interested in the Confirmation Class, please call the church office (315-858-1553) or speak with Pastor Casey after church. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask them as well.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

We have found that meeting during the worship service seems to work better for most families, as well as the teachers. We plan to continue that schedule. There are currently 8 children attending from age 3 to 10. We have been using a one room Sunday school curriculum to span a variety of ages.

Children preschool - grade 6 are welcome.

✝ ✝ ✝ _____THANK YOU and BLESS YOU!_____ ✝ ✝ ✝

I would like to thank you all for the concerns and prayers you have given me. You can't believe how much it means to me to have such a wonderful church family. I'm really blessed. God bless you. Charlie Dreis

JANUARY SANCTUARY ALTER FLOWERS THANK YOU

In memory of my sister Elaine Scovill - Geri Erwin

THANK YOU FROM RS COMMUNITY CENTER
FOR YOUR WONDERFUL HELP WITH OUR BAKE SALE!

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 Strongreen 858-9483

EVENTS

- +Feb 2 Installation of Officers of the Church
- +Feb 4 **Bible 101** Class at 6:30 pm
- +Feb 6 **Bible 101** Class at 3 pm same topic.
- +Feb 11 COCU Board meeting 6:30 pm

- 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 2nd Monday Girl Scouts 7:00 pm
- +Every 3rd Thurs Guild 6:00 pm Desert & Fellowship, 6:30 Meeting
- +Every 4th Tues Bereavement at 7:00 pm

Applications are now being accepted for the...

41st Annual Friendship Craft Festival!

Sponsored by the Church Of Christ Uniting, it will take place on Saturday, June 13, 2020 from 9am to 3pm in Spring Park on Scenic US Route 20. For information, an application and festival details go to the church's website at

www.rschurchofchristuniting.com

or call Carla at 315-858-1451 or Sue at 315-858-2681.



SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

FEBRUARY 2 COFFEE: Priscilla Edick.
READER: FaithAnn Young.
USHER: Priscilla Edick & Linda Ehlers.
Geri Erwin & Kate Huxtable.
GREETER: Maxine Armstrong.

FEBRUARY 9 COFFEE: Rowena Robertson.
READER: Alexis Fahey.
USHER: FaithAnn & Brady Young.
GREETER: Linda Ehlers.

FEBRUARY 16 COFFEE: Kate Huxtable & Carrie Gardner.
READER: Ross Jones.
USHER: Brian Howser & Donna Jones.
GREETER: Priscilla Edick.

FEBRUARY 23 COFFEE: Linda Ehlers.
READER: Brian Howser.
USHER: Priscilla Edick & Geri Erwin.
GREETER: Kate Huxtable.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

2/5 Belinda Matteson
2/6 Patrick Twomey
2/7 Shirley Dreis
2/14 Mark Reardon
2/15 Brianna Lyn Johnson
2/15 Sharon Hoffman
2/16 Emily Matteson-Mayerson
2/16 Christian Holtje Shaefer
2/17 Nathan Stevens
2/18 Daniel Stevens
2/18 Michael Twomey
2/19 Nathaniel Patrick Johnson

HAPPY ANIVERSARY!

2/20 Patrick & Heidi Johnson
3/6 Michael & Monica Wolfe

3/1 Pat Starr
3/3 Hannah Dulovich
3/4 Marie Prokop
3/6 John Burditt

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Please consider sharing flowers
for the sanctuary alter.
Rowena Robertson 315-858-0652

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 – Carla Eckler

Thank you to those who've served and welcome new servants.



February

Food Pantry right here at the church.

RYS is now taking player & coach signups for the spring season pre-K – 6th grade. Forms are under the T-ball-softball-baseball menu tab at www.richfielddyouthsports.org

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 unavailble 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.