



## THE GOOD NEWS AMBASSADOR

**May 2019**

Church of Christ Uniting  
United Methodist & Presbyterian (USA)  
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The Reverend Dr. Mark Ioset  
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Organist/Choir Director: Alice Mahardy



### Good for the Bones

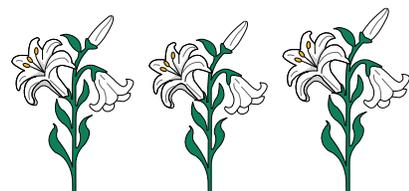
One of my favorite stories in the Bible appears in the Book of Ezekiel, one of the great prophets in Hebrew Scripture (the Old Testament). It's the story of the Valley of the Dry Bones. Ezekiel is led by the hand of the Lord: "He brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones." (37:1) It is a story of the life-giving presence of God, in this case, resuscitating and rejuvenating the whole people of Israel after the horrendous experience of the Exile (where many of the people had been uprooted from their homes and forced to live in Babylon). It is a story that, again, is about God's life-giving presence. God breathed new life into his people.

Some years back, I had the blessing of going to a talk given by Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of several books, among them When Bad Things Happen to Good People and How Good Do We Have to Be?. His focus was on the love and power of God to sustain and restore us. He said that our God always seeks to replenish us and will never leave us bereft of his love and strength. This, he said, is especially true when we experience hardships that have the capacity to take all our strength and hope. "God," he said, "accompanies us in all our struggles and lifts us up."

Sometimes faith can be approached too abstractly, yet scripture tells us that God cares for us completely, including times of physical deprivation and challenge. God cares for us right down to our bones, right down to our marrow. He is the one who gives us life and renews our life. God is concerned for our whole well-being.

A little exercise that brings this to mind is to stand in the sun, especially after a long, cold winter. It's as though the sunlight goes right down to the bones. As Ezekiel would say, it warms our sinews and muscles, too. As we are warmed by the sun of Spring, we do well to think of God's life-giving presence and let God envelope us... and remember that even on a cloudy day that God is with us to renew and sustain us with the light of his love found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mark



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School Classes will be taking a summer break until fall. May 12 will be our last class.

The children are preparing something for the mothers and daughters who are in church that day. They will receive certificates of attendance. Also, award Bibles will be given to those in 4th grade.

Thank you to Mrs Worobey, Mrs Boss and Mrs Stevens for your time in planning and teaching. They've planted seeds of faith; the rest of us are commissioned to nurture them. We look forward to seeing them all at worship, especially for the pastor's time with the children throughout the summer. There will be nursery care available for children up to first grade and activity sheets for the older children.  
Yours in Christ, Donna Jones

## **SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES**

### **MAY 5 HOLY COMMUNION**

GREETER: Maxine Armstrong  
USHERS: Geri Erwin, Priscilla Edick  
Kate Huxtable, Linda Ehlers  
READER: Daniel Stevens  
COFFEE: Priscilla Edick

### **MAY 12**

GREETER: Priscilla Edick  
USHERS: Ross and Donna Jones  
READER: FaithAnn Young  
COFFEE: JoAnn Mead

### **MAY 19**

GREETER: Maxine Armstrong  
USHERS: Fred and Carla Eckler  
READER: Alexis Fahey  
COFFEE: Rowena Robertson

### **MAY 26**

GREETER: Linda Ehlers  
USHERS: Larry Belcher and Bill Mahardy  
READER: Brian Howser  
COFFEE: Kate Huxtable and Carrie Gardner

***"Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle." G.E.***

## **PRAYER CHAINS**

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

We have 2 separate lists. 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

## **Easter Flowers Thank You!**

Kate & Bill Huxtable  
Betty Butler  
Don & Sue Sheldon  
The Ehlers family  
Susan & Carolyn Ames  
Marion and John Pitcher  
Mort & Rowena Robertson  
Maureen Kennedy  
Ross and Donna Jones  
Rod & Barb Sluyter  
Robert & Joan Fahey  
Marston & Geri Erwin

### **CHOIR: Alice Mahardy (Director),**

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

## **BIG RIMSHOT TO DANIEL STEVENS**

The connections we make with others can be delightful. Such has been the case with Daniel Stevens and myself. Daniel was a high school student when we met. I soon discovered that he was a fellow drummer. He went on to become the leader of the drumline at Richfield Springs High School and continued his love of music while at Houghton College where, once more, he pulled a drumline together. The connection we shared led to many great conversations.

Then Daniel marched forward to become our church's Youth Leader, sharing his deep and informed faith with the kids in many different ways and activities, many of which found him reaching out to the youth of the community. As you might guess, Daniel and I had many faith-related conversations. His love for and commitment to our Lord is exemplary and has been a gift to the young people and to our whole church.

Now Daniel is preparing for graduate work in music. He will be a gift to whichever program he chooses. As he prepares for the next step in the Lord's plan for his life, we owe him our thanks and prayers...and while I'm at it, I'll give him a rim shot for ministry faithfully and, therefore, well done!

Pastor Mark

## **GOVERNING BOARD POSITIONS**

Chair -- Ross Jones  
Christian Education – Michelle Schmidt  
Church Growth – Jo-Ann Mead  
Communications – Faith Young  
Fellowship – Rowena Robertson  
Missions – John Morse  
Property – Ray Smith  
Stewardship – Bob Fahey  
Worship – Kate Huxtable

## **FOOD BANK**

Saturday Volunteer help is needed a couple of hours a month: two Saturdays from 10 am until noon.

It is our hope that you keep in your minds and hearts that there is an extra need for donated food items for those less fortunate. Or, perhaps you would choose to make a monetary donation or even a gift card to the local Price Chopper for necessities. Donations of any type would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off to the Food Bank located in our church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 12 Noon. Monetary donations and/or gift cards can be mailed to:

Food Bank, PO Box 140, Richfield Springs, NY 13439. Questions? Call 315-858-7032.

## **May 13<sup>TH</sup> WOMEN'S APPRECIATION DINNER**

6:30 pm at church. In honor of Mother's Day, the men of the church will be serving dinner to all women and children who attend. Reservations are appreciated. Sign up on the reservation sheet in the church's Fellowship Hall or call Carol Simpson at 315-868-0319.

## **May 14<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

6:30PM here at the Church.

## **May 16<sup>th</sup> GUILD -- All women are welcome!**

Our meeting is 6:30 pm at the church.



## **May 17<sup>th</sup> RUMMAGE SALE**

9 am – 6:30 pm at church. Bag sale is 4-6:30 pm. Clean, useable items can be brought to the church beginning on Tuesday, May 14. Volunteers are needed and much appreciated to sort or display items even if you can only donate 1 or 2 hours of your time.

**CRAFT FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Sunday, May 19** there will be a meeting immediately after worship for all committee chairs and co-chairs.

**40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP CRAFT FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, June 8** from 9 am to 3 pm in Spring Park on Route 20 in Richfield Springs. This year COCU is celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> year for the Friendship Craft Festival. The popular **Brooks' BBQ** is served from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. In addition, **Richfield Youth Sports** will be selling hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage patties, french fries and beverages all day. Our ever-so-popular bake sale will return with a wide variety of confections. Come early for the best selection as they are always a big hit with festival goers.

Start making your list if you are looking for a graduation, birthday, anniversary, baby or wedding shower gift – this is the place to find it. Hope to see you there!

Carla Eckler & JoAnn Mead, Co-Chairs



**SECOND MILE GIVING OUTREACH**

**MINISTRY for May:** Hospice

**Richfield Youth Sports Baseball**

Practice and home games will be at Diamond Dreams field on US20 in Warren. RYS provides T-ball thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade sports. COCU's team coaches this season are Len Pickens and Len Calkins. sports13439@yahoo.com

**Birthdays**

- 5/1 LorriJo Seamon
- 5/1 Alexis Wolfe
- 5/4 Joseph Barra
- 5/5 Susan Sheldon
- 5/8 Amy Worobey
- 5/8 Daniel Bloomfield
- 5/8 Bob Raux
- 5/9 Carrie Gardner
- 5/9 Karen Owczarczak
- 5/10 Marion Foster
- 5/12 Heidi Bond
- 5/14 David Weiss
- 5/17 Michael Domion
- 5/24 Alice Mahardy



**CARRIE GARDNER**

Carrie announced her retirement after many years of FAITHFUL service. THANK YOU for all you've done (and do) for our Church. May God bless your retirement very much.

**PATTY HICKS**

Patty has accepted the position of cleaner (or housekeeper) for the Church. We heard that cleanliness is next of Godliness.

**PURCHASING**

We must get board approval before making purchases for the church.

Submitted by:

Ross Jones, Governing Board Chairperson



MINUTES  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING**

**DATE** April 7, 2019  
**KIND OF MEETING** Special Congregational Meeting  
**WHERE HELD** Church Sanctuary

Rev. Dr. Mark Ioset called the special meeting to order at 10:28 a.m. and then offered an opening prayer.

**RESTRUCTURE OF GOVERNING BOARD**

Board President, Ross Jones, noted the following proposed changes: Evangelism to *Church Growth*, Ecumenical Affairs to *Communications*, and Social Concerns to *Fellowship*. He then asked the congregation to vote by a show of hands. There was a most favorable response. This change is effective immediately and will be publicized in the weekly bulletin and newsletter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pastor Mark offered a closing prayer after adjournment at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teena Shypski  
Board Secretary