

Good News Ambassador - APRIL



CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
and the United Methodist Church

The Reverend Casey Bradley, 315 858 8864

Alice Mahardy, Organist & Choir Director
PO Box 896, Richfield Springs, NY 13439

Online and In-person Worship

Join us **Sundays at 9:15 am.**

Facebook page: **RS Church of Christ Uniting**

Just go to www.facebook.com and put the above name in the search, or watch later on **YouTube**, by searching on **RS COCU**.

The Temple in Jerusalem was a center of activity in the 1st century; it wasn't just religious activity, it was very much a center of city life. The Temple was a site of commerce and conflict, a place for religious festivals and political intrigue. But, if you begin traveling north from the Temple, you would soon find yourself on the outskirts of the city. Go north, pass through the Damascus Gate, turn right, and you would find yourself in a garden. Nearby you would see a series of tombs cut into the rock wall, places where the dead could be laid to rest. Perhaps what you would be most aware of however, if you had just come from the city, was how still the area must have seemed. There are no merchants or vendors buying and selling. There are no religious festivals or worshippers from across the reaches of the Empire. There are no young children playing about with their parents calling after them. In this garden there is stillness. In this garden there is quiet.

If you happened upon that garden on a certain spring morning in the first century you would have been witness to something magnificent. One of those tombs cut into the rock wall would be empty save for the graveclothes of its prior occupant. In the midst of the quiet stillness of the garden, the world was about to change.



Change is at the very heart of our Easter experience. The cross was changed from a symbol of oppression into a sign of great hope. The tomb was changed from a testament to death into a symbol of rebirth. Death was changed from a constant for all things into just one more thing that cannot stand in the way of God's desire for relationship with each and every one of us. The most authentic church is not the one that remains static from year to year, but rather the church that continues to embrace change while still proclaiming the Good News of Great Joy.

I was still in my first month of ministry, fresh out of seminary with a headful of ideas and some blissful ignorance regarding the politics of the local church, when a pastor in a neighboring church took me out to lunch. He told me something that I have now heard many times from many different people (I have shared these exact words on more than one occasion now myself). He told me "the 7 last words of every church before they close are always the same, 'We've never done it that way before.'"

Change can be a frightening thing, but as we see in the resurrection, change can also be the harbinger of a great new beginning. One of my goals this year is to get as many people in our church community as possible invested in the great new opportunities that God has set before us. I hope and pray that you want to be part of the new places this church will be growing into in the coming years. In many ways we are in the stillness of the garden right now. It is quiet, but it won't be quiet forever. Just as the stillness of the garden soon gave way to the hecticness of Pentecost, the stillness of this moment will soon give way to the abundant ministry God has in store for us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Casey

Easter Sermon Series: Getting a PhD in Love

From April 11th through May 7th you are invited to join Church of Christ Uniting in getting your PhD in Love. Each Sunday during worship we will be exploring the Epistle of 1st John. In this letter you will discover how the perfect love of God can shape every aspect of your life and your relationships. I hope that you can join us as we spend the Easter Season studying God's love.

Pastor Casey Bradley

Choir members - Please consider attending church again. I would appreciate having enough folks to at least sing the hymns. Paster Casey has been doing above and beyond in helping with the music. Miss you all. Alice.

2nd Mile for April is

~~ **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** ~~

Sunday School: We miss you ! We hope you've been enjoying the Bible lessons that have been coming in the mail and on your door knob. Classes have not started up again, yet, but when you and your family feel comfortable coming to worship again, there will be Bible story activities and color sheets available for you during the service. Be well and may God Bless, Mrs. Jones.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

4/1 Katelynn Bond Worobey
4/1 Mary Beth Kearney
4/2 Anna Hawkes
4/2 Matthew Joseph Cristman
4/4 Emily Bond
4/4 Lillian Martin
4/8 Carrie Gardner
4/10 Maureen Kennedy
4/10 Diane Vaughn
4/12 Priscilla Edick
4/14 Lois Schoenlein
4/14 Linda Ehlers
4/14 Jessica Ann Klem
4/20 Patrick Twomey
4/24 Geri Erwin
4/27 George Gardner
4/29 Ashley Lindsay
4/30 Roger Waldron
4/30 James Watkins
5/1 Lorri Jo Farley Seamon
5/2 Alexis Wolfe

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

4/2 Kenneth & Shirley Dreis
4/18 Rev. Mark & Myrna Ioset
5/2 Michele & Wayne Sheldon

Palm Sunday. Have you made a palm?

HOLY WEEK Schedule

March 28th - Palm Sunday church at 9:15am
April 1st - Maundy Thursday Service 7pm (Facebook or YouTube)
April 2nd - Good Friday Service 7pm (Facebook or YouTube)
April 4th - Easter Sunrise 7:30am
April 4th - Easter Service 9:15am
Communion elements for Maundy Thursday and the 9:15 Easter service will be available for pickup after church on March 28th or on March 31st or April 1st from 1:00pm to 4pm outside of the church. You can also call Pastore Casey to make other arrangements for Communion (315-858-8864).
All in-person worship services will be livestreamed to our church Facebook page.

The 4 Acts of Prayer

In April we will be studying Walter Wangerin Jr.'s ***The 4 Acts of Prayer***. Wangerin is an award-winning author of over thirty novels, many children's stories, and several plays. He has been a college professor and a Lutheran Pastor. In ***The 4 Acts of Prayer*** he takes us through the ways we speak to God, and the ways God speak to us. In-person and online sessions are available. Once there are enough people interested in this study, we will set dates and times for our gatherings so all can participate. Please contact Pastor Casey or call the church office for more information or to sign up for the study.

Good News Ambassador Newsletter

Preference Update:

To determine how the remaining people wish to receive COCU's free monthly newsletter, a first class mailing was done a couple week's ago to those who we had not heard from (address code 7) to assure that anyone who wants one—in any form—will continue to receive one.

Nonresponders will be unsubscribed this month. Please subscribe again anytime.

We sincerely thank you for your cooperation over the last several months to streamline the newsletter process to be more economically responsible.

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE GUILD

The April Guild meeting will be on Thursday, April 15 at 6:00 PM. As of this writing it will continue to be held virtually via Zoom. Login information: Go to the Church's website at www.rschurchofchristunting.com and click on the tab "Women's Guild." Then click on "Meeting Schedule."

SPRING BROOKS' BBQ---APRIL 17 Drive Thru

A drive-thru Brooks' chicken and ribs BBQ will be held on Saturday, April 17, 12:00 noon until sold out. No early sales. Chicken halves are \$8.00 and ribs are \$11.00. Please wear face masks; exact amount for your order appreciated. All mandatory safety precautions will be adhered to. Hope to see you there!

WOMEN'S APPRECIATION DINNER—MAY 10

A decision was made at the Guild's March meeting to **cancel** this year's Women's Appreciation Dinner scheduled for May 10 due to the uncertainty of restrictions for social gathering at that time.

SAVE THE DATE—JUNE 12

Although the decision was made to cancel this year's Friendship Craft Festival, the Brooks' BBQ and Bake Sale will still be held on Saturday, June 12, 12:00 noon until sold out. It will be held in the Church Fellowship Hall and will be take-out only. For the safety of all, face masks will be required, and we ask that you adhere to Social Distancing Guidelines. To alleviate the exchange of money, the exact amount for your order is appreciated. All mandatory safety precautions will be adhered to by Church volunteers.

Prices: Chicken Halves \$8.00; Ribs only \$11.00; Chicken Dinners \$10.00; Rib Dinners \$13.00. Dinners include: Choice of Meat, Roasted Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Roll & Butter, and Brownie.

Details are still being worked on for the Guild's Bake Sale, which will be held in the Winter Chapel, the same date and time as the BBQ. Stay tuned for upcoming details in the May newsletter.

[Richfield Youth Sports Snow sledding](#)

Feb 27 brought 29 sledding children and 15 sets of parents. 14 children enjoyed March 6, which was much colder. Total 35 unique sledding children enjoyed both free events.

Thank you Larry Winslow, Jacob Robertson, and Canadarago Snowtoppers, for grooming the snow for the sleds. Thank you Woodrow-Kozak family for use of the hillside.

Carol is organizing 13 different jobs for the April BBQ Drive Thru. You go Carol!

Sunday Servants

APRIL 4. READER. Linda Ehlers.
USHER . Kate Huxtable.

APRIL 11. READER. Brian Howser.
USHER Carla Eckler.

APRIL 18. READER. Ross Jones.
USHER. Donna Jones.

APRIL 25. READER. Thomas Rhodes.
USHER. JoAnn Mead.



Good Friday
April 2 at 7pm

<https://youtu.be/Hb54uu7Fouk>

Resurrection Sunday

Sunrise 7:30 am



In Person worship service
outside if weather permits or inside

Church of Christ Uniting

is hosting an



ON-THE-RUN
(drive-thru)

BROOKS' CHICKEN & RIBS EVENT!

Saturday, April 17

Noon - 'til sold-out

\$8.00 per chicken half

\$11.00 for ribs

Just pull around the church's driveway
No public pre sales and no early birds please

***EXACT change appreciated OR**
checks made payable to Church of Christ Uniting*



Please wear your mask.

ALL OTHER MANDATORY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WILL BE ADHERED TO