



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**. All in-person worship services will be livestreamed to our church Facebook page

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**.

On April 4th a small group from church met outside at 7:30 for our Easter sunrise service. It was a brisk spring morning when we greeted the Resurrection sun with song, scripture, and prayer. We gathered around a stark cross that had been placed in the ground the week before. Before the day was over, we had transformed that cross, covering it with flowers so that anyone who passed by couldn't help but see the signs of new life taking root at Church of Christ Uniting.

That cross stood out in front of the church for the next several weeks. It stood out there day and night, through warm and sunny days, through rain and wind, through late-season snowfall. Through it all we sent a message into the world, that which had been dead was alive once more.

That is kind of the central message of the church; death has been defeated by life. As members of the Body of Christ, we become messengers of the triumph of life. Even when life seems at its most difficult, even when we have trouble seeing signs of new life taking root around us, we in the church get to take on the holy responsibility of witnessing to the new life coming into the world.

It has been a great joy to see signs of life springing up at Church of Christ Uniting over the last several weeks. The church is being utilized again. Worshippers are returning. People are gathering in faith once more. We have a long way to go before things are "normal" again, but maybe returning to normal shouldn't be our goal. Maybe our goal as a church should be to speak the promise of new life into a world desperately in need of the hope Jesus Christ offers.

I know many in our church community are still hesitant to worship with us in-person and that's okay. We can mitigate the risks of worshipping together but we cannot eliminate them, so if you are not ready to be in-person with us please do not feel pressured to do so. Even if you aren't able to be with us in-person, I pray that you will still be prayerful about how you can be a messenger of life in these uncertain times. Together we are the Body of Christ in the world today, and as the Body of Christ we are commissioned to be witnesses to new life.

Pastor Casey Bradley

Sunday School: Weekly Sunday School lessons will be ending at the end of May (as we always did with the in-person classes) until Fall. We're hoping to be able to have one or two special days for the Sunday school members to gather for some "Good News" and Fun. It's our hope and prayer that the regulations ease, and that will make it easier to plan a gathering. There will be activity sheets each week for the children who come to worship (in the back near the ushers' table). Be well and may God bless and keep you. Thanks, Donna

Choir members - Please consider attending church again. We are singing the hymns. Paster Casey has been doing above and beyond in helping with the music. Love you all. Alice.

Confirmation and New Members Groups Starting this Summer!

After canceling plans for a Confirmation Class and a New Members group last year due to the ongoing pandemic, I am excited to announce that this summer we will have a teen Confirmation Class and an adult New Members group.

Confirmation Class: Because we have not had a Confirmation Class recently, I am opening the group to any teen who has not already gone through Confirmation. If we have interest, we may split the group and have an older-teen and younger-teen group.

New Member Group: Membership in the church is one of the outward ways we express our commitment to the ministry of the church and our desire to grow our faith. The New Members group is an informal gathering prior to officially joining Church of Christ Uniting.

Are you interested in either the Confirmation Class or the New Members group? Call the church (315) 858-1553 to speak with Pastor Casey or send an email to caseybradley@gmail.com so that we can begin planning how these groups will take shape. Please let us know about your interest by June 6th.

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 study God's love.

Pastor Casey Bradley

Flowers

Please consider offering flowers for the Church Altar and calling Rowena at

315 858 0652 to let her know. All Sundays May & June are open. Thank-you!



Sunday Servants for May 2021

MAY 2.	READER.	Linda Ehlers.
	USHER.	Kate Huxtable.
MAY 9.	READER.	Ross Jones.
	USHER.	Fred Eckler.
MAY 16.	READER.	Thomas Rhodes.
	USHER.	JoAnn Mead.
MAY 23.	READER.	Brian Howser.
	USHER.	Linda Ehlers.
MAY 30.	READER.	Ross Jones.
	USHER.	Donna Jones.



2nd Mile for MAY is

~~ OTSEGO COUNTY HOSPICE ~~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

5/1 Lorri Jo Farley Seamon
5/2 Alexis Wolfe
5/4 Joseph Connor Barra
5/5 Susan Sheldon
5/8 Daniel Bloomfield
5/8 Amy Worobey
5/8 Bob Raux
5/9 Carrie Lynn Gardner
5/9 Karen Owczarczak
5/10 Marion Foster
5/12 Heidi Bond
5/14 David Weiss
5/17 Michael T. Domion
5/18 Katie Lindsey
5/19 Barbara Sluyter
5/24 Alice Mahardy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

5/2 Michele & Wayne Sheldon
5/7 Don & Susan Sheldon
5/8 Al & Mary Stanfield
5/9 Gary & Judi Southard
5/9 Donald & Heather Snyder
5/18 Kristy & Aleksey Zaitseva
5/31 Mark & Vickie Richards

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE GUILD

The May Guild meeting will be held in person at the church on Thursday, May 20th. Social time/dessert is 6:00-6:30 PM. The business meeting is at 6:30 PM. Dessert will be provided by Carol Simpson. Hostess will be Donna Jones. New members always welcome.

WOMEN'S APPRECIATION DINNER & SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Due to the uncertainty of restrictions for social gatherings, both events have been canceled.

SAVE THE DATE—JUNE 12—BROOKS' CHICKEN BBQ AND BAKE SALE

In lieu of the Friendship Craft Festival canceled this year, we will be having a Brooks' **Chicken BBQ and Bake Sale at the church on June 12th, at 4-6pm. It will be Take-Out only.**

BBQ info: Full dinners, as well as chicken halves, are being offered.

Chicken Halves \$8.00; Chicken Dinners \$10.00; Dinners include: 1/2 chicken, roasted potatoes, coleslaw, roll/butter, and brownie.

PRE-ORDERS SUGGESTED: Deadline June 10th

Call Donna at 315-858-2357 or Carla at 315-858-1451

Walk-ins also welcome until sold out.

Bake sale info: We need our church bakers now more than ever!

Will you please share your favorite recipes and donate them to our Bake Sale? We are all looking forward to enjoying them again!

NO CREAM PIES or REFRIGERATED ITEMS, and NO NUTS or PEANUT BUTTER .

In order to get an idea of what we will have to offer at the Bake Sale, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

If you're unable to sign-up at church, feel free to call: Geri Erwin @ 315-858-2103 or Elizabeth Traut @ 315-735-0802.

Please have items to the church no later than 3pm on June 12th.

GUILD MISSION PROJECT: HEALTH KITS

The Guild is accepting items for Health Kits to send to Church World Service (CWS). CWS is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe in response to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. If you would like to help, please see the list of items below, needed to complete a Health Kit. Whatever you can give will be a blessing to those in need.

Health Kit Items:

1 HAND TOWEL (15" X 28" or 16" x 32")

1 WASHCLOTH

1 COMB (Wide-toothed. Removed from package)

1 FINGERNAIL or TOENAIL CLIPPER (removed from package)

1 BATH-SIZE SOAP (in original packaging)

1 ADULT-SIZE TOOTHBRUSH (in original packaging)

10 STANDARD-SIZED BANDAIDS

Items can be deposited in the tote located on the table in the Fellowship Hall by June 20th.

Take Out Only **Brooks' BBQ** **Bake Sale**
Saturday June 12TH 4-6 PM
Pre-Orders Suggested
call 315 858 - 2357
315-858 -1451
 Reserve your order and pick-up time By June 10th
 Walk Ins also Welcome as supply holds

*Dinners include 1/2 chicken, roasted potatoes, coleslaw, roll / butter and brownie	
Chicken Dinner.....\$10	Chicken Halves.....\$8

Please wear a Face Mask. All mandatory Safety Precautions will be adhered to.

Church of Christ Uniting
22 Church St Richfield Sp.

[Richfield Youth Sports and the Richfield Springs Community Center](#)

Members of both organizations are selling raffle tickets as part of Aubuchon's annual donation fundraiser, and two day BBQ during Memorial Day weekend at Aubuchon's in Richfield Springs. The kids hope to carry their banner (including COCU's logo) in the Memorial Day parade, as usual.

www.richfieldyouthsports.org

www.richfieldspringscommunitycenter.org



GARDEN COMMITTEE NEWS

Since its creation in the fall of 2017, the church gardens have been a work in progress. The perennials are maturing nicely. Each year annuals are strategically planted to add spots of color as well as to fill the urns.

Our yearly budget covers essentials such as fertilizer, deer deterrent spray and a few annual plantings. We have been fortunate in the past that Sweeney's Greenhouse has donated flowers—but they officially retired last year.

This brings us to this year. Two flower urns have been purchased and will be placed on each side of the sidewalk off the parking lot—now making five in all.

The committee is looking to establish a modest "Flower Fund" to help with the costs of the annual plantings. If you are so inclined to donate to the fund, we would be most grateful. Donations can be deposited in the church's collection box CLEARLY marked "Flower Fund" or can be mailed to the church at PO Box 896, Richfield Springs, NY 13439—again, clearly marked on the envelope: Attention-Flower Fund.

As always—the committee welcomes new members to help maintain the gardens. We have spring and fall cleanup sessions and a weekly rotation basis schedule throughout the summer and fall to weed, fertilize and water. Call Carla at 315-858-1451 if you are eager to help lighten the load.