



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

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

www.rschurchofchristuniting.com

Pastor's Message

We've been on a journey this whole year at Church of Christ Uniting. I started planning this journey during the summer of 2020 as I began imagining how the church was going to grow in the midst of the pandemic. I started thinking about how God inspired the Israelites to rebuild after their exile in Babylon, and how we too were going to have to go through the hard work of rebuilding after a year of loss. I also began dreaming about the ways we could refocus our faith, getting back to the unshakable basics of our spirituality. These two ideas came together and I started to plan out a year where we would Rebuild and Refocus.

In the middle of last winter, I began a series based on Ezra, recounting the adventures of the end of the Babylonian Exile and the difficulties of rebuilding the Jerusalem Temple. I ended this series with two points; rebuilding was hard but

grace-filled work, and rebuilding doesn't work unless we also commit fully to our covenant with God. This led us into a year of looking at three ways to refocus our connection to God by getting back to the basics of faith, hope, and love.

This year we have taken big steps, not just in getting the church reopened and our worship lives back on track, but in discovering ways that together we can live into being faithful, being hope-filled, and falling in love with God and with one another. We still have a long way to go, but we have taken the important first steps of rebuilding and refocusing, with a trust that God will see us through this process as we grow our discipleship within and without.

None of us know what the coming months and years will hold; not for ourselves, not for our world, and not for our church, but I believe that if we continue to focus on being a faithful people dedicated to the hard work of making disciples for Jesus Christ, we will discover that there is a bountiful harvest just waiting to be gathered. As we journey through the final months of the year, I ask each of you to offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for all we have accomplished together while being mindful of the holy work we still have before us.

Fall back. Daylight Savings Time Ends.
NOVEMBER 7. COFFEE: Fred & Carla Eckler
READER: Thomas Rhodes.
USHER: Kate Huxtable.

NOVEMBER 14. COFFEE: Diane Butts.
READER: Brian Howser.
USHER: FaithAnn Young.

NOVEMBER 21. COFFEE: JoAnn Mead.
READER: Ross Jones.
USHER: Donna Jones.

NOVEMBER 28. COFFEE: KATE HUXTABLE.
READER: Linda Ehlers
USHER; Geri Erwin.

Advent Study Mondays

Matthew names five women in the family tree of Jesus. Our Advent study this year shows how each of these five women played a pivotal role in God's purposes. By learning about these underdogs and outsiders, we will uncover new dimensions of the story of God's people and how that story comes into focus in the hope for the Messiah.

Monday evenings at 6pm, starting November 29th and going through December 27th, we will gather for about an hour to discuss Tom Fuerst's *Underdogs and Outsiders*. Cost of the book is \$14. If you cannot afford the book,

please do not let that stop you from joining this study, we will make sure that you have a copy before we begin. If you are interested please sign up on the info table or call the church (858-1553).

If you are interested in a virtual study option over Zoom, please speak with Pastor Casey.


LUNCHEON
BAKE SALE
CRAFT CORNER
Saturday
NOVEMBER 13
10 am – 2 pm
Sign up at the table

The *Pre-Halloween Celebration* took place on Sundays, October 17 and 24. Though the weather did not cooperate so that we could travel to the Cullen Pumpkin Farm on either day, the children enjoyed a special "Children's Time" during the church service and cookie decorating during Sunday School on October 17. On October 24 the children decorated pumpkins during Sunday School which were donated by the Cullen Pumpkin Farm. Goodie bags were given to each child, and the congregation joined the children after church for some cider and donuts!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 11/2 Barbara Barnes
- 11/3 Tom Crohan
- 11/3 Luke Worobey
- 11/4 Fay LaFrance
- 11/5 Nancy Strongreen
- 11/6 Michael Gardner
- 11/7 Callie Boss
- 11/10 Donna Jones
- 11/10 Sally Crohan
- 11/10 Dan Hoogheem
- 11/11 Deanna Harkins – Veterans Day!
- 11/12 Joan Wiley
- 11/12 Ross Jones
- 11/18 John Dale Goodrich
- 11/18 Mackenzie Gardner
- 11/19 Cheri Pomeroy
- 11/21 Robert Klem
- 11/23 Alicia Pomeroy
- 11/25 Lynne Foster – Thanksgiving!
- 11/28 – Hanukkah begins.
- 11/29 Sara Valenta
- 11/29 Myrna Santos
- 11/29 Pearl (Sally) Pickens

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 11/4 George & Diane Butts

COCU Board meets Tues Nov 9 at 6:30 pm.



COCU was represented at the school's *Trunk or Treat* Friday evening, October 29 by Pastor Casey and Heather as "Peanut Butter and Jelly." Thanks Casey and Heather for volunteering to represent the church.

2nd Mile for November is
Rescue Mission

NEWS FROM THE GUILD

After a year's hiatus, the Guild will once again be holding a *Luncheon/Bake Sale/Craft Corner* on Saturday, November 13 from 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

The Luncheon will include a choice from a variety of soups and sandwiches, potato chips, choice of beverage and homemade dessert. The suggested donation for the luncheon is \$7.00

The Bake Sale will include a diverse offering of pies, breads, cookies and other homemade confections—most all are worthy of freezing to complement your upcoming holiday dinners.

The Craft Corner will be located in the Winter Chapel and will consist of select artisans from the area offering a variety of handcrafted items for holiday giving, special occasions---or just to fulfill the shopper's "want" list.

Signup sheets are on the table in the Winter Chapel for those wishing to either volunteer to work the event on November 13, donate baked goods for the bake sale and/or also for items needed for the luncheon. Or, you can call Carol Simpson, Guild President at 315-868-0319 if unable to sign up at church.

Mark Your Calendars

The next Guild meeting is our yearly "Pledge" meeting and will take place on Thursday, November 18. Dessert/social time is from 6:00-6:30 PM. Business meeting is promptly at 6: 30 PM. Linda Ehlers will be hostess and Diane Butts will be providing the dessert. Please RSVP to Diane at 315-272-7850 by November 16 if you will be attending. New members are always welcome!

Fundraisers Make Their Return

The *Fall Harvest Dinner* on Saturday, October 16 was a huge success. It was a pre-order, drive through dinner with an amazing 216 dinners sold. Hopefully next year we can return to our usual sit down dinner.

Returning after two years was the *Fall Rummage Sale* on Friday, October 29. Two rooms were chuck full of donated items. Patti Lou thanks all who volunteered their time and also to those who donated items.