

## Good News January 2022



### **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](http://www.facebook.com) and put the above name in the search, or watch later on **YouTube**, by searching on **RS COCU**.

[www.rschurchofchristuniting.com](http://www.rschurchofchristuniting.com)

#### **Pastor's Message**

Self-care is a kind of catchall buzzword that has gained popularity in the last few years. You've probably heard it before; you may even have taken the practice of self-care to heart. Have you got a stressful job with long hours and little appreciation, make sure you practice good self-care to avoid burnout. Taking care of your family, schools closed for the week, and the house is a mess, make sure you practice good self-care to avoid being overwhelmed. Self-care takes many forms; exercise, relaxation, retail therapy, listening to music, reading a book, vegging in front of the TV, yoga, getting fresh air, going on vacation, taking a staycation... we could probably all list activities that we do that are designed primarily to care for our own well-being.

As self-care becomes more and more fashionable and understood, I wanted to take some time to think about something that is just as important, the care for our souls. Soul-care are those practices we undertake that speak to the deepest spiritual needs that we have. Soul-care asks us to focus on spiritual renewal as well as our connection to God and one another.

I want to make this a year when Church of Christ Uniting focuses on soul-care. How do we care for our spiritual well-being? Are we practicing good soul-care? How can we encourage those who are not part of the church to take the care of their souls seriously? These are all questions that I hope we are asking throughout the year as we build up our own capacity for soul-care.

Starting in mid-January I am beginning a worship series called Soul Reset based on the writings of Junius Dotson. I hope that you can join us as we explore what happens when we confess the true state of our souls and explore how we can care for our deepest spiritual needs.

#### **Confirmation Class**

There will be an 8-week Confirmation Class starting up in February. Traditionally, confirmation is offered to those who are between 12 and 15 years old, however because we have been unable to hold a confirmation class in the last few years we may hold an additional older-teen group depending on interest.

There will be a brief informational meeting in the Winter Chapel on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am. The plan is to offer classes Sunday afternoons from 1-3 in February, March, and the first half of April before celebrating our new confirmands in worship on Easter Sunday.

For more information please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Casey either at church (315-858-1553) or on his cell (518-461-6673). If you would like to attend the informational session but are not available on the 9<sup>th</sup>, you can join a virtually via Zoom.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mile for JANUARY is**  
**Church World Service**  
**BLANKET PROGRAM**  
[cwsblankets.org](http://cwsblankets.org)

Offering envelopes for 2022 have been ordered but are late in coming in, we do not know when they will be available. Until they come in we will have envelopes available at church for people to use, or you are welcome to bring your envelope from home for offerings. We ask only that you share your name on the envelope so that we can track giving until the official envelopes come in. Thank you for your patience.



**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

You have brightened The Sanctuary..  
Thank you to everyone.  
Ro Robertson 315 858 0652

**Upcoming Book Study!**

Throughout Lent and Easter Pastor Casey will be leading a study on John MacArthur's Twelve Ordinary Men, an exploration of the 12 men who Jesus called into discipleship. The study will meet on Monday evenings at 6pm, the cost of the book will be \$12. There will be a sign up for this study on the info table starting mid-January. If you are interested, please sign up by February 13th at the latest so books can be ordered.

**RYS** The kids have already begun basketball, and K2-open gym for the youngest ones starts Jan 15. Thank you for COCU's sponsorship of God's children.

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY!***

1/2 Brady Young  
1/7 Nicholas Aaron Holtz  
1/7 Barry Abrams  
1/7 Norma Joy Harrison  
1/8 Justin Wolfe  
1/9 Tanya Hickman  
1/9 Ashley Marie Seamon  
1/12 John Watkins  
1/13 Isabella Valenta  
1/17 Al Stanfield  
1/17 Joshua Craft  
1/17 Steven Klem  
1/19 John Wilde  
1/19 Max Goodrich  
1/20 John Morris  
1/21 Marjorie Hubiak  
1/22 Carol Ann Simpson  
1/24 Sarah Stevens  
1/26 Lori Weiss  
1/27 Linda Hoogheem  
1/27 Deanna Wolfe  
1/28 Diane Butts  
1/29 Michael William Cristman  
1/29 Jeffrey Gardner

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY oo***

1/11 Melissa & Larry Belcher

**COCU Board** meets Tues Jan 11 at 6:30 pm.

**Carla's** big effort last year to downsize the mailing list for this newsletter has greatly eased the time to print and assemble from over 200 down to under 50. Also, we no longer log into the USPS for bar-codes, so it's much simpler. **Geri** Erwin had put together a great guide book on doing all that thru the USPS website, but now the newsletter instructions fit on just one page.

**Thank you** to the choir members for the Christmas gift. I truly appreciate each and every one of you for your dedication in the midst of all the craziness of the pandemic. You are a wonderful group to work with and I enjoy our time together. Alice.

# Happy Year of Our Lord 2022!

## *News from the Christian Fellowship & Service Guild...*

After the Church service on December 12, Guild members wrapped Christmas gifts that were purchased for the residents of Foltsbrook Center (formerly Folts Home) in Herkimer. Included were lap quilts made by church member Bridgette Halberg as well as the Fly Creek Methodist Church—32 in all! We hope you had a chance to see them when they were on display December 12<sup>th</sup> prior to wrapping them. They were absolutely beautiful, and we thank them for their gifts of talent! Guild Liaisons to Foltsbrook Center, Linda Ehlers, Marion Pitcher and Diane Butts delivered the gifts to the residents.

Pastor Casey will be recognizing the 2022 Guild Officers as well as the COCU Governing Board during the worship service on February 6.

Good news! The Village has officially granted us permission to use Spring Park for our Craft Festival. After a 2-year hiatus, plans will begin soon for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Friendship Craft Festival scheduled for Saturday, June 11. Watch for details on this. In addition, after a very successful Craft Fair held last September at the Cullen Pumpkin Farm, we will be returning there on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. We thank the Shypski Family for again allowing us to return for this fundraising event!

A reminder that there is no meeting in January and February. The next regular meeting of the Guild will be held on Thursday, March 17. Dessert will be provided by Marion Pitcher. Hostess will be Geri Erwin. Social/dessert time is from 6:00-6:15PM (note new abbreviated time) with the business meeting starting promptly at 6:15PM. The Women's Guild welcomes new members any time throughout the year. If you would like more information on what we do, and what our Mission is, you can contact Carol Simpson at (315)868-0319 or speak to any member of the Guild.

Lastly, the Guild thanks you for your support of our fundraisers this past year. At our November meeting, it enabled us to disperse funds to many charitable organizations.

The last 2 years have been filled with change and uncertainty, neither of which we would categorize as putting us in our "comfort zone," but the Women of the Guild have united together in adapting to these changes. We have been blessed to have the support of the church and the community, which has enabled us to move forward with our Mission to help those less fortunate.

On a sad note, we recently learned that the Utica Presbyterian Women's chapter will be dissolving at the end of 2021. There were many reasons for this decision, but the primary reason was due to the COVID pandemic and their inability to meet together comfortably to carry out their mission. Please keep them, and us, in your prayers as the work we do is so important to those we are able to help. Thank you for your support and have a blessed 2022!