

Good News Ambassador



Year of Christ 2020



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**

You don't need a facebook login. 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 earliest Christians had no buildings, no power, no official recognition as anything other than a heretical group. The earliest Christians were persecuted, mistreated, rejected, and often killed for their beliefs. Yet, in spite of grand opposition from both the Roman and Jewish world, the earliest Christians thrived on their faith alone. A Roman governor in the early 2nd remarked that although Christianity was growing rapidly in cities, towns, and in the farmland, it should be easily contained and easily eradicated. It wasn't. The powerless Christians not only continued to gather and worship, but over the centuries it has become the largest faith group in the world.

What did the Christians have that allowed them to grow in spite of the persecution? Did they have a grand army to stand up to the powers of the Empire? No. Did they know some secret way to avoid harassment? No. Were they able to hide themselves away so no one could find them? No. The only advantage the fledgling Christians had was their faith in Jesus Christ. Yet, that seems to have been enough. Christianity didn't just survive persecution and peril, it thrived.

Thrive. That is such a powerful word and I invite you to sit with it for a moment.

God's intention for the church was never to just maintain itself indefinitely. When commissioning his followers, Christ put no limits on church growth. We live in a time of great fear. Fear in our family life. Fear in our social life. Fear in the political life of the nation. Fear in the church. Coronavirus didn't create this fear, but it sure has exposed it to the world. We were not given spirits for fear though. We were given spirits of power and of love (2 Timothy 1:7). We were placed here to thrive!

As we move into Autumn, with all the uncertainties that 2020 has provided us with still entrenched in our lives, let's remember together that we are still part of a community intentionally created to thrive amidst fear. It is my heartfelt prayer that each of you will join me in become exporters of hope, and in doing so, discover that the church thrives in the world today.

In Christ's name,

Pastor Casey

Please call the church for prayer-requests or announcements. **315 858 1553**



Communion for Sept 6th

The common table will be set once again on September 6th for the Communion Meal. If you are joining church online you can pick up your prepackaged communion elements on September 2nd or 3rd from 1-4pm or you can call the church to make other arrangements to have Communion picked up or dropped off.

Board Meeting is Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 pm.



I hope everyone is staying safe and well. I would like to start choir on Sunday Sept. 13. Please meet in the sanctuary at 8:45am to go through an anthem. We will be using the same set-up we did in June, at least for the near future. We will probably not wear robes so dress accordingly. I am looking forward to seeing everyone. Alice.



for September is UMCOR. see www.umcor.org
United Methodist Committee On Relief

<u>Happy Birthday!</u>	
9/5 Samantha Jasso	9/20 Ashlyn Wolfe
9/7 Thomas Twomey	9/20 Sheryl Morris 9/23 Mark Richards
9/9 Candace Huxtable	9/24 Candice Domion
9/10 Gary Southard	9/25 Fred Eckler
9/10 Gailyn Dyn	9/28 Melissa Belcher
9/13 Maibel Buck	9/29 Abigail Matteson
9/15 Arnold "Gene" Simpson	<u>Happy Anniversary!</u>
9/18 Carla Eckler	9/6 Michael & Connie Domion
9/18 Kevin Mahardy	9/9 Carrie & George Gardner
9/19 Charlotte Plows	9/18 Patti Lou Leopold
9/19 Roger Sidney Vaughn	9/20 Fred & Carla Eckler

Automated External Defibrillator

COCU Church purchased an AED machine. We would like to have 10 people trained in the use of the machine. The training will take approx. 2 hrs. and be scheduled during the evening in the near future. If interested, please contact Ross or Casey. Thank you!

August 23, 2020

Dear COCU Congregation,

We, at the Richfield Springs Community Center, would like to thank you for the use of the Church and grounds for the Brooks' Chicken and Rib "Drive Thru" BBQ that occurred on August 15, 2020. We value your support during these challenging and uncertain times. The Drive Thru event was a success and we are so pleased that so many of you were willing to help us with this fundraising event which helps to support the youth and community oriented programs of the Center. Please, know that we acknowledge and appreciate all of your help not only with this recent event but all the other support that you unselfishly give to the Community Center.

Have a Blessed Day!

Sincerely, Richfield Springs Community Center Board





Kids Corner -

We had 2 families respond to last month's news letter challenge to make a commercial for God. They shared their ideas to make people think about God in poster form. They are posted in the fellowship hall at church. It's not too late if anyone else wants to share their idea. Send it to me by Email and I'll post it.

This month I hope you'll make a "Blessing List" or booklet. Fold a piece of copy paper in half and decorate the front with happy things. On the inside page write each day the things that you've done or received that made you glad. Right now, because of the covid virus, many people are sad about the things that are different and the things they can't do or places they can't go. Sometimes we have to make a real effort to recognize the good things that are happening each day....things we call blessings. When we do this we become happier people, people who remember that God loves us and will see us through difficult times. I'd like it if you would email me (or have your Mom or Dad email me) the number of things you find that are blessings at the end of one week. I bet there will be a whole lot.

Also, you might be wondering about Sunday School.. ..we won't be meeting in a class room just yet, but we hope to be able to do something each week by internet starting in October.

May God Bless you with many good things, Mrs Jones

Pam Deliberto --- The Food Bank delivers! Just call 315 858 1553 during regular food bank hours: Every Tues & Thurs. 10am-noon / and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 11am - noon.

Church Gardens

Now in its third summer, the perennial gardens are "maturing" and flowers are blooming beautifully. To donate perennials please contact Carla Eckler at 315-858-1451.

Mowing volunteers for the church's historic cemetery.

Call or text **Michelle Fritts at 518-396-8817** to be added. Thanks!



SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

Please check any areas that you would like to help with. You will be "trained" and placed on a schedule. If unavailable the day scheduled, trade with another on the list, and let us know.

- Usher
- Sunday Greeter
- Sunday School Teacher (must be at least 18)
- Sunday School Assistant
- Nursery Care Provider (must be at least 18)
- Nursery Care Assistant
- Worship Service Acolyte
- Reader
- Sunday Coffee Host

Name _____

Contact _____

Please place this in offering plate.

How are YOU doing? You have Jesus and all Heaven's angels, but we miss you! Please encourage everyone to make an effort to keep in touch with other church members. If you're thinking of someone you normally see in church...call them to see how things are going.