

Good News Ambassador



Year of Christ 2021

CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING



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

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Newsletter January 2021

The year was 539BC, and the unique history of God's movement through the Israelites seemed to be at an end. The line of kings descended from David had failed and the voices of prophets had been stilled. In Jerusalem the city walls stood in ruin and the Temple had been destroyed. The descendents of Abraham had lived in exile for a generation. There were some who remembered how things had been, but as years in exile passed, many forgot what it meant to be a people set apart by God. The Israelites had struggled before. They had gone through slavery and a generation in the wilderness, they had suffered under corrupt and unfaithful leaders, they had strayed from God in their desire to be like the more powerful and wealthy nations that surrounded them. The Babylonian Exile seemed as if it would be the nail in the coffin; the history of Israel had come to an end.

Yet it was only a year later that everything changed. Babylon came to an end; the conqueror had become the conquered. The new king, Cyrus of Persia, signed a degree ending the exile. God moved in the heart of a foreign king so that what had been lost could be rebuilt. So much changed in that single year, but more than anything, the children of God learned that their history had not come to an end. Exile was just the beginning of a new way God would change the world.

I'd like to invite you to join me this winter in church (online or in-person) as we delve into the story of a group of exiles returning home and the hard work that is involved in building something new. Like the Israelites, we have gone through a year of great change. We're not out of the woods yet, but with vaccinations rolling out this is a perfect time to begin thinking about how we will engage in the hard work of building something new in the life of the church.

God has done some amazing work in our community over the past year. In the coming months and years there is some hard holy work that still needs to be done. I pray that like the returning exiles you feel God moving in your heart to be a part of this sacred task of building something new in our faith community, and I pray that your new year is filled with the blessings of God pouring in new and wonderful ways into your life.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Casey

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**.

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



COCU Board of Directors Meeting is Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 at 6:30 pm.
 Contact Pastor Casey to enjoy Bible Study, even from home.

Many thanks to the choir for the generous Christmas gift. I appreciate the dedication of the members in helping to keep our music program going in this difficult time. Hopefully 2021 will return to some kind of normalcy so that all will be able to return. In the meantime, all of you please stay safe and well. - Alice

2nd MILE Second mile giving
 for January is the
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
 blanket program.



*"And don't forget to do good
 and share with those in need."*
 — HEBREWS 13:16

Sunday School:

Although the children and youth have not been meeting in person, we continue to mail or deliver lessons and "food for thought" on a weekly bases.

*The younger children have had lessons dealing with the promise of a savior, Jesus birth and the response of the shepherds and wise men. The youth have reflected on the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Advent. We are looking forward to meeting in person again, but have not yet set a date. Continue to look for the things that God provides that bring you **JOY** & hope for a safer world.*

Christian Fellowship & Service Guild...

The Guild thanks you for your support of their fundraisers this past year. At our November meeting, it enabled us to disperse funds to many charitable organizations. In this difficult year the recipients were truly grateful to receive our monetary gifts.

Each December Guild members purchase and wrap Christmas gifts to be delivered to the residents of Folts Home in Herkimer. Guild members met after worship service on Sunday, December 13 to carry out this yearly tradition.

Overwhelming support was given at the Guild's December meeting to have a presence on the COCU website. Be looking for this new tab in the near future. It will include, but not be limited to, such things as Guild events, Mission projects, meeting dates and times including Zoom login information if meeting virtually.

During the Sunday, February 7, worship service, Pastor Casey will be recognizing the 2021 Guild Officers as well as the COCU Governing Board. Due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be no formal gathering allowed at the altar.

The next regular meeting of the Guild will be held on Thursday, March 18. Dessert will be provided by Geri Erwin. Hostess will be Carol Simpson. It is our hope that meetings can once again be held in the Fellowship Hall. If not, meetings will continue to be held remotely via Zoom. Social/dessert time is from 6:00-6:30 PM with the business meeting starting promptly at 6:30 PM. 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.

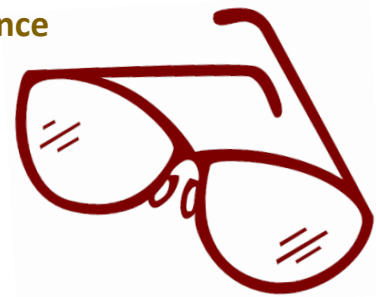


___Happy Birthday!___	
1/2 Brady Young	1/19 John Wilde
1/7 Barry Abrams	1/20 John Morris
1/7 Norma Joy Harrison	1/21 Marjorie Hubiak
1/7 Nicholas Aaron Holtz	1/22 Carol Ann Simpson
1/8 Justin Wolfe	1/24 Sarah Stevens
1/9 Ashley Marie Seamon	1/26 Lori Weiss
1/9 Tanya Hickman	1/27 Linda Hoogheem
1/12 John Watkins	1/27 Deanna Wolfe
1/13 Isabella Valenta	1/28 Diane Butts
1/17 Joshua Craft	1/29 Michael William Cristman
1/17 Steven Klem	1/29 Jeffrey Gardner
1/17 Al Stanfield	___Happy Anniversary!___
1/19 Max Goodrich	1/11 Melissa & Larry Belcher

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- Both--send mine by Email AND paper.
- Unsubscribe. I will find it on the website myself.
- Unsubscribe. I don't need it.



Email address _____

Name on label _____

Phone _____ (optional)

Birthday date to show in your month _____ (optional)

Please add any corrections or address changes, and drop this form into the collection plate or box or Email us at COCU@verizon.net or use the "Contact Us" form on the website www.rschurchofchristuniting.com or call **315-858-1553** to leave a message or reply by Post Office mail to :

Attn: Church Secretary
 Church of Christ Uniting
 PO Box 896
 Richfield Springs, NY 13439

HAPPY NEW YEAR!