

Good News Ambassador **December 2022**



CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING

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 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I hope that in this holy season, you are finding joy, hope, peace, and love. The message of Christmas is a timeless one; that God poured out love on the whole of the earth, that all may come to know the glory of God through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a message filled with hope for all people. It's a message that often gets forgotten in the busyness of December.

My hope is that you will take a few moments this year to slow down. Reflect on how the grace of Christ has been showing up in your life this last year. Discover the many ways that God's love has come to dwell in your heart and the hearts of those dearest to you. Let Christmas become an opportunity in your

life to rest fully in the wonderful love of God.

From my family to yours, may you experience the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ this holy season.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Casey



For Greeters

One of the most important jobs in the church is welcoming people to worship. We are looking for volunteers to greet people as they enter the church on Sunday mornings. If you feel called to this ministry please fill out one of the yellow pew cards, or speak with Pastor Casey or worship chair Bill Stevens.



Confirmation Class

For many, Confirmation Class is the first opportunity young people get to really explore their faith. Church of Christ Uniting will offer a Confirmation Class early in 2023 for 12,13-, and 14-year-olds. There will be a brief information session right after church on Sunday, December 11th, in the winter chapel. If you would like your child to be part of our upcoming Confirmation Class, please plan on being at the information session.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

It was great to see so many of you at Trunk or Treat. A fuzzy ole bear and a buzzy bumble bee helped Pastor Casey and Heather host the church booth. They dressed as the famous duo of milk and cookies. Heather's cookie costume stirred a lot of interest as she cheerfully greeted each one, made them feel welcome and made sure they could reach the "goody" basket. (Must be kids like cookies!!!)

Dec 4th we will have a brief class after the hanging of the greens service. We hope you all can participate in decorating the sanctuary and be reminded of the meaning behind the customs we follow.

Dec. 18th we will do a short presentation for the congregation during worship. After, we will go to class and do a Christmas craft with Ms. Diane. We invite all parents and grandparents to come hear what gift each child would bring if they were to attend a birthday party for Jesus.

Next quarter we will be changing our focus from the Old Testament to the new.

Hopefully we will all learn more of what Jesus came to teach us.

Mrs. Boss, Mrs. Worobey, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Jones

Birthday wishes go out to.....

12/5 Heather Snyder
12/5 Christopher Calkins
12/6 Mary Stanfield
12/7 Dale Ann Barra
12/9 Henry Mayton
12/9 Jasper Mayton
12/10 Margareta Jarvis
12/10 Sam Cornell
12/11 Mary Wilde
12/12 Joan Klem
12/12 Samantha Calkins
12/12 Les Olmsted
12/16 Cory Mahardy
12/17 Christine Bond
12/20 Maggie Worobey
12/20 Aedan Osborn
12/24 Rod Sluyter
12/28 Ellen MacIntosh
12/30 Taylor Hallberg
12/30 Kristy Zaitseva
12/30 Charles LaFrance
12/31 Ivy LaFrance
1/2 Brady Young
1/7 Nicholas Aaron Holtz
1/7 Norma Joy Harrison
1/7 Barry Abrams
1/8 Justin Wolfe

BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER FOR LES OLMSTED WHO TURNS 97 ON DECEMBER 12

Let's make this year's birthday for Les extra special by mailing a birthday/thinking of you card to:

PO Box 103, Richfield Springs, NY 13439

No Wedding Bells to celebrate that we know of but please if there are any missed Birthdays or Anniversaries let Marie know so the records can be updated for next year.

Church Survey

Christmas Carols, Cookies, and Cocoa

One of the most recognizable ways to celebrate the holy season of Christmas is by sharing Christmas carols. At church of Christ Uniting, we want to make caroling something to remember. Join us on December 16th at 6pm (if the weather's bad we'll meet on December 17th instead) as we lite a bonfire, drink some hot cocoa, share some cookies, and raise our voices in song to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons. This is an event for people of all ages, so come out and join your voice with ours.

Blue Christmas

Blue Christmas services began in the 1990s as a way to honor those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss. Christmas can be one of the hardest times of year for many, with so much of our outward expressions of Christmas revolving around joy and wonder, many feel left out when they are struggling with feelings grief and loss.

On December 21st, the longest night of the year, we will be honoring grief and loss with a Blue Christmas service at Church of Christ Uniting. The service will begin at 7pm. If you need a ride, please call the church office (858-1553) and we will help make arrangements to get you to church.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

We will be celebrating Christmas Eve at Church of Christ Uniting on December 24th at 3pm and 7pm. Come to either service to hear the wonder of the Christmas miracle

The leadership at Church of Christ Uniting has been going out of their way this past year to not only bring back a lot of the ministry that we had not been able to do over the last couple of years, but also to seek new avenues for expressing our faith. One of the best tools we have for discerning the next steps for living out our mission is YOU! Fill out the 2022 church survey and let us know how we're doing and where we can be growing next.

Paper Surveys: Available from the ushers on Sunday morning. Return to ushers or leave outside the church secretary's office.

Online Survey: The survey can also be taken online at rschurhofchristuniting.com/survey

The Guild's November meeting

The Guild's Luncheon/Bake Sale/Craft Corner was held on November 12th. It was enjoyed by all, and we would like to thank all who donated their time, baked goods, and various food items to make it the success it was. This event is always a great way to kick off the holidays!

One of our outreach projects, through the years, has been to purchase and wrap Christmas gifts for the Foltsbrook Center (previously the Folts Home), which have included lap quilts and other fine items made by some of the ladies of our church. Although they no longer have an active Auxiliary group, the Guild will discuss how we can best continue to support their residents at Christmas time. They have enjoyed the gifts, and it is our hope to continue with this tradition.

The next Guild meeting is Thursday, December 15th, at 6:00 PM. Geri Erwin will be providing the dessert and Carrie Gardner will serve as the hostess. Please let Geri know if you are attending NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13th, by calling her at 315- 858-2103. This helps the ladies know how many to set up for and how much dessert to prepare. As always, all women are welcome!

Second Mile Giving for December is the



A big thank you going out to Nancy Beadle And Robert Maziarz for helping me with difficult tasks arranging flowers and making bows.

THANK YOU, Nancy, and Robert, for the "Beautiful bows"

Sign up sheet in the fellowship room for the Christmas Flowers. Deadline is Dec. 18th and please have the flowers to the church by the 23rd of December for the Christmas Eve Service.

We were all blessed this fall by the beautiful live alter flowers.

Thank you to:

Carrie Gardner and her home-grown sunflowers

Fred and Carla Eckler

Geri Erwin in memory of her sister Elaine Scovill

Margaret Goodrich for Veteran's Day arrangement in memory of her husband Dale and Richard Kenyon



**God's Work
Our Hands**

Serving in Worship for December

12/4 Reader Thomas Rhodes
Usher Jo-Ann Mead
Coffee Kate Huxtable

12/11 Reader Ross Jones
Usher FaithAnn Young
Coffee Carol Simpson

12/18 Reader Brian Howser
Usher Carla Eckler
Coffee Fred Eckler

12/25 Reader Geri Erwin
Usher Linda Ehlers
Coffee Jo-Ann Mead

Thanks so much, *Rowena*



***December 15---** Guild Meeting @ 6pm at the home of Carol Simpson 5 Linden Ave. Contact Geri Erwin by the 13th of December if attending by calling 315-858-2103
Geri Erwin will provide the dessert and Carrie Gardner will serve as the hostess.

***December 16th---** Christmas caroling to be held outside of the church and will include a decorated tree, bonfire, cocoa and cookies, battery operated candles and goody bags for the kids.

***December 18th---** West Winfield Community Chorus Christmas Concert 7pm @ Mount Markham High School FREE to the public with refreshments

***December 20th---** Need help wrapping gifts?

Let the COCU gift wrappers help!
From 6-8 pm we have all the supplies and there is no charge.

***December 21st ---** Blue Christmas beginning at 6:30 p.m.

***December 24th---** Christmas Eve services will take place at 3pm and 7pm

FOOD PANTRY continues to serve:

Tuesdays and Thursdays each week

10 am - Noon normally.

2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month

11 am – Noon

Volunteers are always welcome to help with food deliveries, call Pam Diliberto

@ 315-985-0816 to inquire

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**COCU Board** meets Tuesday,  
December 13th at 6:30p.m.

