

Good News Ambassador

March 2023



CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church
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: **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

Welcome to Lent. A period in the life of the church in which we prepare ourselves for Easter and a deliberate parallel to the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. There have been many ways that Christians have observed Lent throughout the history of the church; in the earliest days of the church a 40-day fast was practiced by initiates prior to their baptisms on Easter Sunday, as the practice of Lent evolved over time other fasts were observed, perhaps most recognizable is the giving up of eating meat on the Fridays of Lent, and today many Christians opt to 'give something up for Lent.' Self-denial has always been baked into the meaning of this season as we are encouraged to use denial as a means of reflecting on Christ's sacrifice for us. I've always been partial to using Lent as a time to pick up a new spiritual practice and grow my relationship with God.

This year at Church of Christ Uniting I am inviting us to see Lent as an opportunity to focus on the many uncertainties that life throws our way. We live turbulent lives; relationships break, loved ones grow sick, careers come to dead ends, our confidences falter, we experience fear and shame and doubt. Through it all, we are called each Lent to cling closely to the cross of Christ. In the midst of the unknown, the uncertain, and the undefined, we draw ever closer to the assurance that comes from an empty cross on a lonely hill overlooking the ancient city. Lent becomes an invitation to engage in the uncertainty of life, rather than ignore them.

Allow this Lent to be a time when we experience the moments of darkness and doubt, fear and fragility, hurt and heartache. Lent can serve as our reminder that the world we inhabit is not always a place of comfort and care, but that we are going on to the perfection of Christ where the darkness and the doubt will be ended in the radiant light of God, the fear and fragility of life will be washed away by the hope of God, and the hurt and heartache will be healed by the love of Christ. Every Lent ends the same way; an empty cross, an empty tomb, and a resurrected Christ. Every uncertainty in our life ends the same way; an empty cross, an empty tomb, and a present God. Even as we take this walk of uncertainty together, know that we are going towards the only certainty that matters, the certainty of God with us.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Casey



**God's Work
Our Hands**

Holy Week will be here before we know it. On April 6th at 6pm we will join together for a simple meal, a time of worship, and a sharing of Communion for Maundy Thursday. On April 7th we will meet for worship in the sanctuary at 7pm for Good Friday.



Sunday Morning Ministries For March

3/5 Reader: Ross Jones
 Usher: FaithAnn Young
 Greeter: Kate Huxtable
 Coffee: Sheryl Morris

Lent has begun.

Instead of “giving up” something; this time before Easter is the perfect time to gather the “kids” and grow their faith and yours by saying daily prayers together and joining others in worship each week. This next month, our elementary age class will be learning more about Jesus and his disciples as they traveled from town to town. He healed the sick, calmed the storm and taught people how to live Godly lives.

3/12 Reader: Thomas Rhodes
 Usher: Linda Ehlers
 Greeter: Bill Stevens
 Coffee: Diane Butts

3/19 Reader: Geri Erwin
 Usher: Brian Howser
 Greeter: Donna Jones
 Coffee: Kate Huxtable

The youth class will meet again March 5th for a video and discussion over breakfast treats. We still need some more willing adult assistants. If you think you might like to serve by helping in the classroom, talk to pastor or one of the teachers.

3/26 Reader: Brian Howser
 Usher: Carla Eckler
 Greeter: Bill Stevens
 Coffee: Fred Eckler

See you in church.

God Bless, Donna



We have separate lists. When you receive a message, call the next person. If you get an answering machine, please leave a message and call the next name on your list.

PRAYER CHAIN – List 1:

Linda Ehler	315-858-1833
Susan Sheldon	315-868-8005
Carrie Gardner	315-858-0634
Geri Erwin	315-858-2103
Rowena Robertson	315-858-0652
Carol Simpson	315-868-0319

PRAYER CHAIN – List 2:

Patti Lou Leopold	315-858-2706
Donna Jones	315-796-1644
Nancy Strongreen	315-858-9483
Kate Huxtable	315-858-1566
Shirley Dreis	315-858-0667



The sign-up sheet is on the table in the fellowship room or you may call Rowena at 3158580652 to contribute flowers,

It's time to start signing up for Easter Flowers.

February flowers were in memory of Betsy Daley and Judy Llewellyn. Both ladies contributed many hours of service to COCU and shared the same birthday of February 18th.

Flowers were also given in memory of Connie Nasser who passed away recently.

Rowena



3/1	Pat Starr
3/3	Hannah Dulovich
3/4	Marie Prokop
3/4	Lee William (Trey) Lindsey
3/6	John Burditt
3/8	Pastor Deborah Waldron
3/9	Sheryl Dulovich
3/13	Shawn Michael Miller
3/13	Thomas Anthony Miller
3/13	Janet Bobnick
3/15	Thomas Worobey
3/16	Amanda Lee Gardner
3/18	Denise Harris
3/19	Cynthia Brophy
3/19	Marc LaFrance
3/23	William David Cristman
3/25	David Wadsworth
3/28	Rosalie Wadsworth
3/31	Myah Craft
3/31	Myler Craft
3/31	Patti Lou Leopold



3/6 Michael & Monica Wolfe

3/30 Bill & Kate Huxtable

Second Mile Giving for
March and April is the



During this sacred time of the year, we remember the love Christ shared with others. The Congregation's participation in One Great Hour of Sharing, not only helps those in need but it gives hope to our neighbors and show that even during difficult times, LOVE remains.



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.

From the:



The March meeting of the Guild is Thursday, March 16th. Social time is 6:00-6:15 PM and the Business meeting will start promptly at 6:15 PM. Geri Erwin will serve as hostess and provide the dessert. Please RSVP to Geri by Wednesday, March 15 at 315-858-2103 if you plan to attend. All women are encouraged to join this lovely group of ladies any time throughout the year!!!



Also.....

Plans are well underway for the 42nd Annual Craft Festival scheduled for Sunday June 10th in Spring Park as well as, the 3rd Annual Fall Craft Fair at the Cullen Pumpkin Farm on Saturday October 7th. Information and applications are on the Church's website. SPREAD THE WORD!!!!

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**COCU Board meets**  
Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

- \*\*March 5<sup>th</sup>      Brief Congregational vote after worship to elect Property Chairman
  
- \*\*March 14<sup>th</sup>    COCU Board Meeting beginning  
                         @ 6:30 p.m.
  
- \*\*March 16<sup>th</sup>    Next regular Guild meeting, call Geri at 315\*858\*2103 by Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> if you will be attending. Social/dessert 6pm with meeting starting at 6:15pm
  
- \*\*April 2<sup>nd</sup>       Palm Sunday: Annual Bread Auction immediately following Sundays worship If any of your baked goods contain nuts PLEASE specify what kind on the package and we as that you label your baked goods. Please make sure the baked goods are in packaging you do not want back.
  
- \*\*April 22<sup>nd</sup>     Brooks' Chicken BBQ. We are happy to report our dining room will be open will be open for those who wish to visit and enjoy a good meal! Take outs will also be available. Be looking for more details in the April newsletter.
  
- \*\*May 15<sup>th</sup>       Women's Appreciation Dinner
- \*\*May 19<sup>th</sup>       Rummage Sale
- \*\*June 10<sup>th</sup>       Friendship Craft Fair
- \*\*October 7<sup>th</sup>     Fall Craft Fair
- \*\*October 16<sup>th</sup>   Bishop Hector Nunez will be meeting with laity at the New Hartford UMC at 7:00-8:30 p.m.    All Invited

