

Good News Ambassador

May 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

YOUR

JOURNEY
OF
Faith

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

When I began planning what this year's Easter season was going to look like at Church of Christ Uniting, I did so not knowing that this would turn out to be a season of transition not only for the church, but for me personally. All Easter long we are asking the question "Where Are You Going?" We are asking this of the characters we're meeting in scripture on Sunday morning, we are hopefully asking this of ourselves, and we are asking it of the church (both the local and the global church). Ultimately this question deals with our vision, where we see ourselves and our church being called to in the months and years to come.

Last month I and several of my colleagues spent a day with Upper New York Bishop Hector. At the end of our time, he handed each of us a children's book that he had used while discerning his call to serve as a Bishop. The book was *What the Road Said* by Cleo Wade. I would like to share the first few words from that book with you: "Have you ever wanted to go in a different direction? Have you ever wondered if there was something more... something out there, something just... different? I did too. Then one day I was walking my usual way home when, out of nowhere, for no reason at all, almost as if it were magic, a road appeared. I could not believe my eyes, so I walked over to it and I said to the road, where do you lead?"

This July I will be celebrating my 10th year in pastoral ministry. Some of those years have been real struggles, others have been comparatively easy, all of them have been tremendous blessings. In every church I have served, including COCU, I have found people eager to try new things, explore their faith, and discover where God is leading the church. When I ask us to think about where it is we are going, I am offering an invitation to spend some real time discerning where it is God is calling you to go.

God is constantly inviting us to take the next step on our journey of faith. We may never know all the challenges or blessings we will find along the way, but we always know that the end of the journey is a fuller and deeper relationship with God. I pray that as we continue to celebrate the glory of Easter, you will discover where the road unfolding in your life leads.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Casey



You are invited to attend Pastor Casey's ordination service. The service will take place at Onondaga Community College's SRC Arena in Syracuse on June 2nd starting at 7:30pm. The address for OCC is 4585 W Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse. All are welcome to attend this service. The service will also be livestreamed on unyumc.org for any wishing to watch from home.



This month we will be studying some of the events after the resurrection and leading up to Pentecost.

We've had a good year. May 28th will be our last class of the season. The students will participate in the service and awards will be given. I hope you'll come and support them.

Sunday School classes will not be meeting during the summer months. There will be nursery care for children through first grade and activity sheets for the older students. Please consider signing up to supervise the nursery and in doing so, nurturing family attendance. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.....

Blessings.

Donna Jones



**God's Work
Our Hands**

Sunday Morning Ministries For May

5/7	Reader:	Ross Jones
	Usher:	Jo-Ann Mead
	Coffee:	Donna Jones
	Greeter:	Diane Butts
5/14	Reader:	Linda Ehlers
	Usher:	Carla Eckler
	Coffee:	Fred Eckler
	Greeter:	Carol Simpson
5/21	Reader:	Mark Reardon
	Usher:	Geri Erwin
	Coffee:	Kate Huxtable
	Greeter:	Sheryl Morris
5/28	Reader:	Brian Howser
	Usher:	FaithAnn Young
	Coffee:	Bill Stevens
	Greeter:	Jo-Ann Mead

Prayer Requests



Joan Ames
The Amyotte Family
Lindsey Barton
Frank Blanchard
Janet Bobnick
Ellen Bollerman
Raymond Bownds
Joann & Richard Brown
Pat Walsh Cole
Jenna Desmarais
Shirley Dreis
Dean Gardner
Fred Gardner
Shiela Hall
Frank Harte
Oakley A Iverson
Dayton Kane
Patricia Walsh
Marilyn (Foster)
Kenneknecht
Danielle LaGrange
Ginnie Lamanna

Jan Lalor
Lindsey Lucas
Sandi Martin
Jeff Metot
Les Olmsted
Ann Pawlowski
and family
Marty Phillips
Melissa Santos
Barb Sluyter
Pam Smith
Tim Snyder
Francis Stevens
Mike Stringer
Dustin Testa
Linda Travers
Holly & Jake
Wells

Jason Wilbur
Mike Wolfe

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 Stronggreen	315-858-9483
Kate Huxtable	315-858-1566
Shirley Dreis	315-858-0667



Special date to save:

Time to CELEBRATE Pastor Casey and his ordination taking place on June 2nd, reception to be held after worship on the 4th of June in the Fellowship Hall.

Also, to celebrate and wish Casey and Heather on they're continued journey in Faith at the Oneonta United Methodist Church. Brunch will be served.

Many thanks to those of you that contributed
Easter Altar Flowers in memory of loved ones.
And also to Gail Dyn for April 30th flowers in
memory of her brother Robert Ganzmann.

Rowena



5/1 Lorri Jo Farley Seamon
 5/2 Alexis Wolfe
 5/4 Joseph Connor Barra
 5/5 Susan Sheldon
 5/5 Michael Mayton
 5/8 Daniel Bloomfield
 5/8 Amy Worobey
 5/9 Karen Owczarczak
 5/9 Carrie Lynn Gardner
 5/10 Marion Foster
 5/12 Heidi Bond
 5/14 David Weiss
 5/17 Michael T. Domion
 5/18 Katie Lindsey
 5/19 Barbara Sluyter
 5/24 Alice Mahardy
 6/2 Michael Paul Starr
 6/3 Linda Watkins
 6/3 Candise June Sheldon
 6/3 Joshua Watkins
 6/4 Rachel Ehlers
 6/4 Heidi Mayton



5/2 Michele & Wayne Sheldon
 5/7 Susan & Don Sheldon
 5/8 Mary & Al Stanfield
 5/9 Judi & Gary Southard
 5/9 Heather & Donald Snyder
 5/18 Kristy & Aleksey Zaitseva

Second Mile Giving for May



The Mission of the **Feed Our Vets** food pantry organization is to provide nutritious food for Veterans in the US who are left on the battlefield of hunger.

From the Christian Fellowship and Service Guild

The May Guild meeting will be on Thursday, May 18. Social time is from 6:00 pm - 6:15 pm. Meeting starts promptly at 6:15 pm. Hostess will be Carol Simpson and the dessert will be provided by Donna Jones. Please let Donna know by Tuesday, May 16 if you are attending by calling 315-796-1644. We will be meeting in the Sanctuary due to the rummage sale being set up in the Fellowship Hall and Winter Chapel.

After a two-year hiatus, The Women's Appreciation Dinner will return on Monday, May 15, 6:30 PM. It is open to all women and children. Reservations required by *Sunday, May 7*. Please sign up at church, or call Carol at 315-868-0319 with your name, telephone number & how many people will be attending.

The Spring Rummage Sale is scheduled for Friday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be a Bag Sale from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Donated items can be left off at the Church starting Tuesday, May 16 through Noon on Thursday, May 18. This fundraiser requires lots of volunteers to get everything sorted and ready for the Friday Rummage Sale. Please see Patti Lou Leopold if you can spare some time—if only for a couple hours.

The Friendship Craft Festival sponsored by COCU is in its 42nd year and is scheduled for Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Spring Park. There will be a

Brooks' Chicken BBQ dinner from 11:30 a.m. until sold out and our "famous" bake sale. The Richfield Youth Sports organization will be returning with a food booth. Crafter applications are steadily coming in. The deadline to accept applications is June 1. Please spread the word and we hope to see you there!!



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- **May 15th Women's Appreciation Dinner
Open to all women and children starts at 6:30pm.
Reservations required by May 7th
Call Carol @ 315-868-0319.
- :**May 19th Spring Rummage Sale 9am-6pm
Donated items can be dropped off
Starting Tuesday the 16th – 18th.
- **June 1-3 Annual Conference in Syracuse
- **June 2nd Pastor Casey's Ordination
- **June 10th 42nd Friendship Craft Fair
9am- 3pm in Spring Park
Brooks BBQ to be served
beginning at 11:30am along with
the famous bake sale TOO BOOT

The Brooks BBQ dinner held on April 22nd was a resounding success.. All 300 halves were SOLD. Thank you to all that baked for the dessert table and those who volunteered to do prep prior to the dinner. Saturdays contingent of volunteers for serving and clean up was unmatched.



- **October 7th Fall Craft Fair

FYI- The Richfield Springs Community Center will be hosting a FREE one-on-one class for seniors to learn more about smartphones, tablets, or laptops. Bring your device and learn more about the features and tools available that you didn't know about

May 11th starting at 10:30am

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 Nicole Martinson @ 850-554-8537 to inquire.

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**COCU Board** meets  
Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

