

Good News Ambassador

August 2024



CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church
and the

United Methodist Church

Pastor Christine Mitchell

Alice Mahardy, Organist & Choir Director

PO Box 896, Richfield Springs, NY 13439

Online and In-person Worship

Join us on **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

Psalm 111:1-2 "Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them"

Shalom! The final month of "summer" as we know it, well the summer we refer to when it comes to vacations and school, but also in the church. Come September we see our Back-to-School Rally Days, we bless the backpacks of the students, we begin new ministries and studies within the church.

It has been a bit of an odd summer when it comes to the weather this year. We had a lot more rain than we

normally would. Usually in August we are asking for a little bit of rain so that we don't have to water the plants or our yards, so they still have some curb appeal. But this year, we have been faced with Severe Thunderstorms, and Tornadoes and a lot of destruction in our area. I want to thank everyone who was able to give to the UNY Storm Relief collection. We will continue to collect items as needed, and monetary donations are always welcomed as well. In addition, we are going to begin collecting in our 2nd mile giving, to donate to the restoration of the First Presbyterian Church of Rome. As you know they were hit with one of the tornadoes and have lost their building. Whether they rebuild there, or in a different location, we all know they are going to need as much help as they can get. Just imagine if the tornado hit this church and how devastated we would all be. Would we even know where to start picking up the pieces? Anyway, I hope you will prayerfully think about giving something to this cause, to at least show them that they are not alone, and that we are here with them and want to help.

In addition to the start of the new church year, there are going to be some great opportunities to serve the church in different capacities, as well as being able to join different ministries. A few opportunities that I have coming up for us are as follows. I would like to gauge the number of people who would be interested in each of these opportunities so that we can then figure out the best time to meet and engage.

- **Confirmation Classes for Grades 6-12:** In both the UMC and PCUSA, Confirmation is a way for teens to do one of two things. One, either take the vow of Baptism for themselves (if they had not yet been baptized), or two, to reconfirm the Baptismal Vows their parents took for them as infants. This is a time for the youth of the church to have a deeper relationship with Christ, learn more about how the church works, and become a full member of the COCU. We will learn about the polity of both the UMC and the Presbyterian Church, there will be opportunities for field trips, retreats, and attend the UMC annual conference in June as a voting member.
- **Adult Membership Class (4 Sessions):** Through this New Member Class, you are invited to go deeper in your faith, to reflect on what it means to be a disciple and what it means to put your faith into action, in service to your church and your community. By

participating in this class, you will in the end be welcomed during a worship service as you profess your faith to the congregation and to take a vow to the church. If you have not yet been baptized there is the opportunity to do it then, or in a separate time apart from all those coming forth for membership. If that is you, please let Pastor Chris know.



**God's Work
Our Hands**

Sunday Morning Ministries
For August

- **Youth Group:** Are there youth Grades 6-12 who would like to hang out, play some games, go on trips, do mission projects and other great things around their community. Maybe our youth have friends who might also be interested but attend a different church, or don't go to church at all. We welcome all youth in Grades 6-12 to come, have some fun at church and learn about God in a more non-conventional way.
- **Adult Bible/Book Studies:** Are you interested in getting involved in or leading a small group? What is a small group is a group of people who get together on a regular basis to discuss, study and fellowship around the Word, or topics which you might like to discuss. There are so many resources out there to help you lead these studies. I as the Pastor will be holding studies periodically, especially during Lent & Advent. However, I welcome others to put together some small groups of your own. Maybe a woman's daytime tea/coffee group, or a men's group who meets, discusses and then putter around the church or somewhere else.

Of Course we offer baptisms of infants, youth and adults at any time throughout the year. If you are interested in setting up a baptism, please contact me at any time.

There will be sign-up sheets to gauge the interest in the gathering space beginning this Sunday at Church. Please if you have any interest in signing up for any of these, put your name down then we can discuss it closer to the end of August to start in September.

Blessings,
Pastor Chris

August 4 th	
Reader	Brian Howser
Usher	Jo-Ann Mead
Coffee	Sheryl Morris
Greeter	Kate Huxtable

August 11 th	
Reader	Ross Jones
Usher	FaithAnn Young
Coffee	Jo-Ann Mead
Greeter	Diane Butts

August 18 th	
Reader	Geri Erwin
Usher	Kate Huxtable
Coffee	Diane Butts
Greeter	Donna Jones

August 25 th	
Reader	Brian Howser
Usher	Carla Eckler
Coffee	Fred Eckler
Greeter	Bill Stevens



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 315-858-0694
- Geri Erwin 315-858-2103
- Rowena Robertson 315-858-0652
- Carol Simpson 315-868-0319

PRAYER CHAIN – List 2:

- Donna Jones 315-796-1644
- Nancy Strongreen 315-858-9483
- Kate Huxtable 315-858-1566



- Dayton Kane Fred Gardner
- Tom Worobey Les Olmstead
- Dan LaBarge Cliff Oakes
- Mike Wise Josie Leigh



ALTAR FLOWERS

Remember that the sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall.

Altar flowers can be and are more than mere ornaments. They are the expression of our love for God as well as a means of glorifying his name in all the earth (Psalm 9:9). We therefore thank you for your willingness to serve God in this meaningful way.



- 8/1 Tom Worobey
- 8/2 Susan Cristman
- 8/3 Bridgette Hallberg
- 8/3 Kate Huxtable
- 8/3 Melanie Bruce
- 8/5 Gavin Valenta
- 8/6 Al DaCostafaro
- 8/7 Ryan Kennedy
- 8/12 Michael Hubiak
- 8/12 Jodi Southard
- 8/13 Walter Hubiak
- 8/18 Sara Goodrich
- 8/20 Victoria Young
- 8/22 Heidi Johnson
- 8/25 Connie Domian
- 8/27 Norma Bostwick
- 8/31 Kate Steckler



- 8/23 Emma and Zach Boss
- 8/27 David and Lori Weiss
- 8/27 Barbara and Ron Barnes
- 8/31 Christine and Jesse Bond

FALL CRAFT FAIR UPDATE The 4 TH Annual Fall Craft Fair at Cullen Pumpkin Farm, sponsored by the COCU Guild, will take place on Saturday, October 5th, from 10 am – 4 pm, at 587 Cullen Road. Applications are coming in. Richfield Youth Sports will be back selling hamburgers, hot dogs, hot sausage, French fries and drinks to benefit their fundraising efforts. The Guild ONCE AGAIN appreciates the Shypski family for giving us this opportunity. We hope to see you there.



Second Mile Giving for August is the **First Presbyterian Church of Rome, NY**

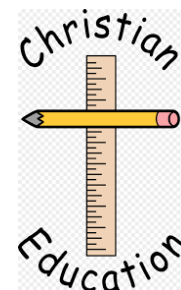


Choir News

Since the 7th of July the Chancel Choir's has been on vacation for the summer and will begin a new season in mid-September. I am extremely appreciative of their dedication and willingness to help provide music for worship. If anyone is interested in providing special music for any summer Sunday, please contact Alice Mahardy. We welcome singers and/or instrumentalists.



In keeping with tradition, there will be no meeting in August. We will get together again on Thursday, September 19th, at 6pm, when we have our Annual Food Pantry Shower at the church. Donna Jones will be the host. Please bring a covered dish to enjoy together. Bring canned goods or other food staples to donate to the Food Pantry. A list of items needed will be provided in the September newsletter.



We're busy making plans for Classes to Begin again about the second week of September. We'll get another notice out to you as time gets closer.

WE ARE IN NEED OF MORE ADULTS WILLING TO TEACH and ASSIST. The classes are usually held in the upstairs classrooms but for various reasons have occasionally met down in the fellowship hall. If climbing the stairs is a barrier to you, the fellowship

hall can be used. Safe sanctuary training (A child safety program, which is less than an hour) and background check are required for all people who work with children. (handled confidentially by the Pastor).

Sunday school helps plant those seeds of faith which when nurtured and strengthened, will help them to grow into the people God wants them to be..... So please consider spending one or two Sundays a month "gardening" for our Lord. If you have questions and/or wish to volunteer, call or talk to Donna 315-796 1644 or Amy Worobey.

We will again have a blessing of backpacks on August 25th. Be sure to sign up so that there will be enough free school supplies for all that bring their backpacks to church that day.

News from the Governing Board

Regarding the mailing of COCU's monthly newsletter, in 2021 the process began to continue our mission to be as fiscally responsible as possible. Many now receive the newsletter via e-mail, saving COCU labor and postage expenses. At the May Governing Board meeting it was decided that we will no longer be mailing the newsletter to anyone having an e-mail address-- -- beginning with the July newsletter. If you are currently getting your newsletter mailed to you and you have an e-mail address, please contact Marie, COCU Secretary to be added to the monthly e-mail list.

The church's e-mail address is COCU@verizon.net.



RS Church of Christ Uniting is sponsoring a Yankees Game Bus Trip "Families Welcome"

Saturday, August 10th Yankees vs Texas
Rangers "Military appreciation Day"

Price is \$138.00 per person

Price includes: Transportation (Hale 56-pass motorcoach) Water/Snacks on the bus Yankees tickets- section 308 Itinerary: 6:10 am Begin check in 6:30 am Departure 11:00 am Game time Bus departs for home after the Game ends 9:30 pm Approximate return to Richfield
MEETING POINT: School Parking Lot 93 West Main St Richfield Springs, NY
Call FaithAnn Young to reserve and purchase tickets at 315-858-2657 One rest stop there and one rest stop back. Early enough arrival for lunch & souvenir Shopping; visit Monument Park inside the Stadium.

Doors open at 11:30am. First 18000 fans in the gate, age 21+ receive a complimentary Yankee camo ball cap.



--August 10th The Guild is looking forward to their first tour bus fundraiser coming up on August 10th to Yankee Stadium. Lots of first-time stadium goers are joining us from around the area for what is sure to be a fun day,

--August 18th We will be having our Annual Church Picnic, at Noon, at Bakers Beach. Please bring a dish to pass. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages will be provided.

I think we will all agree, games and more fun with prizes, so if you have stored items for "regifting," please consider donating them. These prizes will be used for all age groups. There will be a tote in the Fellowship Hall for such items, due by 8/11, PLEASE.

If able, we ask that you sign up for the picnic in the Fellowship Hall or call Carol Simpson at (315)868-0319, so we have an idea of how

many people to expect. All are welcome! We look forward to joining together for a time of fellowship, games, food, boat rides, and fun! SEE YOU THERE!



--August 21st Senior Picnic at Glimmerglass Park call the

Otsego County Council of Senior Citizens to place your reservations by August 15th (607-547-7232) Transportation available upon request. Cost per person is \$8.00

--August 25th Blessing of the Backpacks this day during the Sunday Worship Service. If you have a child in grades K-12 and would like a backpack filled with school supplies, please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall, or call Carol Simpson (315)868-0319 by August 18th so we have an idea of how many backpacks to prepare. Please let us know the child's name, age, and grade.

--September 19th In keeping with tradition, there will be no meeting in August. We will get together at 6 pm, when we have our Annual Food Pantry Shower at the Church. Donna Jones will be the host. Please bring a covered dish to enjoy together. Bring canned goods or other food staples to donate to the Food Pantry. A list of items needed will be provided in the September newsletter.

--September 20th Back by popular demand, we are happy to report our Fall Rummage Sale will once again take place!

This is a tentative plan but stay tuned for details in the September newsletter.

The 4th Annual Fall Craft Fair at Cullen Pumpkin Farm, sponsored by the COCU Guild will take place Saturday

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. Donations can be sent to The Richfield Springs Food Pantry, P.O. Box 140

Richfield Springs, NY 13439

Because it has been 5 years since we have had a new church directory, we are in the initial stages of securing a company to work with us to produce one. More info in the September newsletter.