

## Good News Ambassador

January 2025



### CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING

A Federated Congregation of  
Presbyterian Church USA  
and the  
United Methodist Church  
Rev. Christine Mitchell, Pastor  
22 Church Street,  
Richfield Springs, NY 13439

All worship services will be live on our  
Facebook page: RS Church Christ Uniting  
or on our website:  
<https://rschurchofchristuniting.com/worship/>

Happy New Year! As we welcome in 2025, I am reminded of the challenge given by a visitor at my last church. The Challenge was for everyone in the congregation to pray and to listen. Listen for a word, which God is



giving to us. Once we have our word, we are to look up the definition of that word, find how many times that word is used in scripture, and how it is used. Study those

specific scriptures and see if God is calling you to something.

As we begin the new year, this is the perfect time to be reminded that we need to spend time with God on our own. He does not only want us to worship with him on Sundays, but everyday. What a better time than now to establish a new routine, one where spending time with God is a big part of it.



But we should not only be in worship alone but together as a community, with our friends. So, the question becomes how are you showing friendship within your community, to those around you? Maybe this is a time when you and a group of friends begin to meet on a regular basis and discuss scripture or pick a book to study. Spending time with friends and studying the scriptures helps us grow in our relationship with Christ, as well as find accountability in keeping on track. Preparing for the Lord is more than preparing for Christmas, it's also preparing our life with Christ. This is when we can refocus our efforts and allow God to be the main part of our lives. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and allow Christ to be the light in which we shine for others. Many blessings in this New Year, and sometimes our relationship with Christ can be as simple and innocent as remembering that Jesus loves you!!

God Bless, Pastor Chris.



## Sunday Morning Helping Hands

### *January 5th*

Reader Brian Howser  
Usher Carla Eckler  
Coffee Sheryl Morris  
Greeter Kate Huxtable

### *January 12th*

Reader Ross Jones  
Usher Geri Erwin  
Coffee Diane Butts  
Greeter Donna Jones

### *January 19th*

Reader Kevin Mead  
Usher Kate Huxtable  
Coffee Carol Simpson  
Greeter Bill Stevens

### *January 26th*

Reader Margaret Goodrich  
Usher Faith Ann Young  
Coffee Linda Ehlers  
Greeter Donna Jones

*Thank you to all that has gone above and beyond in 2024 to serve as our Sunday morning helping hands.*

## Join the Prayer Chain Ministry!

Would you like to help others by lifting them up in prayer? Our prayer chain consists of two teams committed to praying for those facing illness or life challenges.

When someone needs prayer, they contact the first person on both lists (or ask one to call the other). After receiving a brief description of the need (while respecting privacy), each person passes the request along to the next on their chain. If no one answers, leave a message and continue down the list.

If you feel called to join the ministry, please reach out to us at church or contact:

**Linda Ehlers:** 315-858-1833

**Donna Jones:** 315-796-1644

Thank you for being part of this meaningful ministry!



Dayton Kane

Fred Gardner

Les Olmstead

Bill Burdick

Dan LaBarge

Cliff Oakes

Staci Earl

Tim Snyder

Richard Bowser

**From Rowena....**

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Altar for Christmas Eve and thank you to the folks who contributed to the Altar flowers.



Birthday's

**Second Mile Giving** for January is  
The Rescue mission of Utica

**Their Mission:**

The Rescue Mission of Utica, Inc. is a Christian Ministry, established to proclaim, in word and deed, the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ, by unconditionally endeavoring to assess and meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those individuals' seeking assistance.



The Board would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Carla Eckler and Geri Erwin for their time as Financial Secretaries. Both have been meticulous and dedicated to the job. Many thanks also go to Melissa Belcher, for agreeing to take on this job. The Board would also like to thank JoAnn Mead for her time on the Board, and Brian Hauser for being the Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Their terms will end in January and replacements will be voted on at the annual meeting.

- 1/2 Brady Young
- 1/8 Justin Wolfe
- 1/12 John Watkins
- 1/13 Isabella Valenta
- 1/15 Peggy Bobzin
- 1/17 Steven Klem
- 1/17 Al Stanfield
- 1/19 John Wilde
- 1/19 Max Goodrich
- 1/21 Marjorie Hubiak
- 1/21 Heather Bradley
- 1/22 Carol Ann Simpson
- 1/24 Sarah Stevens Dorn
- 1/26 Lori Weiss
- 1/27 Deanna Wolfe
- 1/27 Linda Hoogheem
- 1/28 Diane Butts
- 1/29 Jeffrey Gardner

And an Anniversary Celebration for...

- 1/11 Larry and Melissa Belcher

**\*Special Help Request\***

On January 5<sup>th</sup> after the Sunday service help is needed to move the Church items from the storage closet downstairs to the nursery room.

It would be very helpful to have some men help move the shelving so that they can be organized before the 2025 event calander begins.

Thank you,

Carol Simpson



Watch the weekly bulletins for any Sunday School updates but there are none at this time for January.



The Guild is taking a well-deserved break this winter. We will meet again on Thursday, March 20, 2025. Meetings are in the church Fellowship Hall unless otherwise specified. The dessert and social time are from 6:00-6:15. Meetings start promptly at 6:15 PM. All women are welcome and are encouraged to attend. See FaithAnn Young, President, or any Guild member, for details on what our group does.

The Guild thanks everyone for their support of our fundraising efforts during 2024. At our November meeting we traditionally disperse our funds. This year we dispersed funds to many charitable organizations—including a concerted effort this year to donate to many local organizations.

On Sunday, February 2, during the worship service, Pastor Chris will be installing the 2025 Guild Officers as well as the 2025 COCU Governing Board.

## *Upcoming Events*

**1/26/25** – Annual Meeting & Souper Bowl for Hunger: This will take place after the Sunday Worship Service. All proceeds collected will go to our local Food Pantry.

**2/2/25** – 2025 Installation of Guild Officers and Governing Board Members: During Worship Service.

**4/5/25** – Spring Brooks BBQ

**4/13/25** – Annual Bread Auction: This will take place after the Sunday Worship Service. Proceeds benefit One Great Hour of Sharing.

**5/12/25** – Women's Appreciation Dinner: Always the day after Mother's Day – 6pm.

**5/15/25 & 5/16/25** – Spring Rummage Sale

**6/14/25** – Friendship Craft Festival in Spring Park

- **Just scheduled off-site: 10/4/25** – 5th Annual Fall Craft Fair at Cullen Pumpkin Farm



Continues to serve Tuesdays and Thursdays each week 10 am – Noon normally. 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 11 am – Noon Volunteers are always You are welcome to help with food deliveries, call Connie Olsen at 607-267-2190 to inquire.

Donations can be sent to:  
The Richfield Springs Food Pantry,  
P.O. Box 140 Richfield Springs, NY 13439

