



The Good News Ambassador February 2025

Rev. Christine Mitchell, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 9:15am

All services are live via Facebook

<http://rschurchofchristuniting.com/worship>



How many of you follow those Daily National "holidays" that have become ever so popular? Did you know that February 1st is: National "Lunar New Year, National Baked Alaska Day, National Dark Chocolate Day, National Freedom Day, and National Serpent Day?" And this is beyond the national holidays and historical celebrations that we celebrate in February, the most popular being Black History and Valentine's Day. Of course, the school-aged kid's favorite is the vacation they often get in February to celebrate the Birthdays of George Washington and Abe Lincoln. All these celebrations made me think. What can we do with these days in the church? Or maybe there is a list of "faith days" out there, or perhaps "faith weeks," which then brought me to Galatians 5:22-26, where Paul talks about the Fruit of the Spirit. I'm sure many of us can remember that fun Sunday School song about the Fruit of the Spirit. If not, here is a link for you to enjoy. [Click Here](#)

for Video We are supposed to live by the fruit of the spirit, maybe that should be our focus or our "Faith Weeks." When we go through our daily lives, we often forget to focus on God's blessings as his disciples. God has laid out such simple ways to live each day. So here is our challenge for February.... There are nine fruits of the spirit, actions, skills, promises, gifts, whatever you might want to call them; why don't we as a church focus on one of these this month. It's a short month; it's a gloomy month in Central New York. Maybe this will help us be happier during these winter blues days. Take one each day and make a point to keep it in the forefront of your mind. So, for February 1st, focus on love; it can be the love of your family your home, your work, your friends, sharing your love of Christ to others, but make sure you are doing things in the spirit of love. Then on February 4th, we will focus on Joy, and so on. I would love to hear if you felt a difference or if some days were harder to stay focused. It might even be that there were days when you felt your received love or joy from someone else. Keep a little journal and see how living by the fruit of the spirit can genuinely change the way we approach life.



Blessings, Pastor Chris



Sunday Morning Helping Hands

February 2nd

Usher Kate Huxtable
 Reader Margaret Goodrich
 Greeter Bill Stevens
 Coffee Carol Simpson

February 9th

Usher Faith Ann Young
 Reader Melissa Belcher
 Greeter Kate Huxtable
 Coffee Sheryl Morris

February 16th

Usher Geri Erwin
 Reader Ross Jones
 Greeter Bill Stevens
 Coffee Diane Butts

February 23rd

Usher Donna Jones
 Reader Kevin Mead, Jr.
 Greeter Bill Stevens
 Coffee Linda Ehlers



Dayton Kane	Fred Gardner	Les Olmstead
Bill Burdick	Dan LaBarge	Cliff Oakes
Staci Earl	Tim Snyder	Richard Bowser

Please make Pastor Chris or Church Secretary aware of any updates.

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!

From Rowena....

We have been blessed for several weeks with a beautiful flower arrangement from Sheryl Morris. This was given in celebration of her beloved husband John's birthday. John passed away last year. He was a devoted COCU Board member. Thank you, Sheryl.



February's Second Mile Giving

Habitat for Humanity of
Herkimer and Otsego Counties

Their Mission:

Habitat for Humanity partners with people in your community, and all over the world, to help them build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With your support, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability, and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families. Through our 2020 Strategic Plan, Habitat for Humanity will serve more people than ever before through decent and affordable housing.

SAVE THE DATES JUNE 14 AND OCTOBER 5

Planning for the 44th Annual Craft Festival, scheduled for Saturday, June 14, in Spring Park is underway, but we need someone to be our point person for checks and balances purposes. Public Relations, BBQ, Bake Sale, and Registration are taken care of, but we need one person to just lead our 2 or 3

in-person meetings and support those people. It's more a communications and delegation position at this point, but important to make the committee cohesive. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact FaithAnn Young.

In addition to June 14, the 5th Annual Fall Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, October 4 at the Cullen Pumpkin Farm.

The information and application for both above events are on the COCU website on the home page under "Guild." Please help spread the word!

**FREE
COMMUNITY DINNER**

Church of Christ Uniting
22 Church Street Richfield Springs, NY

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025
4:00PM - 6:00PM**

*This month's Menu:
Spaghetti, Sauce, Meatballs, Sausage,
Salad, Bread & Desserts.
**Gluten Free Option Available
Monetary Donations Welcomed*

Let us know your going to
join us, by scanning the
QR Code
(not required to attend)

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE GUILD

During the Sunday, February 2 church worship service, the 2025 Guild officers were installed.

2025 Guild Officers

FaithAnn Young, President
Carla Eckler, Vice President
Geri Erwin, Treasurer
Cindy Talbot, Secretary

Please note that there will be no regular meeting in February.

Advance notice! The next meeting of the Guild is Thursday, March 20. Social time with dessert is 6:00-6:15 PM with the business meeting starting promptly at 6:15 PM. More info in the March newsletter.

The 2025 information for the Guild is located under the “Guild” tab on the COCU website— meeting dates/info, Guild as well as church sponsored fundraisers, listing of officers and committee people as well as an open invitation for those who are interested in learning more about becoming a Guild member. We welcome new members any time of the year!

Start cleaning those closets!

New this year--- the Spring Rummage Sale will now be two days—Friday, May 16 from 5PM-7 PM and Saturday, May 17 from 9 AM-4 PM. A bag sale will be held.



Sunday School News

Be sure to check out the poster display in the Fellowship Hall on KINDNESS.

We learned that Paul advocates kindness in his letter to the Ephesians... It makes for a better world for both the “doer” and the “receiver.”

In February we will be learning more about Jesus’ teachings The Golden Rule, The Good Samaritan & Lost Sheep. There will be no class on the 16th due to the school vacation. There will be activity sheets for those children who do attend worship that day. Ask the usher if you don’t see them.

As always visitors are welcome, so feel free to invite a friend.

Blessings, Donna



LENT BEGINS MARCH 5th
Lenten Book Study info to follow soon



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

We at the Church of Christ Uniting are honored to host the local Food Pantry, a vital ministry serving our community. If you would like to support this effort, donations of essential food staples such as cereal, pasta, canned vegetables, and fruit are always appreciated. A designated basket is available in the sanctuary for contributions. You are also welcome to stop by the church during Food Pantry hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 12 Noon, as well as the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 11 AM to 12 Noon.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with food deliveries, packing bags, etc.,

Contact: Connie Olsen

(C) 607-267-2190

Monetary donations can be sent to:

The Richfield Springs Food Pantry,
P.O. Box 140
Richfield Springs, NY 13439

*And a special note from the
Pastor:*

Reminder: Pastor Chris is available Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at church by appointment, or home visits.

If you would like to schedule a visit, please don't hesitate to reach out to her.

She also offers monthly in-home communion visits and is available for spiritual counseling and pastoral care



2/5	Belinda Matteson
2/14	Mark Reardon
2/15	Sharon Hoffman
2/16	Emily Matteson-Mayton
2/17	Nathan Stevens
2/18	Daniel Stevens
2/28	Kobe Adam Lindsay
3/1	Pat Starr



2/29 Dimitri & Sarah Stevens Dron

2025 CoCU EVENT CALENDAR

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

2/22/25 – COCU First Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

3/20/25-- Guild meeting at 6p.m. Dessert: Cindy Talbot and Hostess: Faith Ann Young.

3/22/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

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.

4/17/25-- Guild Gathering—Call to Prayer & Self-denial. Dessert: Geri Erwin & Hostess: Marie Prokop

4/26/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

5/8/25-- Guild Business Meeting (note date change) Dessert: Linda Ehlers & Hostess: Carla Eckler

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

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

5/24/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

6/14/25 – 44th Annual Craft Festival in Spring Park

6/28/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

7/26/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

8/23/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

9/27/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

10/4/25 – 5th Annual Fall Craft Fair at Cullen Pumpkin Farm

10/25/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

11/22/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

12/27/25 – COCU Monthly Free Community Dinner – All are welcomed to attend.

