



THE GOOD NEWS AMBASSADOR

March 2019

Church of Christ Uniting
United Methodist & Presbyterian (USA)
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The Church of Which You Are a Part

Although we are still in winter's grip, a phrase continues to come to me. It is "Bloom where you are planted." Maybe it's because we are in winter's grip that the phrase comes to me as I anticipate the burgeoning greenery of spring. Regardless, "bloom where you are planted" suggests to me that we are to keep growing in faith where God has seen fit to place us. It can mean that we are to make the most of our faith where we are.

Faith needs the church if it is to grow. I would go so far as to say that one cannot have true faith without being part of the church. The church is the community of believers who share and act upon the faith that has been given to us. Let me state it again: One cannot have a true faith without being part of a church, a community of believers.

Our society promotes meaning and fulfillment apart from being a part of something and someone larger than oneself. Even though the expression "Do your own thing" dates back several decades, it is still very much descriptive of many aspects of our society. Taken to extreme it can lead one to think "I am self-made." Nothing, however, can be further from the truth, especially when it comes to matters of faith, faith that grows in substance and yields much good fruit.

The span of Scripture underscores this again and again. God chooses a people to be his own, the people of Israel. He is with them through thick and thin stating again and again the importance of being *together* in faith. Those who choose not to be a part of the people he has chosen, and to whom he shows himself to be faithful, find themselves bereft of faith. It is as if they wander in a soulless wilderness.

The New Testament continues to emphasize that faith is planted and nurtured within the community of believers. It implements various names such as the body of Christ, the ecclesia (the people called by God and his Son), the koinonia (the fellowship of believers), and the church (the universal church and specific congregations), to name a few. The emphasis is uniformly on faith given and grown in the company of the faithful. If we are to have faith, we literally need each other.

I mentioned the span of Scripture. Take some time to consider the span of your life. Look at it from the vantage point of the faith that has been entrusted to you. Do you see how faith has sustained and guided you and enabled you to grow in ways that, without faith, you could not have? I hope, above all, that you see that your faith has grown and will continue to grow as a result of your part in the church, of your being an indispensable member of the church you call home. May you continue to grow, as Jesus would say, abundantly!

Pastor Mark

*In The
Spirit Of
Giving...*

SECOND MILE GIVING OUTREACH MINISTRY

March and April: One Great Hour of Sharing. Linda will speak on March 10th.



FOOD BANK

It is our hope that you keep in your minds and hearts that there is an extra need for donated food items for those less fortunate. Or, perhaps you would choose to make a monetary donation or even a gift card to the local Price Chopper for necessities. Donations of any type would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off to the Food Bank located in our church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 12 Noon. Or, monetary donations and/or gift cards can be mailed to: Food Bank, PO Box140, Richfield Springs, NY 13439. Questions? Call 315-858-7032



BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 Pat Star
- 3/3 Hannah Dulovich
- 3/4 Marie Prokop
- 3/6 John Burditt
- 3/8 Pastor Deborah Waldron
- 3/9 Sheryl Dulovich
- 3/13 Janet Bobnick
- 3/13 Shawn Michael Miller
- 3/13 Thomas Anthony Miller
- 3/15 Thomas Worobey
- 3/16 Amanda Lee Gardner
- 3/18 Denise Harris
- 3/18 Mortimer Robertson
- 3/19 Cindy Brophy
- 3/19 Mark LaFrance
- 3/23 William David Cristman
- 3/25 David Wadsworth
- 3/28 Rosalie Wadsworth
- 3/31 Patti Lou Leopold

MUSIC NOTE

We have basic organ, so I can play it, but work continues on this beautiful musical instrument.
Alice.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

MAR 3 HOLY COMMUNION

- GREETER: Maxine Armstrong
- USHERS: Geri Erwin, Priscilla Edick
Kate Huxtable, Bill Mahardy
- READER: FaithAnn Young
- COFFEE: Priscilla Edick

MAR 10 GREETER: Priscilla Edick

- USHERS: Barb Sluyter and Lani King
- READER: Rod Sluyter
- COFFEE: Rowena Robertson

MAR 17 GREETER: Donna Jones

- USHERS: Linda Ehlers and Brian Howser
- READER: Ross Jones
- COFFEE: Kate Huxtable and Carrie Gardner

MAR 24 GREETER: Maxine Armstrong

- USHERS: Priscilla Edick and Donna Jones
- READER: Linda Ehlers
- COFFEE: Addy Blatchford

MAR 31 GREETER: Kate Huxtable

- USHERS: FaithAnn and Brady Young
- READER: Alexis Fahey
- COFFEE: Carol Simpson

PRAYER CHAINS

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." — Hebrews 13:16

We have 2 separate lists. When you receive a message, please call the next person. If you get an answering machine, please leave a message.

PRAYER CHAIN 1:

- Linda Ehlers 858-1833
- Sue Sheldon 858-2681
- Carrie Gardner 858-0694
- Geri Erwin 858-2103
- Rowena Robertson 858-0652
- Carol Simpson 868-0319

PRAYER CHAIN 2:

- Patti Lou Leopold 858-2706
- Shirley Dreis 858-0667
- Maureen Kennedy 858-1631
- Kate Huxtable 858-1566
- Donna Jones 858-2357
- Nancy Strongreen 858-9483

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are restructuring our classes to better accommodate the ages of the children we see each week. There will be 2 groups meeting during the worship service. The "Beginners", pre-school to grade 3, will meet in the first room. Grades 4 to 7 will meet in the adjoining room. Those in grades 8-12 have agreed to assist the teachers as needed. We also plan to offer occasional special activities to them. (Our youth leaders are planning and will let you know.)

This quarter the lesson plans center on families. God gave Jesus an earthly family. We will be exploring the different groups of people we rely on to teach and support us.....our Moms, Dads, Grandparents cousins as well as our family of friends and our church family and more. Bring your children, grandchildren even your neighbor's children. We have room for them all! Together, we'll learn about God's love for us and how we can show / share that love with others.

Posted by Donna Jones



GOVERNING BOARD

Meeting TUESDAY, MARCH 12 at 6:30PM

GUILD

Meeting THURSDAY MARCH 21 at 6:30PM

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone for the beauty of our worship time together.



**40th Annual
Friendship Craft Festival
June 8, 2019**

Crafters are signing up. The full Crafter application is on the website:
www.rschurchofchristuniting.com

For questions and further details
Email friendshipcraftfestival@yahoo.com
or call Lani King at 315-858-9451.

The light shines in the darkness.

John 1:5

**56th Annual Men's
Lenten Worship & Breakfast
Saturday March 9th
Worship 8:00 am**

Followed by Breakfast
Both at Mohawk Reformed Church
20 S. Otsego St. Mohawk

We welcome guest speaker
Martin Rood with stories of his walk with
the Lord and his mission trips to
Central America.

Free event & open to all.
315-866-4292 or mroffice@verizon.net
(Reservations helpful.)

Posted by Neal Bostwick



Dear COCU Church Friends:

Extra, Extra, Read All About It! The Richfield Springs Community Center's Soup & Pie Supper and Chinese Auction is scheduled for **March 22, 2019 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM** and due to kitchen renovations at the Center the COCU board has graciously given us permission to hold the event in your Fellowship Hall. The donation fee is \$8/adult, \$5/children 5 – 10, and children under 5/free. All proceeds will benefit our youth programs.

The event has always been a success because community members like you, along with the RSCC Board members, have donated a variety of delicious homemade soups and pies to this event. Donna Jones is helping co-ordinate this effort and if any of you are able to assist by donating a soup or pie, there will be a sign-up sheet at church, or you can contact **Donna (315-858-2357) or Barbara Lopez (315-858-2093)** directly about your donation. In advance, we want you to know how much we appreciate all that you do and are doing to support our efforts to serve the community.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope that you will come and join us on Friday, March 22nd for this fun community gathering.

The RSCC Board of Directors
Website: www.richfieldspringscommunitycenter.org
RSCC phone: 315-858-3200

Church of Christ Uniting

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
FROM BISHOP MARK WEBB**

We are please to announce today, that Bishop Mark Webb is appointing REVEREND CASEY BRADLEY to be our pastor as of JULY 1, 2019.

Sunday, July 1, will be our first Sunday to celebrate with our new pastor.

PASTOR CASEY comes to us having served the Lake Luzerne UMC since 2013. He is married to HEATHER BRADLEY. PASTOR CASEY graduated from Boston University with a Masters in Divinity. PASTOR CASEY is looking forward to serving our church.

We celebrate and give thanks to GOD for this appointment!

Let us all pray for CASEY and HEATHER as they make the transition into this new ministry appointment. And let us continue to be in prayer that GOD's will be done and let us continue to live together in such a way that GOD'S KINGDOM is evident among us!

See Book of Worship 525-599



**The CHURCH BOARD AND PPR
COMMITTEE**

met with District Superintendent Abel Roy, Casey and Heather late Friday afternoon, February 15, 2019.

Attending: FAITH, MICHELE, ROWENA, ALICE, JOHN MORRIS, KATE, BRIAN and Myself. I mentioned the names, so feel free to ask anyone of us if you have questions.

We were all really impressed with CASEY and his WIFE. He's 32 years old, really enthusiastic, full of ideas, and enjoys having children being part of worship and understanding the worship service.

He grew up in Nassau, NY, a small town on Rte 20, just before the MA state line. He's been serving the Lake Lazerne UMC, so he's familiar with small rural areas like ourselves.

As I mentioned, if you have questions feel free to ask.

Ross Jones, Chairman