



May 2024 Newsletter

A Loving Church for a Living Lord!

Rev. Brian Fellows – Pastor

1 East Main Street, Clifton Springs, NY 14432

***Our Mission: To Make Disciples for the
Transformation of the World***

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From the Pastor's Pen

General Conference began on April 23 and will go through May 2. Messages of hope have been a center of worship while also acknowledging the pain of losing about a quarter of the congregations that once made up the United Methodist Church. There are many places in the denomination and in our local community of faith that could cause us to lose hope.

I find a great deal of support and encouragement in young adults at the Annual and General Conference. (Annual Conference is the yearly (annual) gathering of the churches in our area (Upper New York Annual Conference. General Conference is the gathering of representatives across the denomination that usually happens every 4 years.) In the address of the young adults on April 24, two women shared that what has happened in our denomination feels like divorce; I agree. The pain, the broken relationships, the fighting feels like divorce; now, we need to rebuild. Just like divorce, healing takes time and what we heal into is not what we once were; we heal into something different. If we heal well, we embrace the new, and we don't forget the old and the experiences we had on the journey to the new.

What do you want your church to be (learning, loving and leading)? What are you willing to invest of yourself (time, treasure, and talent)? As I write this, a plan for regionalization passed at General Conference. This is a step toward embracing newness and learning from our experiences.

There are some things from General and Annual Conference that I hope we use in our faith community. The hope of those who gather, spirit filled, vibrant diverse worship, visioning of new things and appreciation of tradition are some of what I hope we make a part of our faith community as we seek to bloom where we are planted. I love seeing my friends at General Conference share about making new friends from across the world and hearing their stories and experiences of journeying in faith alongside people from places I will never go and cultures I will never experience. My friends bring those stories and experiences back to us and we grow in our understanding of how we are all the same and how we are different.

There are also some things from General Conference that I hope we remember do not determine who we are. A budget that is 43% smaller than the last time General Conference gathered. The making of new rules for voting and interacting with/ disseminating information to delegates were necessary and painful pieces of the work of the General Conference and I hope and pray will not be a reality for us in our work. We do great things together and there is much work to be done.

Pastor Brian Fellows



Food Ministry

April was a record setting month for the CSUMC food cupboard with almost 100 families helped. This included our friends from south of the border. We have developed some holes that we could use your help with. We have needs of soup, cereal, pasta and ketchup. If you can help we will put your donations to good use.

Your Food Ministry Volunteers



Finance

(March 2024 Results)

A snapshot of the church financial results for the month of March is shown below. March was a difficult month for the church finances as the revenue was down and expenses were significantly over budget. This was mostly due to a significant bill for church utilities after not being billed for January and February.

March 2024

Revenue	\$	11,465	Revenue	\$	11,465
Budget	\$	14,466	Actual Expenses	\$	23,743
Difference	\$	(3,001)		\$	(12,277)

Thank you for all you do for the Clifton Springs United Methodist Church.

I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

Tom Brickle

Finance Team Chair

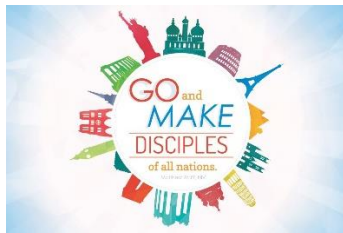
Staff Parish Relations Team

Hi Friends,

The SPR Team is still searching for a Church Treasurer. This is a paid position. We are considering using a Team approach where two or three people would share the responsibilities, each taking a specific part of the job.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Dan McIntyre, Gail Conners or Pastor Brian.

Blessings,
Gail Conners, SPR Chairperson



Mission of the Month MAY

Clifton Springs Hospital Nursing Home –
Activities Department

During the month of May we will be collecting items for the Activities Department at CS Nursing Home. The staff in this department do a wonderful job entertaining and keeping the NH Residents occupied with all kinds of activities. Thanking you in advance for your generosity.

Below is the list of items they could use. These are all items that will benefit the residents.

- Skip-Bo card games
- Uno card games
- Farkle
- Wooden/Ceramic craft projects
- Colored Nail Polish
- Cotton Balls/swabs
- Individual Pencil Sharpeners
- JUMBO print word search books
- JUMBO print Crossword Puzzle books
- Rolls of Quarters (to use as bingo winnings)
- Phase 10 card games
- Decks of cards
- Beach Balls
- Colored Pencils
- Nail Polish Remover
- Clear Nail Polish
- Coloring Books (not children's)
- JUMBO print word find books
- Large/Jumbo print Sudoku books

Thank you so much for thinking of us and our residents.
Martha Porschet-Shum, Activities Director



Trustee News 4/28/24

Hello United Methodists,

Spring has arrived and the tulips along the walk are welcoming the faithful to Sunday services. We are getting in lawn mowing gear. If anyone would like to help out, it only takes an hour to push mow and the mower is self-propelled!! Let me know if you are looking to get some exercise and make the old church look it's best.

Roman and Sally Mueller did a great job getting the GRACE center floor waxed. Hope you noticed. Roman put some ant stakes down outside to help with the tiny ant problem in the infant rooms. See any of them crawling around lately? Roman has been in quite the war with a sink in room 7. Hopefully he wins sometime soon.

I thought it would be a good time to update you on the church investments. They have been going up lately. The endowment fund is up to \$128,000. Mary Convers musical fund is at \$60,595. The money we have invested for the United Methodist Women is currently at \$18,752. All of them seem to be on the rise lately. Praise God.

Always looking for help on the trustee team. If the spirit moves you, come see us.

Thank you and God bless,

John B. Mueller





Worship Team

What Is Pentecost?

This Year **Pentecost Sunday is May 19th**, observed on the seventh Sunday after Easter. The Worship Team is asking everyone to wear **RED** that Day!

The Origin of Pentecost – Old Testament

Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. In Palestine, there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost (called the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks), was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

There were several festivals/observances that took place before Pentecost: Passover, Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest.

According to the Old Testament, the date of Pentecost was determined by starting with the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and counting off 50 days from that date. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost is the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest.

Pentecost Sunday –Christianity

Pentecost commemorates the day the Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and added 3,000 new believers. The account in Acts 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit "*filled the whole house where they were sitting*" (Acts 2:2). "*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them*" (Acts 2:4). This strange occurrence drew a large crowd, and Peter stood up to speak to them about repentance and the gospel of Christ. By the end of that day, the Church grew by 3,000 people. This is why Christians still celebrate Pentecost.