



## **August 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***

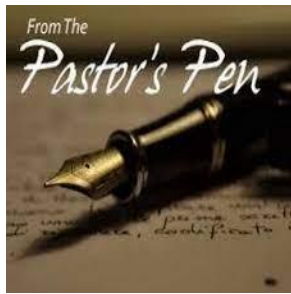
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## From the Pastor's Pen

For the month of July, I was on Spiritual Renewal leave. The *Book of Discipline*, the polity of the United Methodist Church, states that a pastor is supposed to take time of spiritual formation and renewal. I have not taken renewal leave in the twenty years I have been in ministry.

I knew it was there and I believe I am responsible for my spiritual formation and renewal. Like many of us, I have times in my life when it is difficult to keep the Sabbath, and times when my faith needs renewal. I take the responsibility to care for myself during those times.

I believe that my life experiences taught me much about caring for myself while also working. Cows must be milked and cared for, crops must be planted and harvested, children need nurturing, a safe environment, food on the table; I believe you can look to your commitments at work and at home to understand what I am saying. The idea of taking a month off for spiritual renewal didn't seem right.

When I was serving on a committee to mentor local licensed pastors, I remember a pastor. when asked about his observance of Sabbath saying: "The devil doesn't take a day off, how can I?" One of my colleagues replied, "If the devil is who you are holding as an ideal, you need to find a better hero." The pastor thought he was revealing a strong work ethic, the committee saw a pastor, a disciple, who was not caring for themselves well.

Loving, learning and leading is difficult work and I have consistently invited you to join me in engaging in community through loving, learning, and leading. There will always be work to do. Jesus needs to be our example. We need to observe Sabbath; time outside of our regular activity to reconnect with God. Jesus often went off by himself to pray, to be in relationship with God, his heavenly father. Jesus also took naps. One of my favorite Sunday afternoon activities is taking my nap! Sabbath will look differently for each of us; you have to answer for yourself where you connect with God and what fills the needs of your Spirit. During my renewal leave I stepped out of my routine. Cindy and I stepped into the urban culture of New York City and the traffic of New York and New Jersey metro areas. It was an opportunity to learn about a culture different from our own. We had the opportunity to love strangers and accept love shared by strangers. We experienced Sabbath in different places and different communities. My soul has always connected with God in creation; we spent time in creation allowing God to refill us and reconnect us. I took naps. I studied books on

trauma and spiritual practices. I also had a meeting with my District Superintendent to share about my experiences on my leave.

Loving, learning, and leading is not just about what we do in community, it is about what we do in our own being. Love yourself, learn about yourself, and allow God to lead you into the future God has planned for you. Work on finding your rhythms of work, play and rest so that your being is prepared for the calling God has for you. We are uniquely made by God; we can learn from others and be informed by others and what others do might not fit into who God created us to be. Don't get stuck imitating someone else, be yourself and follow God leading in your life. I believe God desires us to be joy filled, let's work to discover what brings us joy and share that joy with others.

*Pastor Brian Fellows*

### *Did you know:*

Clifton Springs UMC has a prayer request list by email and a closed group on Facebook. If you have a request, call the church office at 315-462-2274 or email Rev. Fellows at [pastorbrianfellows@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrianfellows@gmail.com).

If you would like to be added to receive the prayer email or become a member of the Facebook group requests can be made to Rev. Fellows.

## **Food Ministry**



Hate to say that summer leaving us , but it seems to happen every year. Time to ramp up for fall and holiday seasons. About 90 families were helped in the month of July. With that and the state of New York messing with procurement items, we have some holes

We could use Cereal , Family size juices , canned veggies (corn or carrots) are needed, Miss the Seneca Foods yearly donations. Also need jelly and soups.

We are also looking for someone to spearhead the third Wed packing and deliveries of bags for the Spa apartments. See someone from your Food Ministry if you think you could donate 2 hours a month.

Thanks

*Your Food Ministry*



## Finance Team

(June 2024 Results)

The church financial results for the month of June are shown below. In June the actual expenses were well under budget keeping the operating loss low. Although this was due mostly for church utilities not being billed in June. The Utility bill will be paid in July 2024 for two months.

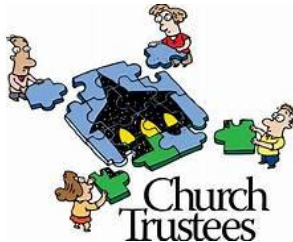
### June 2024

Revenue	\$	13,394	Revenue	\$	13,394
Budget	\$	22,931	Actual Expenses	\$	14,871
Difference	\$	(9,537)		\$	(1,477)

All your gifts to the church are much appreciated.

As always I would happy to answer any of your questions.

Tom Brickle, Finance Team Chair



## Trustees

Hello United Methodists,

We are right are in the middle of the summer heat. With that heat comes cooling and cooling problems. Looks like we have to replace one of the cooling compressors in the ceiling of the south hallway. It will cost \$4,500. It would have been more but, thankfully, the compressor company is warranting the cost of the equipment. (Unfortunately, not the labor). We should expect that interruption in the next week or so.

The Smith team – Roman and Lucas, has been right at it. Catching up on the work orders from Our Children’s Place. Thank you Lucas for having a local internship so that you can bless us with your ambition, optimism and light changing skills.

While the Smith team is taking care of the inside, the Mueller team has been taking care of the outside. Peter Mueller and his girlfriend, Grace Murphy, have been helping mow lawn weekly. John and Sally have been planting and weeding flowers with the wonderful help of Eric Lehman.

Eric was the cleaning person for OCP until his retirement. I talked him into helping us a few hours a week watering and fertilizing the flowers. He also has been cleaning the sanctuary and the two conference rooms every other week. Thank you Eric for all your great help.

Like most things, it takes a good team to get things done and right now we are getting things done. If there are any other things that need taken care of, let us know so we can stay on top of it.

Thank you and God bless,

John B. Mueller

**From Linda Vogel:** Do you know why God doesn't allow our pets to speak? To teach us that love and loyalty are demonstrated by actions not words.

