



November 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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I am so glad we get to celebrate so many different ways of thanksgiving in November before we move into the seasons of Advent and Christmas in December. The first of November is All Saints, or all souls, Day. Christians remember their “saints” on the day. It is a day of thanksgiving for our ancestors. Many cultures have celebrations to honor the dead. Buddhists celebrate Obon about the fifteenth of August. Día de los Muertos is a Mexican and Latino celebration around the first of November. Chuseok is South Korea’s most celebrated holiday, it usually falls in September or October and combines the celebration of the dead along with thanksgiving for the harvest. Gaijatra is celebrated in Nepal. I hope as you love, learn and lead in the communities you are a part of you will ask questions about how other communities remember their ancestors and how they celebrate Thanksgiving.

As I write this note, I am studying Acts 2:1-13 which is the story of the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. In Jewish culture Pentecost celebrated the harvest as well as the giving of the law or Ten Commandments to Moses and the Israelites. We have countless blessings and reasons for thanksgiving!

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

Count Your Blessings was written by Johnson Oatman in 1897 and is published in 262 hymnals. Even today’s popular Christian music includes songs about counting our blessings and giving thanksgiving. From a mental health perspective, people who know they are blessed, people who give thanks frequently, have better mental and emotional health.

The season we are entering has less daylight and more depression than other seasons. I hope you can use some of the information I have shared here to start conversations with

your neighbors about thanksgiving and knowing we are blessed. Perhaps you are one of the many people who deal with seasonal affective disorder or seasonal depression. Be aware of the people around them and love them, you may help them see something in themselves they don't see; what a wonderful way to share the love of God with someone! Take a little time every day and consider the ways God has revealed love to you and share those reflections with others.

Happy Thanksgiving, Brian

Staff Parish Relations Team

Hi Friends,

The SPR Team will be reviewing the below guidelines to set agreed upon expectations of our Pastor. We welcome your input. Please share your preferences/concerns with any member of the Team: Dan McIntyre, Dennis King, Donna Strub, Steve Strub, Gail Conners, Pastor Brian.

Expectations of Pastors Guidelines

Every church context is different, and churches have their own particular needs, just as pastors have their own particular gifts. It is the responsibility of the SPPRC and Pastor to discuss and prioritize the needs of the church and review the prioritization on a regular basis.

Three-Quarter Time week

30-32 hours per

- Create, coordinate and lead worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy, sermon preparation, guiding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with music staff or volunteers, preaching, offering prayers, etc.
- Faith formation and vitality through prayer, Bible study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and encouraging and empowering lay people to participate.
- Leadership Development by working with people in the church to strengthen the gifts of the laity and create ministry opportunities.
- Pastoral care in collaboration with lay people (with priority to those who are sick, elderly or grieving)
- Community engagement and leading the way for the church to share God's love with all people.
- Weddings and funerals for participants in the worshipping community.

- Strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry
- Attend some meetings and give leadership as needed to church committees and teams, encouraging lay leadership.
- Participate in district, conference, and general church activities, including attend annual conference.
- Faithful financial development and stewardship
- Administering the life of the church including supervision of church records, reports and meeting financial obligations
- Chair the Nominations Committee
- Continuing Education. Study and prayer to increase faith and improve skills in leading, teaching and preaching.
- Energizing and deepening the spiritual connections and faith understandings of others in all they do. Empowering the laity to use their gifts to build up the church.

Blessings,
Gail Conners, SPR Chairperson



November – Care Net of Wayne County

Care Net is a shame-free, judgment-free, go-to place for unplanned pregnancy solutions. We know that each person’s situation is unique. You will never be judged or pressured by our staff. We are here to listen, answer questions, and support you in any way we can. We are here to empower and equip you no matter what circumstances bring you through our doors.

All our services are available to anyone regardless of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

All services are confidential and free of charge

Here is a list of our current needs:

- Preemie diapers
- Newborn diapers
- Size 5 and 6 diapers
- Baby wipes
- Baby bath and shampoo
- Diaper ointment
- Any type of baby clothing from preemie to 18 months
- Crib and Pack N Play sheets
- Baby carriers
- Baby bathtubs
- Infant toys and books
- Portable high chairs
- Activity mats



Busy time of year. Both Nov and Dec will feature a holiday pack along with the usual box of food.

The pack will consist of a roasting chicken or small ham, various dairy products, eggs, bag of potatoes , bag of apples and a variety of root vegetables, The only difference will be in Dec folks will have a choice of a roasting chicken or a turkey , **Hugh thank you to the UMW for helping to defray the cost of the turkeys.**

The majority of the items in the boxes are free of charge from Foodlink!

We are still short things like pasta and pasta sauce, juices and cereal.

If you can help please contact Steve, Connie or Dan
Food Ministry



Hello United Methodists,

I mowed the grass for the last time this afternoon. The cooling tower has been switched over to heat. Time to put the flower beds away, get the storm windows up and the salt buckets out along with the snow shovels. The seasons are changing!

With Brian going to three quarter time, the trustees are seeing just a little more maintenance requests. Thankfully Brian's new part time job is still at our church so he is able to head some things off quickly before it gets to the trustee department. Roman and son Lucas Smith have stepped up and really done a nice job of keeping up with those most recent work orders. Thank you Smiths.

We are still looking for more members on the board of trustees. If you know of anyone interested, please send them our way.

Thank you and God bless,

John Mueller

Chair of Trustees



The overview of the church financial results for the month of September is shown below. Revenue was up significantly from August. Expenses remain in line with the budget and the increased revenue from offerings resulted in surplus operating funds.

September 2024

Revenue	\$ 23,922	Revenue	\$ 23,922
Budget	<u>\$ 15,979</u>	Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 14,341</u>
Difference	\$ 7,943		\$ 9,581

Thank you for all your gifts of time, talent and Treasure!

Tom Brickle

Finance Team Chair