



October 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***

In This Issue

Pastor' Pen

Staff Parish Relations Team

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Mission of the Month

Food Ministry

Pastor' Pen

In our newsletter this month, the Staff Parish Relations Committee talks about changing the pastor's time from full time to three quarter time. In the interest of loving, learning and leading I believe it is important for you to know how I feel about the decision. Everyone in church leadership, including me, want the pastor to be full time. Our church needs a full-time pastor. Since I have been at Clifton Springs Palmyra, Manchester and Aloquin UMC's have closed. There are at least three other UMC's in the area that are working hard to move from surviving to thriving.

I was the one to suggest to church leadership a three-quarter time appointment to better address the financial challenges of the church. I shared that I believe it should be temporary and that we should have a five-year plan to return to full-time. We need the pressures of finances off our minds so that our energy can be used for the creativity and work of mission and ministry that will grow our influence and interactions with the communities we all live in.

We have strong interactions in Clifton Springs with many different community organizations. Imagine what it would be like to have similar interactions with organizations in Manchester, Shortsville, Phelps and Palmyra? When I wrote a letter to Bishop Hector explaining why I wanted to serve less than full time I told him that the fields of ministry around us are ripe for harvest, prepared for planting, and well maintained. I believe it and I want you to believe it too! The possibilities for mission and ministry are endless, we just need to see them, grasp them and follow God's lead.

The largest savings in changing my time from full to three quarters is health insurance. The cost for my health insurance is \$15,125/year. It is mandatory for full-time appointments to pay insurance. Less than full-time appointments do not pay health insurance. The leadership has been asked by our district superintendent to plan for the cost of health insurance in our plan to return to full time. Cindy has health insurance through her job for both of us.

My hope is that in less than three years we can return to full time ministry. I would like the church to be able to cover all the shared ministry costs before we choose to increase the pastor's time. I am not convinced that everyone reading this will know what Shared Ministry is and the importance of paying our Shared Ministry.

The Annual Conference does much for the local church. The person who will help us develop a plan to return to full time works for the Annual Conference. Much of the training I do is provided by the Annual Conference. There is also the possibility of taking

advantage of Equitable Compensation as we look to return to full time ministry. Equitable Compensation is funding from the Annual Conference to help churches pay their pastors when budgets are a bit tight. It has been a very long time since our church paid 100% of Shared Ministry.

I hope you will join me in this adventure of figuring out who we are in the communities we all come from. Yes, Cindy and I are a bit scared, and I imagine many of you are a bit scared about this news as well. We know God is good and God is faithful. I hope that all of us will put our full trust in God and consider what each of us are being called to do to share the love of God in this place. I am sure God will bless us through this experience.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Pastor Brian proposed to the SPR Team and the Council on Ministry Team that he reduce his hours from full time to three-quarter time. Much discussion ensued and it has not been an easy decision, but we all agree that it is a necessary change due to our financial position. The aftermath of COVID, coupled with the Disaffiliation Vote, has caused us to be in this financial position. Please be assured that this is temporary.

Q & A

Q: What does ¾ time mean?

A: 30-32 hours per week. This is a 10-12 hour reduction in time.

Q: What changes will be made?

- A:
1. Facility maintenance turned over completely to the Trustees.
 2. Reduce visitation by giving priority to those who are sick, elderly or grieving.
 3. Only attend select meetings.

4. Pastor Brian has taken a position with Our Children's Place Day Care, working with the school age children from 6:30-8:30 AM M-F.

Q: How do we increase our financial standing due to COVID and the Disaffiliation Issue?

A: We will be working with a Pastor/CPA to create a 3-5 year plan to get us back to full time.

The Council on Ministry will keep the Congregation updated as the plan takes shape. The entire Congregation needs to be involved.

Staff Parish Relations Team

Hi Friends,

The SPR Team and the Council on Ministry Team have been in discussions with Pastor Brian regarding a reduction from full time to three-quarter time. It has not been an easy discussion, but we all agree that it is a necessary change due to our financial position. The aftermath of COVID, coupled with the Disaffiliation Vote, have caused us to be in this financial position. Please be assured that this is temporary. We will be working with a Pastor/CPA to create a 3-5 year plan to get us back to full time.

Council on Ministry has created a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) Sheet, which hopefully answers your concerns and is included in this Newsletter.

Blessings,
Gail Conners, SPR Chairperson

Finance Team

An overview of the church financial results for the month of August is shown below. Our expenses were very close to budget although revenue is again behind resulting in a loss for the month. We are at a point where our general operating fund is low requiring us to make changes in order to maintain the church worship, missions, and ministry.

August 2024

		Revenue	\$
Revenue	\$	11,995	11,995
		Actual	\$
Budget	\$	16,819	17,322
			<hr/>
			\$
Difference	\$	(4,824)	(5,327)

As you have heard, Brian will be going from full time to $\frac{3}{4}$ time as the church pastor. This creates some significant financial savings because it does not only reduce the amount of Brian's pay, it also eliminates the health insurance payment required by the conference. These changes are expected to eliminate monthly losses putting us back in the black, so the focus can be more on ministries of the church. Of course Brian spending less time working for the church will require volunteers to help fill the gaps. Please let us know if god is calling you to use your time and talents to help out.

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

Tom Brickle

Finance Team Chair

MISSION OF THE MONTH--OCTOBER 2024

HOUSE OF JOHN

Food

Keurig K cups (Regular coffee, tea, hot chocolate)
Jell-O cups, pudding cups and/or applesauce (individual servings)
Single-serve frozen dinners (mac & cheese, meatloaf, pasta)

Household Items/Paper Products

Free and Clear laundry detergent HE
Trash bags (Unscented)-Tall Kitchen (13 gal) and Multipurpose (30 gal)
Paper towels (Bounty Select-a-Size preferred)
Chlorine Bleach
Toilet bowl cleaner
Murphy Oil Soap
Pine-Sol
Hand soap-moisturizing (pump style or refill bottle)

Office Supplies

Postage stamps
Copy paper 8.5" x 11" (white)
Black & Colored Ink Cartridges:
 Canon MF8580cdw – Black (118), Cyan (118), Magenta (118), Yellow (118)
 or
 Canon MF753Cdw – Black (069), Cyan (069), Magenta (069), Yellow (069)

Resident Care Supplies

Baby shampoo-trial size
Deodorant-trial size
Baby powder-trial size
Medium and large vinyl gloves (non-latex)
Surgical masks
Cash donations for NYSEG and other Utilities
Gift cards from Staples / Wal-Mart / BJ's / Tops / Wegmans / Clifton Springs Hardware

And...

Volunteers - This is what we need the most! If you are interested, please contact Kathy or Sue at (315) 462-5646

*Please call if you wish to donate medical equipment, medical supplies, or other items



*PORK LOIN
HARVEST DINNER
FRIDAY OCT18th*

*STARTING AT 5:30
till gone*

**CLIFTON SPRING
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**PORK LOIN
SCALLOPED POTATOES
APPLE SAUCE
BUTTER NUT SQUASH
MIXED VEGGIES
APPLE CRISP
COFFEE, WATER, MILK**

FREE WILL DONATION IN SUPPORT OF

CSUMC FOOD MINISTRY