



May 2025 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' Corner

Food Ministry

Trustees

Finance

Chicken BBQ

QR CODE for Clifton Springs United Methodist Church

Pastor's Corner

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

I believe in the separation of church and state. I also believe that Jesus was much more political than we understand or want to admit. When I add to these two understandings that Jesus was never neutral on issues of his day, it is difficult to talk about politics in church. Sometimes I do, believing in the dangerous idea that I might fully understand the viewpoint that Jesus has on an issue. No, I'm not intentionally going to be political in this article. Being May, my hope is to give you something to think about this month as we gather for the civic celebrations of graduation, Memorial Day, some concerts at school and other civic activities.

In worship, we share a liturgy every Sunday, uniting in elements of worship such as hymns, and prayer are the work of the gathered people, it is the work or participation of worship; it reflects how we are one body. In secular society there are elements of liturgy for the same reason; we have a ritual of using unison statements and song to unite us and to share what we hold as common ground. I hurt when we fail to unite. I also am glad that we have the freedom to choose whether we unite or not. I had always believed that one of the things that makes our nation great is what we hold in common.

We don't always agree, and the differences we hold alongside the freedom we have for civil discourse is something that we should honor. I believe some conflict is good for us; it is an opportunity for us to share what we believe, it is a chance to grow and learn. These things grow relationships. The Disciples did not always agree with Christ, they stayed with him and learned, Jesus learned from them as well. I am afraid that the polarization seen in political parties is spilling over into society, history shows that polarization cuts to the core values of groups and leads to the collapse of groups. We have seen what polarization did in our denomination; we need to learn from that and apply it to other areas of our life. Polarization focuses on what we disagree on rather than what we agree on and

when we divide over issues, we do a poor job of healing from our brokenness. If you don't understand what I am saying consider the number of people you know who are still bitter about the other in their divorce. Look at the way racism still divides our nation 150 years after the Civil War.

There is far more that unites us than what divides us. Christ teaches that the most important thing to do is to love each other. As we love, learn and lead, may we learn from history, scripture, and others, how to love each other. May we love each other enough to dare and hear their perspectives and talk about what we hold in common. May we be courageous in leading others to the paths that lead us all toward the Love of God.



May food ministry:

Hugh thank you for our congregation's help with feeding the less fortunate . We are well positioned for the months of May and part of June, Still in limbo with how if any our state government will help with grant money starting in July.

Even without their help we will continue our work with whatever adjustments are needed to continue our services. As Sandy has always said "God will provide ". I truly believe He will get us thru the hard times !!

If you are able , any and all food donations will be put to good use .

Your Food Ministry

May food ministry:



Hello United Methodists,

The first mowing of the church lawn arrived this past Sunday. As well as spring cleaning. Dave Webb, Roman Smith and I cleaned up the sanctuary last week. The Narthex bathroom, the balcony, the windows, the alter all got a good cleaning. We even got those hard to reach cobwebs up in the corners. We thought it looked pretty good in the end but, let us know what spots we missed!

Hoping the tulips on the front walk really get going this week. I think we will be dressing up the flower beds later in May to make sure that we miss a frost. If you would like to help out with the planting, let us know and I will be sure to include you in the beautification of our church.

Sounds like our latest challenge is those tiny ants that sneak in the church. Roman and I are all about a new battle with them this spring. If you have any tips, we would welcome the help. They are not easily exterminated.

As with most investments, the church's investments have dropped off lately. We currently have \$13,338 in our endowment fund, \$63,437 in our Mary Converse music fund, and \$19,990 in the United Methodist Women's fund. Hoping they all bounce back by the end of the year.

Hoping to tell you about flower planting next month!

Thank you and God bless,
John Mueller
Chair of Trustees



FINANCE TEAM

The overview of the church financial results for the month of March is below. There was a net loss for the month do to lower than expected revenue and higher than expected expenses.

Revenue	\$ 12,180.00	Revenue	\$ 12,180.00
Budget	\$ 17,399.00	Actual Expenses	\$ 22,897.00
Difference	\$ (5,219.00)		\$ (10,717.00)

God Bless,
Tom Brickle
Finance Team Chair

CHICKEN BBQ



Chef Chicken sez:

it'll tickle your taste buds!

CLIFTON SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MEMORIAL DAY

DRIVE THRU CHICKEN BB-Q

MONDAY MAY 26 2025

TAKE-OUT ONLY 11:30 TILL IT'S GONE (ABOUT 2:00)

(1 East Main Street in the heart of Clifton Springs)

all for the poultry sum of

\$15 for a full dinner

QR CODE for Clifton Springs United Methodist Church



The code in these squares are unique, like your fingerprint. QR codes take you to a place on the internet. The codes above will take you to different places in our church website. The one on the left will take you to a contact page so that you can send me a note. The one on the right will take to the electronic giving page. QR codes can be generated with an app and can be generated for many different purposes. We could send you to a document or to give to a cause. A QR code could be generated to send you to a conference or denomination website.

A QR code is used by a mobile device such as a smart phone. If you open your camera on your smartphone and hold it as if you were going to take a picture, your phone would recognize the QR code and invite you to go to the page. My phone shows the destination of a QR code in the bottom of my screen and says csumc.com for the code on the left and myvanco.com for the code on the right. Touching the screen where that shows up in the picture frame opens the webpage in my browser. Go ahead, send me a message using the QR code on the left.