



April 2026 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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TIME TALENTS TITHES TESTIMONY

PASTOR'S CORNER

During Lent I have been sharing and teaching about liberation through the stories of the Exodus. As we study the Gospel of Matthew in year A of the lectionary, the comparison of Moses to Jesus is a major part of the story. Gaining insight into Moses helps us understand Jesus and the cultural understandings that were held when Jesus was teaching in person.

Jesus also teaches about liberation. Love is always the lens we study the actions of Jesus through. We see and interpret Jesus' acts of liberation as love. Jesus heals because of love and healing is a form of liberation. The teaching that Christ does we see as teachings about love, they are also teachings about what it is to be liberated. Jesus dies for our salvation because he loves us and his death and resurrection liberate us from the burden of sin and death.

The love and liberation Christ offers are extremely visible during Holy Week. Jesus comes into Jerusalem to cries equivalent to "save us!" He stands before authority and tells them truths they are afraid of, he challenges their power and submits to their power. We see in Christ the power of forgiveness; love offered to us to shape our lives and the communities we are a part of. Love changes the world through liberation.

Easter shifts the season from liberation into a Promised Land, a place of resurrection, forgiveness, and grace. It is the process of living as people who have been liberated and know the cost of liberation. We need to know the stories of Holy Week because they reveal to us the depth of the cost of our liberation.

We need to pivot or shift our thoughts and actions as well. Easter is a time to embrace newness of life. Our wondering in The Wilderness of Sin should shift from feeling unknown and darkness into a place of companionship and life. We know the story of Easter, the empty tomb, the women running to share the news, the encounters of Mary, the disciples in the shuttered upper room, Thomas, and Peter. How are we as individuals and as a community going to share the knowledge of liberation, resurrection, forgiveness and mercy with others? Sometimes the work will break us, embarrass us, and exhaust us. Time in God's presence restores us, revives us and encourages us.

More and more people in our community are not aware of what Easter is about. May we be encouraged by our journey and may we feel empowered by our knowledge to dare to share the love of Christ with others to learn, love and lead in the places God sends us in our journey of life.

Pastor Brian

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALIENE PAYNE

Saturday, April 25, 2026

2-4pm

American Legion, Shortsville, NY

As we remember mom and her tasty ice cream shop, we will be having a Make-Your-Own Sundae Bar in her honor.

Please join us.

CHOIR

According to Deborah Johnson, writing in her column "Renewed Hope", our favorite Easter hymns are:

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? This is an African/American spiritual originating before 1865. Slaves passed it down to its first printing in 1899.

In The Garden. This was written in 1912 by a pharmacist named Austin Miles in a cold, damp, leaky basement in New Jersey. It was popularized by the Billy Sunday evangelical campaigns. Some who recorded it are Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Perry Como and Elvis Presley.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness. This was written in 1866 by Kentuckian Thomas Chisholm, the composer of over 1200 hymns. He wrote that God had given him so many wonderful displays of providing care that he was overwhelmed by gratefulness.

Amazing Grace. Written by John Newton in 1790, it was first published in 1935. It is performed about 10 million times each Easter.

It Is Well With My Soul. Horatio G. Spafford, a Chicago attorney in 1874, suffered multiple tragedies. First, he and his wife lost their only son; then they lost all their belongings in The Great Chicago Fire. But the worst was that he lost his four daughters in a shipwreck off the Irish Coast in 1874. His wife alone was saved. He wrote this hymn as he sailed to comfort her in

England.

John Tyo

FINANCE

(February 2026)

In February, expenses were greater than revenue.

Revenue	\$	11,188
Actual Expenses	\$	18,830
		<hr/>
	\$	- 7,642

Tom Brickle

Finance Team Chair

FOOD MINISTRY

Wonderful food distribution in March from the Catholic Charities of the Finger lakes and the Church Of The Latter Day Saints of Palmyra and Salt Lake City.

Doug and I were able to pick up a truck load of wonderful food items including Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter , Elbows and Apple Sauce. Will get us thru Spring and into summer.

Proving hunger has no denomination .

With Gods will we are blessed

TRUSTEES

We finally got the floors stripped and waxed. Hopefully you noticed the new shine. Now we just have to take the time to maintain that nice shine.

Isaac plumbing and heating came in and did some maintenance work on two of our heat pumps. We should be ready for the cooling season here in a month or two.

Roman and Lucus continue to work on a bunch of little things inside. Faucets, cabinet doors, toilets, garbage disposals and anything else that pops up. We certainly could not keep this church going without the Smiths.

The rains seem to be coming quite regularly now. That means the outdoor season is about to start. We are gearing up to get the flower beds in shape the lawns ready to mow. If you have any interest in gardening, let me know. We would really enjoy the help.

God bless,

John Mueller, Chair of Trustees

WORSHIP

Holy Week starts March 29th.

- **Holy Thursday**, April 2 with a 6pm dinner, service in the Grace Hall. Details on dinner will be announced in church during announcements.
- **Good Friday** is April 3 with a 7pm service in the Sanctuary.
- **Easter Sunday**
 - Sunrise service, April 5, at 7 am, location TBD.
 - 9:30 am service with Communion in the Sanctuary.

FROM GAIL CONNERS:

A Disciple of Christ is a person who:

Confesses faith in Jesus Christ
Proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ
Continually being transformed by the Holy Spirit
Seeks accountability to grow spiritually and missionally
Boldly connects with the world while dismantling forms of oppression
and building up those in marginalized communities
Participates with God to make other Disciples.

CHANGE FROM VANCO TO TITHELY

Hey there, We are excited to announce that giving to Clifton Springs United Methodist Church is about to become easier and more convenient than ever! We are officially moving from Vanco to Tithely Giving. Tithely Giving is an easy-to-use platform that will allow you to give online and on your phone. You can make both one-time and recurring gifts, give with a credit/debit card or ACH transaction, and even Cover the Fees (which will help your gift go even farther!)

Here's how to get started with Tithely. Note: If you've got recurring gifts set up with Vanco, make sure to cancel any recurring payments before moving forward with Tithely!

Option 1: Give on the Tithely Giving App

1. Download the Tithely App from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, select your church and follow the steps listed.
2. Since this is your first time giving with Tithely, you will be prompted to create an account that you can use for all future gifts.
3. The first time, you will also need to add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info.
4. Once your account has been created, you won't need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give! To make this process even easier, you can also set up a recurring gift that will automate your regular giving.

Option 2: Give on Our Website.

1. Click on this link www.csumc.com to access a Giving Form on our church website. Just like on our app, you can also set up a recurring gift that makes your regular giving automatic.
2. Do You Give With Cash or Check? If you regularly make donations in cash or with a check, we strongly encourage you to switch to digital giving! Online giving with Tithely makes it fast and simple to donate and also reduces the amount of administrative labor we need to process gifts in cash or with a check. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us back and we'd be happy to assist you further. Tithely also has articles that you may find useful. [Click here to read more.](#)

Thank you for your generosity. Your financial partnership helps to build the Kingdom of God in our community—and world.

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.