



September 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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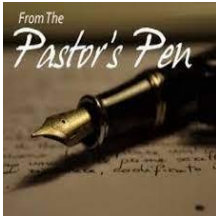
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From the Pastor's Pen

"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

Joy is one of God's greatest gifts to His people. Yet joy is often misunderstood. We sometimes think joy depends on circumstances going our way, our health improving, our finances increasing, or our plans unfolding exactly as we hoped. But biblical joy is much deeper than happiness. It is a steady confidence in God's presence and faithfulness, regardless of what we face.

As United Methodists, we believe God's grace is always at work in our lives. That grace gives us reason for joy every day. Joy is found in knowing that we are loved by God, forgiven through Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Even when life is difficult, we can take comfort in the promise that God walks beside us through every valley and every season.

The Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians while he was in prison, yet throughout the letter he repeatedly encourages believers to rejoice. His joy was not based on freedom or comfort. It was rooted in his relationship with Christ. Paul's example reminds us that joy is not the absence of hardship; it is the presence of Christ during hardship.

Our congregation has many reasons to celebrate God's goodness; even as several of our members face struggles in their lives. We see joy in worship as voices unite in praise. We see joy in fellowship meals, mission projects, Bible studies, and moments of caring for one another. We see joy when prayers are answered, when new friendships are formed, and when lives are transformed by the love of Christ.

Joy also grows when we share it. A kind word, a visit to someone who is lonely, a note of encouragement, or an act of service can become a source of joy for others. In a world often filled with anxiety and uncertainty, Christians are called to be people who reflect the joy of Christ.

As we move through the days ahead, let us make time to recognize God's blessings around us. Let us give thanks for the simple gifts of each day. Let us trust God's promises when challenges arise. And let us remember that true joy is not something we manufacture; it is a fruit of the Spirit growing within us as we walk with Jesus.

May our church be known as a community of joyful disciples, sharing God's love and grace with all. And may the joy of the Lord continue to be our strength. May the joy we know in our lives be something that is seen and known in the places we are planted.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Brian



Food Ministry

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated soup, cereal and jelly. Our supply of these items is back to normal and we are in good shape to start the school season!

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU to Maddy who had a successful Eagle Scout project on Saturday August 29. It was a Free Community Luncheon at John Brown Park.

CSUMC Foodbank was the recipient of donations received at the luncheon totaling:
8 banana boxes of food and \$300.

Sunday September 20th

French Toast Breakfast

7:30 AM-9:15 AM

Free Will Offering

to

Support CSUMC Foodbank

Friday October 16th

HARVEST DINNER

Pork Tenderloin with all the fixin's

5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Free Will Offering to

Support CSUMC Foodbank

Summer Lunch Program 2026 YMCA & LIBRARY

Thank you to all who made our Summer Lunch Program a success. From the veteran sandwich makers to the donations that poured in to the YMCA and the Library, there was good news all around. Our church had a wonderful team that did a wonderful job. Thank you for completing a great mission for our Good Lord.

We made 100 sandwiches each week for about 6 weeks. Half went to the YMCA's summer recreation program. The other half ended up at the Library. Similar to last year. It was interesting that some of the kids at the Library were different from the kids that were being served at the Y program. So our reach was a bit broader than just the Y program.

I'm not sure if they will need us next year but, if they do, I have a high degree of confidence that the Clifton Springs Methodists will deliver!

Thank you to all that made this mission possible.

Forever grateful,

John

Finance Team

TIME TALENT TREASURES



GOOD STEWARDSHIP

In July the church transitioned to a different bookkeeping company. For the past couple of years ICON Systems in North Dakota has been keeping the church financial records. This has worked well although we wanted to bring it closer to our community. Wachob Financial, LLC is now our financial book keeper. Beki Wachob is the owner and founder of this small business located in West Bloomfield. Beki uses Quick Books Software, taking care of Bookkeeping, Payroll, and Bill Pay. Wachob Financial is experienced with doing the same for many other non-profits in the Finger Lakes area.

Next Finance Meeting is September 8th at 6:30PM.

Blessings,

Tom Brickle, Finance Team Chair

Trustees

Hello United Methodists,

It's been a while. The Church seems to be in very good shape. Thanks to the great volunteer spirit of our congregation, our partners at OCP, the large unrestricted gift, and the Good Lord that provided some great weather to make the flowers pop!

July 1st we started a new contract with OCP. We agreed to several adjustments. They volunteered to pay for weekly garbage pickup. We agreed to let them use room 13 upstairs for increased rent. They agreed to help us defer rising energy costs. And finally, they agreed to help pay for a maintenance contract with Isaac Heating and Plumbing. All this resulted in a 12.5% increase in the rent that they pay to the Church. Let's pray that it all goes well this next contract year.

Roman and Lucas continue to work on lights, cupboards, doors and sinks. It seems like every month there is some little problem that needs some maintenance. We have just a few items to take care of at the parsonage and we should be mostly caught up on projects. Just lots to be grateful for. Enjoy the rest of summer!

God bless,

John Mueller, Chair of Trustees





Staff Parish Relations Team

Hi Friends,

Back in June the Financial Secretary's Job Description was updated in preparation for hiring a new person to replace Gail Conners. Her "temporary" volunteer position had morphed into 3 years and she was ready to step out of that role. Dan McIntyre posted the position on Facebook and immediately we had six people respond with interest.

After brief phone conversations three applicants fell out and three were scheduled for in person interviews in July. One was selected and I am pleased to announce that Shelly Bengtson accepted the position. She started training August third.



Shelly and her husband Eric live in Phelps and attend the Phelps United Church, where she serves as their finance person. They have two grown children, Bree and Ben, and three grandchildren. Some of you will remember them as years ago they belonged to CSUMC.

Most of Shelly's experience came from her career as manager of Christopher Community Housing in Geneva. It is a HUD subsidized apartment complex, where she was credentialed as a Hud Manager in the Federal Program.

If you are around on a Monday, late morning to early afternoon, stop in and say hello.

Blessings,

Gail Conners, SPR Chairperson

Prayers & Praises

Mary Elersick - Surgery soon

Nancy & Butch Tuttle – ongoing health concerns

Mary & Tony Zingerella – continued healing

Connie Jones – Surgery 9/8

Betty & Charlie Hall – ongoing health concerns

Pastor Brian – Oral Surgery 9/2

Sandy McIntyre – Praise for successful surgery. They're home. Prayers for continued healing.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.