



# THE COCU GOOD NEWS AMBASSADOR

August 2025



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## Pastor's Message

### **A Faith Journey Begins with a Single Step**

As we look toward the fall, September 14th will be our Back to Church Sunday—a special opportunity to welcome friends, neighbors, and loved ones into our faith community. August is the perfect time to begin inviting others to join us. Whether it's someone who's never been to church before or someone who's simply been away for a while, your invitation could be the nudge they need to take that first step.

We believe that a faith journey begins with a single step, and sometimes that step is as simple as walking through the church doors on a Sunday morning. It only takes one Sunday to begin finding a rhythm of worship, a connection to community, and a renewed relationship with God.

We walk with a Savior who meets us where we are, not where we think we should be. The prevenient grace of God goes before us—it has already been working in the hearts of those we might invite. Even in our most difficult seasons, Jesus stands with arms wide open, ready to embrace us, not with judgment, but with love and welcome.

Our doors are open to all. As Scripture reminds us in Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” No matter your background, your story, or your doubts, there is a place here for you.

Jesus called his disciples with simple words: “Come and see.” Let's do the same. As we approach September, consider who you might invite—someone who needs encouragement, community, or a fresh start. A single Sunday might just be the beginning of something life-giving.

Let's make this September 14th a true celebration of welcome, hope, and new beginnings.



# Worship Service

Sunday Mornings @ 9:15AM

Watch live via

<https://rschurchofchristuniting.org/worship/>

Or via Facebook Live: RS Church of Christ Uniting

## Sunday Morning Helping Hands

August 3: Usher: Kate Huxtable

Greeter: Bill Stevens

Reader: Kevin Mead

Coffee: Carol Simpson

August 10: Usher: Geri Erwin

Greeter: Donna Jones

Reader: Ross Jones

Coffee: Diane Butts

August 17: Usher: Jo-Ann Mead

Greeter: Kate Huxtable

Reader: Linda Ehlers

Coffee: Sheryl Morris

August 24: Usher: Carla Eckler

Greeter: Cindy Talbot

Reader: Brian Howser

Coffee: Fred Eckler

August 31: Usher: Jo-Ann Mead

Greeter: Bill Stevens

Reader: Margaret Goodrich

Coffee: Linda Ehlers

# PRAYER TIME

## Strength, Healing and Guidance:

Dayton Kane, Fred Gardner,  
Bill Burdick, Tim Snyder, Clifford  
Oakes, Marston Erwin, Kevin Brown,  
Sally Pickens, Jerry Crouch, George  
Butts, Gary Aney

Sympathy: Family of Les Olmsted,  
Family of Daniel LaBarge, Family of  
Kenneth Dreis, Family of Richard  
Bowser, Family of Ellen Bollerman

## July 2025 Second Mile Giving

### COCU Backpack Program!

Throughout the month we will be taking monetary and physical donations for items we need for our back to School Blessing of the Backpack program!!

## NEED PRAYER?

Contact the following for any prayer needs

Linda Ehlers: 315-858-1833

Donna Jones: 315-796-1644

*If you would like to become part of the prayer chain let Linda or Donna know.*





## VBS Reminder!!

Remember **V**acation **B**ible **S**chool begins Monday Aug 18. We're planning Crafts, Games, Interactive Stories, and of course yummy refreshments. It will run from 9-12 Monday through Friday the 22nd. Hope you can be there and invite a friend.

Questions or concerns  
Donna 315-796-1644 or  
Pastor Chris 315 -858 -1553



## Happy Birthday

- 8/1 Tommy Worobey
- 8/3 Kate Huxtable  
Bridgette Hallberg  
Melanie Bruce
- 8/5 Gavin Valenta
- 8/6 Al DaCostafaro
- 8/12 Judi Southard
- 8/13 Walter Hubiak
- 8/18 Sara Goodrich
- 8/20 Victoria Young
- 8/27 Norma Bostwick
- 8/31 Pastor Christine Mitchell

## HAPPY Anniversary

- 8/23 Emma & Zach Boss
- 8/27 David & Lori Weiss

Save the Date



## Fall Rummage Sale!!

Friday, September 26.  
Start cleaning your closets! More info in the September newsletter.

## Reminder!!

Guild will not meet  
in August



## Backpack Blessings

If you have children in grades Kindergarten through High School, please bring their backpacks to church so they can be blessed during our Sunday Worship Service on Sunday, August 24.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall showing various items that can be chosen to put in the backpacks.

If you are unable to sign-up in church, you can call Carol Simpson at: (315) 868-0319 by August 17. This will give us time to gather the items requested for each backpack.

Please let us know the child's name, age, grade, and preferred school items as outlined on our sign-up sheet.

## Men's Breakfast

Fellowship Hall  
September 7th @ 8 a.m.  
before the Sunday Worship Service.  
Men of all ages are welcome.

We request that you sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or call Carol Simpson at (315) 868-0319.

It is not mandatory that you sign up, but it would help us to determine how much food is needed and how many to set up for.

We'd like to thank you for all you do for our church, and those around you. We hope you'll join us!

## Women's Guild News

We will gather again on Thursday, September 18 at 6:00 PM for social time. The business meeting will begin at 6:15 PM. This will be our annual Food Pantry shower. Please bring a dish for those attending to enjoy. Also, please bring a canned good or food staple for the Food Pantry. A list of most requested items will be included in the September newsletter. Carol Simpson will be the hostess.



## Fall Craft Fair Update

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Craft Fair  
Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Cullen Pumpkin Farm.

Applications are steadily coming in. Richfield Youth Sports will, once again, be doing a food booth. We appreciate the Pumpkin Farm for allowing us to hold this fundraiser on their property.

Contact Geri and Carla, Co-Chairs, with any questions.

## Upcoming Church Events

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> - Mission Trip to Red Bird Mission

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> - Church Fellowship Meeting 6:30 pm

Aug 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> - Vacation Bible School  
9 am - Noon

Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> - Community Dinner 4 pm -6 pm

Aug 24<sup>th</sup> - Blessing of the Backpacks @ Church

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> - Men's Breakfasts 8 am @ Church

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> - Back to Church Sunday @ 9:15 am  
Sunday School Begins

Sept 18<sup>th</sup> - Guild Food Bank Shower/Covered Dish  
**Hostess:** Carol Simpson

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> - Fall Rummage Sale

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> - Community Dinner 4 pm - 6 pm

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Craft Fair  
Cullen Pumpkin Farm

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> - Guild Elections & Thank Offering. 6 pm  
**Hostess:** Donna Jones  
**Dessert:** Barbara O'Neil

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> - Community Dinner 4 pm - 6 pm

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> - Guild Luncheon/Bake Sale/Craft Corner  
10 am - 2 pm

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Community Dinner 4 pm - 6 pm

Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> - Advent Begins

## **New Way to Give** **Beginning August 3, 2025**

Starting Sunday, August 3, we will begin receiving offerings in a collection box rather than by passing the collection plates. While there are some practical reasons for making this change, we also believe it can become meaningful spiritual practice.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

This shift invites us to approach giving as a personal and intentional act of worship.

As we enter the sanctuary, we are encouraged to lovingly and prayerfully offer our gifts—without waiting to be asked by the pastor or prompted by the ushers.

Let's embrace this opportunity to grow in joyful generosity and deepen our participation in Christ's work.

COCU Board



**FOOD PANTRY**  
**NEEDS!**

Volunteers are always welcomed to help with food deliveries, packing bags, etc.

Call: Connie Olsen  
607-267-2190

Monetary donations can be sent to:  
Richfield Springs Food Pantry  
PO Box 140  
Richfield Springs, NY 13439

