



## **January 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***

### **In This Issue**

**Pastor's Corner**

**Finance**

**Food Ministry**

**Worship**

**QR CODE for Clifton Springs United Methodist Church**

**PASTOR'S CORNER**

Here we are, another new year and the cycle begins again. Already the candy is out for Valentines Day. Winter has barely begun, and we are dreaming about spring. Already the Christmas music has stopped, and we are not yet to Epiphany. Too soon our scriptures will leave the story of the birth of Christ and march us towards the season of Lent and on towards Christ's death and resurrection. How long will the message of Christmas stay with you?

What I want you to remember about the season of Advent and Christmas is faith, peace, joy and love; the candles of our Advent Wreath that have Christ at the center. I want you to remember that Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zacariah model for us faith and love that reveal joy and peace. By sending Jesus, God With Us, God reveals God's desire to be present in our suffering and God desires us to know peace and joy. I want you to remember that Mary treasured these things and pondered them in her heart. The Maji followed their hearts to unknown places trusting in knowledge and wisdom to come to know God. We need to remember so that these lessons for generations before us become a part of who we are.

I wish I had talked more about power and how power was misused. I wish I had talked more about Matthew's parallels of Jesus and Moses so that we understood more about the differences between the Gospels and how we can better put together the stories from the Gospels to work out our own salvation and understand how the scripture is still relevant to our time. You already know that I believe God and I work together to write what I preach and teach. This year just wasn't the year for that, and hindsight is always 20/20. Matthew, the Gospel for year A of the lectionary will give us opportunities to talk about empire and power.

Don't let this year be the same as years past. Do something new and different. Read a book you know you will disagree with. Study a new topic. Reverse the order of tying your shoes, or which arm you put in your shirt first. Make a commitment to reading something scriptural or spiritual each day. Choose to spend a little time with God in meditation. The point is that Jesus represents newness and life giving; don't waste the gift! All too soon we will be talking about this person's death and resurrection. Jesus lived 33 years and never traveled more than 50 miles from his home, yet he lived more in his short life than many of us have with twice the lifetime. Let's make a commitment to ourselves to live every day of all our years in such a way that we honor God with our work, rest, and play.

*Pastor Brian*

## **FINANCE TEAM**

Finance Team

Finance Team

Thank you all for your generosity! Below is the difference between revenue and expenses from the treasurer's report for the month of November 2025. Revenue and expenses were close for the month. Pledges from the stewardship campaign came in at \$70,220. Please, let me know if you have questions.

### November 2025

Revenue	\$	12,074
Expenses	\$	12,110
Difference	\$	(36)

Tom Brickle

Finance Team Chair

## **FOOD MINISTRY**

### CLIFTON SPRINGS FOOD PANTRIES:

Well Springs Teft Ave

various dates contact 315-548-6292

Caring Hearts 12 Hibbard ave every thurs 11:00 to 1:00

315-521-1601

CSUMC 1 east main st, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 4:30 to 6:30

contact 315-521-3373

Manchester Twin Cities Food Cupboard, 4 center st , Bennett building , 2<sup>nd</sup> thurs 10 to 12

second Sat 10 to 12, 4<sup>th</sup> thurs 5 to 7, contact Bonnie Platt 585491-0675

## **WORSHIP**

**Our Children share  
the ABC's of  
Christmas.**



## **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](http://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](http://csumc.com) for the code on the left and [myvanco.com](http://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.