



## March 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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# **PASTOR'S CORNER**

During Lent we will look at the stories of the Exodus and the leader of the Israelites, Moses. What I want you to hear and know from the story of Moses is important to our life today. Because I want you to tune in, I'm going to give you some things to ponder.

## **God uses the unlikely**

Moses was a fugitive with a speech impediment, yet God used him to change history. His life proves that divine calling is not about personal qualification but surrender. We often think that we are qualified or entitled to power or position. When we are not in the places God ordains, we know it. It troubles us and weighs on us. When we are in the places God ordains, the yoke is easier, it is still work, God strengthens us.

## **Leadership requires sacrifice**

Moses bore the weight of complaining, wandering people for 40 years. Yet he remained faithful, often putting their needs above his own. We don't treat our leaders well. We expect a level of perfection that is often able to be met. We forget that they are real people with imperfection, sin and feelings. It takes much to be faithful when stress bears down on us.

## **Intimacy with God is the highest privilege**

No other prophet had the level of intimacy with God that Moses did. He regularly entered God's presence, heard His voice, and received direct instructions. Do we seek God's presence like Moses did? Do we listen for God's voice all around us? Can we move with confidence in the directions God desires? When we seek God, God grants us peace even when we are uncertain.

## **God's promises are worth the journey**

Though the journey was long and filled with trials, God's faithfulness never wavered. Moses' life is a testimony that the Promised Land is worth pursuing, even if we only glimpse it from afar. What is the Promised Land we pursue for ourselves and the people we love? Moses can only look into the Promised Land, he can't enter. We easily give up on what we hope for when we realize we can only lead towards it rather than obtain it. Moses' story dares us to dream, pursue and pass on our dream to others.

## **Persevere in obedience**

Even when the path is hard or uncertain, God calls His people to walk in trust. Moses teaches us that obedience is a daily journey, not a one-time event. Each day is an

opportunity to trust God more as well as to learn something about God and ourselves. Do we live into that possibility?

### **Stand in the gap for others**

Whether in prayer or leadership, Moses' intercession shows us the importance of carrying others' burdens before God. Your prayers matter more than you think. Our actions matter more than we think they do. It's so easy to exceed the speed limit in town. Did you ever stop to think about how our act of selfishness in exceeding the speed limit affect others?

Exceeding the speed limit affects others on the road, it doesn't give people the opportunity to cross intersections or make turns causing backups of traffic. What happens in the lives of others affects us in ways we don't always comprehend. We are more tied to each other than we often are aware of. Do we leave a positive influence for others, or should we be embarrassed about our behavior when we stand before God?

### **Pursue God's presence above all**

Moses' greatest desire was not success, fame, or comfort—it was God Himself. I still find myself pursuing the wrong things from time to time. I still find myself dreaming about success, fame and comfort. What would you do if you won the last big Mega Millions payout, the one that was over a billion dollars? Do we dream the same dreams God does or is it more about the things we want? We never retire from the Kingdom work. If we do what we love, we never work a day in our lives. Are pursuing God in a way that shows we want to love as God loves and that the pursuit of God is above everything else in our lives?

*Pastor Brian*

## **CHOIR**

### **Varieties of Christian Music**

Without any more than our own intuition, our choir has held the thought that perhaps our congregation would enjoy, or, perhaps, tolerate, different types of music in our Sunday morning services. So, we have introduced a fairly broad selection of music with our fledgling choir.

This week, I wondered whether, and if so, how, Christian music has changed during our churchgoing lives. Much of the changes would be unrecognizable to those of us who remember when you had to walk to the TV to change the channel.

This is what I learned, with attribution to Wikipedia. There is an unbelievable variety of types of music. Consider the following:

Chants, Hymns, Christian country music, Christian pop, Christian rock, Christian metal, Christian hardcore, Christian punk, Christian alternative rock, Christian R&B, Christian electronic dance music, indie, hip-hop, electronic, alternative rock, acoustic rock/folk, gospel, bluegrass gospel, pop rock/pop-punk and others.

This, of course, is bewildering, so our little choir will continue to look for meaningful and interesting music, but as the saying goes, we'll keep it simple.

**John Tyo**

## **FINANCE**

(January 2026 Results)

The first month of the year is always tough for the Church. The expenses are always higher than the revenue. This year we had additional unexpected expenses from replacing two heat pumps which amounted to \$26500. Fortunately, there was money provided from the Trustees, UMW, and Food Pantry that covered this expense. Additionally, the church was blessed with an anonymous gift which was added to our assets in January. Financial results for January are as follows:

Revenue	\$	395,640
Actual Expenses	\$	42,848
		<hr/>
	\$	352,792

Our church continues to be a big part of the Clifton Springs community. There are great opportunities for making a better future for more people in our congregation and our community.

Tom Brickle

Finance Team Chair

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Finance Team Chair

# FOOD MINISTRY

Some of the new guidelines for SNAP recipients:

Under the updated federal guidelines, in order to maintain SNAP benefits, individuals who meet the definition of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) — adults ages 18–64 who do not have children under 14 in their household and are physically and mentally able to work — will be required to:

- Work at least 20 hours per week, or
- Participate in qualifying work-related activities such as job training or volunteer service.

Those who do not meet the new requirements and fail to report qualifying activity risk losing SNAP assistance.

This may have huge impacts on local food pantries

**With God's help CSUMC pantry will be ready.**

# ST. PAULY MISSION



St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

Clifton Springs United Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year...

- 20,622 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2025
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 3,799 people all over the world
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$825

Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!

Sincerely,  
The Team at  
St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

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1067 Gateway Drive Farmington, NY 14425 585-924-7941 [questions@stpaulytextile.com](mailto:questions@stpaulytextile.com)

## **TRUSTEES**

As February winds down, we are very much looking forward to maple syrup season and the advent of spring. We are not quite there yet, but the days are getting longer.

On the heels of our recent heating problems, we have had Isaac Plumbing and Heating to evaluate our system. It is in pretty good shape, but we do have some maintenance to do. So, they will be back to fine tune a few of the older heat pumps. We plan to have them back once a year to do a maintenance check on the system so we, hopefully, are not surprised again.

We are finally getting Roman and Lucas a little help with the small church repairs. K and E Homez has been in and out of the building doing some painting, dry wall repair, and fixing a bunch of toilets. So, we are trying to stay on top of things. Let us know if there is anything we are missing.

Stay warm and God bless,

John Mueller

Chair of Trustees

## **UMCOR**

For more than 80 years, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has alleviated the suffering of individuals, families and communities affected by both natural and humanmade disaster.

UMCOR journeys with communities throughout a disaster's cycle, including disaster preparedness, relief, response, recovery and mitigation. It focuses on disasters that overwhelm a local community's ability to respond, such as storms and flooding, earthquakes, fires, volcanoes, war and civil unrest. Through a strong network of worldwide partners, UMCOR quickly assesses needs in the wake of disaster. UMCOR comes alongside communities at their invitation and encourages their involvement in and ownership of their recovery. UMCOR works collaboratively with local partners to connect survivors to the help they need to rebuild their lives.

In the U.S., UMCOR works with disaster response ministries and coordinators in annual conferences. Internationally, UMCOR resources Disaster Management Offices in Africa and the Philippines and accompanies and equips other Methodist and faith-based partners. UMCOR's primary channels of assistance are training, technical support, and both short and long-term grantmaking and programming.

From initial relief efforts such as distributing food, water, clothing and hygiene items, to long-term recovery projects like home repair, case management, psychosocial support and restoring livelihoods, UMCOR's partners select beneficiaries based on need and vulnerability as opposed to other categories such as gender, race or religion.

UMCOR's ministry would not be possible without the support of others who give generously of their time and resources. There are several ways you can join UMCOR in disaster response efforts:

## **Pray**

Our work is undergirded by the power of prayer. Pray for disaster survivors, first-responders and those coordinating local responses. Pray that basic needs would be met and that communities would experience resilience. Follow UMCOR on social media to learn how you can pray for the latest disasters.

## **Serve**

UMCOR welcomes volunteers to both prepare for and respond to disaster. We can send a group to the Mission Hub at the Conference Office in Liverpool.

[Make cleaning, hygiene and menstrual hygiene kits](#) to be sent to disaster-affected communities in the U.S. (UMCOR does not ship kits internationally.)

[Give toward the purchasing of kit items](#) to keep supply depots well-stocked.

Consider Early Response Team (ERT) training within your annual conference. And please do not self-deploy. Visit the disaster response ministry section of your conference's website to learn more.

## **Share**

Tell others about the work of UMCOR! Visit our [News Center](#) for stories on UMC relief and recovery efforts around the world.

## **Give**

Donations to [U.S. Disaster Response](#) and Recovery, [International Disaster Response](#) and Recovery or UMCOR [Where Most Needed](#) enable UMCOR to respond quickly and effectively to disasters as they arise. 100% of gifts made to UMCOR go directly to help those in need rather than funding administrative and operating costs.

Together, we can alleviate the suffering of those affected by disaster, bringing hope and healing to communities worldwide.

**UMCOR Sunday is March 1.** We invite you to support the Mission and Ministry of this United Methodist Organization.

## **WORSHIP**

**Holy Week starts March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

- **Palm Sunday** is March 29.
- **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.

## **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.