Castile United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 512 Castile, NY 14427

Church Phone: 585-493-2840

Church E-Mail: [Castile\_UCC@yahoo.com](mailto:Castile_UCC@yahoo.com)

www.castileucc.com

Pastor: Tammy Lathan

Tammy’s Cell Phone: 585-969-0695

United Flyer Editor: Marlene Loomis

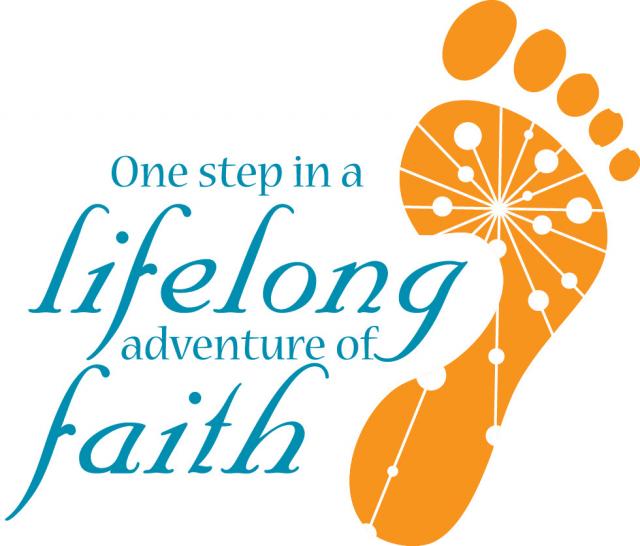
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**November 2023 “United Flyer”**

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**Talks With Tammy**

**Six Ways God Tests Your Faith & Character**

**By** [**Rick Warren**](https://pastors.com/author/rickwarren/) **(Part 2 of 2)**

God’s goal for our lives isn’t for us to be happy. It’s for us to grow in spiritual maturity.

Happiness comes from holiness. You will be happy for trillions of years when you get to heaven. But right now, you’re in the growing stage. And God is much more interested in your character than your comfort.

How does God grow you? Through tests. It’s like when you work out in a gym, where you test your muscles by lifting weights. The more you test your muscles, the more your muscles grow.

God builds your character in a similar way. But the tests that God gives you examine many areas in your life, such as your character and patience.

James describes it like this: *“When troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing”* (James 1:2-4 NLT).

The Bible tells us that when our faith is tested, our character will grow. Throughout Scripture, we see God test and grow the faith of some of the greatest biblical heroes. He uses these same six tests to grow our faith too.

**Test #4 – An unsolvable problem**

This is the “how” test. You have a problem and do not know how to solve it. Remember when God told Abraham that he would be a father? At 99 years old?

But God did the impossible. The Bible tells us, *“It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise”* (Hebrews 11:11 NLT).

***“Faith is expecting a miracle***

***without knowing “how.”***

**Test #5 – A Senseless Loss**

Sometimes we face a loss in life that makes no sense. Often, we look for an explanation even when there is none. You can spend your whole life looking to explain the unexplainable.

Our response to this senseless loss is usually, “Why?”

\* Why did the person I love die?

\* Why did my dream end?

\* Why did I lose my job?

Imagine putting yourself in Abraham’s shoes. God asked him to sacrifice his son - his only son upon which all of his dreams of fathering a nation rested. Abraham couldn’t explain why, but in faith, he obeyed. And then God provided another way.

***Faith is trusting God’s purpose***

***without knowing “why.”***

**Test #6 – A Prolonged Pain**

This is the “how long” test. It’s about the chronic pain in your life. Whether it’s relational, spiritual, or physical, it is suffering that won’t go away. You simply must live with it.

In Hebrews, the Bible tells us that Moses endured all kinds of suffering - including conflict, criticism, and pain - to pursue what God wanted to do through his life.

At times, he must have asked God, “How long, Lord?” God’s Word tells us this about Moses: *“He*

*thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward”* (Hebrews 11:26 NLT).

This test helps you develop faithful persistence. You don’t always feel like attending church every Sunday. You don’t always feel like turning the other cheek when you face criticism. But like Moses, we keep going. That is faith.

***Faith is persisting through pain without***

***knowing “how long.”***

If you are not facing one of these tests right now, be prepared, it will come. God gives you these tests because he loves you and wants you to grow. Will you respond in faith when you face one?

[*https://pastors.com/six-ways-god-tests-your-faith-character/*](https://pastors.com/six-ways-god-tests-your-faith-character/)

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**Facebook Live**

Most of our worship services can be viewed on Castile UCC Facebook Live or you can view it anytime at your leisure for up to 30 days.

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**Volunteers Needed:**

For a Sunday Morning *Facebook* Team. If you are able to help out with recording our Sunday Morning worship, please contact Pastor Tammy.

The goal is to put together a monthly schedule of volunteers. Step by Step instructions make the easy. Please consider helping with this amazing Ministry. Thank you!

**Church Directory**

**Pastor: Tammy Lathan**

**Pastor Tammy’s Office Hours:**

**Tuesday & Thursdays: 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Wednesdays – By Appointment**

**Pastor Tammy’s Cell: (585) 969-0695**

**Church Phone: (585) 493-2840**

**Church E-mail: Castile\_UCC@yahoo.com**

**Website:** [**www.castileucc.com**](http://www.castileucc.com)

**Administrative Coord.:** Marlene Loomis - 493-2968

**Church Office Hours:  
 Tuesday – Friday 8:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**Church Moderator:** Dennis Miller **-** 493-2743

**Bd. of Elder Chair:** Bonnie Miller - 237-3958

**Bd. of Trustees Chair:** Scott Chamberlain -752-3454

**Custodian:** Brooke VanEpps – 322-4676 (New)

**Director of Music:** Barb Meyer - 322-7396

**Supt. of Build/Grounds:** Greg VanSlyke - 493-5874

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**Newsletter Deadline**

All newsletter articles for the “United Flyer” are due by the 15th of each month and are at the discretion of the church office. We welcome your submissions.

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**1963 Time Capsule Discovered**

When the outside painting of the church took place this past summer, a metal box was discovered when they removed one of the old exit doors on the Washington side of the church.

On Sunday, October 22, this time capsule was opened. The contents included: coins from 1963, blueprints, photographs, a sample of sand from Israel, several bulletins from 1963, a yearbook , etc. These items will be on display over the next several weeks. Thank you to Ron Lathan and Dennis Miller for opening this time capsule.

**A group of men working on a piece of paper

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**A group of people standing around a table

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**November Preaching Schedule**

**Sun. 5 – Communion Sunday**

**Sun. 12 – Stewardship & Veterans Sunday**

**Sun. 19 – Thanksgiving Sunday**

**Sun. 26 – Reign of Christ Sunday**

**November Altar Flowers**

**Sun. 5 – Jackie Swaby**

**Sun. 12 – Harvest Display**

**Sun. 19 – Harvest Display**

**Sun. 26 – Harvest Display**

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**Clerks Records**

**Deaths**

**Sarah Swyers-** September 18 (in Tennessee)

**Bruce Humel-** October 21

**Births**

**Westley Drew Rosenberger** born September 3, 2023

Parents: Andrew & Heather Rosenburg

Grandparents: Ross & Donna Sears

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**New Address:**Elizabeth (Miller) Fontaine

3118 Rt. 77

Varysburg, NY 14167

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**Brunch**

**Sun., November 8 – Music Comm. & Staff**

**‘A Salute to our Veterans’**

Close-up of a flag with stars

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**Invite a Veteran to church on Sun., Nov. 8**

**Board of Trustees News**

**We are currently seeking a new Church Treasurer**

**Job Description:**

**Requirements**

* Bookkeeping/Accounting background
* Working knowledge of Microsoft including Word and Excel
* Maintain G/L, P/L and budget using Excel and/or Quickbooks

**Duties**

* Record all deposits to proper accounts
* Administer deposit accounts (General Fund, Perpetual Fund) in interest accounts when available
* Administer and pay all invoices as approved by the Board of Trustees
* Attend monthly Trustee meetings to report financial status of church
* Balance all bank statements monthly
* Oversee payroll duties including employee checks, track and pay fed and state W/H and FICA
* Prepare and file quarterly payroll reports
* Prepare and file workers comp and disability reports
* Oversee worker comp and disability claims
* Prepare and present reports for council meetings
* Prepare all reports for annual audit
* Participate in the preparation of annual budget with Pastor and Trustee Chairman

**If you are interested, please contact Mark Barber (259-9421)**

**St. Pauly’s Shed** - **$202.46** **What TO Donate:** Used clothing, shoes, belts, purses, linens, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

**Church Rental Fees:**

**Wedding Showers?** **Holiday Parties?**

We would like to remind you that the Embling Dining Hall is available for rent.

Member fee is $50.00 and non-members $100.00. This includes use of the church dining room, kitchen, handicap accessible bathroom, handicap lift, several refrigerators for food, 10 burner stove with two large ovens, and Bunn coffee maker.

**NOTE: As we no longer have trash service at the church. You will need to take your trash home with you. Thank you!**

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**Board of Elder News**

Your Board of Elders is back in regular session as of September 7 and October 5.

We reviewed the numbers of attendance both in church and Facebook and addressed some upcoming events.

You will remember that this is the board that is responsible for our worship service and several outreach programs that fall under our umbrella.

We discussed the need for better sound when there is a visiting worship leader. The Tech Crew alerted us that visiting worship leaders need to use the same microphone that Pastor Tammy uses. From now on this will be implemented.

Veteran’s Day and our commitment to Angel Action were part of the agenda.

You will recall that it is the Board responsible for a weekly Biblically based service and we welcome all comments and ideas that you may have.

**Bonnie Miller**

**Board of Elders Chairperson**

Sermons4Kids

**Christian Education News**

Our Sunday School Curriculum is from “Sermon4Kids”.

**Sun., Nov. 5 – “Practice What You Preach”**

**Sun., Nov. 12 – “Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids”**

**Sun., Nov. 19 – “The Parable of the Talents”**

**Sun., Nov. 26 – “Thanks Living”**

**SAVE the DATE: Sun., December 10**

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant “The First Christmas”.**

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**Snackpak for Kids .** The Snackpak Program is excited to start packing backpacks for the 2023-2024 school year. Letchworth Central School elementary teachers and staff are in the process of identifying families who would benefit from this program. The Leadership Group at Letchworth Central School will take the lead in packing the bags for children and their families who may need help with food for the weekend. Because of the generosity and support of this church, the Snackpak Program is entering its 16th year of helping kids succeed in school!! Thanks to all who have supported this worthwhile program! Marcy VanZandt, Snackpak Coordinator

**Missions News**

**Scrap Metal Mission**

• cast iron • copper • stainless steel • steel • brass • aluminum • lawn mowers • electric motors • old machinery • power tools • hand tools • batteries

***NO:*** T.V.’s, computers, air conditioners, freezer, refrigerators (nothing with Freon in it.)

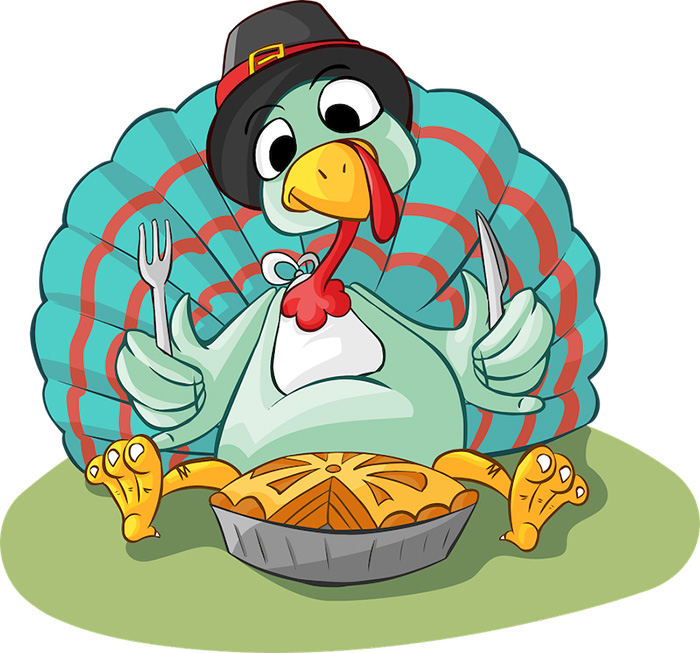
***Contact Chuck Klein at 567-8204 for pick up.***

**Castile UCC Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry is open to residence in the Town of Castile and **may be visited monthly.**

Contact the church office at 493-2840 to set up an appointment.

The Castile UCC Food Pantry is looking ahead at the upcoming holidays. We are beginning to collect items for our Food Pantry Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinner boxes.

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**Items Needed:**  
Box Stuffing Mix Cranberry sauce

Canned vegetables Instant Mashed potatoes

Turkey Gravy Applesauce

Pudding/Jello mixes Dessert mixes

Cool Whip Pickles

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**Thank You’s**

To **Butch & Betsey DeGroff** for donating all of the pumpkins, gourds and corn stalks for the beautification of our church.

To **Jenifer Wallace & Tony Harper** for decorating the church

To **Lynn & Charlene Miller** for donating 4 Christmas manger plates.

To **all those who helped cover the church office** while Marlene Loomis, Admin. Coord. was out with Covid.

To the **Castile Boy Scouts** for their recent “Scouting for Food” Drive that benefited the Castile UCC Emergency Food Pantry.

To **Matthew 25 Ministries** from Eastern Rural Roman Catholic Community of the Diocese of Buffalo for their recent donation of $75.00 towards our Church’s Food Pantry.

**Retirement Congratulations**

A blue and yellow emblem with a white eagle and stars

Description automatically generated **To Anthony Feroleto as of October 1, 2023.** Tony will be retiring from the Air Force after 20 years of service. Congratulations and thank you for your service to our country.

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**Kindness…**

**“Be kind, be honest, be loving, be true and all of these things will come back to you.**

― Germany Kent

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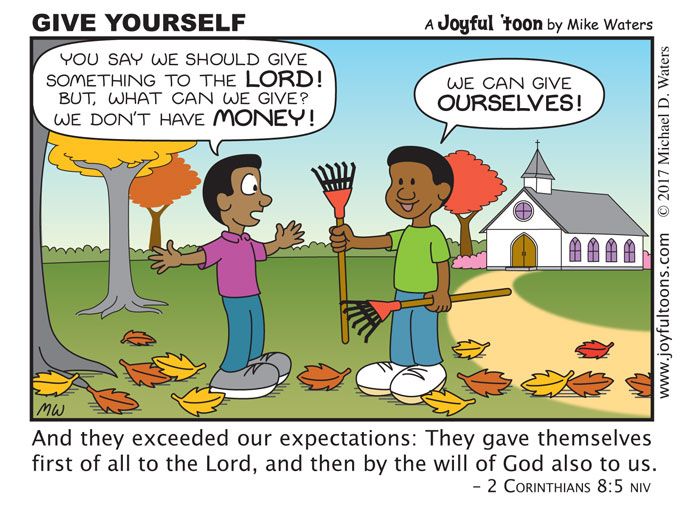
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**Stewardship Comm.**

***Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our gratefulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God.***

The Castile United Church of Christ has much to offer, and we ask that you prayerfully consider your annual commitment that will help us continue to build a network of caring and community for all.

**Please complete and return your Time & Talent Sheet and Pledge Cards by our Stewardship Sunday, November 12, 2023.**



**November Birthdays**

1- Maci Weaver . 2- Betty Fagan

3- Marian Seymour

7- Stella Joe Schumacher

A cartoon character holding balloons

Description automatically generated 9- Judy Illerbrun

11- Jackie Swaby

12- Jason VanEpps

14- Dawn Miller

15- Jill Davis

15- Annette Granger

18- Larry Becker

18- Emily Brandes

25- Gordon Davis

26- Jen Griesbaum

**November Anniversaries**

8- Bonnie & Tom Scott

11- Judy & Roger Goodenow

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**Casual Walk Through Matthew’s Gospel**

**Jesus Tempted In The Wilderness – Matt. 4:1-11**

*(Matthew 4:1-4) “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.  He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread, But he answered, “It is written,  ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

I suspect most readers of these words have read and heard and discussed them a number of times.  Accordingly, let’s refresh our minds with the fact that “forty” as used in our Holy Book is to mean “quite a long time” as opposed to the use of “three,” for example, which would mean a  “short time.”  As the devil engaged Jesus, we are told that Jesus was very hungry.

Only one who has truly been without food for “quite a long time;”  only one who has been

starved for food can fully grasp the condition Jesus was in at that time.  Matthew endeavors to make it clear just how hungry Jesus was when he  tells us that Jesus was “famished.”

Satan must have felt that Jesus was now very gullible. And it is true that  when one is very hungry, food is most craved. Evil is aware of our most vulnerable times and tempts us in accordance to one’s specific human condition at the time of temptation.

In the wilderness, the tempter thought Jesus was ripe for the catch. That is always the case!  Let’s face it, Satan is always trying to entice us to change the very course of our lives! If one is lonely, Satan gently invites us to  “come join this group”, not telling us it is a group of wayward people. If bored or depressed, “come try this uplifting drug, it will solve all your problems”,  never sharing that once hooked on it we would crave it to our death!

It does not matter where one’s vulnerability may be at any given moment  as that is where evil meets and tries to over shadow the  Spirit of God that is within us. Guess what?  Evil often wins.  Why?  Because too often we allow the Spirit of God to become so dormant, if not  side-stepped altogether, that we have no counter-balancing power left in us.  It is almost like a child who was never taught Christian truths. Satonic cults often pounce on that child, who very often becomes an easy prey.  It is no wonder we have so many young people taking that route, corrupting their morals and distorting their thinking.

That is why we need to keep the Spirit’s presence afresh within us. It was no contest in Jesus’ case.  When told to make stones become loaves of bread, our Lord simply said, “One does not live by bread alone, but by the very word that comes from the mouth of God.”  In so many words, Jesus said, “Get lost Satan, my life is solidly united with the Almighty.”

That increasingly can be our response when temptation hits if we keep our focus on our Lord and our faith refreshed with God’s Spirit. But Satan does not give up easily.  He tempted Jesus  in  other cases as well.  In each case, Satan used an area of life where he thought Jesus might cave in. NEVER HAPPENED.

Here we see again a VERY IMPORTANT FACT:  EVIL NEVER GIVES UP!  That is a lesson in itself.  Do not forget it.  To forget it is to experience it!   We, in essence, invite evil’s never ending effort to corrupt us, when we allow ourselves to become vulnerable to Satan’s will.

Peace, Love & Joy,

~ Clyde

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**Women’s Fellowship**

Our Mission Statement:

*“Through the belief in our Living God, our mission is to reach out and support families and individuals in need, by sharing ideas and creativity, using our time and talents to strengthen ties in the community.”*

**2023 Co-Chairs:** Dawn Miller & Judy Goodenow

**Co-Sec.:** Mary Reagan & Marlene Loomis

**Correspondence:** Carol Becker

**Treasurer:** Cindy Feroleto

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO OUR MONTHLY WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS!**

**Mon., November 13, 2023 At 11:00 AM**

**3rd TUESDAY Of Each Month**



**‘Meals & Missions’**

**Next meeting:**

**Tue., Nov. 21 at 12:00 PM**

*You are invited to join us and to bring a dish to pass if able.*

**November Modern Parable:**

**“CAN YOU REALLY TRUST YOURSELF?”**

**“Hats for the Homeless”:**

**A picture containing umbrella, accessory

Description automatically generated**We are accepting donations of Hats, Scarves, Mittens, and **Socks** to donate to the homeless.

Please feel free to drop them off in the church dining room. ***Thank you to those who have started bringing in those finished items.***

If you are need of yarn to make these items, please contact the church.

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**Military Personal Addresses**

**Michael Close**

211 Brooks St, 3#9000 Box 467

Oceanside, Ca 92051

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Description automatically generated**Lindsey,** **Tristin**

775 Oswego Ave.

Fort Drum, NY 13602

**Maj. Michael McLaughlin**

6197 Harmonica Arch Lane

Colorado Springs, CO. 80924

**Page, Christopher Michael**

3742 Patriot Drive Apt. 201

Mail Box 5

Abilene, Texas 74606

**Joshua Soble**

2726 Trojan Ct.

Lenmore, CA 93245

**Colonel Sara Torres**

11537 Laurel Lake Square

Fairfax, VA 22030

*\*\*No address at this time, but please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.*

**Nathan Scott Christopher Meyer**

**Brianna Miller Tyler Smith**

**Daniel Scott (Deployed)**

**2023/2024 HEAP Season**

HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) helps eligible low-income households meet the high costs of winter heating. If eligible, the one-time HEAP Benefits will depend on how many people in the household. Households 60 and older and living in Wyoming County may apply at the Office of the Aging. For eligibility requirements or to request an application, please call the office at 585-786-8833 or 1-800-836-0067.

**\*\*The 2023/2024 HEAP Season opens 11/13/23 and is scheduled to close on 3/15/24.**

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**Wyoming Co. Bereavement Support Group**

**Fall 2023 Group Meetings Schedule:  
October 23**

**November 13 & 27**

**December 11**

Call Wyoming County Mental Health Department at 585-786-8871 with questions.

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**Single Mom’s “Breaking Bread” Club**

***Are you a single mom? Join us for FREE dinners & fun programs for Moms & Kids.***

**A picture containing text, handwear

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**5:30 – 7:30 PM**

**Breezeway Barn**

**141 North Center Street**

**Perry, NY**

Contact Jen Hall at [jenhall@hiridge.gmail.com](mailto:jenhall@hiridge.gmail.com)

**CASTILE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 22, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Dennis Miller at 11:11 AM.

There was an opening prayer by Pastor Tammy Lathan. There were 30 people present.

The minutes of the July 16, 2023 Church Council meeting were read. Motion was made by Charlie Miller and seconded by Steve Meyer to approve the July 16, 2023 minutes as written. Motion was carried. The following reports were given:

Pastor: Tammy Lathan

Church Treasurer: Beth Pond

Financial Secretary: Cindy Feroleto

Board of Elders: Bonnie Miller

Worship Technology Group: Charlie Miller

Board of Trustees: Scott Chamberlain

Supt. of Buildings and Grounds: Greg VanSlyke

Music Committee: Debbie Beeman

Christian Missions Committee: Debbie Beeman

Missions Treasurer: Mary Reagan

SERRV Treasurer: Mary Reagan

Food Pantry: Suanne Redden/ Christine Broughton

Women’s Fellowship: Judy Goodenow/Dawn Miller

Women’s Fellowship Treasurer: Cindy Feroleto

Stewardship Committee: Marlene Loomis

Motion was made by Larry Rogers, seconded by Beth Pond to accept all reports as given. Motion was carried.

**Buildings & Grounds:**

**Bat Openings**: A couple of possible openings for bats were sealed at the time of the church painting work.

**Spraying for flies & spiders**: After the completion of the exterior painting, Clarence George sprayed all around the outside of the church for flies and spiders.

**Parking Lot Jesus Statue**: Mike Rogers was hired to remove the old urethane and he found that there were wood termites in the base. He treated the statue multiple times with a preservative that included an insecticide. It looks great and hopefully it will last a long time.

**Old Business:**

**Church Painting**: The church trim painting has been completed and the sanctuary side doors have been replaced. It was exciting when a time capsule was discovered during this church work. We thank Brian Walton and crew for a beautiful job on our church building.

**Church Bookkeeping**: The committee met and decided that the available software does not meet our needs. It is recommended that the treasurer use Excel. It is likely that the payroll job will be outsourced. Since Beth has used her personal computer for church business, a new laptop has been purchased for the next treasurer. If you are interested in being treasurer, please call the office. The church thanks Beth for all her effort, time, and job well done for many, many years.

**AED:** We will not pursue the purchase or rental of one of these units at this time.

**New Business**:

**Time Capsule**: The time capsule found when the church trim was being painted was opened. It is from the year 1963. It contained coins, newspapers, church bulletins, a church yearbook, photos, and blueprints. It was very inspiring to see items from 60 years ago.

**Dumpster**: We are going to rent a 20 yard dumpster sometime after the holidays to dispose of several items. The items will be marked and prepared for disposal. We appreciate the Boy Scouts volunteering to help move the items.

**2024 Budget**: The 2024 church budget was presented. Motion was made by Steve Meyer, seconded by Charlie Miller to accept 2024 budget as presented. Motion was carried.

The next church council meeting will be the Annual meeting on January 21, 2024 immediately following the church service. Motion was made by Barb Meyer, seconded by Colleen Bean to adjourn. Motion was carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM with the Lord’s Prayer led by Pastor Tammy Lathan.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Feroleto – Church Clerk