

RIVER NEWS



From The Pastor's Pen

~ Pastor Sarah Flack

Dear River Community Church Family and Friends,

Our hearts are amazing machines, beating over 100,000 times every day. In adults, the heart is only about the size of two hands clasped together, yet this small but mighty organ does its job of keeping our blood flowing without thought or help from us.

In the Bible, much attention is paid to our hearts. It's not so much the physical condition of our hearts that God speaks about but the spiritual condition. We read in Proverbs 4:23:

Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life.

Jesus taught about the fruit of the heart in the words recorded in Luke 6:

43 A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit; on the other hand, a bad tree doesn't produce good fruit. 44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren't gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45 A good man produces good out of the good storeroom of his heart. An evil man produces evil out of the evil storeroom, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.

And just as cardiologists are concerned about the effect of what we consume on the health of our heart, so too is God. Take a look at Psalm 40:

8 I delight to do Your will, my God; Your Law is within my heart.

A steady diet of God's Word helps us to know and do God's will. The righteous, those who hear and do God's will, are described in Psalm 37 in this way:

30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom; his tongue speaks what is just. 31 The instruction of his God is in his heart; his steps do not falter.

Let the words of Psalm 119 be our testimony and our prayer as we consider our hearts this month:

10 I have sought You with all my heart; don't let me wander from Your commands. 11 I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Sarah

A Prayer for February: *18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of His vast strength.* (Ephesians 1)



Grief Ministry
~ Laura Schafer

Grief & Guilt

Often in our grief we have to deal with the “woulda, coulda, shoulda” thoughts and feelings. Perhaps you have tried to share those feelings with others and they tell you “you shouldn’t feel that way” or “why do you feel guilty, you did nothing wrong.” Guilt is a feeling and we can’t just stop feeling guilty because someone tells us to. We need to find out the cause of the guilt feeling and understand that feeling guilty is normal. The truth is we are human and live in a fallen world. Sometimes we make mistakes. Sometimes those mistakes are big and have serious consequences. Sometimes we make an err in judgment or make a mistake and it leads to someone’s death. Sometimes it is something as small as not apologizing after an argument or not doing something we should have done. Sometimes in our grief we do not think clearly and we may feel guilty even when we have done nothing wrong. There are times we can feel guilty because without someone or something to blame we have to face the reality that sometimes life is unpredictable and out of our control. Maybe we don’t even know why we are feeling guilty. This leads us to the big question, “What do we do?” Take it to God. Ask Him to show you what is causing your guilt. Guilt is not a feeling God wants us to carry.

“let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22

Ask God for forgiveness. No matter how big or how small our mistakes are, God is waiting for us to come to him and confess our mistakes (sin).

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:9

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

May God guard and guide our hearts and minds and grant us His peace as we travel our journey of grief.



Women's Ministry - The Circle

~ Wendy Falzano and Charlotte Frese



A Legacy...

The word legacy is defined as “the long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person’s life.” That is how I would describe Pat Taylor’s life.

Pat influenced so many people and made such an impact on the community where she lived. She is one of the originators of the ABW group here at the River, though what it has looked like through the years may be different.

She believed in this organization whose mission is ...

ABWM commits to building relationships across generations by providing opportunities for women and girls to learn and grow together. We also recognize the need for women and girls to build relationships in their peer groups. One of the ways we try to foster this is to meet monthly at “Circle” gatherings. I got involved with this group because Pat Taylor came along side me and told me how “valuable” I would be in helping with the annual Rummage Sale the RCC ABW organized every year. She invited me to a meeting and that started it. That is how I was able to get to know the women of the church.

Pat was so good about making others feel valuable. I still strive for this character trait as I go about the busyness of life. How about you?

I think of the story of Mary and Martha. (Luke 10:38-42). I definitely see Pat as a Mary who thought it more important to be with Jesus than to make sure all the tasks were done. Although, I do think one of the reasons Mary could sit at Jesus’ feet is because Martha was doing the work 😊. However, we can’t be too busy to neglect tending to and growing in our relationship with God and with others. It is through our relationship with Jesus that the Holy Spirit helps us to grow into the women God created us to be. Another way he does this is through the fellowship, encouragement and prayers of other women.

At our Circle gathering we try to do just that, Won’t you come join us? You are valuable and we cherish every opportunity to grow together. Bring your ideas, joys and sorrows and let’s love on one another. Often people can feel isolated because they don’t have friends. We are not only friends, we are sisters in Christ. We want to hold each other up and in so doing have the strength to also help those outside our “Circle.”

Let’s join together and make that Circle bigger. As a pebble dropped in water affects the body of water it is dropped into, may we have the same influence on those around us, through the Power of the Holy Spirit. Let us answer the calling of the River Community Church by being Hope bringers.

Let us love on each other and those around us. Love opens the door of sharing the Gospel message. God is LOVE!

Our Gatherings are the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10-12.. All women are welcome! For more information, suggestions or questions, contact Char Frese (315)221-1303 or Wendy Falzano (518)526-6149.

The
Circle



Worship Ministry
~ Terence Falzano

I would like to introduce the persons whom comprise the worship ensemble and who have volunteered to serve the Body in coming to worship our Living God on Sunday mornings.

Acoustic 12 String Guitar, Piano and Vocals: Bob King demonstrates a Godly character and mentors the team to this regard. He is the finest of a musician whom is willing to shoulder the most difficult musical challenges with resounding success.

Electric Guitar: Randy Writz verifies the song key signatures to be correct each week and solves critical sound issue using his years of experience with sound systems.

Acoustic and Electric Guitar and Vocals: Gary Hampson composes new arrangements for songs each week and creates introductions for us to begin the songs.

Vocalist: Jenny Fitchette submits song suggestions and identifies counter melodies and explains how to end the songs typically by repeating select portions of the ending verses.

Vocalist: Patsy Kidwell does all the Pro Presenter software importing of the song lyrics, as well as collaborating the youtube videos to the chord charts and lyrics and more.

Vocalist: Newest member, Nancy Carey sings harmony and researches alternate lyrics and song versions to compare to SongSelect versions.

Vocalist: New member, David Sheppard shares his contagious humility which helps us all to remember that it is Christ we are serving and also he makes us all smile.

Trumpet: Terence Falzano makes the set list and shows up early to unlock the doors.

Sign Language Interpreter: Laureen Whitney uses her gift of signing during worship in real time.

Audio/Visual: Gerard McGreevy runs the sound mixing board, the lights and the mixes in the monitors.

Audio/ Visual: Justin Crandall is the head sound engineer responsible for the entire operations.

Audio/Visual: New member, Noah Flack is in training to become the lead sound engineer on the digital mixer.

Audio/ Visual: Dan Lowe handles the recording of the audio and internet broadcasting.

Audio/Visual: Micah Flack runs the Pro Presenter Slides on the main computer.

God Is Growing the Team: If you are a Christian musician who has their own instrument or a knowledgeable audio mixing / recording studio engineer, and the Lord prompts you, please email me:

terencefalzano@riverchurchnny.com Worship Ensemble Steward



Breaking The Chains Biblical Recovery Ministry
~ Ken & Michelle Kavanagh



Recently the following statement came up in discussion, "This is the way I am!"

I mentioned that these are words spoken from a position of defeat. Once I had my say, Michelle continued on with the lesson. I then jotted down a note because I had planned on returning to this statement.

Freedom and victory will always stand out against any position of defeat. There are so many verses revealing freedom and victory "over" any defeat:

John 10: 10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* (NKJV)

Now this scripture isn't about having more of this world, such as more money or more things that go bling. The verse reveals an element of why one may have a defeatist mindset. Mankind's enemy the devil, has come and is stealing/destroying in a way that has convinced many that they cannot overcome their problems or weather the storm that they are in. One can literally be brainwashed that they will never overcome a problem they may have.

However, in part b of that verse, is the solution. The solution is Christ Jesus. Again, Christ isn't coming to ensure people have monetary bling. He will provide all that is needed to renew the mind and live a life of freedom from overbearing burdens. Where one once was overcome in addiction, lusts, hurts, unforgiveness, etc... they can now KNOW that through Christ, He is the WAY of defeating those problems.

Romans 12:1 *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.* (NLT)

Ask yourself, "Is my life acceptable to my Savior?" "Is the way I am, the way Christ intends for me to be?"

Be honest with Christ. He immediately redeems the spirit of anyone who believes in Him and has repented of their sin(s). But the relationship with Christ does require obedience and one of the greatest "lies" (deceptions) of the devil is for one to believe, "This is the way I am." The devil's intent with this lie and mindset, is to keep one in a sinful disobedient life style.

Allow the renewing of the mind. Study God's Word and prayerfully find all that Christ offers to help one overcome problems that are keeping them in carnal sin. Know that Christ wants (desires) all persons to be free and walking in His victory over sin.

Romans 6:11 *So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. 12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. 13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. 14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.* (NLT)

Share a Blessing Ministry

If you are interested in any of the donations or wish to donate an item, please contact the church office at 315-686-3194 or email: Ischafer@riverchurchnny.com .

Remember to check the Share a Blessing bulletin board at church!



Cube is in good condition but has several markings on top where fish tank sat.



Photo Requests

Do you have pretty pictures of the river or our area? Do you have pictures of church events? Send them to Ischafer@riverchurchnny.com. We are always looking for pictures for our bulletin, bulletin board and newsletter.

Church News

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

At the semi-annual meeting we were blessed with some wonderful news...

THE RIVER CHURCH MORTGAGE HAS BEEN PAID OFF!!!

Let's praise God for His guidance and protection of our church, and for how He has provided for us time and again through the generous and sacrificial giving of this church family.

We will plan to come together as a church to celebrate this milestone in the warmer weather when our summer friends come back to the area.



Special Thanks

A Heart Full of Gratitude

On Saturday, January 28th we had the opportunity to celebrate the life of our beloved Patricia Hull Craib Taylor. With well over two hundred people passing through the doors of River Community Church, it took many servant hearts and helping hands to make the day flow smoothly. It is with great appreciation that the Grief Ministry and the family of Patricia Taylor would like to thank everyone who volunteered to prep the day before, to serve the day of the service, to clean up afterwards and who provided food. It took many hands to make everything fall into place. Thank you!



We'd like to give a special thanks to our very own Tom & Jerry. Tom Augliano and Jerry McGreevy gave countless hours cleaning and waxing the fellowship floor.

Recipe

by Susie Mitchell

I love this recipe SO MUCH that I want to share it with everyone I know! It's unusual, colorful, healthy, easy to make (yes, Dean, even you can do it!), and best of all delicious!

EGG ROLL IN A BOWL

- 1 Tbsp sesame oil
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 Tbsp minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp ginger, finely minced
- 1 lb ground pork
- 2 tsp Sriracha sauce
- 1 14 oz bag coleslaw mix
- 2 red bell peppers, sliced thin
- 1 10 oz bag matchstick cut carrots
- 3 Tbsp low sodium soy sauce or tamari
- 1 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Heat sesame oil in a large (12"), deep skillet over medium heat.

Add red onion, cook 2-3 minutes

Add garlic & ginger, cook 1 minute until fragrant.

Add ground pork & sriracha, cook 7-10 minutes.

Add coleslaw mix, red bell pepper, carrots, soy sauce, rice vinegar, salt & pepper.

Cook, stirring occasionally until cabbage is tender, about 5 minutes.

Spoon into bowl & drizzle with your sauce of choice.

Garnish with sliced scallions if desired.

I like Duck Sauce, but use whatever you like on your egg rolls.

Did you know you can keep fresh ginger root in a baggie in your freezer? Just take it out of the freezer a few minutes before using and cut off the needed amount. You don't really even have to peel it, especially if you will be grating it.

Enjoy!!

Susie Mitchell



02/02	Xia Hazelwood
02/08	Jolene Robbins
02/08	Stephanie Shafer
02/13	Bud Dier
02/13	Victoria Pritt
02/16	Norman Ashland
02/20	Sharon Questel
02/27	Candy Martilotta,

Food \$en\$e

The Food \$en\$e pickup will be Thursday, February 23rd between 1:30 and 3:00pm. For more information about Food \$en\$e, see Dean Wilkie.

Beyond The Bolted Door Testimony by Corrine Channell

The testimony of Corrine Channell will be held on Saturday, February 25th at 10:00am at River Community Church. All are welcomed to attend this event.

