

# River News

March 2022



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN  
~PASTOR SARAH FLACK

Greetings, River Community Church! It's hard to believe that we are already in the third month of this year and starting the countdown to Resurrection Sunday. Last year we read the Gospel of John together as a church as we counted down the days until Resurrection Sunday. This year we will make our way through the Gospel of Mark. Since Mark is a shorter book, there are usually only two chapters to read each week. This should give you plenty of time to really think through the events of Jesus's life and, hopefully, notice details you haven't noticed before.

Because we will be reading the same parts of the Bible, this would be a great time to strike up a conversation with someone about what you've read. Text, e-mail, phone, write letters, or meet in person, but don't miss the opportunity to talk about God's Word together. Not only will you help one another learn more about Jesus, but you will build relationships as you spend time discussing this book of the Bible together. We are meant to be in community with one another as Christians, and we need each other!

Speaking of needing each other, let's continue to be in prayer for churches and Christians in dangerous situations, certainly in Ukraine and Russia, but also in places around the world where to be a Christian is to invite persecution. We know that Jesus, the light of the world, is the only true source of hope, and so we need to be in prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world to be strengthened and encouraged by the hope they have and to shine forth that hope in the dark places of the world.

As we pray, it can be overwhelming to know where to start—there are so many situations and people to pray for. We can be comforted, first of all, by the words of Romans 8:26-27: *26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.*

We can come before God knowing that the Holy Spirit helps us even with our prayers; He intercedes for us to the Father even when we can't adequately express what our hearts are crying out for. We may stumble in our words, but God knows our hearts.

Psalm 18:6 is another source of comfort for the believer: *6 I called to the LORD in my distress, and I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears.* The God who could hear David then is the same God who hears us today. We do not have an uninterested distant God, but a God who is our Father, our Abba.

Knowing that we have a relationship with God through our Savior, Jesus, that we have the Holy Spirit to help us pray, and that our Father hears us leaves us in the position to both have hope and to share hope with those around us. As the old saying goes, we may not know what the immediate future holds, but we know who holds the future. May you find comfort and peace in Him as you pray this month.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Sarah

# Gospel Together

## Reading Plan

February 27-March 5:	Mark 1 & 2
March 6-March 12:	Mark 3 & 4
March 13-March 19:	Mark 5 & 6
March 20-March 26:	Mark 7-9:1
March 27-April 2:	Mark 9:2-10
April 3-April 9:	Mark 11-13
April 10-April 16:	Mark 14 & 15
April 17-April 23:	Mark 16

The Gospel of **MARK**





GRIEF MINISTRY  
~ LAURA SCHAFER

God keeps doing wonders,  
with broken hearts . . .  
He can still heal and mend  
all the injured parts.

But, you must give Him,  
your heart as it breaks  
each little piece of it  
and all the little flakes.

God can perform miracles,  
on hearts that are damaged  
He can undo the impact  
where grief has ravaged.

But, you must go to Him,  
with a heart surrendered  
so He can do the repairs  
without being hindered.

God continues to do wonders,  
miracles He still performs  
for the heart that is broken  
He mercifully transforms!

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Psalm 147:3  
*"He healeth the broken in heart,  
and bindeth up their wounds."*

Deborah Ann Belka



BREAKING THE CHAINS BIBLICAL RECOVERY MINISTRY  
~ KEN AND MICHELLE KAVANAGH

### Keep Moving

*But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

(Isaiah 40:31)

Last week before I left the house, I was listening to a sermon on the radio by Adrian Rogers. It was about depending on God through prayer. He stated the following, "*Prayer is God's way of causing us to be dependent on Him. Asking God for what we need ought to be as natural as breathing. Don't get the idea you can only ask God for spiritual things, and you take care of the secular things. Everything is important to God. You may say, "Well, this is beyond God," or "This is too small for God to deal with." No! Can you think of anything too big or too small for God to notice? Ask Him for any desire of your heart.*" His point was that we should be connecting with God and praying about everything. Nothing is too big or too small for God to handle and He will give us what we need. When I came home, another Pastor on the radio talked about how nothing was too big or too small for God to do, we just have to pray. Prayer was the message for the day! 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to "*Pray without ceasing*" and we must do this.

In recovery, one of the things that you need to pray for is patient endurance in order to endure the attacks patiently. Endurance is simply the ability or strength to continue or last despite fatigue, stress or other adverse conditions. Sometimes as you continue moving forward in your healing, there are times you can become weary. This can happen when problems arise in your life and they linger. Finances become tighter. Urges to return to your old lifestyle become stronger. Illness or death strikes loved ones. Current events in the world become overwhelming. When we lay down our weapon, which is the bible, and we stop praying, we can become easy targets for our adversary who wants to see us fail. He will do what he can to separate us from God who is our life line. God is the very one who gives us the strength to keep moving forward and He is the one who can answer our prayers. But if you lay down your bible and back off on praying, you may find it difficult to handle stressful situations that arise and soon negative thoughts (fiery darts) can follow such as :

- "God doesn't care or He would have helped me by now"
- "This must be a problem I have to take care of"
- "I've been praying this long and nothing is happening. Why continue praying?"

The enemy will always try to tempt you back to your old lifestyle through your problems and stressful times. But when you continue praying, reading the Word, and trusting in the promises of God, you will, in time, see God's help. You must not become weary in your walk and allow yourself to be tempted back to your old ways. You must never give up hope for God's help. 1 Corinthians 10:13 states:

*13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

In times of temptation and problems, you must always remember who you have on your side to help you through those times. Keep your sword...the bible...by your side, continue to pray and keep moving forward. Be patient. The storm will cease and out of it you will have patiently endured and strengthened your faith.



*Getting To Know You...*  
*Pat Taylor - "Grama Pat"*

Dear River Church Family,

Pastor Sarah and the Elders asked me to write a note to the church about my mom; Patricia Hull Craib Taylor AKA Grama Pat: so, her story and legacy can be shared with all the next generations in the church. Family and the Church: Pat and Al Taylor moved our family of five from a suburb of Boston, Mass (Wakefield) to Clayton in the summer of 1969. Mom and Dad loved God, family, kids, church, and the community and got involved with the 1st Baptist Church of the 1000 Islands almost immediately. Reverend Bob Mowatt was the minister at the time. Our family has been in membership and served under the leadership of Pastors Mowatt, Walmsley, Jim Lewis, (first round), Interim Norm Towns, Alan Petrich, Jim Lewis, (second season), the shared leadership of Chuck Constantino, Tom Augliano, and Alson Taylor, the interim leading of Roland Shanks and now the leadership of Pastor Sarah Flack.

**Grama Pat: Areas of Leadership and Service**

- **Church Fellowship and River Baptisms.** The family hosted many church picnics on the property on 12E (Taylor Morgan Acres on Taylor Lane) and River Baptisms over the years. She has always loved horses and would be happy to give anyone a ride who asked. She also had a horse drawn sleigh and wagons which she rode in Clayton Christmas parades.
- **Evangelism and Outreach:** Mom (and dad who went home to Jesus in 2014 at the age of 88) were among the most natural evangelists I have ever met. Grama Pat was the first to look for the new couple or family and would often have them in our home for a meal after church.
- **ABC supporters:** They were lifelong staunch supporters of the American Baptist ministries and were continually active in local (North Country Association of American Baptist Churches, (NCABC), regionally with ABC New York State and with the national ABC ministries. Mom served on the Committee for Ministry for years; a committee to help new ministers with the Ordination process. She worked very closely with Don Benoit the NCABC Area Minister for decades. Dad served as a national member of International Ministries and they participated in local, state, and national ABC conferences for many years.
- **Women's Ministry:** She led and served in the ABW; the American Baptist Women's Ministry, with events like the annual rummage sale. She was a relentless recruiter and invited many young women and girls to get involved. Grama Pat was a leader of the White Cross a women's service ministry that knitting scarves and prayer shawls form women in need.

*Getting to Know You cont...*

- **Ecumenical Outreach:** She was very active in the Clayton Council of Churches and maintained good relationships with all the local clergy for many years.
- **Visitations:** need a visit- get a visit for thirty plus years- in homes and hospitals.
- **Physical Fitness:** Grama Pat has been a lifelong devotee of physical fitness and worked as a gym teacher and Athletic Director at the Thousand Islands Central Schools. She initiated and championed the elementary “Fun and Fitness Day” at the local elementary schools.
- **Community Leadership:** Grama Pat and Husband Alvan were Clayton Citizens of the Year in the 1990s.
- **Children & Music:** Grama Pat loved kids and music. She taught Sunday School and helped champion VBS; (Vacation Bible School) as an outreach with the other local churches. She loved and supported all the music ministries for many years.
- **Church Bell:** she worked tirelessly to build support for removing the church bell from the old church. Fund raisers and getting the job done was important for her (and others).

**Grama Pat is turning ninety-four on March 10th .** Her life has been a legacy of Christ like, unconditional love. She has shared God’s love, her time and compassion to thousands of people throughout her life. She is and was truly shining light of the “greatest generation” who grew up during World War 2 and helped shape our country, culture, community, and congregation.

*“May all who come behind us find us faithful.”*



## FELLOWSHIP

### *RCC's Annual Chili Cook Off Competition* *by Charlotte Frese - Event Organizer*

February 20, 2022 was a cold, wintry day but that didn't matter to the congregation of the River Community Church. We had six participants making some very tasty chili, all in the hopes of winning 1st Place. We not only had chili but the fixings and desserts to go with the chili. Oh, what fun to be able to warm up with a bowl of homemade chili and sit and have some good fellowship along with it! Competition was fierce! Everyone wanted to win 1st place! The winner and 1st place ribbon went to J.D. Flack with his "Sweet Heat" entry. He won the \$25.00 gift card to Texas Road House and a mini trophy. Good job J.D.!

Second place went to Guangxia Hazelwood with her "Sichun Chili". Boy, can she cook! She walked away with the 2nd place ribbon. Third place went to Wendy Falzano with her "Moo Maze Mush". Corn added to her chili was delicious. She walked away with the 3rd place ribbon. We had three runners-up which all made delicious chili and they were Laura Schafer with "Where's the Beef?", Jason Collins with "Cabin Fever" and Char Frese with "Deer in Headlights". All participants received a red soup ladle with the inscription of "RCC 2022 Chili Cook Off". Everyone had a great time. Thanks to everyone that participated with chili or some other food contribution. Also, thanks to all who helped set up and clean up. "Many hands make light work".

Until next year...



## Ministries

### Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry meets the first Saturday of each month at 9:00am at the church. Come join JD Flack and the guys for a great time of breakfast, fellowship and fun! For more information, contact JD at 315-405-0330.

### The Circle Women's Ministry

The Circle meets every 3rd Saturday of of the month. The next meeting is March 19th at 10:00am. Come join the ladies for a time of fellowship, learning and fun! For more information, please see Char Frese or Wendy Falzano.

## This and That

### Daylight Savings Time

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time is March 13th at 2:00am. Time to spring our clocks ahead!

### Current Information

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, get important emails or see your birthday/anniversary on our monthly calendar, please make sure we have your current contact information on file for you in the church office.

To ensure your information is updated and correct, please contact the church office at 315-686-3194 or email [lschafer@riverchurchnny.com](mailto:lschafer@riverchurchnny.com)

Don't forget that if you move or are a seasonal resident, to notify the church office of your change of address so that we may keep in touch with you!



*We'd like to wish our brothers and sisters in Christ  
a very Happy Birthday!!!*

|       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
| 03/01 | Jennie Fitchette       |
| 03/10 | Laura Schafer          |
| 03/10 | Pat Taylor             |
| 03/10 | Gladys Ashland         |
| 03/11 | Ken Kavanagh           |
| 03/16 | Micah Flack            |
| 03/17 | David Pritt            |
| 03/18 | Amanda Gydesen         |
| 03/24 | Christina Schermerhorn |
| 03/30 | Michele Estelle        |
| 03/31 | Katie Chapman          |



## Asher and J.D.'s Chili Cook-off Winning Sweet Heat Chili Recipe

### Ingredients:

- 2 3/4 pounds of ground beef
- 1 large onion diced
- 2 bell peppers diced
- 5 garlic cloves minced
- 3 jalapeño peppers diced (remove veins and seeds for less heat)
- 1/4 cup of chili powder
- 3 tablespoons of ground cumin
- 3 tablespoons of cayenne pepper
- 6 ounce jar of chopped sweet peppers with juice. (We used Juanita peppers)
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 14 ounce can of crushed tomatoes (We used half can of 28 ounce)
- 2 cans 10 ounce cans of diced tomatoes & green chiles
- 1 can 4 ounces of diced green chiles
- 1 28 ounce can of tomato sauce

### Instructions:

- 1.) In a large frying pan, brown the ground beef. Transfer to slow cooker and leave 2 tablespoons of fat in the pan and add the onions.
- 2.) Cook onions over medium/high heat until they begin to soften. Add the bell peppers and saute until softened. Add garlic and jalapeño peppers and cook for 1 minute. Pour mixture over the beef in the crockpot.
- 3.) Add the chili powder, cumin, cayenne pepper, sweet peppers and juice and stir to combine.
- 4.) Add remaining ingredients and stir. Cook in crockpot on low for 6 hours.
- 5.) Enjoy!!!!

## Easy Egg Casserole

Makes 12 servings

Prep Time: 20 min

Bake Time: 45 min

Can assemble the night before

1 pkg pork sausage (1 lb)

8 eggs

3 cups milk

1/4 tsp black pepper

8 c bread cubes (dried)

2 c 8oz. shredded sharp cheddar cheese, divided

Preheat oven to 350. Cook sausage, drain.

Beat eggs, milk and pepper in large bowl with whisk. Add bread cubes, stir gently until coated. Stir in sausage and 1 1/2 cups cheese.

Pour into lightly greased 13x9 baking pan; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 45 minutes until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 10 min before cutting.

To make ahead assemble casserole as directed, cover.

Refrigerate overnight. Note: for Men's breakfast, double recipe and bake 50-55 min in a large pan.

