

# River News

November 2021



## *From The Pastor's Pen*

*~ Pastor Sarah Flack*

Dear River Church families and friends,

Over the past few weeks we have been spending time in Ezra on Sunday mornings, and it has been a joy to see how God is speaking to us through these long-ago historical events. In just the first few chapters, we have learned about the faithfulness of God and His ability to bring light into the darkness. We have been challenged to remain faithful to Him, to look to His Word for encouragement, and to keep our focus on the works He has prepared for us to do. And, we have learned that our God calls us to come home and is with us every step of the way.

I love the picture painted in Ezra 3 of those who had returned to Jerusalem offering sacrifices, observing the Festival of Booths, and then erupting in praise and thanksgiving over the foundation of God's house finally being put in place. There was still much work to be done, but they realized that they had much to be thankful for. God had rescued them from captivity, and He had set them on a path that gave them purpose. He had affirmed for them that they were His people, and He was their God.

He continues to do the same today. If you know Jesus as your Savior, you have been rescued from sin and death. You have been given a hope and a future and good works have been prepared for you to do, starting with loving God and one another.

Just like the exiles who had been returned home, we have much to be thankful for as a Church and as individuals. God has sustained us and blessed us. He is with us in the good days and in the bad days. He knows us by name and loves each one of us. He keeps His promises. So like those who came before us we can sing in thanksgiving and praise: "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34).

With love in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Sarah

I would like to say a huge thank you for a lovely Pastor Appreciation luncheon last month. It was so nice to gather together for a time of eating, talking, and laughter. Thank you for the cards and gifts, the words of encouragement, the prayers, and to all who served to make the afternoon so special. I am so thankful for all of you!--Pastor Sarah



*Elder Ministry*

*~ Dean Wilkie*

Greetings in Christ Jesus, to all brother and sister believers, I thank the Lord for you upon your remembrance.

We realize that there is a natural and spiritual application to everything in our lives. Our north country weather has recently reminded us that the season of the natural harvest is done, the season of rest/repair is upon us. When the harvest was in, the workload reduced for the farmer, now their focus was diverted to repair. The work of repair is a revitalization of equipment. During this time there was some rest for the body, and the season naturally drew one close to the home fires. It was a time of counting one's blessings; a time when even the worldly stop for one day, for the nation to observe Thanksgiving.

So back to that counting your blessings? Recently, pastor Sarah, shared from the platform about "list", in the book of Ezra. Now we often make many list of the things we have to do in the natural, the things we wished we had, we may sometimes even make a list of the things that are our possessions; but when's the last time we made a list of our spiritual blessings? Those blessings are numerous, very numerous and we would do our self a favor to make a list of blessings, that we find in the word of God. A brief list off the top of my head would be, spiritual blessings such as: redemption(salvation), forgiveness, communion with the Godhead, an inheritance, a hope and a future. A few more to mention; we are the called, a chosen people, adopted (transplanted) into His family, We are equipped or gifted, to do the purpose(work), we are called for.

It's often easy to see what kind of fruit tree we are, are we a little tart like a Cortland apple or are we sweet like a Gala, or maybe we're just off that crab apple tree. Regardless of what kind of apple we present, what people can also see is - how we live that reflects our Thanksgiving of heart. As Pastor Sarah went through the book of Ephesians, we learned we are designed to be together, as a church, a church united together through Christ Jesus alone. I particularly appreciated her imagery of being "rooted together", that we can stand together against the storms, when we're routed together, or intertwined - intertwined like family.

As we approach the church season of Advent, that's a great time to revitalize. A time for us to repair and rebuild, repair the breach in the walls so the enemy can't enter in. Rebuild the temple of worship, within our hearts! Prayerfully use this time as a season of REVIVAL, revival begins within the individual heart. Rekindle the home fires within your heart, for the things of God.

The word of God revives our soul, and the Holy Spirit does the work of revival. All we need to do is repent of our stray ways (come out of our worldly habits), return home to The Father that's awaiting us. Yes, the journey will be difficult, but pressing in to submit to the rebuilding is a blessing; don't just be a building block be a lively stone!

As I close this, making a list of my own blessings and counting all of you on it, I would add to my list; being thankful for the powerful teaching that Pastor Sarah, is presenting. Worldly knowledge is no substitute for Truth = Godly wisdom.

My last thought, Saints, be sure you're numbered among His list of called/set apart ones in the Lamb's book of life.

In Christ service,

Elder Dean



## Grief Ministry

~ Laura Schafer

### Give Hope During the Holidays

Mention Christmas and we can smell the cookies baking in the oven or hear the laughter of kids playing in the snow. We look forward to the holidays and family gatherings with great anticipation. But for many, the holidays can be a season of deep loneliness and sorrow. Empty chairs and missing laughter are reminders that life has forever changed.

Most of us realize that it is normal for those who have suffered loss to feel great sadness and grief during the holidays. And we know that God can work through us to give the brokenhearted encouragement and companionship. But if you are like many, you may have asked yourself, "How can I give hope to the grieving during the holidays?"

Give the gift of listening. One of the most precious gifts is the simple act of listening. Just being there and listening is so important. Well meaning people at times feel that they must do something or quote scriptures, when really all you need to do is listen. Scripture tells us...

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."* Romans 12:15

Give the gift of remembrance. Those who are grieving want to talk about the ones they've lost. Give them space to talk and let that be part of the holiday gathering. Realize that the sounds, smells, and sights of the holidays can trigger some strong emotions. The brokenhearted will likely recall their absent loved one as friends and family gather. Let them know that it's okay to feel pain and that it is an important part of the healing process.

*"Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:2

Give the gift of comfort. If you have experienced a loss similar to those grieving, ask God to give you the ability to comfort with the comfort you were given.

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ"*

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Give the gift of a new tradition. Encourage the person grieving to consider doing something out of the ordinary during the Christmas season. Volunteer together. Although it can be encouraging for those in mourning to reach out to others, instead of focusing inward, it can also be overwhelming to do this alone. Volunteering in the community for local food banks or visiting shut ins can lift someone's spirits.

Give the gift of friendship. Six months to two years after a loved one's death can be the most difficult time. When friends and relatives stop reaching out and checking in. This is when "life has changed forever" sinks in. Let them know you care and you remember.

Give the gift of prayer. Pray that God will give you His love and wisdom as you minister to the brokenhearted. Take their sorrow to the Lord. Ask Him to heal their hearts, renew their strength, and fill them with the love and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Give the gift of hope. Remember that the brokenhearted will experience both joy and sadness during the holidays. Yet, despite feelings of incredible loss, God can work through His people to give His comfort. As we share the Christmas story, those grieving will be reminded of our eternal hope. In the midst of the darkness ... the star of Bethlehem shines bright."



## Women's Ministry

~ Wendy Falzano and Char Frese



Mmmm...that's all I can say about our last gathering.

We had so much fun making our apple pies and many thanks from those who ate them.

Some of the husbands want to know if we can make them every month.

It was also nice having daughters and granddaughters participate.

Here are some pictures of our results:



Thank you Char for demonstrating and leading us. What fun... and we even had a little commercial break! (And yes, We really were listening...lol!)

This month our gathering will be November 20th, 10am-12pm. We will be writing up scripture squares for a comfort quilt. Just come with your favorite encouraging verse(s).

We will provide the materials for the squares. The squares then will be sewn and quilted into a comfort blanket to be gifted. Come share the fellowship, your love and encouragement.

Remember, you are always welcome to bring a friend and this can be another opportunity to bring a daughter, granddaughter or another young lady.

Contact Char Frese (315-221-1303) or Wendy Falzano (518-526-6149) to get a sample size of paper to be used to practice ahead if you like.



*Breaking The Chains Biblical Recovery Ministry*

*~ Ken and Michelle Kavanagh*

## **Sweeping Up The Hidden Pieces**

*He uncovers deep things out of darkness, and brings the shadow of death to light. (Job 12:22)*

A few years ago, we had broken some glass on the porch. Ken had cleaned it up and was sure he had swept up all of the pieces. A couple of weeks later as I was moving some furniture around on the porch, underneath a small dresser I found a couple of pieces of glass. They were hidden under the dresser. As I looked around, I found a few smaller pieces. If these were stepped on with bare feet it would have hurt. As I swept up the few pieces of glass, some thoughts came to mind.

When we go through life, we can easily become broken and shattered by different situations and problems. Some things we are able to shake off but others we are not. When we come to Jesus, He cleans up much of the shattered pieces that we give to Him. Yet, there are those pieces we don't see that remain hidden or we choose to sweep them under the rug. Sometimes we may find a few pieces in the smallest corners of our heart and only become aware of them from the cut they give us when touched. Other times we may step on the bigger pieces, cutting ourselves and hindering our spiritual walk from the cut. This could be something you had thought you forgave but when a similar situation happens again, you feel the cut and find yourself sifting through hurt emotions. Or you could see someone who had hurt you in the past and though you don't think about the situation any longer, this person triggers certain emotions within you such as anger, rejection, jealousy, fear, etc.

When we come across these hidden pieces of broken glass within us, we must surrender it to the Lord immediately so we don't continue stepping on them and cutting ourselves causing unnecessary pain. There is always the risk of an infection from the cuts which can cause us to become even sicker due to our emotions from it.

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)*

Have you come across some "hidden" pieces of glass within yourself that you thought were swept up and removed long ago? Don't be discouraged! The work the Lord has within you since then was a mighty work. This new occurrence just means you have found some hidden pieces that need to be swept up and removed.

Get with the Lord today and ask Him to expose any hidden sin or hurt that needs to be removed. If you have stepped on a hidden piece, it is now exposed to you to allow you to surrender it to Him so He can remove it. Sometimes, when it's stepped on just right, those hidden pieces can cause major damage and pain so when they are discovered you must surrender it quickly so the Lord can remove it and save you from more severe damage that could occur.

*O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. (Psalm 30:2)*

## Meet Your Leader...



*Jaqualynn Dettmer*

Hello! I am a pretty passionate and outgoing person married to the drummer on the worship team, Stephen Dettmer. We live in the village of Clayton with our 16 year old Jack Russell Terrier, Private Norway, and our brand new kitten, Java.

I am currently going to school. I just graduated with my Bachelors in Bible and Theology and I am getting my Masters in Global Development and Justice.

In my down time I enjoy hiking, sailing, the performing arts, traveling and hanging out with my friends and family.

I have spent most of my life believing in Jesus, but not all of it with Him as Lord of my life. Almost 10 years ago I had a major encounter with the Lord, and He corrected my direction and helped me overcome a variety of challenges in the process. I am beyond grateful for His work in my life, and would love to hear what he has done in yours. It is always encouraging.

Feel free to reach out if you would like, I am generally pretty approachable...once I have had a cup of coffee or two (hehehe).

Congratulations!

*We would like to congratulate Jackie Dettmer on receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical and Theological Studies!*



*Congratulations to Justin Crandall and Cassie Lynn on their recent engagement! May God bless you with many wonderful years together!*



**We'd like to congratulate the following on their special occasion:**

**Susie Mitchell's rebirthday 9/2/2012  
Edy Kempney's 43rd Anniversary with Tupperware!**



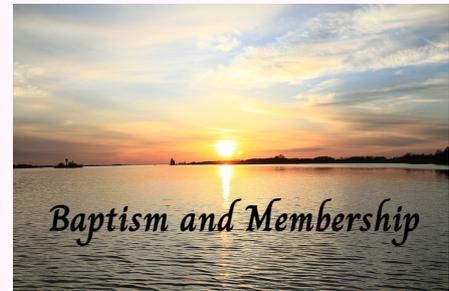
## **Adult Daycare RESPITE Program Jefferson County Office for the Aging**

River Community Church is in the process of working with the Office for the Aging to open an adult daycare respite program at the church. This program will be held two days a week from 10:00am - 2:00pm. They are seeking volunteers who have the time and are able to commit to the schedule. Volunteers will provide companionship, communication and assist with games and activities provided. No special talent is needed except compassion, however any special talents can be used.

All volunteers will receive REST (Respite Education Support Tools) and basic Alzheimer's training by Jefferson County Office for the Aging and will also receive a background check.

On Tuesday, November 30th from 2:00pm - 4:00pm, The office for the Aging will hold a presentation at the River Community Church. Guest speaker will be Daphne Johnston, the executive director and co-founder of Respite for All.

If you are interested in attending the presentation, please call Office for the Aging at 315-785-5018 to register.



If you are interested in  
Baptism  
or  
Becoming a member of the church  
(Membership is a one hour class after church)

Please call the church office and  
let us know!



As you know, RCC recently celebrated the dedication of the church bell from the old John Street location. One of our church members, David Pritt, provided Pastor Sarah with some historical information.

After noticing the date on the bell, David found two foundries in NY. One was in West Troy, NY (which made the bell). The church bell was made in 1841. After reading the article in his research, David was impressed at the little things we take for granted in the Church. He found that the two foundries made a total of 65,000 church bells in their factories history. The foundry across the Hudson made the bell for the First Baptist Church in Watertown in 1901.

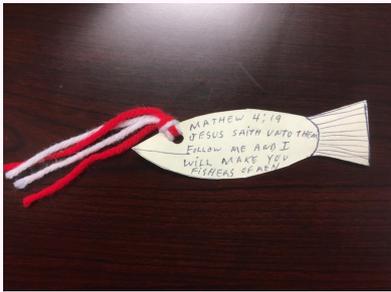
Thanks David for providing us this piece of history!



## Harold Chapman Memory...

Harold would make fishes with scripture and hand them out to the children in AWANA whenever he would come.

Matthew 4:19



## Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry Breakfast and Fellowship has been moved to Saturday, November 13th, at 9:00am at the church.

## Women's Ministry

The Circle Women's Gathering will be held on Saturday, November 20th at 10:00am at the church.

## Farmers Market

Planning for the Farmers Market 2022 is underway! If you are interested in being involved in and helping with the Farmers Market, please see Wanda Collins.

## Thanksgiving Dinner

On Sunday, November 14th, the church held a thanksgiving dinner. We would like to thank everyone who brought their favorite dish and/or dessert to share.

Thank you to all who helped set up and clean up. It was a great time to give thanks with our church family and enjoy amazing food and lots of laughter.

## Still Friends, at Life's End

by Harold L. Chapman

One night as I lay praying  
The thought came to mind,  
Will you be there with me  
As my Lord and I walk beside?

It seemed quite urgent that I tell you  
In case I had not before  
That God so dearly loves you  
He gave His only begotten son.

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

You see, God required the shedding of blood  
to pay for our sin.

Hebrews 9:22 (Ephesians 1:7)

*Without shedding of blood there is no remission.  
(pardon or forgiveness)*

Jesus freely gave Himself as a sacrifice.

John 10:18

*No man taketh it from me but I lay it down  
of myself and I have power to take it again.*

Now we can have forgiveness of sin by relying on the  
shed blood of Christ to pay the debt we justly owed.

1 Peter 18-19

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with  
corruptible things - but with the precious blood of Christ.*

Together now we can have that hope and  
assurance our Lord we will see.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,  
with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God:  
and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are  
alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the  
clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be  
with the Lord.*

Now there is no reason  
To someday say,  
I am no longer your friend,  
For now I have told you the most  
Important thing I can!



## KEEP LUCY'S MEMORY ALIVE THIS CHRISTMAS

In January of 2019, we said goodbye to Lucy as she went for organ donor surgery. We've missed her every single second since then. Lucy's last Christmas, she asked us to use the money for her gift, "since she didn't need anything", to buy toys for kids who wouldn't get any. In her honor we would like to continue this new tradition, to help us through the holidays, of giving to kids in need. We are working with Toys for Tots.

Anyone who would like to honor Lucy please consider giving or volunteering with any of the organizations that donate to kids at Christmas. Toys for Tots, Angel Giving Tree, or Salvation Army and local food pantries to name a few. Giving of your time is just as important. Lucy always did community service like ringing the bell at a kettle or helping at church and SADD events. Keep her memory alive in your Christmas by doing something extra this year.

### ANYONE WISHING TO DONATE A TOY OR UNWRAPPED GIFT CAN DROP THEM OFF AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Citizens Bank Cape Vincent, Dollar Generals, Frenchtown Market, Whitecaps Market Cedar Point and DePauville, Watertown Savings Bank Chaumont, Wise Guys, Reinman's, DiPrinzio's, Parkstead Apts Clayton, Teresa Clement Dance, The Cal Shop, Community Bank Clayton Alex Bay, Family Dollar Clayton, Kinney Drugs Clayton, DePauville Hotel, Big M Alex Bay, Agway LaFargeville, Shurfine Clayton Cash donations only

MAKING COFFEE RESERVE

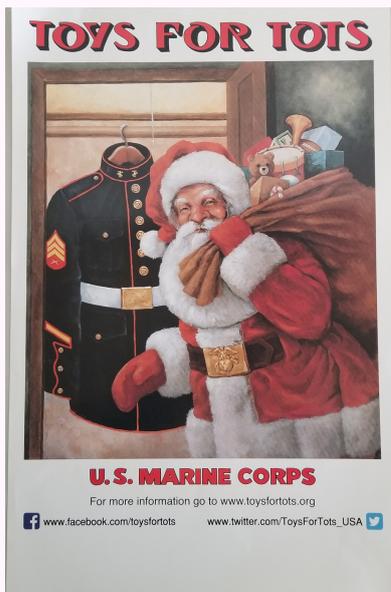


Deadline for Toys for Tots is December 16. Any questions please call or text 315-767-1588.

Thank you all for honoring Lucy and continuing to support her legacy of helping others.  
It is in giving that we receive and Lucy gave the biggest gift of all.

Mark and Laura

## Christmas Outreach



If you would like to participate in Toys for Tots, just drop off your toy or unwrapped gift before December 10th at the River Community Church. There will be a Toys for Tots box outside of the Sanctuary.



If you would like to participate in Operation Christmas Cards For Our Troops and send them personal encouraging messages, please turn them into the church office by November 21st. The requirements are:

- Do not seal; no envelopes
- No glitter or loose items
- No return or email addresses

If you have any questions, you may contact the church office.



On November 11th, we celebrate Veterans Day by remembering and honoring all service members in the Armed Forces, past and present, for the sacrifice they made to keep our nation safe and free. They went where others feared to go and did what others could not do. They faced what was before them to protect what was behind them. They understand that with freedom comes responsibility. They missed out on special events of their home life to ensure families could continue celebrating those events.

It takes a special type of person to be a member of the Armed Forces. It takes one who is vigilant, active and brave. One who envisions freedom and will do what it takes to preserve it for all. One who is able to adhere to the mission until that mission is complete even if it means the loss of their life. In the words of our great Savior, Jesus Christ, in John 15:13:

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

On Veterans Day, and everyday, we are thankful and grateful for all of our veterans, past and present, and say thank you for your willingness and act of selfless love to protect our country and ensure that we remain free.

Though a veteran eventually separates from the military, the heart of that veteran will always remain, valuing the freedom they and many others, fought and died for.



### *Keeping In Touch...*

If you would like to keep in touch with our summer church family, you may contact the church office for addresses.

### *Lost and Found...*

A cellphone was found in the church after Sunday service on the Oct 31st. If you are missing a cellphone, please call the church office at 315-686-3194.



We'd like to wish a very  
Happy Birthday to the following:

- 11/5 Terry Falzano
- 11/23 Charlotte Frese



Monday, November 29th @ 6:00pm

A Time Of Fellowship & Fun

Bring the family and join us for an evening of fun and laughter as we decorate for the holidays!

Refreshments will be provided.

