



WHERE PEOPLE BECOME FRIENDS
AND FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY

112 Downer St. • Baldwinsville, NY 13027

www.CommunityWesleyanChurch.com

Pastor Carl Chapman — carlchapman@communitywesleyanchurch.com

  315-635-3501 • 315-638-2222

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST

If you have needs or concerns and would like prayer support you can email your request to prayer@communitywesleyanchurch.com anytime or you can call the church office at 315-635-3501 during office hours.

WATCH OUR SERVICE ONLINE

While we as a congregation are not meeting in person, Pastor Carl will be sharing a message each week online. At 11am on Sundays you will find the latest worship service posted on the church's You Tube page at <https://tinyurl.com/CWCYouTube>

You will also be able to find the service on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BvilleCWCCChurch/

Links to all our previous services can be found through our church website at www.communitywesleyanchurch.com.

JUNE 2020

THE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
— John 15:5



CWC BOARD 2019-20 Board of Administration

Dave Lewis – Lay Leader
Ticia Wicks – Secretary
Claude Sykes – Treasurer
Charlie Lewis – Chairman of Trustees

At-Large Members:

Michelle Chapman
Mark Chermak
Mike Hodell
Holly O'Hara
Frank Palmisano
Mark Stevens
Jeremy Wilmot

Please be praying for the church board as they give leadership and oversight to CWC

CWC LEADERS 2019-20 Ministry Leaders

Youth – Debbie Lewis & Mike Kraebel
Children's Sunday School Coordinator – Ticia Wicks
Mid Week Children's Directors – Jillian Alessi & Stacie Wilmot
Adult Sunday School Coordinator – Holly O'Hara
Jr. Church Coordinator – Dee Wagner
Nursery and 2's & 3's Coordinator – Joy Kraebel



COMMUNITYWESLEYANCHURCH.COM

follow us:



Julie Lewis – Phoenix

Rainey Morgan –
Baldwinsville Christian
Academy

Rowan Morgan –
Baldwinsville Christian
Academy

Sarah Perez – Cato
Meridian

CJ Roziock – Baldwinsville

Logan Wilmot –
Weedsport



Congratulations!

Class of 2020

THURSDAY NIGHT ZOOM PRAYER MEETING

While we are not able to meet together in person, we will continue to be having a weekly prayer meeting at 6:30pm on Thursdays via Zoom. Each week if you have a prayer request you would like to make sure is included in the prayer time you can email it to prayer@communitywesleyanchurch.com. Watch your email for the Zoom meeting link each week.

VAN BUREN AFTER SCHOOL- GOOD NEWS CLUB REPORT

ANNUAL AWARD DAY preparations have been completed. Now we will deliver to each clubber a bag of awards and gifts. It will be SO good to see each of them again, after 2 months of "lockdown". We have 4 fifth graders who will be "moving up": Mac, Daniel, Cory and Jayden. They will receive a new "adult" Bible and the coveted students will receive a Photo Book of their many years at Good News Club.

Cory has come 5 years and Daniel has come 4 years. Each student will receive a small photo album with pictures from our 2 plays. Each will receive awards for Bible memorization, Devotional books read and Songs memorized. Mac memorized 55 Bible verses in groups of 5 or 6 verses, "nailing" them! Ms. Jill calls him "Pastor Mac". I told him it would be wonderful if God called him to be a pastor! Cory "nailed" 35 Bible verses. Sophia "nailed" 20 Bible verses. Each will receive a small bag of candy. May-August birthday clubbers get 2 small gifts. Each will receive a posterboard of their accomplishments.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray that...

1. each student will return in the fall for Youth, Good News Club and CW Kidz.
2. each will be able to come to one of the small summer clubs that we will be hosting for them at my house (COVID-19 Safety Rules will be used.)
3. each will use the many tools that we have given to them to know, grow and show the Lord Jesus in his/her life.
4. the staff will be led by the Holy Spirit in ministering to the spiritual needs of these 10 students.
5. God will raise up others who will minister to the 3 students who only came for a few clubs. Two have already moved.

OVERALL it was a great club year...though shorter than usual. A lot of the book of Acts was taught, plus Christmas and Easter and George Washington Carver. For the children and their families, Barb Good and Staff of 11.



2020 FIVE DAY CLUBS

Due to COVID-19, we will be having 2 or 3 Five-Day Clubs. The first one will be June 29th-July 3rd from 10am-Noon in Mrs. Good's backyard. 5 Day Club is for

kids who have completed Kindergarten-5th Grade (younger children can come with a guardian). The other clubs will be August 17-21 and/or August 24-28, 2020. We will be keeping the clubs small so we can do social distancing and be protective during the Fun Hour.

Our theme will be "Jesus is the One Way to God". CONTACT: Mrs. Good: 315-638-1301 or barbgood2004@msn.com to register your child for one of the clubs.



CWC YOUTH GROUP

I hope this note finds you well! It's certainly been a unique spring to say the least. The good news is it looks like we are on the upward swing towards reopening! We are not sure what that means for summer youth activities at this point, but we will keep you posted especially if we hear news about Kingdom Bound. If possible we'd like to get a Jr High day trip scheduled as well. In the meantime, stay healthy, do your school work, and take time to get in the word and pray. I'm sure very soon we'll have a social distancing bonfire at the Lewis pond! We are praying for you all! God is good all the time!



CHAMBERS CAMP UPDATE

In light of the present gathering restrictions, and our best sense of the restrictions that will remain in place for the coming months, we've come to the difficult conclusion that it is necessary to cancel the following district camps/retreats summer 2020.

Canceled Camps/Retreats

June 26-July 5: Family Camp
 July 6-11: Youth Camp
 July 28-Aug 1: Kid's Camp N
 Aug 2-5: Discipleship Retreat

Camps/Retreats still tentatively scheduled

Aug. 21-23: Boundary Breakers
 Sept. 18-20: Ladies Retreat



REACHING OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS AT SYRACUSE HOME

We have not been able to see our Syracuse Home friends since early March and do not know when we can go for Bible Fellowship again. Please be praying for their safety and that they will feel the Lord's presence during these days. Also, thank God for the staff and pray for their good health, too. Thank you.

Since the residents have not been allowed to have visitors since the pandemic started, we would encourage people to consider sending them mail again. It could be something like "Thinking of you and praying for your good health. Looking forward to when you can have visitors again." Anything else could be included such as a short poem or a Scripture verse.

You can address your mail to "A Syracuse Home Resident", Syracuse Home, 7740 Meigs Rd., Baldwinsville, NY 13027

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

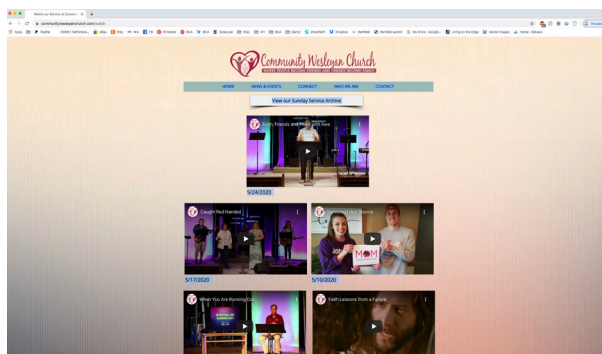
The Ladies Monday night Bible Study has continued to meet virtually on Monday Nights at 7pm. During the month of May we studied the book of Colossians. We will continue to meet through the month of June

focusing on a topical bible study for this month. If you're interested in joining us on Monday nights, contact Lynn Hannon at lkhannon10@gmail.com or 315-374-7070 for more information.



NEVER MISS A SERVICE!

Don't forget — you can always watch a CWC worship celebration service on our website, check our website for this week's service and our archive.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

So many things going on in June: Father's Day, graduations, birthdays, anniversaries. Being a part of Sunday school you have connections to your CWC family. Just because we are not meeting in a classroom, you have plenty of opportunities to connect with each other. Call, send a card, send an email. Until we meet again, please keep connecting with people you would see in class. We have much to be thankful for. Be a blessing in someone's life this month.



YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

During the time we are not having regular in person worship services you can still give to the work of the church by mailing your tithe check to CWC or dropping it off at the church office. You can also take advantage of electronic giving through a secure program called Tithely. You can access this by either going to the church website and clicking on the GIVE NOW button or by downloading the TITHE,LY app on your phone, tablet or computer. Once you download the app look for our church (Baldwinsville Community Wesleyan Church). Then just set up your account. Thank you for your generous giving during this time.

Pastor's Ponderings



PASTOR CARL — Grace. This is a word that keeps coming to my mind. For some reason I have pondered this word more during the corona virus shutdown than ever before. The world talks a lot about karma – getting what you deserve; what goes around comes around. But grace is getting what you don't deserve. In the church, we understand this a little bit when we talk about God's grace. John 1:16 – From the fullness of His grace, we have all received one blessing after another. Think about that verse for a minute. Reflect on all of the blessings that you have received (that you don't deserve) because of God's grace! Grace is a fundamental characteristic of God. It is who God is. God doesn't discriminate with His grace. His grace is not just for Christians or for Jewish people or for Americans.

As Christians, we are to be developing God-like characteristics. Yet I fear that it is a characteristic that can easily become one sided. Grace is something we all want to receive, but we may be slow to give it away. We expect people to show us grace, but aren't so willing to extend it to others. I believe that we as an American society lack grace for one another, which has lead to this whole mindset of "if you disagree with me, you are wrong and I therefore I dislike you". I also believe that we as

Christians have hurt our witness and influence because we are weak in grace. Lack of grace has split churches, destroyed marriages and ruined friendships.

Grace isn't a license to act however I want and treat people any way I please. In Romans 6:1 Paul makes that point. He says, should we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! Just because God's grace covers my sin, doesn't give me the freedom to sin. Even in the midst of grace there are consequences and healthy boundaries have to be drawn.

Colossians 4:5-6 says: Be wise in the way that you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Reread those two verses. Paul says that as believers, our conversation should always be full of grace. How we talk to people and how we talk about people needs to be full of grace. In today's world, that conversation includes not just our spoken words, but our tweets, texts and social media posts. Are your texts, tweets, social media posts always full of grace? I confess that my words are not always full of

grace. And that hurts my witness and influence when they are not. What is more important – to prove I am right OR to be full of grace? I don't believe that those two things have to be exclusive of one another. We can be gracious in sharing our feelings, opinion with others. We can strive to be like Jesus who John characterized as being full of grace & truth (John 1:14). As our country becomes more and more divided, as people's attitudes become more "I'm right, you are wrong" may the conversation of the followers of Christ become more and more full of grace.

As you disagree with people, have varying viewpoints, differ in opinions, and see things from different perspectives, may you overflow with grace. The more you keep in mind how much grace God has extended you, the more you can extend grace to others. The good news is that you can grow in grace. 2 Peter 3:18 – But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we live in this caustic world, let us be people of grace. May we heed Paul's words to Timothy, where he told Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 2:1)

MISSIONARY Spotlight

JIM & KAREN PICKETT – MISSIONARIES IN MOZAMBIQUE WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS

Jim and Karen’s vision is to equip the church in Mozambique to plant, develop, and administer healthy churches. They do that, in cooperation with local pastors, by teaching at the Xai-Xai Bible College and at seminars across Mozambique, producing study manuals for small groups in the Portuguese language and distributing Bibles and audio Scripture radios.



Recent report from the Picketts:

The Bible College has closed due to the Covid-19 virus and Jim and Karen, like so many others, are now working from home. They have been teaching their bible classes via photocopies and WhatsApp messages. It is a steep learning curve for some students. A few families made contributions to buy their student an Android phone and so it’s their first time using the internet. Others only have simple phones. For these, Jim and Karen call them every few days and listen to their answers over the phone. Online classes and church services are not possible here. Mozambique has limited internet and most people can only afford small daily bundles for 10 cents to go on Facebook/Twitter/Whatsapp. Karen & Jim are finding other ways to connect with their community remotely. Karen, for example, started a devotional in Portuguese on Facebook to encourage people locally when they are able to go on social media.



Specific Prayer Requests from Karen Pickett:

- Pray for wisdom regarding our return to the U.S. for home ministries. We were scheduled to leave on May 18, 2020, but the flight was cancelled last month. Currently all flights are still cancelled. One of the biggest concerns for us personally is that our son just graduated high school this month and had a gap year lined up at a Christian camp in New Hampshire in September and was also going to practice driving to get his driver’s license this summer.
- Pray for me (Karen) as I work on translating into Portuguese 3 levels of a middle school Sunday School curriculum. I have printed the first. I have just received back the edited copy of the second manual which I need to type in and organize printing.
- The cases of Covid19 are just beginning to increase in Mozambique at about 5-15 a day. Please pray for Jim as he has asthma and previously had a heart attack. For now, we are both working from home.



Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus

During the past two months of shut downs, quarantines and Covid-19 challenges we have seen many members of our congregation reach out and be the hands and feet of Jesus serving others in our community. Members of our congregation have also been recipients of the generosity of the Central NY community during this difficult time. On the following pages you will see some notes submitted to us of examples of these acts of service.

"Lynn Hannon has been blessing us repeatedly with grocery shopping. Being we are both over 70 and I am immune compromised, it wouldn't be wise for us to go in stores/public until this is behind us. An added blessing has been seeing her sweet face and having short visits from our porch. We hope that sharing puzzles with her has helped her to have a mental break. And Peggy Link was kind enough to pick up groceries from Costco and Wegmans for the Clarke's. We have really appreciated Peggy's help."

— Linda & Dick Clarke

"Thank you to my Mom, Waneta Edgett, for making masks for my family and others during this time. Thank you to Melanie Randolph for your deliveries of goodies and smiles. Thanks to Pastor Carl, the worship team, Frank Palmisano, Debbie Lewis, Lynn Hannon and others for working so hard to keep our church family connected during this time when we couldn't meet in person."

— Jenn Lewis

I have been so blessed from the telephone calls from my church family during our quarantine time, to check on me and see if they could do anything for me. Also, Colleen came to my door to check on me twice and we had a special 'visit' through the storm door, plus Clara has sent the VISTA and the POWER for LIVING papers and a sweet, encouraging note each week.

I am happy to get YouTube for Sunday services and then there was Cindy's devotions and pastor Carl's e-mails to encourage us. Jesus' love shines through each friend.

I am so thankful to be a part of CWC and I LOVE YOU ALL.

— Barb Johnson

"I am a teacher in an impoverished district. Although it is right in our vicinity, I don't think people realize how deep the needs run and the utter difference just a few miles can make. When our new way of life hit with the Corona Virus, our districts first concern was the health and welfare of the students. Yes, we are schools and yes, we need to teach, however, you can't learn when you are hungry, you can't learn when you don't know where you are sleeping that night, you can't learn when you are worried about your physical wellbeing, whether it be physical or sexual abuse. Yes, these are the harsh realities that many students are dealing with and these are the concerns that weigh on the hearts of our district employees, administrators, teachers and staff from the bus drivers to the 1 on 1 aides and the hall monitors.

So, while I was home, trying to connect with my students, preparing lessons different than I have ever prepared before, trying to navigate this new mode of teaching and learning I got thinking. Thinking for me can be a bit dangerous at times, but something was nagging at me. Finally, I felt like God wanted me to start moving.

I am the teacher that is known for her bake goods. My students will pretty much eat anything, but my brownies and cookies are their favorite. I felt very strongly that God wanted me to get out there and be his hands and feet.

Now, during Corona'cation, some parents might not want homemade goods, so I had a backup plan. I hit Costco, Target and Wegman's for lunch bags and a variety of snacks. I then hit up some of my friends in our women's Bible Study to see who might be willing to bake cookies, and they came through (thank you Beth DeWeese, Katie Morgan and Lynn Hannon). I set the back of my car up like a mini store so kids could pick several items to go along with a bag of cookies and a brownie. Next I got my co-pilot, Dee Wagner, and for 3 days over a two week period we made 85 deliveries from Oswego to Syracuse. It was amazing. At the end of the first day I said to my co-pilot, "I kinda feel guilty. I feel so good. I didn't do this for me it was for them."

Since then I have gotten a handful of thank you's.....although we got a ton in person. It is obvious that it really meant something to many of the students and their families. One comment that really hit me said, "You are the only person to have reached out during this whole time." Although we have been reaching out via phone, email and text.....the hands and feet are what these kids need!"

— Peggy Link



"I first started attending Community Wesleyan Church (CWC) in Baldwinsville in December of 2019 during Advent season. I feel that I was divinely led there and I felt welcomed immediately by the friendliness and warmth of the parishioners. What a blessing that was for me! I had been searching for a church for nearly three years and have attended many other churches but have never felt that I "fit" in and was truly a part of the people of the church. I started out right away attending adult Sunday school so that I could get to know others more quickly.

Then came the time of COVID-19 and the closing of the church physically but certainly not spiritually. We began to adapt and developed "virtual" church on Sundays, prayer meetings on Thursday evenings, and lady's bible study on Monday evenings. It was such a change in how we worshipped and transitioned to provide social distancing and stop the spread of the virus.

The most important part of all this change I want to share with you. I am a nurse practitioner and am working in an office that requires me to continue to see patient's in person every day and also see patient's via telemedicine visits. I felt very anxious and scarred that I would somehow become exposed to the virus but yet I had taken an oath to be there for each and every patient so I knew, regardless of that anxiety and fear, I had to continue with doing my job. But it was the outreach from the church that got me through some of my toughest moments and there has been many over these past few months during COVID-19 quarantine and isolation.

My first experience was at one of the first prayer meetings where everyone who attended that meeting prayed for all those workers who were working on the "front lines" and all the people who asked how I was doing and surviving during this scary time. My first prayer meeting I attended I was still in my office working but took a well-deserved break to be with others from church and join in the prayer service.

The next blessings and surprise were to have Deb and Dave Lewis contact me to set up a time to bring food over to me as they felt I may not have much time to cook and eat so that I could keep up my strength for the stress of my work and the long hours it required. I later found out that some other people from church had baked cookies for that gift of food and I was very touched that others had

taken the time to do that, and by the way, make some of the best chocolate chip cookies ever!! Thank you, Jill Alessi!

I also received text messages and calls from Marilyn Palermo whom I met in Sunday school classes and we became friends instantly. It seemed to be some sort of natural connection between us. She has been such a blessing to me by keeping in contact via phone calls, text messages, instant messenger, or email and we have continued to be in communication frequently over the past few weeks.

I also received cards from Mark and Diane Chermak whom I also met in Sunday school and I must mention that Diane has helped me immensely with learning who is who in the church and she even provided me with a picture church directory that she printed out on her computer! She also mailed me a list of people's names to put together with the pictures that were displayed on the virtual Easter Sunday service so that I could get to know people's identity despite the fact that we were not meeting in person for Sunday services. What an angel!!

Another angel that I met at the beginning of attending CWC was Clara Graves. She is so warm and friendly and her inner spiritual light shown through on her face and smile the minute we met! She too has written me and has been sending me reading materials that she usually hands out at church every week along with a quick note to just check in on me.

Another angel that has also become a new friend since we have been doing virtual worshipping is Sandy Hilliard. We had only briefly met prior to COVID-19 and we re-met online during one of the lady's bible studies. We have continued to email, text, and send cards to each other to maintain a connection and to be sure each other is doing okay.

As some of you know I also had a death of a very good friend, former husband, and father of my two girls during this COVID-19 outbreak. I cannot say enough about what an angel and blessing Pastor Carl was to me. He took my phone call and I poured out my story to him and we prayed. Pastor Carl then

"I would like to acknowledge Clara and Al Graves. They sent Doug and I spiritual bulletins, scriptures and notes of encouragement. It was very nice to receive their messages by mail during this pause. I know they sent my parents notes too. Also, Pastor Carl & Cindy sent my parents a card with their picture on it and a nice note inside it. My parents were thrilled to receive that from them. It really touched their hearts and made them smile. For that I'm am very grateful."

Thanks — Lisa & Doug Sweeting

"During the church shut-down Paul and I were grateful recipients for faithfully receiving the two weekly SS papers with encouraging notes from Clara and Al. A big Thank You to the Graves. We Love You!!"

— Sandy Hilliard



continued to ask about updates on the situation at each weekly prayer meeting until he passed. It has been a time of much soul searching, questions, anxiety, and mourning with my two girls that I could not have gotten through without the continued prayers of all those who attended the prayer meetings during that time and the sympathy cards that I have received from several people expressing their concern and continued prayers for healing and support for myself and both of my girls.

I feel truly blessed to have been led to attend CWC, to have met such a warm and inviting group of people, and then to have so many angels reach out to me during this time of uncertainty and mourning. Please know that I am forever grateful for your love, prayers, and friendship. God is good all the time! And, I cannot wait until we can worship together again and be able to give you all hugs of gratitude and love. I say thank you, and send you peace and blessings.'

— Robin Stark

"Even with her busy teaching from home schedule, Peggy Link made time to appear at the Edgett's door with a greeting and gifts: the first time with delicious brownies and a beautiful mixed bouquet of flowers. The most recent was a lovely surprise of tulips and as always, an offer of help if needed.

Marilyn Palermo has continued to minister to Dot Murray with several meat loafs and special sugar free desserts. She also has cheered Dot with calls and thoughtful notes. Being a "shut-in", Dot says she understands quarantines!

Al and Clara Graves have been faithfully sending the adult Sunday School papers to many of us during these recent weeks when they couldn't give them out to us in person as we entered the sanctuary.

Ruth Hill dropped off a lovely devotional pamphlet (in the mailbox) and calls often to check up on us.

We are thankful for our granddaughter Bailey's "visits" with cookies, fun crocheted items and notes. She also has dropped off goodies and craft kits to her friends' homes while she can't be with them.

Our daughter Jenn has made it possible for us to avoid the grocery stores and still eat well as she shops for two families during all these weeks."

We have been blessed!"

— Waneta & Bob Edgett

"I would like to recognize several people who have reached out in special ways during this time- Cindy Chapman for all her creative dramas that we have enjoyed along with all those who helped bring them to the stage. I also want to thank her for all the encouraging devotions that she's written.

I want to thank the worship team for coming together and providing us with such

I want to thank Debbie and Frank for the Easter and Mother's Day slide shows. They were Fun and creative.

Then there is little Clara Graves still sending out our materials every week with a personal note- you can still feel her hugs and kisses.

Want to thank the tech team who has worked to keep us updated with Zoom and online services.

Special thanks to Lynn Hannon for still reaching out to keep us women connected.

Thank Pastor Carl and the board for leading us through this special time."

— Susan Dyer

"Linda has gathered up PPE's, sanitizers and nitrile gloves for the Baldwinsville Police Department, Ambulance Corp, DPW and Village Hall when it was very difficult to find any. She also has been making available many puzzles to lend out to those looking for some mental relief from the isolation, including mailing one to Kym Shackleton."

— Dick Clarke



"The Palmisanos as a family went around "chalking" our driveways. First, they came on Palm Sunday and wrote HAPPY PALM SUNDAY and drew pictures of palm branches. Next, they came on

Easter Sunday and wrote HAPPY EASTER and drew pictures of the tomb. Last they came on Mother's Day and wrote HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. I was able to catch them in the act of their good deed the 2nd and 3rd times and thank them! I cannot tell you how much this meant to me! I miss the children SO MUCH! I am so thankful that Keri and Frank had their children do this for me...and other neighbors!"

Grateful for our church family!

— Barb Good



"Thank you, Jenn, for all you do for our church family.

Susan and I have spent telephone time on prayer for much longer than we have in the past because of the time we do have now.

Bless Clara Graves heart, I've received several cards along with a special handwritten note with scriptures in it a couple times...."

Lynn Hannon scheduled the ladies Bible study online by Zoom which I don't normally attend and many of us ladies have benefited from it and all of Lynn's work and time."

— Marilyn Palermo

"My sister usually has a companion come several hours a week through Interfaith Works. Although our friend has not been able to come to be with her during this quarantine period, Interfaith Works staff and her companion have been very faithful about calling once a week to check on her and see if there's anything we need. On May 15th we had a surprise visitor with a care package from Interfaith Works. It included a mask, toilet paper, paper towels, a bottle of spray disinfecting cleaner, laundry detergent and several other things. Canton Woods also calls to check on us and see if we need anything. It is wonderful to have such wonderful support systems in Central New York."

— Toots Cooper