

## Dear Families:

This week, we read a passage from the Gospel of Matthew. This passage is one of the most famous in the Bible: the Beatitudes. During a sermon to the people, Jesus offers words of comfort. He tells us that life is difficult, and it is okay if we suffer through things for His sake. If we feel sad, hopeless, or bullied will be filled with joy. People who live as God wants, even when it's hard, will be made glad. We are not to worry about the concerns of this life. If we live how God wants us to live, even through hardship, we will be rewarded with the ultimate prize- living with Jesus in Heaven for eternity.

The extreme winter weather canceled church last week. There is a bright spot to this cold winter weather: the weekly gourmet hot chocolate sales are back! For \$1 per cup, you can enjoy some gourmet hot chocolate and support Literacy of Love. We will be selling hot chocolate after church every Sunday that there isn't a potluck luncheon until warm weather returns.

You can support the youth in other ways as well! There is an ongoing mini-rummage sale in Fellowship Hall. You can continue to bring in bottle slips. And the donation boxes in Fellowship Hall are always there. The bin that supports our church Blessing Box is in constant need of items. Let's make this year the year that Christ is felt here in Olean!

Today, we hope you will stay and join us for our Annual Meeting. The following week, we will celebrate Scout Sunday with our Scouting friends on February 8<sup>th</sup>. We are also collecting for a special food drive in conjunction with Olean High School. If you can bring in a canned good to support their Souper Bowl of Caring, the donation would be much appreciated.

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director