

Christ UMC Vision Statement
*"Living Christ's ways and
exploding with love and service"*

Sunday Schedule

Praise Worship 9 a.m.
FHITX PRESS & Bible Study 10 a.m.
Traditional Worship 11 a.m.

*TOTAL STEWARDSHIP
PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS,
AND SERVICE*
Serving - the nature of stewardship

Christ UMC Staff

Pastor:
Sinnathamby Thevanesan
Minister for Education & Community Enrichment:
Sally J. Pollard
Office Manager/Ministry Assistant:
Richard Stanley
Director of Music:
Elizabeth Holt Curtis
Praise team Leader:
Oren Hollasch
Financial Secretary:
Doris Schanzlin
Treasurer:
Dennis Scaringi
Custodian:
David Wolf



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

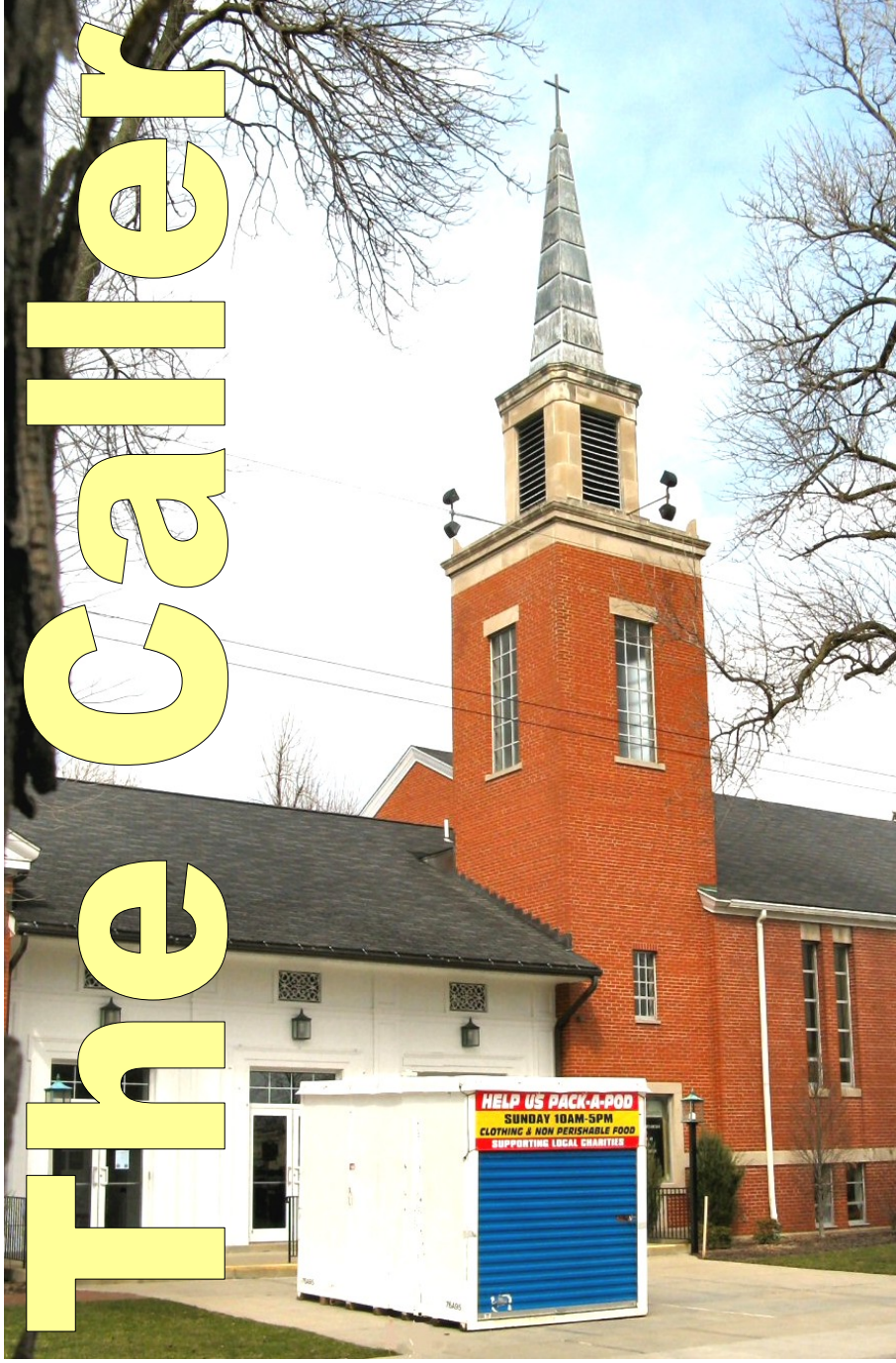
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May 2011



With Joy... From Sally

Here we are on the other side of Easter ... the event that defines us as Christians. Journeying through Lent helps me to focus once again on the defining moments of Jesus' life and somehow my life is redefined as well ... redefined by love.

From the first moment of creation God's purpose has been alive in the world, alive in the air, the water, the fish, insects, birds, plants, animals, the trees, and you and me. God called it good. For me that "goodness" means each part is well suited to God's purpose & capable of contributing to bringing it to life ... our life. That understanding defines me.

Jesus came into my life when I came into life. My parents made sure He was there. They introduced Him to me. As I grow in years and life experiences, and especially in relationships, Jesus' life and mine continue to take on meaning. At age 16, I was redefined by the love that came to me through a group of teenagers at a youth gathering. I was accepted. At age 25, I was redefined by love as Communion was offered. Someone looking straight into my eyes told me this was offered for me and I felt that way. At age 40, I sat in the parking lot of this church, taking time to pray before my interview for the position of Christian Educator. I said, "I'm trusting in you, God," but suddenly I knew without a doubt that God was trusting in me ... and I was redefined by love. These moments, and so many more, define my life everyday as one of God's people, a Christ-follower.

Some of the highest moments of my faith journey were the low moments of my life, times when I fell on my face, made the worst choices, felt the deepest pain of regret and despair, loneliness, and sadness, times when I was just plain weary. Through those experiences I know the strength of God's forgiving love, saving and renewing me ... redefining my life with love.

The community of the church enables us to share the moments of our lives ... those that tear us up and those that put us back together. What is saving your life today? How is your life being redefined by love? How is Christ Church being redefined by God's love?

Sally

JUNE CALLER DEADLINE - FRIDAY, MAY 13

☞ **ALL ARTICLES TO CALLER350@YAHOO.COM** ☞

QUESTIONS? CONTACT KATHY WEAVER @ 839-5918 OR KDW23@ROADRUNNER.COM

The last page and some lasting thoughts...



Dear Friends,

Four good years of triumphs, struggles, fun, and frustrations have come to an end. Certainly you and I have contributed immensely to the recent history of Christ Church in Snyder. Life is never meant to be static. We need to move on. Pastor BJ will soon be your spiritual leader. I welcome him wholeheartedly, along with his pastor and musician spouse Karen to our congregation. You will certainly find their presence among you refreshing.

Now here is a word about me. I was called to ministry in the turbulent '60s. I remember vividly saying "yes" to a small voice and a nudging gentle spirit. My friends who had known me intimately said I had some hallucinations. For a stubborn, irrational, and confused lad in my mid-20s, with only an ounce of intelligence in my head, this experience was too much to be true. Now on looking back on my journey of four decades of ministry in the church, it has turned out to be an impossible possibility. The one who called me into service carried me around the world and has given me to many as a gift of love. And I'm humbled. Deep in my heart, I'm grateful.

Thirty-eight years ago my wife said the last thing she would ever be was the spouse of a pastor. And now I must say in public that if not for her love and understanding, I would not have found ministry exciting and exhilarating. Our children have added joy and blessing to my ministry most of the time. I couldn't have asked for a more supportive family.

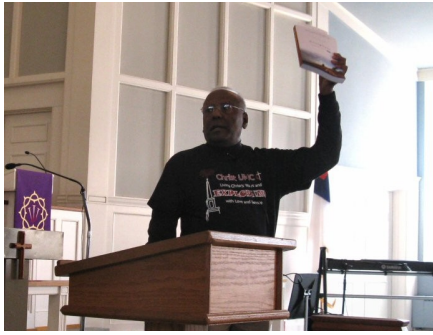
Each pastor brings with him or her a variety of gifts and graces. Even though I've enjoyed every aspect of the church's ministry, my specialty has always been that of providing pastoral care. I was well-grounded in this skill from my seminary days. So I always counted it as a privilege to be with people during their emotional highs and lows, and in the most memorable moments of their journeys – baptisms, confirmations, marriages, hospitalizations, and most importantly, at deaths and during the time of bereavement. My style of leadership has never been glittery, showy, and forceful. For those who expected that aspect of leadership in me, I would have been a disappointment. I know that I am a nurturing enabler.

And my last word in this last page is to you. Thanks for your wholehearted support in all our church-related endeavors during these four years. I compliment you for finding the resources for renovating the parsonage, upgrading the pipe organ, making the cosmetic improvements in the Wesley Room, and creating a new Gathering Space in Crafts Hall. The 60-year celebrations you put on for the church will always be memorable.

Keep up the good work. Love life. Love God in all circumstances. Love your community. Be passionate about people. Don't waver in your loyalty to Christ Church.

May God bless you,

Pastor Theva



FAITH PRESS

Pre-K- Grade 5 † Sunday mornings † 10 am † Lower level

May 1, 15, 22

THE SEVEN HELPERS

During May we'll become familiar with the Bible story of the seven helpers from the book of Acts. (Acts 6:1-7) Each week we'll have guests from our church family sharing how they are helpers at church and in the world. Together we'll experience how working together can multiply our efforts.

Sunday, May 8 - Mother's Day

Worship Service at 10 am

SOUL-STRENGTH GROUP

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

Middle School † Grades 6-8 † Room 22 † Lower Level

Everyone's invited to

A Soul - Strength Breakfast

Sunday, May 1

Net proceeds will go to Heifer Project International.

Help us help others!

A.O.L.@CUMC

Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church

Sunday mornings † 10am † Wesley Room

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

Video presentations provide interesting topics for discussion.

INTO ALL THE WORLD

Megan Weaver - Europe - May 15

Thursday mornings † 10 am

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

Led by Diane Klenk

STUDY THE BIBLE



Follow these readings each month and read through the Bible in one year.

MAY 2010

S	1	Second Sunday of Easter	John 20: 19-31
M	2	Gideon and the fleece	Judges 6: 36-40
T	3	Jonah saved from the sea.....	Jonah 1: 1-17
W	4	Jesus speaks of Jonah	Matthew 12: 38-42
Th	5	Receiving God's promise through baptism	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
F	6	I will call upon God	Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
S	7	Born anew	1 Peter 1: 17-23
S	8	Third Sunday of Easter	Luke 24: 13-35
M	9	The word of God endures	1 Peter 1 :23-25
T	10	Wisdom serves a meal	Proverbs 8: 32 - 9: 6
W	11	The risen Christ eats with the disciples	John 21: 1-14
Th	12	The believer's common life	Acts 2: 42-47
F	13	God our shepherd	Psalm 23
S	14	Follow the shepherd, even in suffering	1 Peter 2: 19-25
S	15	Fourth Sunday of Easter	John 10: 1-10
M	16	God the true shepherd	Ezekial 34: 17-23
T	17	God's blessing	Hebrews 13: 20-21
W	18	God will gather the flock.....	Jeremiah 23: 1-8
Th	19	Martyrdom of Stephen	Acts 7: 55-60
F	20	I commend my spirit	Psalm 31: 1-5,15-16
S	21	God's chosen people	Peter 2: 2-10
S	22	Fifth Sunday of Easter	John 14: 1-14
M	23	God leads the way	Exodus 13: 17-22
T	24	God, the truth and life	Proverbs 3: 5-12
W	25	Jesus, the truth of God	John 8: 31-38
Th	26	Paul's message to the Athenians	Acts 17: 22-31
F	27	Be joyful in God, all you lands	Psalm 66: 8-20
S	28	The days of Noah	1 Peter 3: 13-22
S	29	Sixth Sunday of Easter	John 14: 15-21
M	30	Sign of the covenant	Genesis 9: 8-17
T	31	Seek peace and pursue it.	1 Peter 3: 8-12

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH



- May 1: 12- 2 p.m. Plan the Mother's Day service
- May 8: 10 a.m. Mother's Day Service
- May 15: No meeting
- May 22: 12- 5 p.m. Canoe at Ellicott Creek-Bring pizza \$
- May 29: No Meeting

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Still paying it forward: Until May 1, the Health and Wellness team will collect for the Heifer Project. This project helps those in need around the world by providing various animals (chickens, pigs, cows, etc.) that can be both a source of income and food, thus helping them become self-sufficient. The recipients, in turn, are obligated to share the offspring with others, helping them to earn a living as well. Please continue to drop your loose change into the 'little piggies' in the Sanctuary and support the Soul-Strength group's Welcome Breakfast on May 1 at noon.

Medical apparatus available: We have various medical devices (canes, wheelchairs, walkers, commodes) available for you to borrow. They can be found in the closet with the rainbow curtain at the bottom of the back stairs. If you need any of these items, just sign them out on the bulletin board next to the closet and sign them back in when you return them.



CURRENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



Central City Café is located in Durham Memorial AME Zion church in Buffalo. It is open five days each week offering hot lunches and community support services for over 100 people daily. The café has been open for about 25 years, and Christ Church has been involved with it since its inception. We've prepared hundreds of casseroles and served hundreds of meals – but this

month we are changing the day that we will be serving. Our **new** day will be the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-1:00, and any amount of time would be appreciated! It is our hope that this day will be convenient for more people to get involved. If you want to help out, please sign up in Crafts Hall. Our next Share a Meal for Central City is May 8, so please take a pan home with you, prepare the casserole, and return it to church on May 15. The Café is also in need of ground coffee, sugar, and plastic spoons and forks.



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has partnered with the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) and first-responder GlobalMedic to bring immediate relief to communities in Japan affected by the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami. It is still winter in

Japan, the weather is bitterly cold and windy, and snow is falling in the devastated northern part of the country. You can help through prayer and by supporting UMCOR's efforts through our partners in Japan to bring food, water, and other necessities to earthquake and tsunami survivors. Your support will allow UMCOR to provide not only immediate assistance but long-term rehabilitation. **Japan Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317** is the designated giving channel for contributions to respond to the crisis in Japan. This advance originally was called Pacific Emergency, when the risk of tsunamis was expected to affect the entire region. 100 percent of donations to this Advance will help the people of Japan recover from this still unfolding disaster. Your generosity will support the rebuilding of communities, and may address the reconstruction of homes and places of worship, among other needs.

Thank You!...for sharing God's love and hope with the world and with our community by supporting the many Outreach ministries of our church.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

On April 9, we toured Forest Lawn Cemetery with Elizabeth Circle - just in time to see the deer and goose! The famous Blocher memorial is a work of art. Yes, they're our Blochers!



On May 7, we'll tour the Amherst Police Call Center and Fire Control Center, carpooling from the church at 10 a.m. Should you wish to go alone, meet us at the APD HQ, 500 John James Audubon Parkway, at 10:30 am. Our group is open to all Methodist men, including YOU! Questions? See Tom Nye or Chris Klenk.

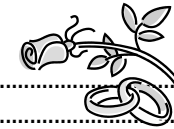
MAY BIRTHDAYS

Tom McCray.....	1	Mary Landel.....	20
Marge Warfel.....	1	Rebecca Lopez.....*	21
Roger Johnson.....	2	Ryan Lopez.....	21
Ruth Kitson.....	2	Scott Smith.....	21
Margaret Mugel.....	3	Taylor Deer.....	22
Ruth Swenson.....	4	Sally Pollard.....	22
Marion Swenson.....	11	Janet Hider.....	24
Rosemary Little.....	12	Pastor Theva.....	24
Mary E Ball.....	13	Christopher Maliken.....	27
Charles Terranova.....	13	Jacob Rhinehart.....	28
Jordan Lawson.....	14	Alice Schmidt.....	28
Linnea George.....	16	Megan Noyes.....	30
Kristin Darling.....	18	Adam Schroeder.....	30



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Greg & Lynn Ramsey.....	May 4, 1984
Roger & Dede Johnson.....	May 10, 1986



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On Tuesday, May 17 at 7 p.m. there will be a presentation on the Kathleen Mary House ... a place of new beginnings, with Sara Holley as the key speaker. Kathleen Mary House is a Southtowns transitional house that opened its doors to women and children who are victims of domestic violence and need safe, short-term housing. The Kathleen Mary House is more than a place to live; it's a place of new beginnings. Residents are given the physical, emotional, and spiritual assistance they need in a secure, nurturing environment. Elizabeth Circle will host the event. The cost is \$5; coffee and dessert will be served.



United
Methodist
Women

The UMW will host a garage sale on Saturday, June 25. Tables are \$10 each. Admission is \$1. The sale will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with setup at 8 a.m. For more details, contact Diane Lovejoy at 835-9572. A bake sale will also be held and food will be available.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE 1ST QUARTER REPORT

Through March 31, 2011, we have 110 pledging units for total general operations pledges of \$211,058. Our budget is based on an anticipated \$216,000 of general operations pledges. Total anticipated income is \$277,000 and anticipated expenses total \$324,690.

Eight pledging units have fully paid 2011 pledges, totaling \$15,550. 25 units are behind in their pledges — a shortage of \$4,217.

Our Total Income from all sources as of March 31 was \$88,091 and our General Operations Expenses for that period were \$70,787.

We've paid \$5,346 toward our 2011 apportionments of \$42,771.

Special Offerings	Blanket Sunday:	\$442
(to date)	UMCOR/Japan donations:	\$800
	Golden Cross Sunday:	\$282
	One Great Hour of Sharing (April):	\$352



UMW School of Missions

"All Things Made New"

July 21-23, 2011

SUNY Geneseo

Marie Follett, Dean

Topics include:

Coming Out on the Side of Grace – Rev. Craig French

Joy to the World – Wayne Bank

Discovering Haiti – Genie Bank and Molly Golando

**Reservations must be made by the end of June.
See Peggy Bermudez or Beth Sweet for more information.**

*Because you have shared in their lives
with your friendship and love,
you are invited to an evening of
food and celebration honoring*

*Pastor Theva and Malar Thevanesan
and their ministry and service to God and God's people.*

*Friday evening, May 13, 2011
at 6:00 p.m.*

*The Palms Banquet Center
7740 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY
(Parking and entrance located behind Tandoori Restaurant)*

*Evening includes hors d'oeuvres,
buffet dinner featuring American and Indian dishes suited to
your palate, celebrations and remembrances.
A Cash bar will be available*

*RSVP to Christ Church, 839-2460
Cost: \$32 per person
Make checks payable to CUMC.*

Rev. Thevanesan will retire from active ministry on June 30, 2011



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet May 5 at the home of Carol Corsaro, 2784 Stenzel Ave., North Tonawanda, 694-0368. Hostess is Kay Barber 634-6987. The program will be CC Designs – a jewelry show. Contact Carol or Kay if you plan to attend.

We will also host the May 17 Kathleen Mary House presentation.

Rachel Circle will meet May 17 in the Wesley Room at 12 noon.

Deborah Circle will meet May 24 in the Wesley Room at 12 noon.

“BE THE CHURCH” SUNDAY...

What an awesome activity this became at CUMC on April 3, 2011!

Who would have imagined a few months earlier, when Jim Pollard said “... let’s call it “Pack the Pod,” that we would not only “Pack the Pod” with clothing and food for the Friends of the Night People program in Buffalo, but also have our Soul Strength (middle school age) group whip up plates of sweet rolls and cookies, or that members of CUMC would go out with those goodies and visit 16 members who are currently not able to attend Church regularly. Or that over 25 “thinking of you” note cards would be written and sent away to our college students and re-located members to remind them that we care for them also? Who would have guessed?

I feel so proud of CUMC members. We took the initiative and actually lived the concept “Be the Church.” We met our goal of Nurture, Outreach, and Witness. Our neighbors joined in and donated many, many bags of clothing and food, often leaving with a comment such as “do this again sometime, I’ve always got stuff.” Every visit had a positive moment of welcoming and joy on the part of the visitee, that CUMC had remembered them in some small, kind way. “We had a great visit” ... Ed and Cindy Fisher, “I don’t know who gained more [from the visit] - her or us!” ... Diane and Chris Klenk, “It was wonderful! She is such a delightful woman and an inspiration.” ... Lee Watson.

I wish to thank all who participated by giving of their time (and in some cases money) to make this a success. I’m hesitant to name people cuz I will forget someone, but let me at least acknowledge Dick Mugel as the Coordinator; the Watson, Bermudez, and Mugel families; and the Pollards for being there the entire Sunday afternoon. It could not have happened without you.

So, Church ... should we do this again and more often?? I hear a resounding “YES!!” and so we shall!

Beth Sweet
Church Council Chair



FAREWELL

We thank our wonderful friends at CUMC for the meaningful worship service and delightful reception on Sunday, April 10. It meant the world to us. We will miss our congregation of forty-six years and will carry with us the church's deep Christian fellowship and commitment to mission. It is our hope that we will find a church home that nourishes and challenges us in similar ways. We hope to return from time to time and see you once again!



Our new information: 1346 Village Drive
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Telephone: (847) 870-2199

In Christian love,
Barry and Jean Wood

The members and staff of Christ United Methodist Church extend their sincere condolences to the family of Mary L. Ball, who died March 11, 2011.

Mid Years+ Ministry

For those age 55 plus

DINNER IN THE COUNTRY

Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 1:30 pm

The Iron Kettle Restaurant

1009 Olean Road (Old Rte. 16) East Aurora, NY 14052 652-5310

Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Pot Roast with Vegetables, Bread, Coffee, Tea, Pop, and Dessert.

Please make entrée selection when purchasing your ticket.

Tickets are \$14 on sale April 24, May 1, and May 8 in Crafts Hall.

Driving directions and maps will be available with your tickets.

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Please download the calendar separately.

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