

UPDATE - August 11, 2015
Christ United Methodist Church
Harlem Road at Saratoga Road
Amherst, New York

“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”

EVERYONE is WELCOME

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship & 11:00 – Traditional Style Worship

Why not bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God?

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: www.Christchurchamherst.org

Or call us at: [716-839-2460](tel:716-839-2460)

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

A word from Pastor Darryl

We have just concluded the half-way point of our Sermon Series on *“Miracles and Multitudes”* using the common lectionary readings on the Gospel of John chapter 6. As Jesus lives out his life and ministry among the multitudes following him and gathering around him he extends an offering of life-giving bread! The last two Sundays our offering centered on the sub-topics of *“Inward Hunger”* and *“Life-Giving Bread”* respectively. Our discipleship living is a journey, and we need food, we need strength for the journey. I posed this question relating to the first topic: Do you find yourself running on empty sometimes, bogged down in the ordinariness of life? Maybe it’s time to eat. The food of life, the food for the soul is all around us, especially present in our church. It’s in the people who sit beside you, in the light that shines through these stained glass windows, the songs we sing, the prayers we offer, in the very breath of our bodies. Our inward hunger is in the ordinary things, the daily miracles that we take for granted. I encouraged us to renew our faith and trust in the One who has claimed us by hearing his words afresh, ***“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”***

This past Sunday I also encouraged us to reflect deeply on ways in which we offer life-giving bread to others around us. The religious people grumbled at Jesus’ claims. As a youth I grumbled because I wanted new shoes but then I saw a person with no feet. We heard of the life-changing stories of young people on a mission trip to the Appalachian region here in the USA. These young people give clothing from off their backs and the shoes from their feet and left it for other children except for what they had to use to travel back home. Our children, our young people are showing us the way. And in the midst of all the grumbling and fussing at Jesus’ claim that ***He is the life-giving bread from heaven*** I reminded us that it was just a day or two before all that fussing and fighting that a child shared his lunch of five barley loaves and

two fish. Our children are watching us and leading the way Jesus offers us life-giving bread so that we might transform the world! What are we going to do about it?

A team of us from Christ Church – Sally Pollard, Janelle Martin, Sandy Cumming and yours truly had an enriching experience at the Global Leadership Summit last Thursday and Friday in Rochester NY. There is lots to share from the Summit – I will share more in the next issue of The Caller. What stayed prominent in my mind during all the exhilarating and uplifting sessions is the conviction that we as a church need to have some ***courageous conversations*** about the ***creative, courageous and contagious ways*** we might shift how we do church, that is, how we practice our faith to reach others with Christ’s love and service in the ***21st century***.

Last but not least, many thanks for sharing Birthday Greeting cards (some really humorous ones – I laughed my socks off!). Although I was at the Summit for part of last Friday – the day of my birthday I had a wonderful day! As always, I am praying for you and with you daily. May God’s love and blessings be always with you, and my love to all of you. See you in church and always invite someone to join us for worship! Darryl

Here’s what’s happening at church...

Last Sunday we welcomed **Debbie LaBerta** into the community of Christ Church as she reaffirmed her faith.

Aleksander Rein Leetmaa & Asher Aaron Leetmaa were presented for baptism by their parents Michelle and Ivo. They are the grandsons of Diane and John Glenn. Their baptism took place at the entrance of the worship space signifying their entrance into the life of faith and the community of the church. We celebrate this milestone in their journey in faith as they are marked with the sign of the cross forever.

Mac & Juliana Sabol offered their gifts as they sang “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.”

In our Prayers: Ed Maker at home recovering from surgery; **Guy Castellino & family; Wenner Family; Ann Burdette** at Brompton Heights; **Mary Jo Evans**, Blocher Home; **Elizabeth Brunner**, broke her arm; **Mitch Mooney** - Amberleigh; **Glenn Hurst** at home; **Tom Davis** at Elderwood Room 312-A, 200 Bassett Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221; **Jan Rhinehart; Sharon Ferrelli** continues cancer treatments; **Dr. Robert Nachbar**, Blocher Home; **Charles Terranova**, hodgkins lymphoma; **Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Barbara Clinton, Fred and Lynda Panton, Bim Rowlands, Nicky Sebastiano, Ruth Kitson, Ruth Luss, Shirley Downey; Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy.**

Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign) especially: **Alex Dunbar, Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling** (recently home on leave) all serving in the US Navy).

Food Collection - for local food pantries.

Suggested donation for this week – Macaroni & Cheese

Next week – Canned fruits & vegetables (low sodium)

All non-perishable food items are always welcome and paper products are also needed - tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, sanitary products.

Please place items in the grocery carts at the church.

Café Connection – Hosts needed

Each Sunday morning everyone is welcomed to our Café where food and beverages are available and a place to meet people, read or just take a break and “be.” People are needed to set up, top up and clean up. If you or you and a group are willing to provide hospitality, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Café or call the church office. Instructions are available on the refrigerator door and there is always help available.

Choir

Start warming up those voices - choir season will soon be upon us! The first rehearsal will be held Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30p.m. in the Choir Room. The choir typically sings at the 11a.m. service. New and returning members are welcome. Come check things out! For more information, please see Kevin Durkin, Minister of Music.

A Date With Darryl – *Getting to know you...*

During August & September small group gatherings with Pastor Darryl will be held. In these small groups you'll have the opportunity to get to know more about Pastor Darryl and your church friends. If you are willing to host a group in your home contact Paula Kreib.

Picnic In The Park – MYM style (Mature Years Ministry)

An afternoon of fun, food & friends will take place on Friday, August 21 from 3-7 pm at the Clarence Town Park. The cost is \$5 per person plus a salad or dessert item to share. Hot dogs, hamburgers and rolls will be provided. Sign up at church or contact Bob & Marcia Snyder at 741-6901.

Powerful Tools For Caregivers – Tuesdays, Sept 1 – Oct 6 4 – 6:30pm

Trinity Old Lutheran Church
3445 Sheridan Dr. Amherst

Cost - \$25 (covered for Ind. Health & Blue Cross/Shield members)

The program is designed to provide tools you need to take care of yourself, reduce stress, improve self-confidence, better communicate your feelings, balance your life, increase your ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources. *Pre-registration is required.*

Call (716) 858-2177 or e-mail caregiver@erie.gov for more information about Powerful Tools for Caregivers Classes and to register.

Coming up this Sunday, August 16...

Series continues with:

“Miracle & Multitudes – Jesus Our Lifeline”

John 6:51-58

Special music in worship (11 am) by **Ron Corsaro** on piano.

Reminder.....

“Caller” newsletter deadline for September is **Thursday, August 13.**

Always remember you are part of a purpose!

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DRB/SJP