

UPDATE - August 25, 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

Summer Hours for the Church Office (Through September 4):
Monday through Thursday- 9 am to 3 pm. Fridays – 9am to **12 noon**

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 a.m. – Praise Celebration Worship & 11:00a.m. – 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

This last Sunday we wrapped up our 5-week sermon series on “*Miracles and Multitudes*” as seen through the Bread of Life discourse in the Gospel of John, chapter 6. If there are further reflections you wish to share with me and others on this series, please feel free to drop me a line by email or phone call. As I continue my own reflection on last week’s sub-topic “*Too Hard To Swallow*,” here is what I offer to you to ponder this week: Jesus points out that the Twelve (the first followers) were chosen. It goes without saying that out of great love, God has chosen us ALL. And yet, at the same time, we are called to choose every day ‘whom we will serve.’ We are called to wonder every day as we begin a new day: Will I choose to live in kindness or will I let old hurts taint my responses to those around me? Will I close my office door or will I respond to the cry of pain in the outer office; or the person on the other end of the phone line; or in our neighborhood and beyond? Will I work for justice in the world or will I cower in my fear that I might offend? Will I entrust to God a portion of what I have been given or will I hoard it all away in fear? Will I begin and end my day in prayer or will I try to go it alone?

Like Simon Peter we do choose ‘who we will serve – who it is we will follow.’ We thank God every day that God made the ultimate choice for us first. We have

before us now a central question as people of faith and so it is vitally important to keep it before us. For while God did choose us, you and I are called to choose how we will live out the joy of having been so chosen. Shall we live it out in hope and love and promise? Or shall we not? Either way, what will that look like? What do you think? What stories from your own experience shape your thinking on this? What does it look like to 'choose' to serve God in the day to day? What choices are you faced with even now?

This Sunday we will begin a 3-week sermon series on "*Leadership*." Yesterday I entered the keyword "leadership" in the book section of Amazon.com and I got 146,934 hits – One hundred and forty-six thousand nine hundred and thirty-four! Why is there so much material on this one subject? The law of supply and demand would say it is because people are buying it. But I suspect there are other, more subtle reasons.

Last Friday once again I had a blast with our MYM group! These "Young Methodists" know how to have a great time! I didn't do "so well" at Bocce but I had fun anyway; oh, and the food was so delicious! Thanks to Marcia and Bob Snyder and their team in putting on a great picnic! 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!

Here's what's happening at church...

Last Sunday **Beverley Hurst** offered her gift of music as she sang *Let There Be Peace On Earth* in the 11 am worship service.

It was a joy to see **Ann Burdette** back at church for worship on Sunday.

Nancy Hess and **Bob Nachbar** (90) celebrated birthdays!

In our Prayers: **Ed Maker** at home recovering from surgery; **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; **Sharon Ferrelli** beginning radiation treatment; **Dr. Robert Nachbar**, Blocher Home; **Charles Terranova**, Hodgkins Lymphoma; **Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Barbara Clinton**, **Fred and Lynda Painton**, **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** (all serving in the US Navy).

Food Collection - for local food pantries.

Suggested donation for this week:

Cereal - hot, cold, or bars

Next Week – Soup

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

Please place items in the grocery carts at the church.

Family Promise - *Still time to offer your help!*

We will be hosting a family who is homeless through Family Promise on Friday, August 28 at Crossroads Lutheran Church on Main Street at Burroughs Dr. Help is needed to set up and serve dinner from 4:45 – 7 pm. and to visit with the family from 7 – 9:45 pm. Contact **Lee Watson at 837-0589** to offer your help.

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. *Donations of food & drink items are also of help if you are not able to be a host.*

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 for the 11 am worship service. New and returning members are welcome. Come check things out! For more information, please see Kevin Durkin, Minister of Music.

Sign Up Now - A Date With Darryl

Clipboard sign- up sheets are available on the bulletin board at the back of the worship space. During August & September small group gatherings with Pastor Darryl will take place at various locations. You'll have the opportunity to get to know more about Pastor Darryl and your church friends. Contact Paula Kreib if you have questions.

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](tel:7168582177) or e-mail caregiver@erie.gov for more information about Powerful Tools for Caregivers Classes and to register.

Coming up this week

Tuesday, August 25, 4-6 pm - Worship Team

7 pm – Christian Education Team

Wednesday, August 26 - 7 pm - Date With Darryl at church

Friday, August 28 - 7 pm - Game Night

**Ron Corsaro & friends performing on the Mainstage
at the Lewiston Jazz Festival!!**

Coming up this Sunday, August 30...

"Creative Leadership: Discerning Pathways to Imagination & Passion"

Exodus 31:1-6, 35: 30-33

Circle of Joy - Serving dinner at Seneca St UMC

Remember – Everyone wins when a leader gets better.

Bill Hybels, Global Leadership Summit

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

DRB/sjp