



**Christ UMC Vision Statement**

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

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

Praise Celebration 9 am  
All Ages Education Hour 10 am  
Traditional Style Celebration 11 am

**TOTAL STEWARDSHIP**

**PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS,  
AND SERVICE**

*Serving - the nature of stewardship*



**Christ UMC Staff**

*Senior Pastor*

**Dr. B.J. Norrix**

*Minister for Education & Community Enrichment*

**Sally J. Pollard**

*Office Manager/Ministry Assistant*

**Rachel Vaughan**

*Director of Music*

**Elizabeth Holt Curtis**

*Financial Secretary*

**Doris Schanzlin**

*Treasurer*

**Dennis Scaringi**

*Custodian*

**David Wolf**

**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**November 2011**



### With Joy... From Sally

November! Doesn't seem possible, but Thanksgiving and Advent are just around the corner. The fall has been full of new plans & new directions and I can feel us moving forward "on the road" to somewhere. It's a good feeling.

In our FaithXpress learning about festivals Jesus observed in his Jewish household, we've discovered that light is an important symbol. Lamps appear in the Torah and the Bible as a symbol of lighting the way for the righteous, for the wise, and for love and other positive values. In Jewish festivals observed today two candles are always lit...one for remembrance and one for observance or to practice in one's life God's commandments. We have two candles on our worship table reminding us to do the same, believing that Jesus light is present with us showing us the way. Light is given a positive spiritual meaning. The oil lamp and its light were essential household items, which may explain the symbolism.

Now as we come to Advent, a time of watching, waiting, and hoping, it's a time to be prepared for the unexpected, for the new thing God is doing in our lives. It's a time to give up on the illusion that things will always be the same and move forward in straight lines and familiar patterns. It's time to accept the fact that life will not go on as it has, that change is coming and no one knows what direction it will take. History shows us likelihood, possibilities, and the unexpected. Faith shows us watchful expectancy for God's work and purpose. The danger is in hijacking the future by seeking our own agenda, being short-sighted, distracted and going off course. Thomas Merton writes in *Thoughts In Solitude*, these helpful words, "My God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. ...And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me...."

Sally



### FROM BJ'S DESK...

And now the days get shorter and colder. Summer passed through the glorious transition we call autumn, and autumn is now falling toward winter. I love this time of year. I love the crunch of fallen leaves under my shoes (and running through the piles – well, not exactly 'running'). I love the nip in the air, the frost on the pumpkins, and nature's seasonally enforced Sabbath rest. The world goes through its seasons, our lives pass through seasons; it is the way of things.

In my nearly 40 years of walking with Christ, I have become aware that my Soul, my Spiritual self, also goes through seasons. There are times of profound and rapid growth, bursting in color and creative energy. There are times of mature, fruit-bearing stretches where all is right with life and our world. There have been times of decline, of undressing, of losing parts of myself. And there have been those times of sitting fallow, quietly waiting for the next move of God and the next time of renewal. I have come to learn to rejoice in each of these passing spiritual seasons. I have learned to be thankful for the growth, thankful for the ripening fruit of my life, thankful for the brilliant transformation of those autumn stretches, and, finally, thankful for the quiet rest before the next burst.

I love the seasons. I love the cycles. I love the ebb and flow of the spiritual life. I love that I am always connected to Jesus – that never changes. I also love that everything else (and I mean *everything* else) is in a constant state of change. What season are you in? Revel in the continuing cycle. We move from fruit, to discarding to rest, and, finally, to renewal. In our essential wiring we know this. We love the sameness of the seasons... and we love the fact that even though it looks much like last year, we experience it new and marvelously different every year.

God's grace is calling each of us to move in, move on, and move through our current spiritual season. That is to say, we are called to continue to grow.

The frosts of November are upon us...enjoy! This is but another season on our journey to renewal.

Dr. BJ

## MID-YEARS + MINISTRY

FOR THOSE AGE 55 AND ABOVE



## CHRISTMAS DINNER AT MOUNT VERNON AND TRADITIONAL CAROL SING

**Crafts Hall**

**Friday, December 9, at 5:30 pm**

*Appetizers with Mulled Cider*

*Virginia Baked Ham and Roast Turkey*

*With Chestnut Stuffing, Baked Sweet Potatoes with Apples*

*Spiced Cranberries, Baked Celery, Plantation Green Beans*

*Plum Pudding with Hard Sauce and Cherry Pie*

*Coffee and Tea*

**An evening of music from Amherst High School with**

**The Sweet Sixteens and the Varsity Singers**

Proceeds will benefit the CUMC youth group

Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased in Crafts Hall after each  
worship service on

November 20, 27, and December 4, 2011



**Grades Pre-K –12 † Sunday mornings † 10 am † Lower level**

November - December

## If It Happened Today

Christmas pageant preparations will be underway this month. Scene rehearsals will take place on Sunday mornings. Join us as we share the story of Christmas with humor and song. There's a part just right for you!

## **A.O.L.@CUMC**

*Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church*

Sunday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room

**Through November 20 - EVERYTHING IS SPIRITUAL**

Discussion based on this video by Pastor Rob Bell continues

**Starts November 27 - WHEN HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH**

Advent Study

Monday evenings † 7pm † Wesley Room † **October 3 & 31**

**PASTOR'S BIBLE CONVERSATIONS**

Exploring the Bible with Pastor BJ

Thursday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room

**ACTS - SEEING GOD'S POWER IN ACTION**

Study of Acts continues thru November

**WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?**

Advent Bible study by James W, Moore, begins in December

Diane Klenk, Facilitator

**Sunday Evenings † 6 pm † 249 S. Huxley Rd**

**FOOD, FRIENDSHIP, AND FUN**

Meets every other Sunday at the home of Audrey and Mike Gavin, 249 S. Huxley Drive, Cheektowaga. Call them at 835-2619 for dates and topics. Bring some food and come at 6 pm for the meal, or at 7 pm for the discussion, or come for both!



## ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS AND TRAVELERS!!!

If you leave town for the winter or for a long period and have your mail forwarded, PLEASE let the office know when you'll leave and plan to return. The Caller is bulk mail & not forwardable; the post office charges \$.44 for each return. It may not seem like much, but multiplied by all the returns, it adds up.

Thank you in advance for helping the Caller team reduce costs.

## IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES - ROUND II

To creatively meet our needs, the following items would greatly benefit by your contribution. If you would like to sponsor any of these activities for any specific length of time, please contact the church office.

ITEM	COST
Youth-prepared Seneca St. Church MEALS	\$25.00 serves 6
Monthly CALLER printing	\$30.00
Monthly CALLER postage	\$30.00 + \$200/yr fee
Monthly routine POSTAGE	\$25.00
Weekly Child Care ATTENDANT Cost	\$25.00
Monthly CANDLE OIL	\$20.00
Monthly COMMUNION Supplies/Altar expenses	\$10.00
Monthly General KITCHEN Supplies	sponsored
Weekly BULLETIN Printing	\$30.00
Replacement BOILER contribution	\$20,000 total needed

## OUR OUTREACH

Sharing Our Love, Living Our Faith

*Opportunities to share ourselves, our talents and our resources with others.*

# November Outreach Opportunities

## Media Sale to Benefit Outreach

Saturday November 12 from 9:00am -1:00pm

Why not stop by the Media sale and start your holiday shopping early? You won't believe the bargains you'll find!

If you have old CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, books, magazines or video games that you would like to donate for the sale, please see Lee Watson or Peggy Bermudez or bring them to the Outreach closet on the first floor. The proceeds will benefit the Outreach ministries of our church.

## The Giving Tree



**This is a great opportunity to spread Christmas love and hope! Starting November 20, the tree will be in Crafts Hall next to the café. Please take as many tags as you wish from the tree, fulfill the wish(es) and return your unwrapped gift(s) to the tree by December 11 to insure delivery for Christmas.**

*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..*

## SOUL STRENGTH KIDS MAKE UMCOR HEALTH KITS

The Middle School Soul Strength Group has assembled 25 UMCOR Health Care Kits, containing basic personal care items which will go to support people who've faced disaster and need life's basics.

## HOPE FOR AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

On November 15 &16, CUMC will host 15 children and adult leaders from the Humble School in Lukojjo, Uganda. We need vans and drivers to pick them up in Syracuse on Tuesday, November 15 and return to Syracuse on Thursday, November 17; host families for two nights - November 15 & 16; and transportation to Niagara Falls on November 15 for sightseeing and a concert at St. James UMC. They will sing in concert at CUMC on Wednesday, November 16 and have dinner at church with their host families prior to the concert. If you can help with these needs, please speak with Sally Pollard or the church office.

## UMW MEETING

A General Meeting of United Methodist Women will be held Saturday, November 5 at 10 a.m. The program will be by Carol Ann Gleason "The Cheerful Messenger". A continental breakfast will be hosted by Deborah Circle. Cost: \$5. Least coin and World Thank offering will be received . There will also be a pledge service for 2012. Officers for the 2012 year will be elected. Please join us!



## THANK YOU

Peter and Mary Jane Shanley would like to thank the members of the church for their cards, prayers and concerns during our recent hospitalizations. We are on our way to recovery.

Again, thank you.



## STUDY THE BIBLE



November 2011

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

T 1	All Saints' Day .....	Matthew 5:1-12
W 2	It shall be well with you .....	Psalm 128
T 3	Joshua calls Israel to serve God . .....	Joshua 24:1-30, 14-25
F 4	The power of God .....	Psalm 78:1-7.
S 5	The promise of the resurrection .....	1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18
<b>S 6</b>	<b>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.....</b>	<b>Matthew 25:1-13</b>
M 7	Joshua's generation passes on .....	Joshua 24:25-33
T 8	Stand firm in the faith .....	1 Thessalonians. 3:6-13
W 9	My words will not pass away . .....	Matthew 24:29-35
T 10	The iudgeship of Deborah .....	Judge4:1-7 .
F 11	Our eyes look to God .....	Psalm 123
S 12	Be alert for the day of the Lord .....	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
<b>S 13</b>	<b>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time .....</b>	<b>Matthew 2:14-30</b>
M 14	The righteous iudgment of God .....	Romans 2:1-11
T 15	Mother and sister protect Moses.....	Exodus 2:1-10
W 16	Esther's victory .....	Esther.7:1-10
T 17	God will shepherd Israel .....	Ezekiel. 34:11-16, 20-24
F 18	We are the people of God's pasture .....	Psalm 100
S 19	The reign of Christ .....	Ephesians 1:15-23
<b>S 20</b>	<b>Reign of Christ .....</b>	<b>Matthew 25:31-46</b>
M 21	Joshua to shepherd Israel .....	Numbers. 27:15-23
T 22	Two kinds of shepherds .....	Zechariah.11:4-17
W 23	God will shepherd the people .....	Jeremiah 31:10-14.
T 24	Thanksgiving Day .....	Luke 17:11-19
F 25	God will come with power and compassion .....	Isaiah. 64:1-9
S 26	Gift of grace sustains us .....	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
<b>S 27</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent .....</b>	<b>Mark 13:24-37</b>
M 28	A promise of peace .....	Micah 4:1-5
T 29	Judgment on human pride .....	Revelation 18:1-10
W 30	Be alert .....	Luke 21:34-38

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Geoff & Janet Hill.....	November 21, 1970
Jim & Laurie Hannon .....	November 22, 1980
Guy & Sharon Ferrelli.....	November 24, 1974
Al & Julie Wrisley .....	November 24, 1962
Jim & Sally Pollard.....	November 28, 1981

## PRAISE SERVICE PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED



We are seeking an associate shutterbug to take first service photos. If you have a digital camera , an e-mail connection, and are interested in seeing your work in print, please contact Richard Mestler at 830-1175 or e-mail him at [bflokids@yahoo.com](mailto:bflokids@yahoo.com).

## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH



6: Meeting With BJ 12-3pm  
 13: Wreath Sale in AM , Meeting 12--3pm  
 18-19: Conference Council Youth Ministry Gathering in Rochester. Cost \$80, leaving church 6pm, Friday  
 20: City Mission 3-6p, meet @ church by 1:30pm  
 27: No meeting.

More Information? Call Tim Reed, 838-4230 or Viki Smith, 839-1989

## STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Our financial status as of October 9, 2011, the 41st week was:

Total Income to Date:	\$220,445.00
Total Expenses to Date:	\$219,379.00
UMCOR Hurricane Donations:	\$1,722.00

The Thanksgiving offering will be used for our World Service Commitment. Envelopes will be in the pews and in the November 20 Bulletin. Please put your name on the envelope so we can give you credit

Because of the change in the Commitment Year, offering envelopes covering only the period of January through April, 2012 will be available in December. New envelopes for the new Commitment Year will be issued in April for the period of May, 2012 through April, 2013.

Anyone who currently has envelopes will be automatically issued the four-month set of envelopes in December. If you currently do not have envelopes, but would like a set, please either call the Church Office or put your request in the Offering Plate. Please give your name, address and phone number when requesting envelopes.

**DECEMBER 2011 - JANUARY 2012 CALLER DEADLINE:**



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13**



QUESTIONS? CONTACT KATHY WEAVER @ 839-5918 OR [KDWEAVER23@VERIZON.NET](mailto:KDWEAVER23@VERIZON.NET)

## UNITED METHODIST MEN



Our November 5th event will be a tour of the George Eastman House and gardens in Rochester. There are three exhibits; Transitions Rochester, Cameras from the Technology Collection, and Photographs from the W. M. Hunt Collection. Adults \$12, Seniors (65+) \$10. Lunch at a local restaurant. Meet at the church parking lot at 10 AM to car pool. Any Questions you may call Tom Nye at 648-1850 or my cell is 213-3642. There will be no scheduled December men's event. We resume in January.

## ANGEL FOOD - HEARTFELT THANKS

As you may already know, Angel Food of Good Hope, Georgia has ceased operations. Thousands upon thousands of folks across the country have benefited from this food ministry. Our own Angel Food ministry would have reached its fourth year this November.

It is sad to see such a worthwhile program go out of business.

I understand the cost of operation balanced with our current economy, but perhaps something else will come along to takes its place, we can only pray.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who participated in our church program! Be assured that your efforts these past four years have been a blessing to so many who are trying to make ends meet. May God bless each and every one.



**Chris Klenk**  
Angel Food Chair



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Anderson .....	01	Ashley George.....*	19
Carl Ericson .....	03	Jim Beller .....	20
Nancy Vastola .....	07	Evelyn Cole .....	21
Joyce Moser .....	08	Reid Lesswing.....*	22
Tammy Mugel.....	08	Andrea Kearney.....	22
Ian Johnson.....	10	Jean Kayser .....	23
David Mitchell.....	10	George Voskerchian.....	23
Jeanette Tackett.....	11	Wyatt Hannon .....	24
Grace Markello .....	12	Peter Johnston.....	26
Carol Corsaro .....	13	Anne Reed.....	27
Ian Webber .....	13	Mary Jo Evans .....	28
Justin Kennedy .....	14	Elaine Fuller .....	28
Leah Groh .....	15	Barbara Weaver.....	28
Lynn Ramsey.....	16	Alicia Bermudez.....	29
		Sean Johnson.....	29



## NEW ARRIVALS

**Parisa Caroline Loesch**, born to Rob & Salumeh Loesch on Sept. 25, 2011. Grandparents are Pat & Bob Loesch.

**Katelyn Elizabeth Brayman**, born to Jason & Melissa Brayman on Aug. 31, 2011. Katelyn is the granddaughter of Barb Brayman and the grandniece of Sandy Cumming



## CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, November 3 at the Church at 7:30 PM. Our program is our service project, assembling UMCOR Health Kits. Please remember to bring the items you signed up to supply. If you have any questions about what you agreed to bring, contact Karen Hoffmann 631-0786. Call the hostess, Donna Hammond, 844-8091, if you plan to attend.

**Deborah Circle** will meet Tuesday, November 22 in the Wesley Room at 12 noon.

**Rachel Circle** will meet at 12 noon, Tuesday, November 15, in the Wesley Room.

## OUR CONDOLENCES

Our prayers go out to Linda Shupe and her family on the death of her father, Ralph Anderson, who died Sept. 29, 2011.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>		1 Library Team 9:30a  Dance 6:15p Outreach 7p	2  Praise team 6p Choir 7:30p	3 Bible Study 10a Zumba Dance 6-7p Worship/Altar Team 7p Church Council 7p Elizabeth Circle 7:30p	4 Books We Have Loved 10a	5 Men's Group Eastman House Tour 10a @ Church <b>UMW 10a-12n</b> <b>SET CLOCKS BACK 1 HR</b>
6 <b>STANDARD TIME</b>  Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a Youth Meeting w/ BJ 12-3p	7 Zumba Dance 6-7p  Pastor's Bible Conversations 7p  SPR Team 7p	8  Dance 6:15p	9  Praise team 6p Choir 7:30p	10 Bible Study 10a  Zumba Dance 6-7p  Stewardship & Finance Team 7p	11 Outreach Team 9a	12 <b>Outreach Team Media Sale 9a-1p</b>  Habitat Work Day
13 Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a Youth Wreath Sale Youth Meeting 12-3p Dec./Jan. Caller Deadline	14 Zumba Dance 6-7p  Pastor's Bible Conversations 7p  Health & Wellness 7p	15 Rachel Circle 12n  Dance 6:15p Christian Ed Team 7p	16 <b>HOPE FOR AFRICA Children's Choir 7p</b>	17 Bible Study 10a  Zumba Dance 6-7p  Trustees 7:30p	18 Books We Have Loved 10a  <b>CCYM Gathering</b>	19 <b>CCYM Gathering</b>  Dance 7-10p
20 Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a  Youth City Mission 3-6p	21 Zumba Dance 6-7p  Pastor's Bible Conversations 7p	22 Deborah Circle 12n  Caller Collating  Dance 6:15p	23  Praise team 6p Choir 7:30p	24  Rejoice and Give Thanks!	25  Game Night 7:30p	26  <b>Relax</b>
27 Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a  <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	28 Zumba Dance 6-7p Pastor's Bible Conversations 7p SPR Team 7p <b>CHARGE CONFERENCE 8:30p</b>	29  Dance 6:15p	30  Praise team 6p Choir 7:30p			