

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 Life
Sally J. Pollard
Office Manager & Ministry Assistant
Rachel Vaughan
Director of Music
Elizabeth Holt Curtis
Financial Secretary
Doris Schanzlin
Custodian
David Wolf



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Dated Material

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December 2012 - January 2013



With Joy... From Sally

Look Again!

The holidays come upon us in the dark time of the year as seasonal depression affects many, along with reminders of loss, unresolved family issues, and financial expectations creating stress and emotional turmoil. As the church, we're called to take this wide range of human experience and offer an alternative vision. So, here we go again!

No matter how many Advent/Christmas seasons we've experienced, there are new wonders to explore and discover, IF we're willing to read and engage the scripture stories with new eyes and expectant hearts. God's word has more layers and depth than you or I are likely to fathom in a lifetime. That's why study and discussion groups in our faith community are so valuable. The more people in the room, the more experience and understanding of God we bring together. No matter how many times we may have heard the Advent /Christmas readings, there is something new awaiting. It's like the anticipation of an upcoming trip. Even if we've been there before, things will have changed since our last visit. Actually...WE have changed. And so we come with excitement, ready to look again.

In the church year, Advent starts us on a journey observing the birth, growth, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus through Luke's telling. If we look again, we find that Advent doesn't just lead us to Christmas, but through Christmas to Epiphany and on to Pentecost in one progression. When Jeremiah declared, "The days are surely coming..." he didn't just mean the day of Jesus' birth, but the full revealing of God for which we wait. Jesus' birth is just one step on the journey of fulfillment. And the journey is not unique to Jesus. All creation is called to learn and relearn how to be one with the holiness of God. Look again at the active participation of the crowds, the community, all of humanity, in God's unfolding saving history. Jesus didn't come just to show us how special he is, but what is possible for US to become right here and now. Look again.

Sally

NEW RESOURCE ROOM

Sorting and cleaning and moving...oh my!! The Christian Education Team has been hard at work relocating the Resource Room to Room 19 in the lower west wing of the church. Now the resources are closer to the action! We welcome the Amherst Players Community Theater Group who has made its home in Room 13, the former Resource Room off the Youth Hall. We're glad you're here!!



FROM BJ'S DESK...

There is something majestic in the simplicity of the Christmas story. It is not complicated. The creator of the universe became a human being and lived among us. We can have a great conversation in discussing all of the reasons why the creator of the universe did this, but the simplest answer is this: to show the fullest expression of love. Christmas is about the love of a creator for his creation. Christmas is about a love so amazing and so great that the creator would send his only begotten son to be one of us.

There are layers of simplicity in the story. God does not send his son to be born into a family of wealth. God does not send his son to be born into a family of royalty of high standing. God sent his son to be born of a peasant woman in a tiny village in a back eddy of the Roman Empire. Jesus was born into simplicity itself. It is a story that is humble and compassionate, and personal and life-changing.

What could be simpler than the tiny village of Bethlehem? What could be more human than the humble surroundings of an animal shelter and a young couple making do with what they had and making the arrival of their first born child as safe and secure as they possibly could with bits of cloth and piles of hay and a wooden feed box called a manger. Simple shepherds watching their sheep are the first to be told of the miracle in their midst.

That's the picture: a lamp-lit tableau of a wooden feed box holding a new born child with his mother attending her new born and father standing watch nearby. What could be simpler?

My hope and prayer for all of us would be a return to this simplicity. My hope and prayer is that we will make the space in this Advent/Christmas season to turn off the noise, to tune out the distractions, to dial down the busyness, and simply find space and time to adore the new born savior of the world.

In Latin: venite adoramus, venite adoramus, venite adoramus, dominum

In English: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Have a blessed and holy Christmas,

BJ Norrix,

Pastor

FEBRUARY CALLER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
QUESTIONS? CONTACT KATHY WEAVER @ 839-5918 OR KDWEAVER23@VERIZON.NET

Uganda photos by John Miller, B.J. Norrix, and Kathryn Weaver. © 2012 Christ United Methodist Church, Amherst

Outreach Opportunities

Dress Our People: Under the direction of Molly Butler, Dress our People is expanding in new directions. With the success of sending many outfits to Uganda this Fall, we will soon begin making designer pillowcases for the Ronald McDonald House and chemo caps out of cozy fleece. Please see Molly if you'd like to help with this ministry. Everyone is welcome! Sewing can be done at home also.



Central City Café - Share a meal Please take a pan home with you on January 13th and return it to church after making tuna casserole. Recipes will be provided. Each pan serves 15 people! If 14 people prepare a pan, we can feed over 200 people together!

The Outreach Team is restructuring. We invite you to look for ways where you want to get involved in specific Outreach opportunities of our church.

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16



BLOODMOBILE JANUARY 18

The Health and Wellness Team will again sponsor the Bloodmobile on Friday, January 18, in Crafts Hall from 2 – 6 pm. Anyone who donates will receive a coupon for a free pound of Dunkin' Donuts coffee as a Thank You. Please call Geoff Hill (316- 1522) to set up an appointment.



Soul Strength Group



Senior High Youth

The children and youth continue preparing to share the message of Christmas in story and song in this year's Christmas pageant entitled

“Tell Me The Story of Christmas”

Please join us on Sunday, December 23 at the 11am worship celebration. The Praise Team, Choir, and Youth Orchestra will do their part in telling the story too.

Contact Sally Pollard for more information.

A.O.L. @ CUMC

Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church

Sunday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room

December 2, 9, 16, 23

A Different Kind of Christmas

Reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus' birth. Explore how Christians can experience the true joy of living and giving like Jesus, beginning with Christmas and continuing as a lifestyle. Discussion will be based on the book, *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*, by Mike Slaughter. Copies are now available.

January 6 – February 10

The Will of God

A study of Leslie Whetherhead's classic on how God wills a world of love and justice in spite of human sin, and how the ultimate will of God must prevail

Sundays † 6 pm † Wesley Room † Pastor BJ - facilitator

Going Deeper

Practice the spiritual disciplines that lead us into the presence of God.

Contact Pastor BJ for more information.

Thursdays † 10 am † Wesley Room † Pastor BJ - facilitator

Weekday Bible Study - The Prophets

All are welcome to join in this ongoing study and reflection on the minor prophets.

Contact Pastor BJ for more information


HURRICANE SANDY DISASTER RELIEF

If you would like to help hurricane victims by donating money, please make checks to UMCOR with "3021787 for Hurricane Sandy Relief" in the memo line. Questions? please contact the church office at 839-2460.

NEW TESTAMENT 2012

Your final assignments to complete the reading of the New Testament in 2012:

Dec. 3.....	Luke 8
Dec. 4.....	Luke 9
Dec. 5.....	Luke 10
Dec. 6.....	Luke 11
Dec. 7.....	Luke 12
Dec. 10.....	Luke 13
Dec. 11.....	Luke 14
Dec. 12.....	Luke 15
Dec. 13.....	Luke 16
Dec. 14.....	Luke 17
Dec. 17.....	Luke 18
Dec. 18.....	Luke 19
Dec. 19.....	Luke 20
Dec. 20.....	Luke 21
Dec. 21.....	Luke 22
Dec. 24.....	Luke 1
Dec. 25.....	Luke 2
Dec. 26.....	Luke 23
Dec. 27.....	Luke 24



Magic with MICHAEL

'A Delightful Mixture of Mystery & Mirth'

Suitable for all ages

MID-Years + Ministry
Invites the congregation to our
Annual Soup & Sandwich Event

Sunday, February 10, at noon

Featuring "Magic with Michael"

Soup, sandwiches, dessert and beverages
\$7 per person, under 10 free

Or sign up to bring one of the following:
A crock pot of soup to serve 8, ten
Sandwiches, or two pans of brownies.

Sign up Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3 in Crafts Hall
Questions? Marcia Snyder 741-6901

2013 BIBLE READING PLAN

Starting in January, BJ invites the Christ Church congregation to go a little deeper by reading the entire Bible in 2013. The plan is to read two or three Old Testament chapters and one New Testament chapter each day. The schedule will be printed each month (in advance) and will also be available in the weekly update..

Here Are January's readings:

Day	Old Testament	New
1.....	Genesis 1,2.....	Luke 1
2.....	Genesis 3,4,5.....	Luke 2
3.....	Genesis 6,7,8.....	Luke 3
4.....	Genesis 9,10,11.....	Luke 4
5.....	Genesis 11,13,14.....	Luke 5
6.....	Genesis 15,16,17.....	Luke 6
7.....	Genesis 18,19; Psalm 3.....	Luke 7
8.....	Genesis 20,21,22.....	Luke 8
9.....	Genesis 23,24.....	Luke 9
10...	Genesis 25,26; Psalm 6.....	Luke 10
11...	Genesis 27,28; Psalm 4.....	Luke 11
12...	Genesis 29,30.....	Luke 12
13...	Genesis 31,32,33.....	Luke 13
14...	Genesis 34,35,36.....	Luke 14
15...	Genesis 37,38; Psalm 7.....	Luke 15
16...	Genesis 39,40,41.....	Luke 16
17...	Genesis 42,43; Psalm 5.....	Luke 17
18...	Genesis 44,45,46.....	Luke 18
19...	Genesis 47,48; Psalm 10.....	Luke 19
20...	Genesis 49,50; Psalm 8.....	Luke 20
21...	Exodus 1,2; Psalm 88.....	Luke 21
22...	Exodus 3,4,5.....	Luke 22
23...	Exodus 6,7,8.....	Luke 23
24...	Exodus 9,10,11.....	Luke 24
25...	Exodus 12,13; Psalm 21.....	Acts 1
26...	Exodus 14,15,16.....	Acts 2
27...	Exodus 17,18,19,20.....	Acts 3
28...	Exodus 21,22; Psalm 12.....	Acts 4
29...	Exodus 23,24; Psalm 14.....	Acts 5
30...	Exodus 25,26,27.....	Acts 6
31...	Exodus 28,29.....	Acts 7



Mid-Years Ministry
Christmas in Italy



BUON NATALE

Friday, December 7, 2012 at 5:30 pm in Crafts Hall

Menu

Appetizers and Punch • Meat Lasagna with Red or White Sauce
Salads and Breads • Variety of Italian Cookies • Coffee, Tea

Carol Sing with Ron Corsaro

Entertainment

The Amherst Male Glee Club singing holiday classics, carols, and original songs

Tickets: \$18, on sale in Crafts Hall, November 18, 25, and December 2

Proceeds will benefit the CUMC Youth Group

CIRCLE NEWS



Elizabeth Circle will meet Dec 6 at 6:30 pm for our annual Christmas Party at Katie Cady's home, 226 Golden Pheasant (688-7477). Call her if you plan to attend and select your food offering (unless you have already signed up.)

Our January meeting will be at church on January 3rd. Mary Jo Evans is the dessert hostess. Our program on Uganda will be presented by Kathryn Weaver. Please contact Mary Jo at 688-8691 if you plan to attend.

Deborah Circle: Tuesdays, December 18 & January 22 in the Wesley Room at 12 noon.

Rachel Circle: 12 noon, Tuesday, January 15, in the Wesley Room.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Exec. Board will meet January 8 @4 pm - Wesley Room

We are also kicking off a new program: **Conversations.** These are informal gatherings with a different topic of discussion each time, open to all.

Our first Conversation will be on January 21, 2013, at 7pm in the Crafts Hall Gathering Place. The topic will be "We are All Immigrants: these are my roots." Anyone wanting to share where their family came from is welcome to relate interesting anecdotes from family history, show artifacts, pictures etc. to the group. We look forward to exploring our past and recognizing that our families all came here from different countries and through different paths to become the people and families we are today.

We look forward to some interesting and intriguing Conversations. Our second Conversation will be on June 6, at 7 pm. The topic is to be determined. We welcome suggestions for any of our Conversations. Come join us!



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

We'd like to alert you that 2012 Annual Statements will look different from past years. This is due to the fact that our Pledge Year is now 5/1/12 thru 4/30/13, but the statement is done on an annual basis, 1/1/12 thru 12/31/12.

You'll note that offerings made 1/1/12 thru 4/30/12 show as Non-Pledge Offerings and those made 5/1/12 thru 12/31/12 show as Pledge Offerings, if you pledged for that period. The pledge amount shown on the statement equals 2/3 (8 mo.) of your total annual pledge. The remaining 1/3 (4 mo.) of your pledge is due by 4/30/13 and will show on your 2013 statement.

To complicate matters further, your Boiler Fund pledges are on an annual basis (Jan.-Dec.) and the pledged amount shown represents the 2012 portion.

If you have any questions after you receive your statement in January, please see Doris Schanzlin or call her at 839-5779.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

See calendar for December -January Schedule.

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



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our November 17 visit to the Niagara Power Project was a great success, thanks to NYPA guide Lisa Lannon.

On Saturday, December 8, we'll meet at the church at 10 am to rearrange the computer lab, followed by Christmas luncheon at a nearby restaurant.

On January 12, we'll meet at the church at 10 and carpool to the Buffalo Historical Society exhibit on model railroading, followed by lunch.



LET'S REMEMBER TOGETHER!

Do you have a special Christmas memory from a church gathering or including your church family? Maybe it's from your childhood? Maybe it was last year? The timing doesn't matter! The memory does.

This year Christ Church is inviting you to remember Christmas past and the joys that church has brought to your celebrations. We are asking everyone who is interested to join us!

All you need to do is submit your story in person, by mail, or by email (CUMC350@gmail.com.) It's that easy. Please return by Sunday, December 9.

We only ask that your story include a church memory or a church family memory. Our goal is to remember that church isn't just something you do during the holidays, but it is an experience that can make this time more holy, more special, more memorable, and enhance the holidays in every way!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amy Johnston.....	03
Robert Paddock.....	03
Hailey Wilsman.....	03
Mary Parsons.....	04
Jean Ericson.....	05
Christian Kennedy.....	06
Diane Klenk.....	06
Matt LaVigne.....	07
Alicia Ticconi.....	07
Michael Keller.....	08
Rachel Wenner.....	08
Ed Fisher.....	11
Gavin Gabel.....	11
Geoff Hill.....	11
Betty Kreib.....	13
Marcia Rhinehart.....	13
Sheldon Kennedy.....	14
Chris Smith.....	14
Meaghan Ramsey.....	16
Harold Ortman.....	19
Alexander Wilson.....	19
Nicholas Terranova.....	21
Lois Lewis.....	23
Jocelyn Reagan.....	23
Tim Reed.....	25
Allen Dengler.....	26
Laurie Hannon.....	27
Emily Scaringi.....	27
Teresa Watson.....	28

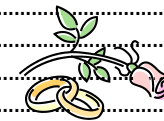
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Marie Miller.....	01
Phyllis Nicholson.....	01
Alice Richards.....	02
Tom Weaver.....	04
Guy Ferrelli.....	05
Mary Jane Shanley.....	07
Jenny Groh.....	09
Pam Lopez.....	09
Lindsey Darling.....	10
Kimberly Gabel.....	17
Joel Jackson.....	17
Bob Snyder.....	17
Carol Teresi.....	17
Nicole Sciolino.....	20
Jasen Wilson.....	20
Marian Steve.....	22
Jamie Jackson.....	24
Elvira Gonzalez.....	25
Barbara McCray.....	26
Sara Thomas.....	31



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Clem and Karen Arrison.....	December 02, 2000
Peter and Patricia Zaleski 52 Years	December 23, 1960
James and Rosemary Leas 61 Years!	December 25, 1951
Joseph & Carolyn Day 61 Years!	December 27, 1951



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES - NONE

WITH CHRISTMAS APPROACHING, ANOTHER REMINDER

Please save Campbell's labels, Box Tops for Education, cancelled stamps (tear off envelope corner from cards), and Dash's register tapes (New!)

Put in the containers on top of the microwave in the kitchen. Thank you!

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

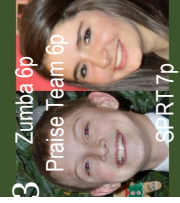
Fri

Sat

December 2012 - January 2013

1

2 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship 11a
Youth - City Mission 3p



3 Zumba 6p
Praise Team 6p
SPRT 7p

4 Library Team 9:30a

5 Dance 6:15p
Choir 7:30p

6 Bible Study 10a
Elizabeth Circle
6:30p

7 Books We Have
Loved 10a
**MYM Christmas
Dinner 5:30p**

8 Men's Group 10a
Computer Lab
Rationalization

9 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship 11a
Rent-A-Youth - 12:30-4p

10 Zumba 6p
Praise Team 6p

11

12 Dance 6:15p
Choir 7:30p

13 Bible Study 10a

14 Bible Study 10a
Dance 7-10p

16 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship
Youth Mall Trip

17 Zumba 6p
Praise Team 6p

18 Deborah Circle 12p
Christian Ed. 7p

19 Dance 6:15p
Choir 7:30p

20 Bible Study 10a
Trustees 7:30p

21

23 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship and
Christmas Pageant 11a
Youth - Chestnut Ridge

24 Office Closed
Christmas Eve
Worship 9 & 11p

25 Office Closed
**Merry
Christmas**

26

27

28 
Game Night 7:30

29

30 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship 11a
No Youth Group

31 Office Closed

1 Office Closed
**NEW
YEAR'S
DAY**

2 Bible Study 10a
Elizabeth Circle
7:30p

3 Bible Study 10a
Elizabeth Circle
7:30p

4 Books We Have
Loved 10a

5

6 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship 11a
Youth - Seneca St. 2p

7 Zumba 6p
Praise Team 6p
SPRT 7p

8 Library Team 9:30a
UMW Board 4p
Dance 6:15

9 Choir 7:30p

10 Bible Study 10a
Stewardship &
Finance 7p

11 Bible Study 10a

12 Men's Group 10a
Historical Society
Model Railroad

13 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship 11a
Youth - Green House 12p
CALLER DEADLINE

14 Zumba 6p
Praise Team 6p

15 Rachel Circle 12p
Dance 6:15p
Christian Ed. 7p

16 Choir 7:30p

17 Bible Study 10a
Outreach 7p
Trustees 7:30p

18 Books We Have
Loved 10a
**Bloodmobile
2-6p**

19 **DCYM
Youth Retreat**

20 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship 11a
DCYM Youth Retreat

21 M.L.K. Jr.
Holiday
Office
Closed
Praise team w/p
Conversations 7p

22 Deborah Circle 12p
Dance 6:15p

23 
Choir 7:30p

24 Caller Collation 9:30a
Bible Study 10a
Church Council 7p

25 
Game Night 7:30p

26

27 Praise Worship 9a
Education Hour 10a
Traditional Worship 11a
Rent-A-Youth - 12:30-4p

28 Zumba 6p
Praise Team 6p

29 Dance 6:15p

30 Choir 7:30p

31 Bible Study 10a

