

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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February 2012



With Joy... From Sally

In 17th Century England, as the Church of England was established as the dominant church of the country, a certain stability was achieved for religious belief in general as everyone worshiped in the same way. However, it began to be noticed by Anglican priest George Whitfield and brothers John and Charles Wesley that it also created complacency and spiritual “dryness” among believers. Religion was becoming a pastime in which people would “go through the motions” during religious services without deeply-felt conviction or engagement of the heart and soul. During this Great Awakening that began in England and moved to the American colonies both Whitfield and John Wesley preached sermons with the title, “Almost Christian,” sharing their own thoughts based on King Agrippa’s response to an encounter with Paul found in Acts (26:28), “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” (KJV) Both men addressed the half-hearted spirituality of the people...the tendency to follow church rules without loving God and neighbor as Christ loved us. For Wesley, the difference between an “almost Christian” and an “altogether Christian” came down to love, a command written on the heart. “Almost Christian” ...thought-provoking words.

As we begin the season of Lent, we’ll have many opportunities to consider our own identity in the body of Christ and our own excitement for and commitment to our faith. Faith is a matter of desire for God & a desire to share God’s self-giving love with others in Jesus’ name. Love gives Christianity its purpose and meaning, and, as Christ-followers, it gives meaning to our lives as well. Love is the absolute core of God’s relationship with humankind shown in the life, death, and resurrection new life of Jesus Christ and the living presence of the Holy Spirit in the world today. Patterning our lives and our church on Christ’s self-giving love requires grace, commitment...soul-strength...not “almost Christian”, but “all-the-way Christian.” In the pages of this *Caller* you’ll find many opportunities for considering your own faith journey...Bible study groups, Lenten study groups, invitations to be in mission and ministry, worship celebrations, and opportunities to surround yourself with a community of love and encouragement.

Sally



FROM BJ’S DESK...

Go deeper go wider . . .

The leadership team of Christ Church is in the process of setting goals for the future. The Goal is to have 100 in Sunday school and 500 in Worship by 2015 (1 and 5 by 15). We also are setting the goal of having 100% of the Christ Church community involved in some level of mission and/or ministry. Those are high goals but I believe they are quite attainable. The bigger question is how? How will we reach these goals? If just filling the building on Sunday were the goal, we could put a sign on the lawn that said “free Beer Sunday at 11:00”. I am pretty sure we would fill the building. But it wouldn’t be a church.

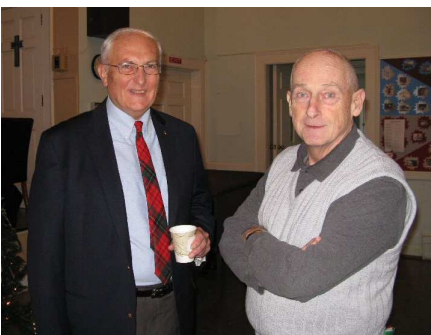
A survey of history reveals that Churches have been built up by using a variety of methods. Some have been built by focusing on the negatives. These churches were built by being against (insert oppressed group here). They are against blacks, Jews, masons, gay people; or against certain behaviors: smoking, drinking, etc; or against certain theologies or philosophies; as I said fill in the blank. Others have been built around more positive causes: we are for civil rights, for women rights, for (again fill in your preferred cause.) If the goal was just to build a large organization, any and all of these approaches could be effective. However, I don’t believe any of these would be the radical community Jesus intended.

The building up of the Christian Church is a building up of the body of Christ. What this means is that the church is built by moving in two directions at the same time. The church has to go spiritually deep and must be led by people who are profoundly committed to living Christ’s ways. The Church also has to go radically wide, in essence exploding outward in love and service. That is the biblical journey that our founder, John Wesley, clearly and consistently articulated. Personal holiness -- going deeper in our spirituality and deeper into living Christ’s ways -- is simultaneously lived out in social holiness -- exploding outward making a difference for Jesus, working against oppression and injustice in whatever forms they present themselves. This is helping to build the reign of God and will build a magnetic Christian church community.

As your pastor, I want you to know this is my goal: I want to lead us into becoming a deeper and wider church. I want us to go deep in our faith in Jesus, deep in our love for him, deep in our understanding of how he calls us to be and to do. I want to lead us into becoming a wide church that shows concern for the poor and the oppressed; locally, regionally, and around the world. Christ Church, to be a great church, will need to go deeper and wider!

I am enjoying the ride,

Dr. BJ



FAITH PRESS

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

February 8, 15, 22, 29

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Jesus teaches us to love God and to love others. One way to show love to God and to others is by being respectful. The church provides a space where children can experience respect & learn to express their own feelings in loving, respectful ways.

The Golden Rule is the familiar name given to Jesus' command to treat others as you would want them to treat you. The words *Golden Rule* are not found in the Bible. But the principle of treating others with respect is not only found in the Bible, but also in the writings of many other world religions.

SOUL-STRENGTH

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

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

High School † Grades 9-12 † Room 23 † Lower Level

MID-YEARS + MINISTRY

In celebration of our 30th year, MY+M invites the entire congregation to a luncheon on Sunday, February 12 after the 11:00 worship service to:

“MEET ELIZABETH CADY STANTON”



Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an American abolitionist and leading figure of the early woman's movement.



Presented by Performance Artist Denise Reichard, who re-creates the lives of historical women using her background in public speaking. A member of Williamsville UMC, she teaches at several local colleges.

Join us in Crafts Hall February 12 at noon.

Soup, sandwiches, dessert and beverages will be served. Sign up for a crock pot of soup to serve eight or brownies. If you choose not to bring a food item, the cost is \$7.00 per person; children under 10 are free.

Call Grace Markello with any questions at 836-7064.

A.O.L.@CUMC

Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church
Sunday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room

CHRISTIANITY'S FAMILY TREE

Based on the book by Adam Hamilton, we'll look at several Christian denominations and how they enrich our faith.

February 5, 12, 19, 26

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

Explores the abundance of God's grace and the Christian's need to give, Share, and serve joyfully out of love for God and neighbor.

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Wednesday mornings † 11 am † Wesley Room

DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR BJ

Thursday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room

CALL HIM SAVIOR

Reflect on Jesus as Savior. Remember the power and sacrifice of God's love and celebrate the new life made possible causing us to call him Savior.

Wednesdays, Feb. 22 - Mar. 28 † 5:30 - 7 pm - Café & Parlor
Lenten Supper, Study, & Reflection

THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

SUNDAY EVENING SUPPER AND BIBLE STUDY

at the home of Audrey & Mike Gavin
Call for dates & time 835-2619



UNITED METHODIST MEN



CUMC men, please join us in the Wesley Room on Saturday, February 4, at 10 am for a DVD presentation of the movie COURAGEOUS a powerful story of strong Christian male leadership, presenting an emotionally charged wake-up call to fathers whose influence upon their children and society is immeasurable. The challenge for men is to become bold and intentional about embracing their responsibilities as leaders of their homes, marriages, and children. Discussion will follow at a local restaurant. Questions? Please call Tom Nye at 648-1850.

BALLROOM & SWING CLASSES AT CHRIST CHURCH



Tuesdays, January 17, 24, 31 & February 7, 14 & 28. (no class 2/21/12)
6 week course

\$42 per person per class. Take both classes for just \$66 per person
SAVE \$18

Register with Tara Scime: tmsdance@yahoo.com

Cash or Check made out to "Ballroom & Beyond."

*6:15 pm - **Intermediate Advanced Foxtrot** – Twinkles, turns, and pivots. (must have basics to attend this class, Private lessons available to catch up)

*7:00 pm - **Beginner/Intermediate Swing** Perfect class if you want to have fun and be technically good in East Coast Swing. We will focus on steps, technique, and styling in Triple Swing. Single and double swing course starts 3/6/12.



CALLER SIX BEGIN FOURTH YEAR

With this issue, your Caller newsletter team - the Caller Six - begins its fourth year of publication ministry to Christ Church. With your cooperation, we hope to continue bringing you familiar features and timely news about CUMC activities.

You can help by submitting all copy in **MS Word 97-03 (.doc) format** by the 13th of each month to **caller350@yahoo.com**. **WE CANNOT ACCEPT NEWER MS WORD (.docx) FILES!** Questions? Please contact any team member:

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OUR OUTREACH

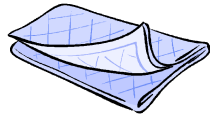
Sharing Our Love, Living Our Faith

February Outreach Opportunities



Habitat Buffalo -Women Build held its first 2012 organizational meeting on January 19 at North Presbyterian Church in Amherst. Women Build will construct a new one-story four-bedroom Energy Star house at 41 Guilford Street with a partner family from Burundi, a single mother, a daughter, and two sons. There are currently seven new build Habitat houses already occupied on Guilford Street. Groundbreaking will be in April with building beginning in May. If you would like to help with this home's construction, please see Peggy Bermudez or Marg Bauza for more information.

Blanket Sunday-February 12- Oh, how good a warm blanket feels! All of us know the feeling. A blanket can ease pain, uplift spirits, and make the world seem brighter. Earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, tornados, and other natural disasters have devastated areas around the world. In such situations blankets become a tool of survival. For only \$5 a blanket, you can help to warm another person in great need.



Hands4NY -As of December 2011 we have donated 225 lbs of food to University Presbyterian Church. Thank you!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." - Matthew 25:35

Thank you for being God's hands and heart in the world by supporting the many Outreach ministries of our church.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Burr	03
Marion Rowlands	03
Kelsey Reed.....	04
Ellen Parker Lines.....	07
Emily Mugel.....	07
Kristin Scaringi.....	07
Dorothy Brown (97!).....	08
Joshua Reagan.....	09
Martha Shields.....	09
Kelly Webb.....	09
Jayne Kremzier.....	11
Beth Sweet.....	12
Diane Lovejoy.....	13
Peter Shanley.....	14
Olivia Smith.....	14
Donna Yungbluth.....*	15
Dale Grobe.....	17
Marilyn Welker.....	17
Ben Bermudez.....	20
Matthew Ronan.....	21
Viki Smith.....	25
Caroline Hess.....	26
Janice Beckwith.....	27
Michele Sciolino.....	27
Ashton Hannon.....	28



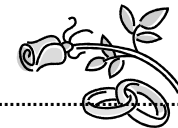
READ THE NEW TESTAMENT

Read a single chapter each weekday and read through the complete New Testament in 2012.

1	Romans 7
2	Romans 8
3	Romans 9
6	Romans 10
7	Romans 11
8	Romans 12
9	Romans 13
10.....	Romans 14
13.....	Romans 15
14.....	Romans 16
15.....	1 Thessalonians 1
16.....	1 Thessalonians 2
17.....	1 Thessalonians 3
20.....	1 Thessalonians 4
21.....	1 Thessalonians 5
22.....	2 Thessalonians 1
23.....	2 Thessalonians 2
24.....	2 Thessalonians 3
27.....	1 Timothy 1
28.....	1 Timothy 2
29.....	1 Timothy 3

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Gregg & Julie Jackson Janecek February 14, 2004



DO YOU STILL USE GREETING CARDS?



WELL, WE HAVE A SUGGESTION!

The UMW has two fundraising activities that often go forgotten:

GIFT TO MISSION: Make a gift of \$5 or more in honor of someone and send a card to the honoree. The following cards are available: Congratulations, Thank You, A Baby, In the Service of Christ, A Special Day, Thinking of You, Happy Birthday, and an assortment of Christmas cards.

GIFT IN MEMORY: Give a gift in memory of a member, a friend, or anyone, in any amount of \$5 or more. Gift in Memory cards, available free, may be sent to the family of the deceased.

All you have to do is get in touch with Rosemary Kochan (908-1200), or any other UMW officer, to insure you get the card(s) you would like.



Sally Pollard Photo



“THANKS, EMILY”

The Soul Strength Group of middle-schoolers recently mailed cards to their adopted “Grandparents”; older church members who don’t get to church as often as they - or we - would like. One such card went to Ed Maker, who was delighted with his card from Emily, and says “Thanks!”

MARCH 2012 CALLER DEADLINE:

👉 **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13** 👈

QUESTIONS? CONTACT KATHY WEAVER @ 839-5918 OR KDWEAVER23@VERIZON.NET

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



A **General meeting** will be held Saturday, March 3rd at 10 am. Caroline Hess will lead a program on the “School of Christian Missions.” Rachel Circle will act as hostess. A continental breakfast will be served. A donation of \$5 is suggested.

World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 2nd at 1 pm at our church. All women are invited to attend. If you would like to help with this event, please call Janet Hill at 839-3052.

The **UMW Book Reading program** has changed:

Leadership Development has been added for 2012. The new program is as follows:

- Plan I : 5 books per year
- Plan II: 10 books per year
- Plan III: 15 books per year
- Plan IV: 20 books per year

Reading the *Response* magazine is also a requirement. If you have questions about the program, please contact Diane Lovejoy at 835-9572.



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet February 2 at 7:30 pm at the home of Barb Mitchell, 112 Mt. Vernon Rd. Amherst (839-2435.) The hostess will be Marion Rowlands (688-5238.)

We will have a book discussion of John Grisham’s *The Confession*. Please contact either Barb or Marion if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle will meet Tuesday, February 21, in the Wesley Room at noon.

Deborah Circle will meet at 12 noon, Tuesday, February 28, in the Wesley Room.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SGT. JASEN WILSON, USMC

Thanks to everyone who sent a card to my son. Jasen is in a section with a lot of fighting now so I haven’t heard what he thought of your kindness.

If you would like to send a note to Jasen, please send it to:

Sgt. Wilson, Jasen
2D EOD Co.
Unit 73713
FPO AE 09510-3713

A 44 cent stamp will get a letter to him. Thanks again for your kindness.

Diane Lovejoy

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE TEAM

The Stewardship and Finance Team wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and to thank the following members who faithfully give of their time, week after week, year after year, to count the offerings. Thanks to Donna Hammond, Laurie Hannon, Jean Kellner, Rosemary Kochan, Grace & Ross Markello, Joyce Moser, Mary Parsons, Jan Rhinehart, Marion Rowlands, Doris Schanzlin, Alan Tolsma, Hilde Webber, Herb Wilber, and Donna Yungbluth. Bless you all!

CUMC has had an excellent year: as of January 1, all bills are paid; we have money in the bank, and were able to pay 84% of our apportionments. In addition, 99% of pledges were paid, well over the national average.

We thank all of you for your generous support of Christ Church.

BOILER PLEDGES:

Please put all boiler pledges in an envelope clearly marked: Boiler Pledge. This should prevent your pledge from going to the wrong account.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

also go out to the family and friends of Ruth Seymour. Ruth, who joined Christ Church in 1954, was buried on Friday, December 30. She was a member of Martha Circle and a past UMW President. Ruth had lived near her brother in Eastern NY for the past 7 years. She was 91.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Feb. 5: Breakfast & Faith 9:30 Seneca St. church 2-5 p
Feb. 12: Breakfast & Faith 9:30 Youth Service Jobs 12-4 p
Feb. 19: Pancake Breakfast 9a
Feb. 24-26: 30-Hour Famine @ Camp Asbury (Fri-Sun)

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



ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 22, 2012

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, which was invented by early Christian believers as a time to prepare for the great celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Resurrection Day (aka Easter.) Lent is a 40-day season and its historic focus has been on practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, repentance, giving of alms, etc.



Ash Wednesday gets its name from the imposition of ashes that are offered as a sign of repentance as part of the service. These ashes are not a "Roman Catholic" thing. In Old Testament times, people put ashes on their heads to show sorrow, mourning, and repentance. It's a very old tradition.

At CUMC, as part of our Lenten Study Series (A.O.L., page 3) we'll gather at 5:30 on February 22 for a light supper and the traditional Ash Wednesday observance. During the season of Lent we will meet on Wednesdays to study Rueben P. Job's *Three Simple Questions*, with light supper from 5:30-7p.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

go out to the family of Donald E. Parsons who died January 12 at Suburban Hospital, surrounded by his wife Mary and his three children. A member of the choir, Don joined Christ Church in 1963. He was 91.

ORPHANS FROM UGANDA STILL NEED SPONSORS

In Kirimandagi, Uganda, many students at the Blessed Primary School are orphans, and Pastor Grace and her husband have been paying their fees out of their own funds. We can help by sponsoring an orphan.

There are four students, who have no family support. And whose fees are 300,000 Uganda shillings per year. In Uganda,, education is not free; only those who can pay are able to attend. So, about \$110 US means one more child gets to go to school for a year. If you'd like to help, please see Dr. BJ.



NEWCOMER ORIENTATION FEBRUARY 13

During the last half of 2011, we had many visitors to CUMC. We'll be inviting them to visit us again on Monday, February 13. At 6pm that day we hope to share the Christ Church Story with them over dinner at the church Members are urged to attend, and if you plan to do so, please let Rachel know at 839-2460.

THERE WAS MUCH TO BE LEARNED...

from my recent hospitalization - not the least of which was the care and concern of this church community.

Many thanks.

Jane Darling

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Pastor's Bible Study 11a Praise Team 6p Choir 7:30p	2 Bible Study 10a Zumba 6p Elizabeth Circle 7:30p	3 Books We Have Loved 10a MY+M Exec Board 12n	4 Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a
5 Praise Celebration 9a Youth Breakfast & Faith 9:30a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a Youth Seneca St., 2-5p	6 Staff Meeting 11a Zumba 6p Staff/Pastoral Relations Team 7p	 7 Library Team 9:30a Dance 6:15p Outreach Team 7p	 8 Brothy Brown is 97 Pastor's Bible Study 11a Praise Team 6p Choir 7:30p	9 Bible Study 10a Zumba 6p Stewardship & Finance Team 7p	10	11 Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a
12 Praise Celebration 9a Youth Breakfast & Faith 9:30a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a MY+M 30 YEARS! 12Noon Youth Service 12-4p	13 Zumba 6p NEWCOMER ORIENTATION 6P CALLER DEADLINE	 14 Dance 6:15	15 Pastor's Bible Study 11a Praise Team 6p Choir 7:30p	16 Bible Study 10a Zumba 6p Trustees 7:30p	17 Books We Have Loved 10a	18 Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a
19 Youth Pancake Breakfast 9a Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a Youth 12-3p	20 Zumba 6p	21 Rachel Circle 12p Dance 6:15 Christian Ed. Team 7p	22 Pastor's Bible Study 11a Praise Team 6p Choir 7:30p	23 Bible Study 10a Zumba 6p	24 Youth - 30 Hour Famine @ Camp Asbury Game Night 7:30p	25 Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a Youth - 30 Hour Famine @ Camp Asbury
26 Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a Youth - 30 Hour Famine @ Camp Asbury	27 Zumba 6p	 28 Deborah Circle 12p Dance 6:15	29 Pastor's Bible Study 11a Praise Team 6p Choir 7:30p	February 2012		