

Weekly Update: July 26, 2016

A Personal Word... From Rev. Jim Pollard

The Sacrament of Baptism marks the beginning of the Christian life. This Sunday, at the 9 a.m. worship service we will welcome Graciella Kathleen Cordero, the daughter of Jeremiah and Michelle Cordero, and granddaughter of Tom and Kathy Brunner, as a baptized member of the family of God. What a joyous time!!! Come and join the celebration!! The service will take place in the Sanctuary.

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Some questions to think about... I've been reading a book by Jeffrey Jones, titled Facing Decline, Finding Hope: New Possibilities for Declining Churches. Recognizing that the world is changing rapidly, he examines the issues and challenges of being the church in such a time. His thinking includes a series of old questions contrasted with the new questions he believes are important in helping the church find a focus for ministry in light of the realities of the changing world:

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| Old: How do we bring them in? | New: How do we send them out? |
| Old: What should the pastor do? | New: What is our congregation's shared ministry? |
| Old: What is our vision, and how do we implement it? | New: What's God up to, and how do we get on board? |
| Old: How do we survive? | New: How do we serve? |
| Old: What are we doing to save people? | New: What are we doing to make the reign of God more present in this time and place? |

What responses do these new questions prompt for you?

-Jim

Daily Bible Reading – 2016 Shaping Our Life Experience

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

July 26: Psalms 47-49; Acts 26

July 27: Psalms 50-52; Acts 27:1-25

July 28: Psalms 53-55; Acts 27:26-44

July 29: Psalms 56-58; Acts 28:1-15

July 30: Psalms 59-61; Acts 28:16-31

July 31: Psalms 62-64; Romans 1

August 1: Psalms 65-67; Romans 2

In Our Prayers

Glenn Hurst – rehab at Elderwood at Bassett, Janet Hill – recovering at home (in church on Sunday!), Susan Schauer – recovering at home

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to **Marie Maker** on the death of her husband, **Ed**, on Monday, July 11. A memorial service celebrating Ed's life took place on Saturday, July 23, and to **David Pliss** on the death of his mother, Patricia, on July 16.

Carol Corsaro, John Yungbluth – recovering at home;
Patty Keller, Charles Terranova, Richard Mestler, Guy Ferrelli, Fred & Lynda Painton,
Gaetano Castellino Sr., Castellino Family

Elvira Gonzalez – now residing at Bristol Village on Clarence Center Rd.

Florence Stengel – now residing at Beechwood Continuing Care

Chris Maliken, Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson – all serve in the US Navy

This Week at Christ Church

Thursday, July 28 - 12:30 pm – Christian Education Team

Sunday, July 31 - 9 am – Baptism of **Graciella Kathleen Cordero**,
daughter of Michelle & Jeremiah Cordero, granddaughter of Kathy & Tom Brunner

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Food Pantry - suggested items:

July 24 – Toiletries – Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant

July 31 - Paper Products & Toiletry Items

Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation!

Our food carts have been low. Food items are always needed.

*All food items, **paper products** and **toiletry items** are welcome anytime.
Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!*

Needed

Removal of 2 dying Ash trees on the church property.

Cost - \$5000. Mark your contributions – *tree removal*.

Celebration **Brick Walkway**

Donations are being received to add bricks to the walkway in the Celebration Garden to honor our former Pastors:

Sinnathamby Thevanesan

B.J. Norrix

Darryl Barrow

Simply mark your contributions “Brick Walkway”

Summer Sundays - Host the Cafe

Sign up on the bulletin board in the café to host some Sunday morning!

Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you!

Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

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VBS Video

Check out our video highlighting the fun times our surfers had at “Surf Shack” VBS this year learning about God’s amazing love!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYt1FboRNb0>

Special thanks to Alicia Bermudez for putting the video together and to Peggy Bermudez for taking pictures and video.

Benefit Fundraiser

Nora Townsend & Herb Wilber are part of the organizing committee to raise funds for their brother-in-law who has cancer. The benefit will be held on **Saturday July 30th** at the Brounshidle Post #205 located at 3354 Delaware Ave in Kenmore. The cost is \$20 for adults and children 12 and under are free. There will be draft beer, food and soda between 6PM and 11PM. A band called Big Mama will provide music and donated gift certificates and gift baskets (50 so far) will be auctioned at the event. See Herb & Nora for tickets and details.

United Methodist Men

Everyone is welcome to join our Saturday, August 6 trip to downtown Buffalo for a “Masters of American Architecture” guided walking tour. We will meet at 8:45 a.m. sharp at Christ Church - the tour begins downtown at 10 a.m. After the tour, we will have lunch together at 716 Restaurant. For more information, check out their website at www.explorebuffalo.org. The tour cost is \$15 per person, paid by check (made out to Christ UMC) or cash to the church office by August 1. Call Bob Snyder (741-6901) with any questions or concerns.

MYM Picnic in the Park

The Mature Years Ministry invites those age 55 or better to join them for fun, food & fellowship at their annual Picnic in the Park on Sunday, August 14 from 3-7p.m. The picnic will be held at the Clarence Town Park (5400 Goodrich Rd.). The cost is \$5 per person for hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls & condiments. Please bring a dish to share (salad or dessert), a beverage, and your own place settings. Sign-ups begin today after the 11 a.m. service, or call Bob & Marcia Snyder (741-6901) with any questions.



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Centuries ago, St. Augustine said it this way, “Thou hast formed us for [God]self, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee.” The ancient truth is that the only way to be free from the obsessions that fail to satisfy us is through the steadfast love of God. It is a love that surrounds us constantly. It is a love that is in the very air we breathe, in the sunshine that drives the trees to produce the air we breathe, and in the chemical process in the leaves of the trees that gives off oxygen. If God’s love can be found in something so basic to our very existence, surely it can be found in the other aspects of our lives as well, if we have the eyes to see it... If God goes to such lengths to establish the very cycle of nature that supports our lives in ways we take for granted, we can surely trust God with the other aspects of our lives that we think we have to manage. ~Alan Brehm