

Weekly Update: July 5, 2016

Welcome Rev Jim Pollard!

Team work is Dream work... So the cake said celebrating the first Sunday with Interim Pastor, Jim Pollard. Now we have five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes together to deepen our love and commitment as followers of Jesus. Time to focus on our purpose of being a beacon in this community (Snyder/Cheektowaga), making God's love real.

A Personal Word...From Rev. Jim Pollard

On Sunday, July 3rd, I extended greetings to Christ UMC in a new relationship, as Interim Pastor (part-time). I accept this responsibility, with its opportunities and challenges, trusting in the love and presence of Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

This is not about me; it is about us – the people known as Christ United Methodist Church. Who is God calling us to be? Where will the Spirit of God lead us? Where will our faith and our faithfulness to Christ lead? Are we willing to do whatever is necessary to be a church in vital and lively ministry? Will we be a people, a church, where God's abundant gifts of grace are given for the life of the community and among the people with whom we live?

Throughout Jesus' ministry, he and his disciples were challenged and criticized because they did not conform to the accustomed patterns of religious living. In Luke 5:36-38, they were criticized because they were not fasting, as custom required. In response to the criticism, Jesus told a parable that ends with the words, "...new wine must be put into new wineskins." While the good news of the love of God in the life and love of Jesus Christ remains central to the church's mission, the life and ministry of the church always exist in a changing context.

A verse of a poem by James Russell Lowell, edited into a great hymn, reads: "New occasions teach new duties; time makes ancient good uncouth. They must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of truth...."

What new occasions do we face as a church? What new duties will call to us as we seek to live faithfully in a rapidly changing context? What new wineskins will the Spirit create as we journey together into the future God has for Christ Church? As faithful disciples, are we willing to do whatever is necessary to enable new life and ministry through Christ UMC?

In Christ's service,

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 5: Job 31-32; Acts 13:1-23

July 6: Job 33-34; Acts 13:24-52

July 7: Job 35-37; Acts 14

July 8: Job 38-39; Acts 15:1-21

July 9: Job 40-42; Acts 15:22-41

July 10: Psalms 1-3; Acts 16:1-15

July 11: Psalms 4-6; Acts 16:16-40

In Our Prayers

JOY! **Jonathan Miller** and his team are in Dallas, TX for Nationals Volleyball Tournament

JOY! **Ruth & Bill Swenson** celebrating 70th wedding anniversary.

JOY! **Ross & Grace Markello** and the Munson-Markello family were featured in the Buffalo News. Their siblings have all reached 50 years married, now most have them have reached 60 years+. Read all about the connections in this family!

JOY! Twin sisters **Pam Elberson and Patty Keller** celebrated birthdays over the holiday weekend. So did **Leanne Paddock** and **Sharon Ferrelli**.

Carol Corsaro, Ed Maker, Chris Klenk, John Yungbluth – recovering at home;

Patty Keller, John Lopez, Charles Terranova, Richard Mestler, Guy Ferrelli, Fred Painton, Gaetano Castellino Sr.

Elvira Gonzalez, Glenn Hurst

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

School is out for summer! - Pray for families traveling and enjoying summer festivities

This Week at Christ Church

Monday, July 4 - Happy 4th of July! Office Closed

Tuesday, July 5 - 10 am - VBS Staff meeting

7 pm – VBS decorating

7 pm – SPRTeam meeting

Wednesday, July 6 - 6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

Sunday, July 3 - Message – A New Authority??

Mark 1:21-28

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Food Pantry - suggested items:

July 3 -- Cereal – Hot, cold or bars

July 10 – Canned meats – chicken, tuna, salmon

Please remember - *Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation!* Food is 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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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.



Vacation Bible School

July 11 – 15 9 am – 12 Noon

Pre-K – Grade 5 (completed)

Register online at

<http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/christchurchamherstny>

Or call the church office at 839-2460

Visit Niagara Organ Works

Everyone is welcome to join the UM Men's Group when they visit the shop facility of Niagara Organ Works on Saturday, July 16 to learn what's involved in the building, maintaining and restoring of pipe organs. Owned and operated by Paul Staley, our Minister of Music, Christ Church's Arrison Pipe Organ was rebuilt and expended by Niagara Organ Works. Tour the facility, see work in progress and view a pictorial presentation which includes the work done at Christ Church. Meet at the church at 10 am to carpool. Lunch at a local restaurant follows the tour. Call **Paul Staley – 536-5370** or **Tom Nye 213-3642** with questions.

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“When I Am Among Trees”
by *Mary Oliver*

When I am among trees...they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily...
Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, “Stay awhile....”

The light flows from their branches.
They call again, “It's simple,”
they say, “and you, too, have come
Into the world to do this, to go easy,
to be filled with light, and to shine.”