



### 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**

Christian Education Team Fundraiser

## PIZZA SALE



Sunday, March 11  
Eat in or Take Out

**8" Cheese Pizza \$5**

**Extra Toppings \$.99 ea.**

- Pepperoni  Onion  Olives  
 Sweet pepper  Hot pepper  
 Sausage  Mushroom

**Advance orders suggested**

Please drop in offering plate on  
March 4 or call 839-2460 to order.

Name

Phone

### CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

350 Saratoga Road, Snyder, NY 14226  
Phone: 839-2460 Fax: 839-2166

[www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org)

Church E-mail: [Cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:Cumc350@gmail.com)

Dated Material

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT

ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BUFFALO, NY

PERMIT NO. 3774

# The Caller



March 2012



### *With Joy... From Sally*

Once again we pass through time on the journey with Jesus. In just a few weeks we've moved from the appearance of the greatest expression of life's human potential to the simplest, yet most intense experience of vulnerability in mortality. Lent draws us into the short-lived, yet deeply personal relationship between Jesus and his followers...walking beside him, eating with him, caring for him. Living with Jesus helps us get closer to understanding God's saving and reconciling desire. As we live closer and more deeply with Jesus, actually trying to live *like* Jesus, we move from who and what we already are toward what we are still becoming.

The seasons of Lent and Easter invite the active participation of all of the people of God. Worship, though some might describe it as a time to recharge or re-energize, is a gift *of* the people, not *for* the people. During these holy days you may gather in community with others to receive ashes, gather around a communion table, participate in a study & reflection group, read the accounts of the final days of Jesus' earthly life, engage in prayer, worship, and other means of intentionally placing yourself in God's presence. As Christ followers, what could be more faithful than reminding each other that our lives are finite and precious and should be lived with intention?

As you continue on your journey with Jesus, may you experience God's gracious abundance and transforming power in new and deepening ways, inviting you to make a leap from living *with* Jesus to living *in* Jesus. Open your life, heart, mind, and soul so fully that Jesus can live *in* you.

*Sally*

\*\*\*\*

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

Come and explore

### **THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS**

Who is God? Who am I? Who are we together?

Learn & experience spiritual practices that allow these questions to lead you to a more faithful way of following Jesus.



### **FROM BJ'S DESK...**

Christ Church has set aside the month of March to focus on Stewardship. Stewardship is the Biblical principle that teaches that all that I am, all that I have, and all that I dream of being is a gift from God. I am gifted with these things and God expects me to use them appropriately and faithfully. We would consider it sad if a world class pianist chose not to play or perform. We consider it sad when a gifted athlete chooses to not develop his/her talent (often calling it a "waste"). We look at brilliant people who make dreadful life decisions and shake our heads thinking what a waste of intelligence, what a waste of talent and ability. It would be sad, indeed, for gifted Christ followers not to develop and faithfully use the gifts God has placed in their lives.

Under the Old Testament law, people were expected to tithe, that is give 10% of the produce of their lives back to God. The 10% was given to the temple, which used these resources to feed and clothe the priests, for the upkeep of the temple itself, and for other charities attached to the work of the temple. This was a legal requirement and a minimum standard. The people in those days also gave "offerings" for thanksgiving, for fellowship, etc. over and above the tithe.

Under the New Testament we moved from law to grace. But it would be a mistake to believe that somehow "grace" was a lower expectation than under the law. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) Jesus is constantly raising the expectations. He says several times, "You have heard it said of old...but I say unto you...." In each of these instances, the newer grace-based understanding is a higher standard.

That's why the New Testament does not speak much of tithing. There are references that clearly indicate that this expectation has not gone away, but the discussion has shifted. Jesus teaches throughout the gospel the concept of extravagant generosity. "If you preserve your life, you will lose it; if you give away your life for my sake, you will gain it (Matthew 10:39)." "Give and it will be given to you...for the measure you give is the measure you receive (Luke 6:38)." Plus many more references all come to the same conclusion: for the Christ-follower, giving is living and living is giving.

I will be preaching on extravagant generosity for the month of March as we build up to Consecration Sunday on March 25. On Consecration Sunday we will be asked to make a generous commitment to the work, mission, and ministry of Jesus Christ through Christ Church. I am praying for all of us that we may catch a glimpse of the vision and life that God is calling us to and that we will embrace the liberating concept of extravagant generosity and live into a deeper faith in Christ.

See you in Church,

*Dr. BJ*

## OUR OUTREACH

Sharing Our Love, Living Our Faith

# March Outreach Opportunities



## One Great Hour of Sharing: March 18

*Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind."*

*--Psalm 107:8, NRSV*

### GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE

So much of what UMCOR does is about revealing God's steadfast love for humankind. For more than 70 years, UMCOR has brought hope and solidarity to communities both at home and abroad in the wake of disaster, and support and expertise to those on a path to development. UMCOR's relief-supply ministry is part of those efforts, gathering the goodwill of selfless volunteers to assemble much-needed relief kits and cleaning buckets to ship to those seeking to become self-sufficient or to rebuild lives and communities following an emergency. Your generous gifts benefit The United Methodist Committee on Relief located at the General Board of Global Ministries. With this offering, The United Methodist Church rebuilds lives and communities around the world by helping UMCOR keep its promise that 100% of your designated gift goes to specific causes.

### CENTRAL CITY CAFÉ

Central City Café is in need of helpers the first Tuesday of the month between the hours of 9:00 and 1:00. There are two shifts. The first, from 9-11:00 is to prepare the meal and the second shift from 11:00-1:00 serves. Qualification for volunteers include "just have a smile, a willing mind, body and spirit to serve." Sign up for one or as many shifts as you would like in Crafts Hall or see Rosemary Kochan if you are able to help with this ministry. The Café is located in Durham Memorial AME Zion Church, 200 E. Eagle Street, Buffalo, NY.



*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.*

### TO MY FRIENDS AT CHRIST CHURCH

We wish to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts, cards, and gifts to memorials in Don's memory. We appreciated it very much.

Sincerely,  
Mary Parsons and family

**APRIL 2012 CALLER DEADLINE:**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 13**

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



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

## "REMEMBER ME"

Jesus gave his followers the Lord's Supper as a way to remember Him and all He taught us.

## SOUL-STRENGTH

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

## BREAKFAST AND FAITH

Grades 9-12 † 9:30 am † Kitchen † Main Level

## A.O.L.@CUMC

*Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church*

Sunday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room

### EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

Dick Mugel, Coordinator

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

Diane Klenk, Coordinator

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.

\*\*\*\*

### SUNDAY EVENING SUPPER AND BIBLE STUDY

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



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marcia Snyder.....	1
Gregory Yungbluth .....	2
Clem Arrison .....	5
Jean Kellner.....	5
Elizabeth Curtis.....	6
Gregory Watson .....	7
Brad Bermudez .....	8
Molly Reed.....	8
Christopher Kraatz .....	9
Andrew Lopez.....	12
Joanne Gilbert.....	15
Claire Lines .....	17
Marshall Rhinehart.....	17
Karen Arrison .....	19
Marjory Gibson.....	19
Florence Stengel .....	19
<b>Nicky Sebastiano 100th .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Barry Wood.....	21
Al Sillato .....	24
Pat Noyes .....	24
Peggy Bermudez.....	25
Ashley Miller .....	26
Matthew Webb .....	27
Donald Munson .....	28
Jordan Maliken .....	29
Jan Rhinehart.....	31



## READ THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

1 .....	1 Timothy 4
2 .....	1 Timothy 5
5 .....	1 Timothy 6
6 .....	James 1
7 .....	James 2
8 .....	James 3
9 .....	James 4
12 .....	James 5
13 .....	John 1
14 .....	John 2
15 .....	John 3
16 .....	John 4
19 .....	John 5
20 .....	John 6
21 .....	John 7
22 .....	John 8
23 .....	John 9
26 .....	John 10
27 .....	John 11
28 .....	John 12
29 .....	John 13
30 .....	John 14

## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Our choir needs your voice. Singing is healthy and fun! There are absolutely no bad side effects from singing. No audition necessary. Come join us on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the choir room. Test drive available!

If you are interested, contact choir director Elizabeth Curtis at 882-0955, or just pop in for a surprise visit. You might think we sound good now, but we could sound even better with your help. You can read more about us on our website, [www.ChristChurchAmherst.org](http://www.ChristChurchAmherst.org).

## ON THE COVER: NICKY HITS 100

On Wednesday, March 21, 2012, Nicoletta Sebastiano will be 100 years old! All of our church family is invited to celebrate this momentous occasion by sharing some birthday cake with Nicky in the church parlor after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, March 18, 2012. Hope to see you there!

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



### District Events:

There will be Communion Breakfasts on Saturday, March 31 at 9 am at St. James United Methodist Church, 4661 Porter Rd., Niagara Falls or Eden United Methodist Church, 2829 East Church St., Eden.

\$5 per person includes a Continental Breakfast. Reservations are due by March 20. Call Rosemary Kochan 908-1200 if you plan to attend.

**Morning Apart:** There'll be a health fair at Trinity UMC on Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst on April 28th. More information in the April Caller



## CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 pm at the home of Mary Jo Evans, 38 Fiddler's Green, 688-8961.

Hostess is Mary Jo. Our program will be a presentation on Genograms of Famous Families by Katie Cady. If you plan to attend, please contact Mary Jo.

**Rachel Circle** will meet Tuesday, March 20, in the Wesley Room at noon.

**Deborah Circle** will meet at 12 noon, Tuesday, March 27, in the Wesley Room.

## TO ALL MY DEAR FRIENDS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Thank you all so much for your many expressions of kindness - prayers, cards, phone calls, and well-wishes. You'll never know how very much they mean to me, and how they have brightened my days. God Bless all of you for your thoughtfulness and caring.

With much love,

Nicoletta (Nicky) Sebastiano

## UNITED METHODIST MEN



CUMC men, enjoy a visit to the Medina Railroad and Toy Train Museum on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012. We will meet at 10:00 am in Christ Church parking lot and car pool to the Museum. It is the largest Railroad and Toy Train Museum in New York State. Afterwards, we'll have lunch at one of the fine restaurants in the Medina area. Museum admission is \$7.00 for adults or \$6.00 for seniors (60 and older). GPS address for the Museum is: 530 West Ave., Medina, NY 14103. Questions? Call Don Critoph at (716) 832-4408. ALL ABOARD!

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE TEAM

We are excited to announce that the theme of this Spring's Pledge Commitment is "Extravagant Generosity." Those of you at church on Sunday, February 26, received a copy of the booklet entitled PRACTICING EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY. (If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please call the church office.) S&F is hopeful that you will all participate in the daily readings on the grace of giving during the four weeks of March. These booklets were a result of the Extravagant Generosity of Lynda Painton and Peggy Bermudez.

Commitment Sunday will be on March 25th, at which time your pledges will be received and we can continue to carry the dreams and plans of Christ Church into the future.

New offering envelopes starting with May 6 will be available in April.

We thank you all in advance for *your* EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY!

### HEAR ME, HEAR ME

God has spoken to my heart.  
 God has made me realize He has  
 made all of the earth and fulfilled our needs.  
 Turn your hardened hearts over to God, so that you too  
 can be free with and by His word.

Amen.

Caroline Hess

## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Mar. 4:	Youth-Faith 9:30a	Rent-a-Youth	1-4p
Mar. 11:	Youth-Faith 9:30a	City Mission	3 p
Mar. 18:	Pancake Brunch	Two servings	10a & 12n
Mar. 25:	Rent-a-Youth		1-4p

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



## CAN YOU HELP?

A local family, approaching their first anniversary with a baby on the way, is in need of appliances (large and small) and household furniture. If you think you can help, please contact Rachel in the church office.



## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Leanne Paddock and Brandon Miller are 2012's Confirmation Class, mentored by Michele Sciolino and Tom Weaver. Please encourage these young people and keep them in your prayers.



## WE CELEBRATE THE LIFE

of Marjorie Wolfe Warfel, a member of Christ Church since September 1951, who died on January 26, 2012. She was born on May 2, 1915, and was 96 when she passed away. Marjorie, an avid gardener, was a very active member of UMW, receiving the Mission pin in 1975. Her late husband, Dr. John Warfel, was also a member of Christ Church. She is survived by her three children: David, Barbara, and Susan. Marjorie's memorial service was held here at Christ Church on Monday, February 6. We are sad to say goodbye, but rejoice in her heavenly home.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

# March 2012

					<b>1</b> Bible Study 10a  Zumba 6p  Elizabeth Circle 7:30p	<b>2</b> Books We Have Loved 10a  World Day of Prayer @ CUMC 12-3:30p	<b>3</b> UMW 9a  Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a
<b>4</b> Youth Faith 9:30a Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a RENT-A-YOUTH 1-4p  Order Pizzas for March 11	<b>5</b> Staff Meeting 11a  Zumba 6p Praise Team 6p S P R T 7p	<b>6</b> Library Team 9:30a  Dance 6:15p Outreach Team 7p	<b>7</b> Pastor's Daytime Bible Study 11a  Lenten Supper & Bible Study 5:30p  Choir 7:30p	<b>8</b>  Bible Study 10a Zumba 6p  Stewardship 7:30p	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a	
<b>11</b> Youth Faith 9:30a Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a C.E.T. PIZZA SALE Advance Orders Suggested Youth City Mission 3p	<b>12</b>  Zumba 6p Praise Team 6p  Health & Wellness 7p	<b>13</b> CALLER DEADLINE  Dance 6:15p Membership Team 6:30p	<b>14</b> Pastor's Daytime Bible Study 11a  Lenten Supper & Bible Study 5:30p  Choir 7:30p	<b>15</b> Bible Study 10a  Zumba 6p  Trustees 7:30p	<b>16</b> Books We Have Loved 10a	<b>17</b>  Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a	
<b>18</b> Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a Youth Pancake Brunch 10 & 12 Nicky Sebastiano 100th Birthday Party 12n	<b>19</b>  Zumba 6p  Praise Team 6p	<b>20</b> Rachel Circle 12p  Dance 6:15p Christian Ed. Team 7p	<b>21 Nicky is 100!</b> Pastor's Daytime Bible Study 11a  Lenten Supper & Bible Study 5:30p  Choir 7:30p	<b>22</b> Caller Collation 9:30a  Bible Study 10a  Zumba 6p  Church Council 7p	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Lions Pancake Breakfast 9a-1p  Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a	
<b>25</b> Praise Celebration 9a All Ages Education 10a Traditional Celebration 11a Confirmation Meeting 12N Rent-a-Youth 1-4p	<b>26</b>  Zumba 6p Praise Team 6p	<b>27</b> Deborah Circle 12p  Dance 6:15p	<b>28</b> Pastor's Daytime Bible Study 11a  Lenten Supper & Bible Study 5:30p  Choir 7:30p	<b>29</b> Bible Study 10a  ZumA50ba 6p	<b>30</b>  Game Night 7:30p	<b>31</b>  Zumbatomic for Kids 11 & 11:30a	