



Weekly Update: November 17, 2015

## **Christ United Methodist Church**

Harlem at Saratoga Rd.  
Amherst, NY 14226

***“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”***

Church office hours - Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

### **SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH**

Praise Worship at 9am                      Traditional Worship at 11 am

10 am: FaithXpress - Children

Apprentice - Youth

A.O.L.-Adult Opportunities for Learning – “Being Christian”

**Like us on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

### **A Word From Pastor Darryl**

This past Sunday we continued our sermon series on “*Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality*,” with the sub-topic “*Re-Introducing the Wesleys*.” Over the past few weeks we have been engaged in a little bit of a quick history lesson with some biblical and theological reflections about the Wesleys. We continue to unlock the major shifts in the lives of the Wesley brothers, particularly John Wesley. When confronted with a group of Moravians who had such peace during a life-threatening experience, Wesley realized that his faith was lacking. While he believed that Jesus was the *savior of the world*, he did not **know** Jesus Christ to be his *personal savior*. He did not know that Christ died for him. He lacked what others would call “assurance.” As he made progress toward Christian discipleship he had to take a few steps backward to gain perspective on his life. Wesley later was himself inspired to write for the church a doctrine of Christian

Assurance. Wesley began meeting with a Moravian minister named Peter Bohler. He had many conversations with Bohler and others about salvation by faith. Can you think of people in your life, that one person who has encouraged you to grow in your faith? Perhaps still encourages you today, or could you find someone with whom you can have that friendship of faith? I am encouraging us also to find that faith partner to mentor us spiritually – *No one is an island; No one stands alone. Each one's joy is joy to me, each one's grief is my own...We need one another...* John Wesley had Peter Bohler and Peter Bohler had John Wesley as a faith partner. It was another major turning point in Wesley's life. Another crucial change became visible in Wesley's approach to ministry after his experience of assurance. Before his Aldersgate experience, Wesley was very concerned with order and ceremony, sometimes to a fault. Everything had to be straight-laced, no changing of anything, strictly formal and rigid. Afterwards, he increasingly became open to the ways that God seemed to be working. If the Holy Spirit was doing something in his midst, Wesley wanted to cooperate with it rather than be an obstacle to it. That's the Methodist church we know and love and that once had the vitality that we're called upon to reclaim. A Methodist church that is open to the Holy Spirit's leading, that is not rigid, that is not overly formal, and open to change when needed. If John was the intellectual force of Methodism, Charles was the one who helped the "head knowledge" become the "heart knowledge" of Methodism. We give God thanks for God's hand rested upon these two brothers, and offered them the assurance of salvation through the richness of God's amazing grace. As always, I am praying for you and with you daily. May God's love and blessings be always with you, and my love to all of you. Invite someone to join us for worship!

### **Here's what's happening at church...**

On Sunday we welcomed drummer, **Jeff Boyer** to the 9 am worship music team! Jeff joins pianist **Kaitlyn Fedele** and **Harold Price** on bass guitar.

**Kevin Durkin**, Organist/Choir Director for the past two years, has resigned and Sunday was his last Sunday with us. We're grateful for the ways in which he has enriched our worship experiences. Ed

Fisher, member of the Staff-Parish Relations Team and also choir member announced Sunday that the SPR Team has begun the search/interview process.

**Operation Christmas Child is a wrap!!** 65 boxes have been completed and returned! Several other boxes were taken but not returned. We hope you'll complete them and if you miss getting them to church, please **take them directly to the drop site** this week at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church. **Thank you all for participating in this way of showing our love and care for the world's children.**

Special thanks to **Janelle Martin** for coordinating the project and for her encouragement! *(project sponsored by the Christian Education Team)*

### **In Our Prayers...**

**JOY!** We celebrate with **Ian & Hilde Webber** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Lena Rose**, born on November 1st to **Max and Lisa Webber**.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of **Ruth Kitson** who died on November 11th. Plans for a memorial service are pending at this time.

Remember service men and women (domestic and foreign) and especially **Ian Johnson**, son of Roger and Dede Johnson, who was deployed this past week for 10 months. Keep his wife Nicole and their son, Hunter, in your prayers as well.

Also keep in prayer **Lindsey Darling** and **Alex Dunbar**. All are serving in the US Navy.

**Jan Beckwith** - temporarily at Brookdale on Bassett Rd.

**Sharon Ferrelli** - Finished course of treatment for cancer

**Ann Burdette** –Wesley Rehab, Room 736.

**Dennis Scaringi** – back in worship after recent surgery on his arm, which is still in a brace. Rehab to follow

**Charles Terranova**, Hodgkins Lymphoma

**Mitch Mooney** - Amberleigh; **Glenn Hurst** at home; **Tom Davis** at Elderwood 200 Bassett Rd., **Robert Nachbar**, **Rosemary Little** - Blocher Home; **Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Ed Maker**, **Barbara Clinton**, **Fred and Lynda Painton**, **Bim Rowlands**, **Nicky Sebastiano**, **Ruth Luss**,

**Shirley Downey; Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy, Rev. Vern French.**

**Mary Jo Evans** celebrates her 80th birthday on Saturday, November 28. If you would like to send a card or be in touch with Mary Jo, her contact information is:

Plymouth Place  
315 LaGrange Rd Apt. 251  
LaGrange, IL 60526      Phone: 708-937-9095

**Food Collection** - for local food pantries  
Suggested donation for **this week:**  
**toiletries, soap, shampoo, deodorant**

**Turkey baskets-** *These items have been delivered! Thank you for your contributions!* (project sponsored by the Outreach Team)

**All** non-perishable food items are welcome and paper products and personal care items are also needed - tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, sanitary products, soaps, shampoo, etc. Please place items in the grocery carts at the church.

*Your ongoing help is appreciated and makes a difference.*

## **Cafe Connection**

**Sign up to show hospitality to others –  
You make it happen!**

The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the cafe. *Donations of food & drink items are also of help if you are not able to be a host.*

**Coming up.....**

**Advent Jazz Vespers**  
**"Where Jazz meets the Spirit"**

**Sunday, November 29 4:30 pm**

***The holiday season can be for some an unsettling season.  
All are welcome to begin the Advent season with the Ron Corsaro  
Jazz Trio and stay for a soup & bread supper.***

***MYM Christmas Dinner Event***

**Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 pm**

**Sean Patrick's Restaurant**

3480 Millersport Hwy.

Getzville, NY 14068

Dinner followed by entertainment by: **Director's Cut**, Barbershop Quartet

*Contact Bob & Marcia Snyder at 741-6901 for details and menu selections. Tickets are available at church now through December 6th.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Christmas Pageant – "Christmas Presence"**

**Rehearsals Sundays at 10 am – Music Room** *lower level*

Children, Youth and Adults are preparing each Sunday morning for the Christmas pageant. Several youth musicians will also be playing on Sunday, December 20th at the 11 am worship service.

Join us for the **Wrap Party** at noon in Crafts Hall!

**Happening this week:**

Tuesday, November 17 - 3 pm - Staff meeting

7:30 pm - Trustees

Wednesday, November 18- 7:30 pm – Choir

Thursday, November 19 - 10 am Life Lessons with Pastor  
Darryl

Saturday, November 21 - 9:30 am - Baking Project - Apprentice

10 am - Crafting For A Cause

**This Sunday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Sunday**

*Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality -*

*John Wesley on True*

*Thankfulness*

\* Following both worship services this Sunday **Brad Loliger, leader of the Stewardship & Finance Team**, will be on hand to offer an update on the 2016 church budget plan. Please remain after worship for this brief meeting and receive information / documents about our spending plan for mission & ministry for the coming year.

\* \* \* \* \*

"A fight is going on inside me," said an old man to his son. "It is a terrible fight between two wolves. One wolf is evil. He is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other wolf is good. He is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. The same fight is going on inside you."

The son thought about it for a minute and then asked, "Which wolf will win?"

The old man replied simply, "The one you feed."

— *Wendy Mass, Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* -

## **Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service**

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

DRB/sjp