

Weekly Update – November 2, 2016

A Personal Word ... From Jim Pollard

Next Steps in the Journey...

Christ UMC's journey toward the future has started. With energy and enthusiasm, the 42 planning retreat participants shared their hopes, dreams and prayers for the life and ministry of Christ UMC for the future ministries of the church. The results of the retreat included a series of possible purpose statements based on the morning's group discussions. What happens next?

A planning team has been formed which will meet on Sat., Nov. 5 to develop a draft of a purpose statement based on the results of the retreat. Members of the planning team are: Guy Castellino (Team Leader), Peggy Bermudez, John Miller, Dave Lawson, Lee Watson, Michelle Cordero, Pam Lopez, Chris Smith, Sally Pollard, Jim Pollard. The team will organize at least 7 small group gatherings between Nov. 6 and Thanksgiving in which the drafted purpose statement will be presented for discussion and response by participants. Dates and locations will be posted at the church and circulated by mail and e-mail so members and friends can indicate the gathering they will attend. The group meetings will be led by members of the planning team.

The purpose statement will then be revised, and will serve as the basis for the development of proposed strategies for accomplishing the purpose. Throughout the process, our consultant, Rev. John Wimberly, Jr. will serve as a resource and guide to the Planning Team. Each step will have opportunities for participation by members and participants in the congregation.

At a date still to be determined, Rev. Wimberly will return to lead a retreat day to guide completion of the strategic plan, which then will be presented to the Church Council and the congregation for approval.

If you were not at the retreat, the group meetings will be opportunities for you to participate in the process. Watch for the schedule, and be sure to sign up. The more people who participate, the stronger the plan will be.

Throughout, please spend time in prayer for God's guidance and the leading of the Holy Spirit throughout this journey.

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.

November 2: Jeremiah 33-35; Titus 3

November 3: Jeremiah 36-37; Philemon 1

November 4: Jeremiah 38-39; Hebrews 1

November 5: Jeremiah 40-42; Hebrews 2

November 6: Jeremiah 43-45; Hebrews 3

November 7: Jeremiah 46-48; Hebrews 4

November 8: Jeremiah 49-50; Hebrews 5

In Our Prayers

JOYS! **Susan Schauer** – returned to work, **Elvira Gonzalez** in worship on Sunday, **Bob Kreib** – returning home this week

Ann Burdette, Gaetano Castellino Sr., Rita Arnold, Carol Teresi, Patty Keller, Charles Terranova, Carolyn Day, Janet Hill, Elvira Gonzalez, Florence Stengel, Richard Mestler, Fred & Lynda Painton

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

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office - Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9 am to 5 pm,

Tuesday & Thursday – 9am to Noon

Tuesday, November 1 - 7 pm Stewardship /Finance Team

Wednesday, November 2 - 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 3 - 10 am – Children’s Sabbath Planning Team

12 Noon – MYM planning Meeting

6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

7 pm – Circle of Joy

7 pm – Elizabeth Circle

Friday, November 4 - 10 am – Books We Have Loved

5 – 7 pm – Spaghetti Dinner for “Wells of Love”

Saturday, November 5 - Change Your Clocks! Fall back...



Sunday, November 6 -

All Saints' Sunday/Communion Sunday

9 am – Casual Praise

10 am – FaithXpress

11 am – Traditional Style Worship

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Uganda Wells of Love



An anonymous donor has generously agreed to make a matching gift to the Wells of Love project in Uganda!! **All gifts up to \$5,000 will be matched** to provide clean, safe drinking water to remote areas of Uganda. Your gift makes a difference! Donations and questions can be directed to the church office or Kathy Weaver.

Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, November 4

All proceeds will go to the
Wells of Love Project



Turkey Baskets – Christ Church is partnering with North Presbyterian Church, Temple Shir Shalom, Temple Beth Zion, Presbyterian Village, Amherst Presbyterian Church, Williamsville East High School, local Girl Scout Troops, and Dash's, Tops & Wegmans Food Markets to provide 500 families with all the ingredients for Thanksgiving dinner.

October 30 – Cranberry Sauce & Brownie Mixes

November 6 – Muffin Mixes

***Turkeys or gift cards to purchase turkeys are also needed**

All food items are always needed to help stock local food pantries. Paper products and toiletries are welcome anytime. Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!

It's Time To Keep In Touch!

Sign up to visit church friends who are unable to get to church. Gift bags have been prepared for you to take on your visits. Come and share the story of your visits at a breakfast gathering on Saturday, November 12 at 10 am. Help us all to keep in touch. Call Peggy Bermudez for details 626-4897.

Serving Veterans – Veterans Day November 11

During October the following items are being collected for men & women at the local Veterans Hospital...Socks, Underwear, Towels, V-neck T-Shirts, Toiletries, Throws or lap blankets, Gift cards (McDonalds, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Tops, Wegmans – Please give to Diane Klenk or the church office) Audio Books and DVDs are also collected. There's a bin at the back of the worship space. Got questions? Call Diane Klenk at 651-0236

Hospitality & Welcome

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.

Café – Donations are welcome in the Café for use on Sunday mornings – baked goods, half & half, oj, fruit & cookies are useful!

Coat/Winter Hats, Mittens - *Collection ending soon!*

Our bin is overflowing! We're collecting warm coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for Seneca St United Methodist Church located in the Seneca-Babcock area of Buffalo. Warm items will be given to neighbors in need. Look for bins in Crafts Hall or Parlor. *Get them in now!*

Operation Christmas Child – **Deadline November 6**

Share God's love with children around the world by filling a shoe box with toys, school supplies and other gifts of friendship and encouragement. Filled boxes should be returned to the church by November 6.



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**Merry Christ-Mess...
...Beyond Time**

All children, youth and adults are invited to join in telling the story of Jesus' birth through this year's Christmas pageant. You'll be amazed at what is found in the Christmas storage room.

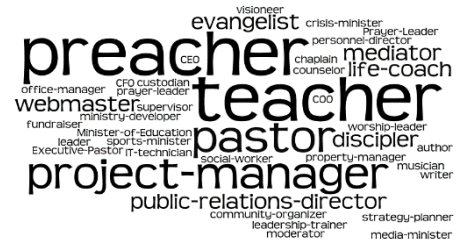
Meet with Director, Margaret Mugel, as the fun unfolds **each Sunday morning at 10 am** in the Music Room on the lower level. There's a part for everyone!
(speaking, non-speaking parts and playing instruments)

Only God can turn a mess into a message!

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Pastor Appreciation Lunch **Sunday, November 6**

Celebrate Rev. Jim Pollard's ministry among us! The Staff-Parish Relations Team is hosting a potluck lunch following worship this Sunday, November 6. Please bring a dish to share and a card or note of appreciation for Jim. We're thankful for all he is doing as our pastor and our partner in mission and ministry.



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Postponement

The Men's Club program, Cruisin' the St. Lawrence, on November 12 is being postponed due to scheduling conflicts. It will be held at a later date next spring.

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