

Weekly Update – November 30, 2016

CHURCH CONFERENCE – This Saturday, DECEMBER 3rd, 10:00 AM

The Annual Church Conference will be convened this Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 at 10:00 AM in Crafts Hall. District Superintendent, Rev. Wayne Butler, will preside. All church members are invited, and have voice and vote on all matters.

The agenda of an annual Church Conference includes reports from:

- The Church Council and Ministry Teams
- The Lay Leader and recommendation of Lay Servant certification.
- The Staff Parish Relations Team and recommendation of pastoral compensation.
- The Board of Trustees and the Endowment Team.
- The Director of Music.
- The Minister for Christian Education and Community Life.
- The Pastor
- The Stewardship & Finance Team, Financial Secretary and Church Treasurer.
- Election of Trustees and church leaders and ministry teams.
- Update from the Consultation Process Planning Team and next steps in developing strategies for the future ministries of Christ Church.

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 30: Ezekiel 43-44; 2 Peter 2

December 1: Ezekiel 45-46; 2 Peter 3

December 2: Ezekiel 47-48; 1 John 1

December 3: Daniel 1-2; 1 John 2

December 4: Daniel 3-4; 1 John 3

December 5: Daniel 5-6; 1 John 4

December 6: Daniel 7-8; 1 John 5

In Our Prayers

Joys -- College students and extended family home for Thanksgiving

- Thank you the **Altar Guild Team and Sean & Conor Brown** for decorating the worship space for the Advent/Christmas season. Orders for poinsettia plants are now being received.
- Recognition of **Leanne Paddock**, student at Syracuse University, who received a scholarship through the United Methodist Scholarship & Loan Fund. Giving to the UM Student Sunday offerings makes this possible.
- Presentation of a certificate to **Peggy Bermudez**, Lay Leader, on the completion of the 5th online course she has completed through the Institute for Discipleship toward certification as an Advanced Lay Speaker.

*Include in your prayers the family and friends of **Barbara Clinton** who died last week. Barbara sang in the church choir and was living with cancer. A memorial service celebrating her life will be held in January.

*Keep **Craig and Karen (Snyder) Jones** and their family in prayer – Craig’s mother, Audrey Jones died on November 25. A service celebrating her life will be held on Thursday, December 1, at 4 p.m. at Amigone Funeral Home (8440 Main St. Williamsville).

Richard Mestler-recent hospitalization, Al Tolsma- recovering from eye surgery, Jean Ericson, Mary Landel, Joyce Moser, Bob Kreib, Rita Arnold, Carol Teresi, Patty Keller, Charles Terranova, Carolyn Day, Janet Hill, Elvira Gonzalez, Florence Stengel, Fred & Lynda Painton, Janelle Martin’s grandmothers, both recently hospitalized, Castellino family.

Keep the church consultation process and planning team in your prayers as we continue to discern God’s purpose for Christ Church for the coming years.

Pray for the healing of all nations.

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

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office – Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm, Tues. & Thurs. – 9am to Noon

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

Thursday, December 1 - 6:30 pm – Praise Team rehearsal

Friday, December 2 - 10 am – Books We Have Loved –

Bring a Christmas reading or story to share

5:30 pm Music & Meditation

Saturday, December 3 -

10 am – Church Conference w/ D.S. Rev. Wayne Butler
3 pm – **Red Blazers Men's Chorus** Concert

Sunday, December 4 -

2nd Sunday in Advent

9 am – Casual Praise
10 am – FaithXpress – Christmas Pageant prep

God Is With Us – Advent Study Group for Adults

With David Pliss; Wesley Room

11 am – Traditional Style Worship

Cookie & Candy Sale All Morning

1 pm – **Community Youth Group**



Snow Day! At Saratoga Park – meet at church

(if no snow we'll walk the trails at the park and return to church for hot chocolate. Dress for the weather and bring friends!)

Commitment Cards

Thank you to all who have returned their commitment pledge cards to the church! We are thankful for your faithful support of the work God is doing in and through Christ Church. If you have not already done so, please turn in your commitment pledge card to the church office as soon as possible. Plans are being made for salary support for a new full-time pastor beginning July 2017. To date, we have 67 commitments for a total of \$170,944. Financial resources are essential to what we do. With your support, we will exceed \$250,000 for ministry in the coming year!

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Cookie & Candy Sale – Sundays, December 4th & 11th

Are you a baker or candy maker? Your homemade creations are welcome! Please bring them to the church kitchen by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 3rd. Your gifts will be packaged and ready for entertaining or gifts. All proceeds from the sale will support local outreach missions of Christ Church. This is our only fundraiser for local missions this year.

Singers! - You are invited to sing in the choir for Christmas Eve!!

Come to rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The first 45 minutes of each rehearsal will be devoted to preparing the Christmas Eve anthems.

Discretionary Fund –

Last week we met a gentleman named Allen who came to the church in need. He lost his job, is temporarily staying with a friend and hopes to keep his car on the road so he can find new employment and afford to rent a room to live in. He has worked at the church for two days helping Dave Wolfe with chores around the church. Occasionally people need a helping hand to get through difficult times and turn to the church. These needs require financial help in an emergency or temporary provision beyond food needs. If this kind of care & support moves you to make a financial contribution, please mark it **Discretionary Fund**. *Please keep Allen in your prayers as he hopes and works toward a new and better life.*

Food Pantry – Thank you for your donations

November 27 – Toiletries – soap, shampoo, deodorant

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.

Giving Tree – in the Parlor

Gift tags for recipients at Gateway Longview, Haven House, Primera Iglesia, Family Justice Center and Veterans will be available on the tree. Return gifts unwrapped. Contact Diane Klenk with questions 651-0236.

The Café is a connecting place.

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

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Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 18 11 am Worship



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

Only God can turn a mess into a message!

***Followed by the Open The Door party
Everyone welcome!***



Coming Soon...Mark your calendar

Advent Fridays – Give yourself the gift of peace

5:30 – 6 pm – Music & Meditation Taize style*

*(*Contemplative form of prayer, meditation, music, silence and candles)*

Advent Sundays – Adult Study Group with Dr. David Pliss

ADVENT STUDY: GOD IS WITH US – Sunday mornings at 10 AM in the Wesley Room

A look at the scripture readings for the Sundays in Advent using the study book God Is With Us, by Robin Wilson. Participants will be led by David Pliss, beginning on Sunday, November 27, the first Sunday in Advent. Study books are available at the church.

Saturday, December 3 - Red Blazers Male Glee Club Concert
3 pm at Christ Church

Sunday, December 11 – Concert by the *Buffalo Brass*
5 pm at Christ Church

Sunday, December 18 – Christmas Pageant 11 am

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

Only God can turn a mess into a message!

Open The Door Party following the pageant

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve 9 pm

Service of Lessons & Carols

Candles & Choir

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Worship

1 worship service at 11 am

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“Life can be difficult, that’s true, but we’re not in this alone. In the midst of the difficulties, the trials and tribulations, God is with us—sometimes lifting us, sometimes carrying us, sometimes bringing us opportunities for calmness and service. Listen to God. Open your heart to all the good possibilities for love and help that surround you each day...You are beloved and important to God. Treat yourself as a beloved one. Be patient. Be helpful. Believe in all the goodness, for it is within you and around you.” ~ unknown