



Weekly Update: November 3, 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”

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: www.Christchurchamherst.org

Or call us at: **716-839-2460**

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 was All Saints Day and our congregation paid tribute to our members and to loved ones and friends of Christ church who passed away during the

last year. This is always a meaningful moment to pause, reflect on those who have gone on triumphantly to the Lord (as the writer in the Letter to the Hebrews proclaimed), "...pioneers blazing who blazed the way..." (Heb.12:1). As we began a sermon series on Sunday for this month of November on "*Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality*," we also used as a beginning point the remembrance of the last years and days of John Wesley, the founder (*the pioneer*) of the Wesleyan tradition of which forms our heritage as The United Methodist Church. One of the captivating and memorable lines of Wesley in his last moment as a "saint" of Jesus Christ are these words, "*the best of all is God is with us.*" These words provided the blessed assurance to Wesley himself and to the company of believers (nicknamed *Methodists*) in the movement for Christ, that being satisfied with the continual conviction that in Christ they were justified by faith, and then went on to full sanctification. Up to his very last moment Wesley mustered up the strength to sing. He broke out singing with such vigor that all his friends were astonished — "*I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; And when my voice is lost in death; Praise shall employ my nobler powers; My days of praise shall ne'er be past; While life, and thought, and being last; Or immortality endures; Happy the man whose hopes rely; On Israel's God: He made the sky; And earth and seas, with all their train; His truth for ever stands secure, He saves the oppressed, He feeds the poor; And none shall find His promise vain.*" (Isaac Watts) This is the Methodism we know and love, and therefore must reclaim its vitality for the sake of Christ to help transform the world! So, over the next three (3) weeks and continuing at various months in the coming year, we will share this theme of "*Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality.*" We will discover the life-changing riches of the theology and spirituality of our Wesleyan tradition through the lens of John and Charles Wesley that will help the church equip us to live out the mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ."

We offer our thanks to you for the pledges we have received this past Sunday. For our members who have not been able to offer your pledge on Sunday, we strongly encourage you to do so this week. Our Stewardship and Finance Team is working with a deadline of no later than November 10 to put the 2016 Ministry Plan in place. Your financial commitment to Christ Church is very vital to keep our faithful presence in this community and fulfill the many obligations we have as the Body of Christ. So please continue to hold the ministries of Christ Church in your prayers, as you discern what God is asking you to give and to do for the church financially and spiritually. 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 All Saints Sunday we honored our friends who have died during the past year and lit candles of remembrance. They have shaped our path by the way they walked and cannot be forgotten.

Rev. Davis Matovu, Executive Director of Soul Fishing Ministries, brought

greetings as he has been connecting with individuals and churches in the US who have supported the initiatives in Uganda that assist underprivileged children needing help with the basics of life and education.

Operation Christmas Child project continues through this week. Boxes are available at the back of the worship space. Children from all around the world and especially in the places with some of the greatest human need get to enjoy and experience the season of giving in a very real way and know that others in the world are thinking of them and caring for them. **Boxes MUST be returned to the church by this Sunday, November 8th.** *(project sponsored by the Christian Education Team)*

In Our Prayers:

Gary Snyder - recovering from surgery

Jan Beckwith - recent hospitalization

Sandy Cumming - (and dog Dakota) recovering after bitten by dog

Bob Kreib - recent hospitalization

Dorothy Brown - moved to a Vinecroft apartment.

Sharon Ferrelli - Finished course of treatment for cancer

Mary Jo Evans - settling into new residence in Chicago area

Ann Burdette –Wesley Rehab, Room 736.

Rev. Vern French -former pastor now retired. Vern & wife Jeanne recently moved to assisted living facility

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

Elizabeth Brunner, recovering from broken arm;

Charles Terranova, Hodgkins Lymphoma

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

Shirley Downey; AliceSchmidt, Diane Lovejoy.

Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign)

Alex Dunbar, Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling (all serving in the USNavy).

Food Collection - for local food pantries

Suggested donation for **this week**: Muffin Mix

Turkey baskets- *will also be filled for people in our community during the upcoming holidays. Turkeys or gift cards to purchase turkeys are welcome. (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, papertowels, sanitary products, soaps, shampoo, etc. Please place items in the grocery carts at the church.

Your ongoing help is appreciated and makes a difference.

Seneca Street Coat Drive

We are gathering winter coats, boots, hats, and mittens – gifts of warmth for the families of Seneca Street Church and the surrounding neighborhood. Please bring items to church by Sunday, November 1. Thank you! *(project sponsored by the Outreach Team)*

Cafe Connection

Sign up to show hospitality to others – Sign up in the Café

Donations of food & drink items are also of help if you are not able to be a host.

Coming up.....

Christmas Pageant – Christmas Presence

Sundays at 10 am – Music Room *lower level*

Children, Youth and Adults are rehearsing each Sunday morning for the Christmas pageant. Several youth musicians will also be playing for the pageant. There's a place for you!

Adults are also needed to help at our rehearsals. Join us on
Sunday mornings.

Happening this week:

Wednesday, November 3 - Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 4- 10 am Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

7 pm Elizabeth Circle

Friday, November 5 - 10 am Books We Have Loved

This Sunday, November 8 - *Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality*

Notice -- *Upcoming Annual Church Conference*

Saturday, November 14 at 3 pm

***Clarence Center UMC
9750 Clarence Center Rd.***

All church members are encouraged to participate and to vote.

* * * * *

"Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen.
Don't be afraid." *Fredrick Buechner*

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