

UPDATE - October 14, 2015

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem Road at Saratoga Road

Amherst, New York

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

EVERYONE is WELCOME

Church Office Hours - Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Praise Worship at 9 am

Traditional Worship at 11 am

10 am: FaithXpress - Children

Apprentice - Youth

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

Why not bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God?

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

Or call us at: [716-839-2460](tel: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 we began our Annual Stewardship Campaign for 2016 with a sermon series entitled: *“Celebrating Our Connectional Ministries.”* The sub-topic on Sunday was *“Deal or No Deal.”* This is a play-off of the television game show where contestants selected a briefcase with an amount of money that could be anywhere from one penny to \$1 million. Then they opened the other briefcases on stage to determine the amounts that were not in their case and to narrow down the possible amounts that could be in their case. Every so often, the “banker” made a money offer to the contestant. (Pause) Sometimes those offers even came with only one case left on stage besides the contestant’s case. What made the show interesting, of course, was that no one knew what would happen if the contestant kept playing. That’s where the drama and ratings came in. In last Sunday’s Scripture reading (Jeremiah 31:31-34), Jeremiah talks about two possible “deals” or arrangements between God and God’s Old Testament people living in ancient Judah. The word that is used to describe these two possible deals is “covenant.” But unlike the game show, Deal or No Deal, we can see in advance which of the two covenants is the better deal. In fact, God explicitly states that God’s New Covenant is the best deal. *“The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah...I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”* Sins forgiven and forgotten; iniquity against God pardoned for the sake of God’s Son; our shortcomings separated as far as the East is from the West and thrown into the sea of forgetfulness. No strings attached; no fine print on the bottom of the page. A one-sided deal...a unilateral covenant signed, sealed, and secured in the holy, precious saving grace of Jesus Christ! Jesus leaves nothing, absolutely nothing for us to do — not even one-tenth of one percent. Now that’s quite a deal isn’t it? The gratitude and generosity for what God continues to be to us and do for us is why we share in this stewardship campaign year after year. Not because of

what I do for you or what the church gives to you, or even what we do for each other, but rather what God continues to do for us and be to us that we offer our stewardship of giving to this church. That's the deal! 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...

Our thanks to **Peggy Bermudez** for offering her gifts of leadership in worship and the sharing of that very moving story as part of a "Mission Minute" about a Cuban family touched by the ministry of John "Juan" Wesley and one of the many ways the **Family Promise** ministry for refugee families does some amazing work with families. Our church continues to be a tangible and meaningful support partner with Family Promise. This one of the ways our monetary gifts help to support this ministry.

It was also a very touching experience to see how quickly members of our church took the many gift boxes to be filled with items for the **Operation Christmas Child** project. Those 50 boxes went within 10 minutes! For those of you who would still like to participate in this project we will have more boxes available at the back of the Sanctuary on Sunday. 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 with the items we place in these boxes.

In our Prayers:

MYM Group- annual Fall Retreat at Lake Chautauqua, facilitated by Jim Pollard

Ann Burdette –After a recent hospital stay is at Wesley Rehab, Room 736, for a short time

Richard Mestler – knee pain

Dorothy Brown & the Hanson Family – recent death of Dorothy's son, Chris Hanson

Woody & Jan Rhinehart – recent death of Woody's sister, Alice Mae Hall

Dennis Scaringi and Ed Maker - at home recovering from surgery

Elizabeth Brunner, recovering from broken arm;

Sharon Ferrelli, radiation treatment; **Charles Terranova**, Hodgkins Lymphoma

Mitch Mooney - Amberleigh; **Glenn Hurst** at home; **Tom Davis** at Elderwood 200 Bassett Rd., **Robert Nachbar**, **Mary Jo Evans**, **Rosemary Little** - Blocher Home; **Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Barbara Clinton**, **Fred and Lynda Panton**, **Bim Rowlands**, **Nicky Sebastiano**, **Ruth Kitson**, **Ruth Luss**, **Shirley Downey**; **Alice Schmidt**, **Diane Lovejoy**.

Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign)

Alex Dunbar, **Ian Johnson** and **Lindsey Darling** (all serving in the US Navy).

Food Collection - for local food pantries

Suggested donation for **this week: Canned Fruits & Vegetables**

Next Week: Stuffing Mix & Mashed Potatoes

These are *suggested* food items. **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.

Café Connection – Hosts are always needed – 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.....

Harvest Dinner

United Methodist Women will host their annual Harvest Dinner on Friday, October 23, from 4:30 -7:00 p.m. at Christ Church. Chicken & biscuits & homemade pie are on the menu! Tickets are \$10.00 for adults & \$5.00 for children & will be on sale in the Café after worship. If you can help in any way, please sign-up in the church kitchen.

Christmas Pageant – Christmas Presence

Sundays at 10 am – Music Room lower level

Children, Youth and Adults are invited to be a part of the Christmas pageant. There are speaking and non-speaking parts and parts for musicians! There's a place for you!

Adults are also needed to help at our rehearsals.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, partners with churches worldwide to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are filling shoeboxes with gifts, toys, school supplies, hygiene items, etc. to send to children around the world! A simple shoebox of gifts will fill a child with hope and joy.

Shoeboxes and gift suggestion guides are available in the back of the Sanctuary. A \$7 donation is requested to cover shipping costs, and filled boxes will be collected mid-November. Please take as many as you would like – each box can have an eternal impact on a child in a developing country!!

Variety Show

The Outreach Team will be hosting a Spooktacular Variety Show (It'll be a How!!) on Friday, October 30 at 7 p.m. to raise funds for local missions. Do you have a talent to share? Would you like to purchase an ad for the playbill? Talent forms, ad forms, and tickets will be available in the Café after worship. We need your help to make this event a success!

Seneca Street Coat Drive

We are gathering winter coats, boots, hats, and mittens – gifts of warmth for the families of Seneca Street Church. Please bring items to church by Sunday, November 1. Thank you!

Happening this week:

October 13-15 - **MYM October Days Retreat** at Chautauqua

Retreat leader – Jim Pollard Jeopardy challenge – Drew Heitzenrater

Wednesday, October 14 - 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 15 - 10 am Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

11 am Visitation Team Meeting

Saturday, October 17 - 10 am Crafting for a Cause

Sunday, October 18 – 4 pm ABC Bel Canto Concert at Christ Church

Child Care during worship... Located in Room 9 on the lower level

Parents PLEASE NOTE ...

1. An adult needs to accompany children and sign them in to the child care room. Unaccompanied children will not be admitted without being properly sign in.
2. Children will only be released from child care to the parent who has signed them in or someone they have designated.
3. The number of children cannot exceed a 1:7 ratio by law.

The child care providers will care for older children ONLY if the number of children is lower than the number allowed by law (1:7 ratio) If infants and toddlers are present older children will not be cared for in the child care room.

The **Sky Box** is available for families with children who would like to see and hear the worship service, but need a quiet space for their children. Materials are also available on the back shelf of the worship space for older children.

The care and safety of your children is important to us. Thank you for following these procedures.

“It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world, it is the God of mission that has a church in the world. Mission is about identity, about who we are, about living our whole lives in the context of God’s presence and work in the world.”

Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service

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