

**Christ Church is Making Connections
& Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love & Service**

Weekly Update - October 17

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

This past Sunday, seeking to capitalize on the beautiful day, we took an autumnal hike as a family. Heading from Art Park in Lewiston to the Power Authority hiking along the Niagara Gorge, we basked in the colors that danced before our eyes. The blue of the sky, the green of the river, and the splendor of reds, yellows, oranges and greens of the trees framing both sides of the mighty river.

My daughter kept remarking how it looked like a painting. I couldn't help but agree as we sought different vantage points along the way. Always the fall for me brings into relief the beauty of diversity in creation. It's as we see the display of the colors together that we are overcome with a sense of awe in God's magnificence. The best way we know to capture or express it is, as my daughter said, by comparing it to art or the many notes in a musical composition. These things coming together, the many colors or the many notes, make an incredible picture or a symphonic piece.

Go outside among the breeze and let the colors and leaves dance around you. Recognize that God is speaking, the lessons of Jesus dancing around us, and the wind of the Holy Spirit moving to encourage us to see that in diversity is the presence and beauty of the divine.

Daily Bible Reading – 2018 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.

October 17: Isaiah 62-64; 1 Thessalonians 5

October 18: Isaiah 65-66; 2 Thessalonians 1

October 19: Jeremiah 1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2

October 20: Jeremiah 3-4; 2 Thessalonians 3

October 21: Jeremiah 5-6; 1 Timothy 1

October 22: Jeremiah 7-8; 1 Timothy 2

October 23: Jeremiah 9-10; 1 Timothy 3

Joys

Joy! \$477 was given during this past Sunday's 2nd Helping Offering, which will support the Thanksgiving Dinner at the Buffalo City Mission.

In Our Healing Prayers

Janet Hill, Woody Rhinehart, Valari Zanghi & father Harold Weaver (both now home), **Pam Elbersen, Frank Annunziata, Michele Sciolino, Mary Jane Shanley, Lois Lewis, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Sissie Mooney**

*Those who are **care partners** with others

*Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson serving in the US Navy

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office:

Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm,

Tues. & Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Thursday, October 18 - 1pm- "Thirstaid" Thursday Study

Friday, October 19 - 7-8pm -Mind/Body Connection Yoga

Sunday, October 21 - **10am - Worship Service**

Focus on Mental Health

11am - FaithXpress, AOL & Fellowship Opportunities

11am - Bridges of Hope

Supervised Child Care, Sky Box and Family Worship Space available

*Visit the **Café Connection** each Sunday morning and enjoy delicious, fair trade, **New Day Coffee**, morning treats and friendly conversation.*

6:30pm- "Immersing Ourselves in Worship" Study



It's going to be a long road of recovery and rebuilding following Hurricane Michael, the most powerful hurricane in nearly 50 years to hit the continental U.S. The Florida Panhandle was hit hardest. The flooding caused by heavy rain, the storm surge, and the fierce wind ripped some homes, churches, and businesses off their foundations, left many without a home, and in some cases, resulted in death. Thousands are still without power and it will remain like that for some time. Meanwhile, many are still recovering in North Carolina and Texas from other recent hurricanes and storms.

Mike Block, Director of Missional Engagement for the Upper New York Conference, has given a few **ways we can help make a difference** in the lives of those who have been impacted.

1. All are invited to participate by **giving financially**. Donations can be made out to **Christ Church** with "**Disaster/Hurricane Relief**" **written on the memo line**. Monetary donations can be used to purchase supplies in bulk used to assemble United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits.
2. **UMCOR Cleaning Kits (Flood Buckets)** can be assembled either as a congregation or we can partner with neighboring churches (such as Harris Hill UMC, see note below) to assemble kits together. [Click here for assembly instructions](#). It costs about \$75 to assemble one cleaning bucket if items are bought at cost at your local grocery or convenience store. If you or your group is interested in saving money and producing two kits for the price of one, send your donation to UNY Mission Central HUB and Mike Block will order the supplies for you at a bulk rate and have it shipped directly to Christ Church. All items will meet UMCOR requirements.
3. Please keep those affected by Hurricane Michael in **your prayers**.

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Pastor Katie Zettle, Harris Hill UMC:

The news has stopped reporting about flooding issues, but the need is great. Please consider collecting items or money for the UMCOR cleaning buckets. If you want to work on a specific few items, we need Black garbage bags-(33-45 gal size), clothesline (50ft-100 ft), Liquid household cleaner (Lysol, pine sol 16-40 oz). **SPONGES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE LIST.** A \$3 donation for shipping each bucket can also be included. All items can be dropped off at Harris Hill UMC (8495 Main St, corner Harris Hill Rd.) Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday from 8:30am-2pm or call the church for evening drop offs. 716-632-4688 or hhumc@roadrunner.com



Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families

In addition to the food that goes to local food pantries, Christ Church serves local families in need.

The following items are needed:

cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, deodorant, and soap.

The Tiger's Den is collecting **broth (chicken, beef, vegetable) & side dishes (i.e. Rice-A-Roni, Knorr pasta packets, etc.)** in October.

Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.

Coat Drive

We are currently collecting **gently-used coats** with working zippers and buttons, as well as **hats, mittens, scarves and boots** for Clara's Closet and will continue doing so until the end of October. Please place your donations in the black totes labeled Clara's Closet in Crafts Hall. Clara's Closet provides clothing for refugees and for low income individuals living in the Buffalo area. Clara's Closet is located in Central Park UMC.

Thank you for your help in keeping someone warm this winter!



Thanksgiving Baskets

Starting October 13, we will begin the annual gathering of ingredients for the Thanksgiving baskets for the less fortunate. **Stuffing mix, canned vegetables, canned fruit, brownie mix, instant mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce** are included in each basket. **Frozen turkeys and gift cards** are also greatly appreciated. The supplies will be assembled to be delivered the week of November 12.





Mind/Body Connection Yoga

Fridays, 7–8 p.m. in the Family Room

Beginning this Friday, October 19, join Ryan Meegan, certified Bikram Yoga instructor, to practice conscious breathing and body postures (including chair yoga) that bridge the mind/body connection, draw you closer to God and help you enjoy life more. Suitable for all abilities.

Amherst Symphony Orchestra Concert

Sunday, October 21 at 7 p.m.

Amherst Middle School (55 Kings Hwy.)

A free concert will be given by the Amherst Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, October 21. **This concert is dedicated to Ed Fisher.** For more information, [click here](#).

Cafe Furniture Assembly

All willing and able hands are invited to help assemble the new furniture for the Cafe on **Saturday, October 27 at 10 a.m.** Please bring tools if you have them (screwdriver, hammer, etc.)



Bridges of Hope

All are invited to join us this **Sunday, October 21, at 11a.m.** as we explore why the church is the perfect connection for mind health ministry. A light lunch will be provided.

Exploring Sunday Scriptures

Every **Tuesday at Noon**, Pastor Daven leads a time exploring the upcoming Sunday's Scripture. This will provide context to the Scripture(s) being explored and ultimately enrich the experience of worship itself. All are welcome anytime!

Immersing Ourselves in Worship

Did you ever wonder why we do what we do during worship? Where did our traditions, patterns and symbols get started? What makes worship vital and engaging? This 4-week study will explore these questions and more. Immersing Ourselves in Worship will be offered on **Thirstaid Thursdays** from **1 - 2:30p.m.**, **through November 1**. The same class will be offered on **Sunday evenings** from **6:30 - 8 p.m.** **through November 4**. Come immerse yourself in worship and quench your thirst!

The Wesley Challenge!

Between November 4 and November 25 – you are invited to engage with others, using a resource titled “**The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith**,” using questions asked by John Wesley to his students and friends at Oxford University.

On Sundays, Nov. 11, 18 & 25, Pastor Daven Oskvig's sermons will explore three themes of the questions:

- *Relationship With God: an Upward Focus*
- *Relationship with Self: an Inward Focus*
- *Relationship with Others: an Outward Focus*

The Spiritual Formation Team invites adults and youth to participate in “The Wesley Challenge” by reading the book daily beginning November 4 (one question for each day), attending worship each Sunday, and joining with others in group reflection and

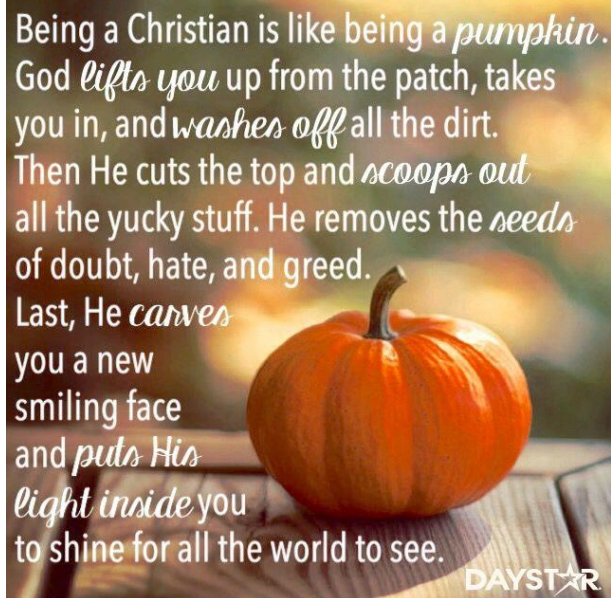
conversation during the three-week period.

So we will know how many books to order, we invite you to email the church office TODAY. If you wish to make a donation toward the cost of the book (\$11), checks payable to “Christ UMC” should have “Wesley Challenge” on the check memo line.

Please email your response to the church office TODAY!

(Wednesday, Oct. 17)

*Books will be ordered based on responses,
and available at the church on Sunday, November 4.*



Being a Christian is like being a *pumpkin*.
God *lifts you* up from the patch, takes
you in, and *washes off* all the dirt.
Then He cuts the top and *scoops out*
all the yucky stuff. He removes the *seeds*
of doubt, hate, and greed.
Last, He *carves*
you a new
smiling face
and *puts His*
light inside you
to shine for all the world to see.

DAYSTAR

Church Office Hours:

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

SUNDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Worship at 10 am

Educational Opportunities at 11 am