

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

**Weekly Update - October 24**

**Christ United Methodist Church**

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

**A Word From Pastor Daven**

**Packing the Shed**

This past week I faced the hard reality that the time had come to put away all of the patio furniture. I try and avoid this because it admits the pivot in the weather that places the days of sitting outside past. Truth is that I also grumble about it because it is a challenging task to get everything to fit in the shed - 3 bikes, 6 chairs, table, umbrella, mower, wheel barrow, tools, paddle board, etc. It's a complicated puzzle that requires imagination, muscle with awkwardly shaped and heavy things, and sometimes a few choice words. Each year I make it work, much to my surprise, as I try to recall how I did it the prior year. Everything has its place.

I paused at the end of this undertaking this year, standing back and reflecting how this is like the church. Not the shed bit nor the stuff that needs to be fit in, but that there is a place for everyone. And like my shed, it never is or stays exactly the same as it was before, changing with each year. I'd like to say that this made me more enthusiastic for packing my shed, but that's not the case. It did make me appreciate the grace of God which does create space for us all, a place to belong no matter our awkwardness. And the church, at its best, mirrors this grace. There is room for each of us. Thanks be to God!

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**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 24: Jeremiah 11-13; 1 Timothy 4

October 25: Jeremiah 14-16; 1 Timothy 5

October 26: Jeremiah 17-19; 1 Timothy 6

October 27: Jeremiah 20-22; 2 Timothy 1

October 28: Jeremiah 23-24; 2 Timothy 2

October 29: Jeremiah 25-26; 2 Timothy 3

October 30: Jeremiah 27-28; 2 Timothy 4

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## Joys

**Joy!** Many bags of warm winter outerwear were given to Journey's End Refugee Services this week! JERS is a multi-service organization serving refugees and immigrants in Buffalo, NY.

## In Our Healing Prayers

**Janet Hill, Woody Rhinehart, Valari Zanghi & father Harold Weaver, Pam Elberson, 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**

Wednesday, October 24 - 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 25 - 1pm- "Thirstaid" Thursday Study  
7pm- Hospitality Team

Friday, October 26 - 7pm- Game Night  
7-8pm -Mind/Body Connection Yoga

Saturday, October 27 - 10am- Cafe Furniture Assembly

Sunday, October 28 - **10am - Worship Service**

*Children's Sabbath & UMW Sunday*

**11am - FaithXpress, AOL & Fellowship Opportunities**

***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.*

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## **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)**

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](mailto: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 Journey's End Refugee Services and will continue doing so until the end of October. Please place your donations in the black totes in Crafts Hall. Journey's End provides clothing for refugees living in the Buffalo area. 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.



## 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**. Come immerse yourself in worship and quench your thirst!

## The Wesley Challenge!

“The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith,” is a resource that uses 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 from November 4 - 25 (one question for each day), attending worship each Sunday, and joining with others in group reflection and conversation during the three-week period. **Those who ordered books can pick them up in the church office next week or following worship on November 4.**

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### Mind/Body Connection Yoga

**Fridays, 7–8 p.m. in the Family Room**

Join Ryan Meegan, certified Bikram Yoga instructor, this Friday 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.

### 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.)

**Concert at Christ Church**  
**Sunday, November 4 – 6 p.m.**



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**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