

UPDATE - September 1, 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

Summer Hours for the Church Office (Through September 4):
Monday through Thursday- 9 am to 3 pm. Fridays – 9am to **12 noon**

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 a.m. – Praise Celebration Worship & 11:00a.m. – Traditional Style Worship

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 a 3-week sermon series on “*Leadership*.” The sub-topic that we focused on was “*Creative Leadership - Discovering Pathways to Imagination, Creativity & Passion*.” I shared with us our need to consider the important principles of God’s gift of creativity. So often in my ministry as a pastor, I discover that the artistic creative domain of our members’ lives has been covered or layered over; that for some reason this potential is blocked. Many leaders and members mouth the right words, but there is no heartbeat, no soul, no passion to what we truly want to offer through our gifts and abilities in the church. I told the story of a group of leaders made up of pastors and lay people in one of our large UM churches in Indiana that took a trip to Disneyland. Some found it quite strange, even weird, that they would take this trip to explore the creativity and imagination of Disney. In fact, they had access to Disney’s executives and producers to discover their pathways to imagination, creativity and passion! This Disney trip was no ordinary trip - rather it was a trip of deep reflection – attempting to arrive at a Spirituality of Creativity, seeking to find answers to one of the questions Herb Miller poses in his book, *Leadership is Key*; what is the shape of your creativity? And so my questions for us at Christ Church are: what is the shape of our creativity in light of the gospel and the culture around us? How are we making our various ministries at Christ Church *relevant, innovative, creative* and *connected* to our culture and unlocking our ministry effectiveness? I truly believe that every person at Christ Church is a creative person, with creative gifts such as – painting, writing, music, dance, design, photography, and so on, all within the life of our church. We at Christ Church have the potential to keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because our imagination will lead us

down new paths. Remember - all human endeavors involve creative gifts and abilities, from a simple setting of the table for dinner to the building of a vast cathedral. Anytime we place ourselves into a task or project we are being creative. Anytime we inject humor into a situation we are being creative. Anytime we apply the knowledge, ability and skill that God has given us to a task at hand, we are being creative. If we can imagine it, dream it, we can do it! What a blessing, what a delight!

Let's continue to hold in our prayers the people of the beautiful peaceful island of Dominica. These last few days have been very difficult and traumatic for the people there. As I shared with you my younger son, Duane lives there with his mother. They are safe but remain in shock over the devastation. The reports out of Dominica is that beyond the 20 people confirmed dead, there are over 50 people still missing and perhaps even more.

I was pleased to receive a phone call on Monday from Jack Anick, the UMCOR Director of Disaster Relief for the Caribbean region. They are doing a lot of preparation work in anticipation of the airport being open this week for flights. We here at Christ church can make contributions to this disaster relief effort by writing a check/money order to Christ UMC (in the Memo – Dominica Hurricane Erika). We will then send on your behalf our contributions to UMCOR International Disaster Response (IDR) Advance to help the people of Dominica.

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. See you in church and always invite someone to join us for worship!

Here's what's happening at church...

Last Sunday "**Director's Cut**" **barbershop quartet** offered special music for worship at the 11 am worship service. The group feature **Mac Sabol** - lead, **Dave Lawson** - baritone, Kevin Koczka - tenor and Mike Honeyman – bass, and together they brought much joy to our worship experience.

We're keeping our thoughts and prayers focused on **children, youth and college students** returning to school and especially those starting school and/or living on their own for the first time. God is at work in these beginnings and the arms of this church community are wrapped around each one. Remind your children always that they are wrapped in God's love and marked with the sign of the cross forever.

Keep **parents, returning teachers and new teachers** starting out in your prayers as September unfolds before us.

In our Prayers: **Barbara Critoph** - at home recovering from surgery; **Ed Maker** at home recovering from surgery; **Castellino family; Wenner family; Ann Burdette** at Brompton Heights; **Mary Jo Evans**, Blocher Home; **Elizabeth Brunner**,

broke her arm; **Mitch Mooney** - Amberleigh; **Glenn Hurst** at home; **Tom Davis** at Elderwood Room 312-A, 200 Bassett Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221; **Sharon Ferrelli** beginning radiation treatment; **Dr. Robert Nachbar**, Blocher Home; **Charles Terranova**, Hodgkins Lymphoma - *(It was GREAT to see Charles in church with his grandparents on Sunday!)*; **Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Barbara Clinton**, **Fred and Lynda Painton**, **Bim Rowlands**, **Nicky Sebastiano**, **Ruth Kitson**, **Ruth Luss**, **Shirley Downey**; **Alice Schmidt**, **Diane Lovejoy**.

Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign) especially: **Alex Dunbar**, **Ian Johnson** and **Lindsey Darling** (all serving in the US Navy).

Please keep the **Blaser Family** in your prayers. Their 3 year old son, Charlie, died after being found in a pond at a gathering of friends (including Erin & Chris Johnson). You can read this family's story in the Buffalo News. Charlie's family chose to donate his organs and are finding great comfort in knowing how his brief life made a difference for others.

Food Collection - for local food pantries.
Suggested donation for this week: – Soup

September schedule is not yet available, but all non-perishable food items are welcome and paper products are also needed - tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, sanitary products.

Please place items in the grocery carts at the church.

Though you may not see it, people come on a regular basis to gather food and other items for their families. This ongoing ministry makes a difference for men, women & children who face many challenges in life.

Can you add an extra item or two to your shopping list this week???

Sharing a Meal -

Members of the **Circle of Joy (Peggy Bermudez, Lee Watson, Lisa Lawson, Sandy Cumming)** prepared and served a meal at the Seneca St. UMC on Sunday, feeding people from the Seneca/Babcock community. **Leanne Paddock** also joined them in serving others.

Café Connection –

Isn't it great to come to the church each Sunday morning and find a cup of coffee waiting for you, or a cold beverage to start your day? Maybe even some delicious pastries or fruit to choose from? And there's always people to share a conversation, a comfortable chair in the Gathering Space where you can take a break and “be.” Can you picture yourself there.....?

People are needed each week to set up, top up and clean up so that the Cafe is a welcoming place for everyone. If you, or you and a group, are willing to provide hospitality, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Café or call the church office.

Instructions are available on the refrigerator door and there is always help available.
Donations of food & drink items are also of help if you are not able to be a host.

Choir

Start warming up those voices - choir season will soon be upon us! The first rehearsal will be held **Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30p.m.** in the Choir Room. The choir typically sings for the 11 am worship service. New and returning members are welcome. Come check things out! For more information, please see Kevin Durkin, Minister of Music.

Sign Up Now - Darryl's social calendar is filling up fast!

If you want to attend a **Date With Darryl** gathering, the clipboard sign- up sheets are available on the bulletin board at the back of the worship space. September small group gatherings with Pastor Darryl will take place at various locations. You'll have the opportunity to get to know more about Pastor Darryl and your church friends. Contact Paula Kreib if you have questions.

Coming up this Sunday, September 6.....

"Developing Spiritual Leaders: Leaders Take The Journey Too"

1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 20: 25-28

Tuesday, Sept 1 - 7 pm Stewardship & Finance Team

Thursday, Sept 3 - 7 pm Circle of Joy; 7 pm Elizabeth Circle

Friday, Sept 4 - 1 pm Christian Education Team - Room preparations

Coming Soon...

Saturday, Sept 12 - "Going Green" Breakfast 10 am Cost - \$5

Speaker - Dave Bauer from GROWWNY and Sustainable Earth Solutions

Sunday, Sept 13 - Worship at 9 am & 11 am

- 10 am - FaithXpress - Step Into My Shoes

- Apprentice Confirmation

- Adult Groups - Being Christian - Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer

Sunday, Sept 27 - Children's Sabbath - Stories & Photos from Uganda Mission Team

Thought – Is it possible that we're at our best when we're rookies??

Create new beginnings.

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DRB/sjp