



**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

Praise Celebration 9 am

All Ages Education Hour 10 am

Traditional Style Celebration 11 am

*TOTAL STEWARDSHIP, PRAYERS,  
PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE*

*Serving - the nature of stewardship*

Church Office: 350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226  
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**Christ UMC Staff**

*Senior Pastor*

**Rev. Darryl R. Barrow**

*Minister for Education & Community Enrichment*

**Sally J. Pollard**

*Office Manager/Ministry Assistant*

**Janelle Martin**

*Minister of Music*

**Paul Staley**

*Financial Secretary*

**Doris Schanzlin**

*Custodian*

**David Wolf**



The Caller

April 2016



## With Joy... From Sally

*Why are you afraid?* Mark 4 *Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.* Mark 6

The gospel according to Mark records these words of Jesus. Both situations take place on the sea...which is a frequent symbol of the chaos from which the world was created and to which it could return. We all have fears. When I was a child I was afraid of being home alone. As an adolescent I was afraid of new situations. As a mother I was afraid of what might happen to my children. Through the years I have learned a lot from my fears.

In *A Burst of Light: Living With Cancer*, a collection of prose focused on the experiences and beliefs of writer Audre Lorde, she writes, "Afraid is a country where they issue us passports at birth and hope we never seek citizenship in any other country. The face of afraid keeps changing constantly, and I can count on that change. I need to travel light and fast, and there's a lot of baggage I'm going to have to leave behind me."

Like the disciples on the sea, I would prefer the river of life to move as calm waters, rather than be thrust into the rapids and white water that makes me feel more vulnerable. But I have learned that vulnerability has its own significance. It's only when I'm willing to be vulnerable, unguarded by familiar habits, traditions, routines, and fixed ideas, that I stretch my own limits, discover new abilities in myself, and a new inward adventure can begin.

Organizations and communities also have to face fears. We need look no further than the current presidential campaign to see fear and anxiety running rampant. Just as each individual faces fear differently, so does each community or group. Some respond by feeling scared, some display incredible sadness, while others may feel powerful. Fear gets used as a tool to dominate and keep others in their inferior places. Part of what we need to leave behind is the feeling that we're helpless, inferior, that our perspective and efforts are meaningless and make no difference. If we hold on to fear, we become frozen, and even the children can tell you we need to "let it go!!" Corporate anxiety can lead to assessing the reality of danger or risk. It can be a catalyst for necessary changes. As the heat turns up it can get things cooking or cause the pot to boil over.

"Take heart, it is I", says Jesus. Don't be afraid. We're not alone. Fear should remind us that we need others; partners and supporters. It's a time for community building, not isolation. It's a time for flexibility and courage. It's a time to remember who we are, not for losing our soul and our uniqueness. Christ Church got its name for a reason. We're a community built on a solid rock, a sure foundation, following the One who leads us out of the wilderness and shows us how to calm the waters. We follow the One who became vulnerable to human life, who died, rose to new life, and has left the Spirit to be with us forever, always doing a new thing in our midst.

Who do you count on in fearful times? What are *you* willing to put forward to be supportive at this time?

Sally



## FROM DARRYL'S DESK...

The United Methodist Church General Conference 2016, Portland OR  
My Dear Friends,

The General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which convenes every four years to determine the denomination's future direction. It is the highest legislative body in The United Methodist Church, and it can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. It approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs. The voting membership consists of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the Annual Conferences. It is the only body that can speak officially for the denomination. I want to share a couple key legislative proposals that will be considered before the 2016 General Conference. I can't detail all of the proposals here, so I invite you to log on to: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/gc2016-advance-edition-daily-christian-advocate>.

It is my prayer that John Wesley's three general rules will help guide the work of General Conference. There are many proposals addressing different aspects of the denomination's future organization. Wesley's principles can help to guide the process of making decisions for the future and help us to become a more authentic and intentional worldwide church:

- ◆ do no harm, do all the good we can, and stay in love with God
- ◆ do not act in haste and allow God to order our steps
- ◆ welcome the movement of the Holy Spirit and be open to new revelations
- ◆ engage in meaningful discernment with active listening
- ◆ respect our differences and embrace our unity in Christ.

There is legislation relating to a jurisdictional process that aligns with the work of the General Book of Discipline to be completed and presented at General Conference 2020. The General Book of Discipline will contain provisions of church law that apply to the entire global church and that only the General Conference could revise or modify. The Central Conferences could adapt other portions of church law according to their contexts, needs, and legal setting of each area. There are proposals to gather all U.S. jurisdictions together to discuss where the United States will make decisions on U.S. matters beyond the proposed General Book of Discipline.

The "Third Way" legislation is being proposed by the Connectional Table. This legislation is put forward as a possible "third way" to help the church end its impasse on homosexuality. The proposal removes prohibitive language concerning homosexuality, while making only minor changes to the existing Social Principles. It ends church trials over homosexuality, yet it retains the authority of annual conferences to discern suitability for ordination. I hope that we will pray for the General Conference for the sake of God's work through The United Methodist Church.

Risking for Justice with Grace,

Darryl

## OUTREACH MISSIONS OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2015



### Family Justice Centers

The Family Justice Center provides free services for domestic violence victims and their children through an extensive collaboration with several partner agencies, all located at one secured, comfortable location where victims can get all the services they need to safely escape abuse. There are tours of the Centers on April 5 at 5:30pm and April 19 at 8:00am. They are also in need of the following items: new and gently used blankets, cosmetics, paper cups, diapers, formula, gift cards to TOPS and Amazon to purchase books to empower the victims, toiletries, new and gently used children's books, Ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, snacks, and juice boxes. Volunteers are needed to assist clients with the intake process and to respond to inquiries. If you would like to help in any way, please see Kathy Weaver.

### Crafting for a Cause



Crafting for a Cause (CFAC) is a relatively new ministry of the church. Its purpose is to share God's love in the world through the creation of handmade, useful items for people in need. To date, we have donated Teddy Bears to the Three Kings Day celebration, made walker bags for the elderly, made potholders for Central City Café, and blankets for the veterans at Veterans Hospital. We meet one Saturday each month in the Wesley Room. We have plenty of fabric but donations of sheets of cotton batting or gift cards to Joanne Fabrics would be very helpful. All are welcome. If you would like to get involved with this ministry, please see Diane Klenk or Lee Watson.



### Native American Ministries Sunday is April 10, 2016

This ministry funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries, and annual conference Native American ministries. Your generous gifts will empower local spiritual development and educate Native American students to serve God faithfully.



Pre-K-Grade 5 † Sunday mornings † 10 am † Lower Level

April – May

### Pentecost: Filled With The Spirit

Children will learn more about the experiences of Jesus' followers at Pentecost through games and activities.

- April 3 The Story of Pentecost – How to get things moving!
- April 10 "Straw" paintings – try this new way of painting
- April 17 Parachute games
- April 24 Experiments with air & bubble prints
- May 1 Creating and flying doves
- May 8 Making colorful banners
- May 15 Pentecost Sunday - Make A Difference Day

The children's project will be packaging art projects for the University Heights Arts Association. We'll visit St. Andrew's Church on Main St. with some art supplies for their children's ArtCovz projects. An ArtCovz will be located at Christ Church in the near future.

Watch for items that are needed that you might donate.

Sign up on the MAD clipboard at church.

Adult drivers also needed.

### A.O.L. @ CUMC

*Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church*

Sunday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room † Rev. Jim Pollard, facilitator

### "Renegade Gospel" - The Rebel Jesus

"The Call" – a study of the life and ministry of the apostle Paul, will be the focus for six Sundays, April 3 – May 22, at 10 am in the Wesley Room. Guided by a video and study resource by Adam Hamilton, the class will explore Paul's life, missionary journeys, and meaning for our mission as disciples in today's world. The video will take us to the sites of Paul's journeys and connect participants with the call of God in their own lives as Jesus' disciples.

Copies of the study book for the class will be available on Easter Sunday at a cost of \$12.

### Life Lessons Bible Study

Thursdays † 10 am † Wesley Room † Pastor Darryl, facilitator

**MAY CALLER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT BARBARA MITCHELL @ 839-2435 OR BBMITCH@VERIZON.NET**



## AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS

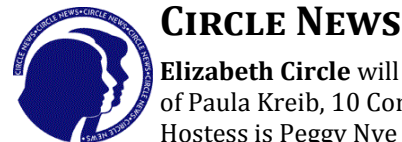
The AARP Driver Safety Class will be held on Friday, May 20, 2016, at Christ UMC, 8:45 am – 3:30 pm. The cost for the class is \$20 for AARP members, and \$25 for non-members of AARP, payable on the day of the class (by check payable to AARP). An optional lunch will be available at an additional cost of \$5(cash), or participants may bring their own lunch. The class will be held in the Café. Rev. Jim Pollard will be the instructor. The class is limited to 30 participants. To register for the class, call the church office at 839-2460.



## UNITED METHODIST MEN



On Saturday, April 9th, the men and their guests will be touring the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. We'll have a one hour docent-led tour. The Gardens will also be holding their Spring Flower Exhibit; it's a don't miss event. The cost is \$11 for seniors 55+ and \$12 for adults. We'll meet at church at 10am and carpool to the gardens at 2655 South Park Ave. Following the tour we will meet for lunch at the famous Curly's Restaurant at 647 Ridge Rd. After lunch, we'll visit Our Lady of Victory Basilica, 767 Ridge Road.



## CIRCLE NEWS

**Elizabeth Circle** will meet Thursday, April 7 at 7pm at the home of Paula Kreib, 10 Constance Lane, Cheektowaga (725-6067). Hostess is Peggy Nye (648-0786). Our program will be a Bible study with Jovene McCabe. Contact Paula or Peggy if you plan to attend.  
**Rachel Circle** meets April 19 in the Wesley Room at noon. Program will be a video on women in the military, led by Nancy Hess.  
**Circle of Joy** will meet on Thursday, April 7, at 7:00 pm at Sandy Cumming's home. 835-1061.

## STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

The S&F Team is sad to hear that Darryl will be leaving at the end of June. He has been such a great help to this team and to the congregation in forming the 2016 Budget and we are most grateful for his input. While we are on the subject of the Budget, S&F reports that spending is already \$5,000 over budget as of February 29, only 2 months into the year!  
We thank all of you for your Easter Offerings and will report the amount in the May CALLER.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Caleb Parete.....*	3
Kathy Weaver.....*	5
Charles Gilbert.....*	6
Stephen Mugel.....	6
Tom Brunner.....	7
Larry Burdette.....	10
Don Critoph.....	10
Mary Jayne Nehrboss.....	12
Michele Cordero.....	14
Wendy Johnston.....	14
Linda Rekate.....	15
Joyce Delong.....	18
Ed Maker.....	18
Charles Terranova.....	19
Courtney Hannon.....	21
Drew Smith.....	21
Chris Klenk.....	22
Pamela Gibson.....	23
Doris Schanzlin.....	26



## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Andrew & Jamie Rapini..... April 26, 2003



Mark your calendars!  
 The CUMC Men invite all CUMC members and friends  
**TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME**  
**Saturday, July 23 - 6:05 pm - Star Wars Night IV**  
**Buffalo Bisons vs. Gwinnett Braves**  
 Reserved seats in the Club Level "Special Reserved" Section

The group ticket price (20+) for Reserved seats is \$11.00 per person. For an additional \$7.00 per person you can get a hot dog and a Coke. If you don't have transportation, we will be arranged.

**DON'T SEND MONEY YET!**  
 This year's order blank will appear in the June and July-August issues

Buffalo Bisons vs Gwinnett Braves

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$11.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Hot dog & Coke Number \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 7.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount due and enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with check payable to Christ UM Men to Church Office by Friday, July 8**

## Christ Church UMW



invites all interested women to sign up for our 2016 Spring Retreat!



## "Come Away with Me to a Quiet Place"

April 15-17, 2016 at the Methodist House on Lake Chautauqua  
 Our time away will be facilitated by Rev. Mary Martin. The study theme is based on the FWS hymn of the same name.

Cost per person is \$80. Space is somewhat limited so sign up soon. The sign up list is on the UMW board in Craft's Hall.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>APRIL</h1> <h2>2016</h2>					<b>1</b> Books We Have Loved 10a	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a	<b>4</b> Library Team 10:30a	<b>5</b>  Staff Meeting 1p	<b>6</b>  Praise Team 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>7</b> Life Lessons 10a  Elizabeth Circle 7p Circle of Joy 7p	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Men's Club 10a Botanical Gardens Our Lady of Victory Basilica
<b>10</b> Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a	<b>11</b>  Outreach Team 7p	<b>12</b>  Stewardship/Finace 7p	<b>13</b> CALLER DEADLINE Hearts & Hands Volunteer Training 2p Praise Team 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>14</b> Life Lessons 10a  MYM 12n  SPR 7p	<b>15</b>  UMW Women's Retreat	<b>16</b> Erwin Johnson Memorial Concert 3p  UMW Women's Retreat
<b>17</b> Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a  UMW Women's Retreat	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Rachel Circle 12n  CET 7p Trustees 7:30p	<b>20</b>  Praise Team 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>21</b> Life Lessons 10a	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  10a
<b>24</b> Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship  SPRING ORGAN Recital w/ Paul Staley 4p	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Church Council 7p	<b>27</b>  Praise Team 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>28</b> Life Lessons 10a	<b>29</b>  GAME NIGHT 7p	<b>30</b> General Conference Overview 9:30a