

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love, and service"

Sunday Worship Schedule

Casual Praise Celebration- 9 am Education Hour -10 am

Traditional Style Celebration- 11 am

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE

Pastor

Rev. Daven Oskvig

Minister for Christian Education & Community Life

Sally J. Pollard

Office Manager/Ministry Assistant

Janelle Martin

Minister of Music

Paul Staley

Financial Secretary

Doris Schanzlin

Custodian

David Wolf

350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Phone: 839-2460

Fax: 839-2166

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April Birthdays



Kathy Weaver.....5	Linda Rekate.....15
Charles Gilbert.....6	Joyce Delong18
Stephen Mugel6	Charles Terranova.....19
Tom Brunner.....7	Courtney Hannon.....21
Larry Burdette.....10	Drew Smith.....21
Don Critoph.....10	Chris Klenk.....22
Mary Jayne Nehrboss.....12	Pamela Gibson.....23
Michele Cordero.....14	Doris Schanzlin.....26
Wendy Johnston.....14	Benjamin Weaver.....30
Pastor Daven Oskvig.....15	

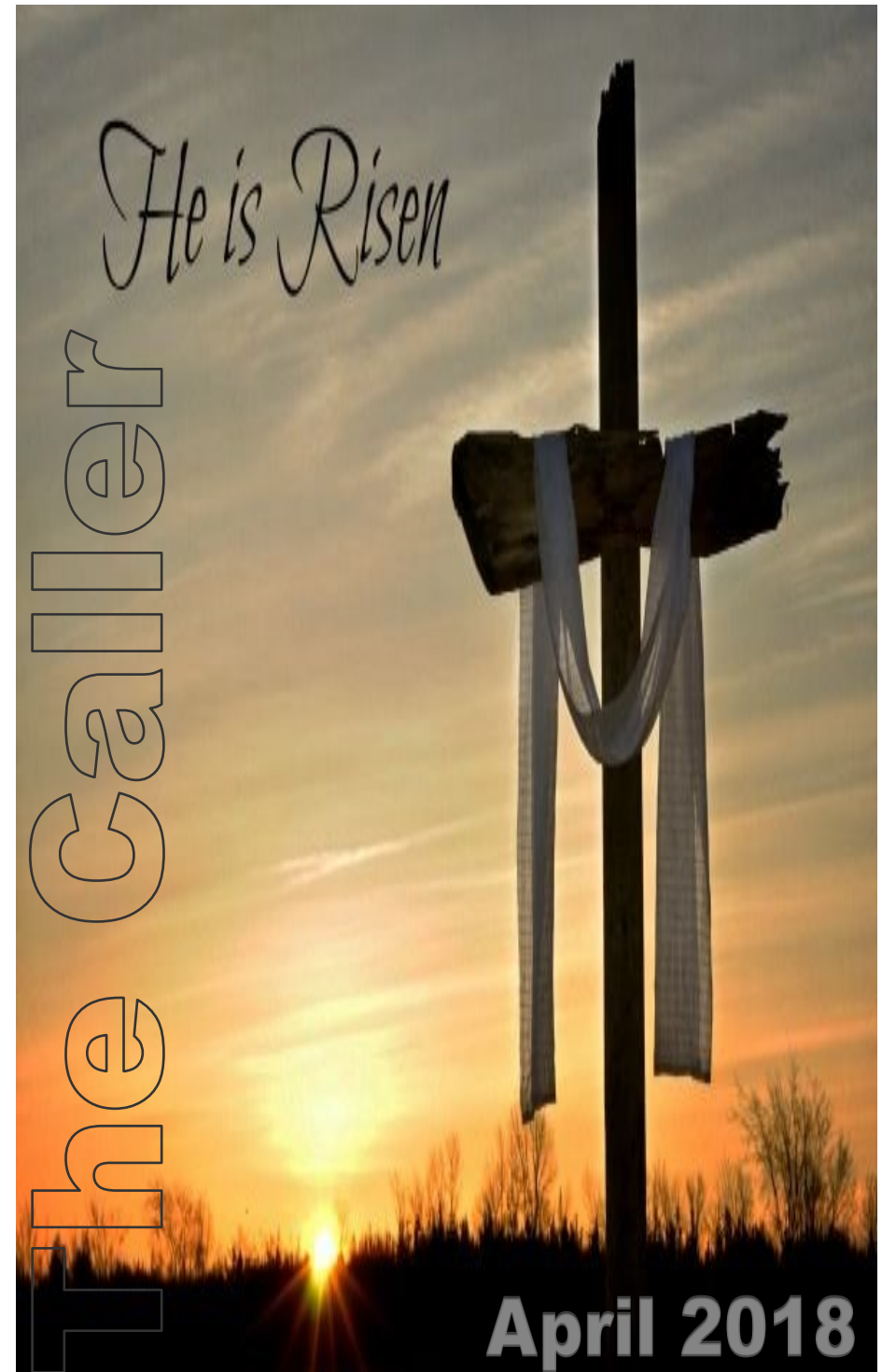
April Anniversary



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

May Caller Deadline: Friday, April 13 to **caller 350@yahoo.com** or **bbmitch@verizon.net**

Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell 839-2435 or **bbmitch@verizon.net**





Several years ago in the midst of a race I was running along largely alone, the half-marathoners having split off a couple of miles before. These are the miles when it is easy for the mind to go to some very dark places with the body following. I had locked into a little mantra that matched my breathing and focused on my form, to keep my core engaged which keeps my stride light and bouncy to avoid plunging into these murky recesses. I also tried as best as possible to share words of thanks with the many police who kept the roads safe for my tour around the nation's capitol, deluding myself to believing that positive encouragement might result in a positive outlook and finish. With the runners thinned to only one a minute, very few were there to cheer. Among those who were, I tried to give a thumbs-up though my hands didn't function well in the 45° steady rain conditions that dominated race day. A few clustered here and there, a small group on a corner who gave a hearty cheer and then all of the sudden I heard, "Go Pastor Daven!"

I knew that this young person was down in DC for an internship and we had corresponded about the race. But I had long since passed the major areas where spectators gathered so had not expected it. This single personal cheer carried me for miles to come. Because it reminded me of Isaiah 43:1 which reads, "I have called you by your name, you are mine." In midst of races both literal and figurative, like the race of life, we all need the occasional reminders of who we are and whose we are. This personal cheer not only evoked the joy of someone cheering and caring for me, but the reminder of my vocation – my commitment to God and God ultimately cheering me toward what I am capable of accomplishing as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the race of life set before me. These prophetic words from Isaiah I was given on a small wooden plaque when I graduated high school. It hung at the foot of my bed in college and occasionally I would catch the moonlight hauntingly illuminating the words. In every office I have worked in, it has been present. But it takes not the commitment of life to the vocation of ministry to know one is called, but simply the acceptance of God's love in Jesus Christ and the pledge to share that love with the world by the movement of the Holy Spirit. To put it in race terminology, to show up at the start line and put everything you have and can in

United Methodist Women of Christ Church
invite you to
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Fashions

Fashions by **T.J.maxx**

Spring Fashion Show & Luncheon

Saturday, May 5, 2018

12:00 noon - 2:00 pm

Christ United Methodist Church

\$15 - On sale April 1st!



To make this event a success, we need your help!
Please consider modeling, selling ads for the program,
and helping with food and decorating.

*For more information or to offer help,
please contact Peggy Bermudez, Sandy Cumming,
Paula Kreib, or Jan Rhinehart.*



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday, April 14 at 10:00 am in the Café

Program: Sacred Spaces – Caring for God's Creation

Cost: \$5

Hosts: Elizabeth Circle will be serving a delicious breakfast!

ALL are welcome!

For reservations, please contact Paula Kreib at 725-6067 or
snowflake.paula@gmail.com



OUTREACH MISSIONS OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2018

Clara's Closet

Spring Cleaning? Are you looking for a place to donate your usable items that are still in good condition? Clara's Closet is a volunteer-run shop located in the basement of Central Park UMC which provides no cost shopping to refugees and people who meet the income requirements. They are accepting donations of clothing, toiletries, small household items and children's books. They are also looking for volunteers to help sort the items and help people with their selections. Please check their website for donation hours. Tax receipts are available upon request for donated items.

Family Promise

Family Promise unites faith communities in addressing the needs of the homeless. In times of crisis, Family Promise keeps families together. Volunteers working together, they provide temporary housing, meals, and services to nearly 70,000 family members annually. They mentor at-risk families, teach financial literacy, help find jobs and affordable housing, create programs to meet specific needs in their communities, and they advocate for public policies that alleviate poverty and promote the economic stability of low-income families. Generally 74% of the families are able to find long-term housing within 9 weeks of being in the program. Members of our congregation help out several times per year by providing a meal and visitation as a support congregation of St. Stephens UCC. If you would like to get involved in this ministry please see Lee Watson.

Mental Health Ministry for April 2018

Save the Dates!

Coming to Christ Church in May: Mental Health Awareness Month

Wednesday, May 9th, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Keith O'Neil "Under My Helmet"

Former NFL Player and Mental Health Advocate

speaks about his journey with bipolar

Wednesdays, May 16th & 23rd, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

"Bridges of Hope"

Soup & Bread Supper and Conversation with Pastor Daryl Bennett



With Joy... From Sally

It's a time for new life! We celebrate resurrection, renewal, and rebirth! Every human being yearns for meaning and transcendence – to rise above or beyond

the ordinary, to connect with the Divine, with one another, and to contribute to the flourishing of the world. How do we reflect this in our life together as the faith community known as Christ Church? How will we reconstitute practices that worked well in a different generation and create a space that welcomes other ways to express oneself as a person of faith? What is the compelling reason to do something different? What really matters?

The church is a living organism. Like other living organisms, where cells die off so that other cells can be rejuvenated, the church must innovate and renew itself, trying to figure out how to make the Christian life relatable. It's a natural function. Throughout Lent we focused on the challenges of immediacy/urgency, identity, trajectory /path, possibility, and reality—deep longings of the soul for something new, something life-giving.

The future is bright for Christ Church. What is at stake is not survival or organizational energy and vitality. Jesus wasn't lifted up for these things either. Jesus willingly gave his life for God's purpose of filling that basic human need for connection to the Divine, to one another and contributing to the healing and flourishing of the world. As we center our life and ministry, "making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love, and service," we continue focusing on meaning-making, just as in previous generations. People will get that need met one way or another. Though it is hard to dislodge from deep-rooted ways of being, our celebration of resurrection and rebirth moves us to continue to provide worship experiences that invite and bring people closer to God and to one another, PLUS focusing on other aspects of life—possibly the most creative aspect of our church life --where time honored practices receive new life. Even if these new ways die, they are a necessary part of the organism's new life. Join in the conversations and the work of renewal. God's purpose/Our purpose.

Making a difference with new pajamas and children's books!



From April 1 – May 20 we are collecting new pajamas and books for children through teens. Children who have clean pajamas and a good book to read or have read to them are more likely to have good days. Pajamas of all sizes must be new and have both a top and bottom. Books must also be new. Following **Make A Difference Day on Sunday, May 20**, the pajamas and books will go to Homespace and to Child & Family Services. These agencies provide services that create safe and healthy environments for children/youth and families, living at or below the poverty line, in local homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.

Homespace provides a safe environment where young women/parents (age 14-21) can learn skills to enhance themselves and their families and break the cycle of public welfare dependency. Residents receive training in job-readiness, budgeting, household management, nutrition, parenting, as well as comprehensive clinical services.

"All children regardless of their circumstances have an inherent right to a loving bedtime, a peaceful good night, and a positive good day."
~Pajama Program

(continued from pg 2)

the race set before you. In this season of resurrection, God is calling to all of us by name. This is a time when we discover not only who we are, but whose we are. And those revelations and reminders come in the most unexpected ways and places. God knows and loves us so much that God will not leave us to face the future hopeless, afraid, and in the dark. It may be just a small cheer, but one that gives us all the hope we need to persevere and ultimately accomplish incredible things.

Yours In Christ, *Pastor Daven*

CIRCLE NEWS



Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, April 5, 7pm at the home of Barb Mitchell 112 Mt. Vernon (839-2435.) Hostess is Barb Carier (839-0933.) Our program, presented by Dee Finch, will be an update on Seneca St. UMC. Contact Barb C or Barb M if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle will meet Tuesday, April 24 in the Wesley Room at 12:15pm. Dee Finch will provide the program.

Circle of Joy will meet on Thursday, April 5 at 7pm in the Wesley Room at church.

Remembering Your Church

For many people, the ability to make a gift to their church in their will is a source of comfort and great satisfaction. They know that long after they are gone, the ministries of their beloved faith community will still thrive and grow, in part because of their generosity.

Making your church a beneficiary of your will isn't difficult. You'll want to talk to your attorney, of course, and work with him or her to draft a legal document that is well-written and complete. Your gift may be in the form of cash, or you may make the church a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, thus allowing your gift to be far more significant in size than what you might otherwise be able to give. You may also gift the church with appreciated securities, real estate, charitable gift annuities or charitable annuity trusts, or IRA distributions.

As you prepare to set up your will, talk to your loved ones so that they understand your wishes regarding your bequest to your church and the rest of your estate. And, of course, spend time in prayer and contemplation to help you discern how best to use your financial assets.

FINANCE TEAM

The CUMC Finance Team reports that \$77 has been received from the 1st 4 Friday night Music and Meditations for the school in Uganda. We also had a gift for the school in the offering plate for \$200. The 2nd Offering on March 11 was also for this project and that offering was \$171 for a total to date of \$448!

Other 2nd Sunday offerings were:

Harvest House – January \$146 Farm Sanctuary—February \$164

Blanket Sunday offering was \$168 Human Relations offering was \$143

We are currently paying 1/12 of our \$40,000 Shared Ministries each month.

Please consider a gift to CUMC when you do your Estate Planning. We have received over \$40,000 from the Estate of Alice Schmidt, which was used for the new roof on the Sanctuary.

Thank you all for your support of CUMC.

The Finance Team

Save The Dates!

Bethel College Choir Concert—May 7

There will be a concert at Christ Church in the evening of Monday, May 7 at Christ Church by the Bethel College Choir. People are needed to provide food for a potluck dinner for the choir, as well as hosts to house students overnight. See Paul Staley for more information or if you are able to help (niagaraorg@mac.com)

Make A Difference Day

Sunday, May 20 10am - 1pm

Sign-ups for this year's Make A Difference Day begin on Easter Sunday! Look for the bulletin board in the back of the worship space & check out the Sunday bulletin for complete project listings.

Service Projects Include: neighborhood clean-up, cooking and crafting projects, sorting of donations, Tiger's Den Food Pantry.

A Shredding Truck will be on-site for free document destruction, as well as a Bloodmobile from the American Red Cross.

NEW 2018 t-shirts can be ordered for \$10 each.



Stewardship Team Updates for April 2018

It is our joy to welcome Lynda Painton as a member of the Stewardship Team!

In collaboration with United Methodist Women, the Stewardship Team is planning a Creation Care Theme for April. Earth Day is on Sunday, April 22nd and Arbor Day is on Friday April 27th.

Here's what we have planned:

-Saturday, April 14th, UMW General Meeting program will be Sacred Spaces.

-Sunday, April 22nd – Earth Day – Sermon Message (9am and 11am) and Education Hour (10am) With Rev. Oskvig, we will explore the question, "Is Christianity Good News for the Environment?"

Be on the lookout for a surprise from the Stewardship Team on Earth Day!

Circle of Joy and Community Youth Group have created 6"x6" painted canvases to be sold to raise funds for Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen. Sale begins on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22nd. These would make great Mother's Day gifts!

FaithXpress

Sunday mornings, 10 am Lower Level

April/May

The Bible-God's Storybook

The Bible helps us understand what God is like. We use the Bible to help us understand how people lived long ago and as a guide for our living today.

Get your Bible passport and visit 66 books full of adventure and excitement. How many stamps will you get in your passport???

Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday – No FaithXpress



Community Youth Group



Cooking & baking with Chef Scott from Wheatberry Bake Shop



Join us in April for **Game Day**

Sunday, April 29 1-3 pm

Air Hockey, Ping Pong, and more...

Wednesday Workshops at Christ Church

Sound Strategies for Your Future

Wednesday, April 18 - 2pm

Social Security – Today, Tomorrow, & for the Future

Wednesday, April 25 -7pm

Managing Transitions

Wednesday, May 2 -7pm

Identity Theft

*All workshops are offered free of charge by
Allaire Financial Strategies*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Casual Praise 9a Traditional Worship 11a 	2 Library Team 10:30a Praise Team 5p	3 UMW Executive Board 2p Church Council 7p	4 Choir 7p	5 UMW Planning Meeting 10:30a Elizabeth Circle 7p Circle of Joy 7p	6 Books We Have Loved 11a	7	
8 Casual Praise 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a	9 Praise Team 5p	10 Spiritual Formation Team 1p Finance Team 7p	11 Stewardship Team 10.30a Choir 7p	12 Visitation Team 10a Hospitality Team 7p	13 <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> May Caller Deadline </div>	14 UMW General Meeting 10a –11:30a	
15 Casual Praise 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a	16 Praise Team 5p	17 Trustees 7:30p	18 Community Workshop <u>Social Security</u> 2p Choir 7p	19 SPR Team 7p	20	21	
22 Casual Praise 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a 	23 Praise Team 5p	24 Rachel Circle 12:15p	25 Community Workshop <u>Managing Transitions</u> 7p Choir 7p	26	27  Arbor Day  Game Night 7p	28	
29 Casual Praise 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a Community Youth Group 1pm	30 Praise Team 5p						