

Christ UMC Vision Statement
*"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

Christ UMC Staff
Senior Pastor
Dr. B.J. Norrix
Minister for Education & Community Life
Sally J. Pollard
Office Manager & Ministry Assistant
Rachel Vaughan
Director of Music
Elizabeth Holt Curtis
Financial Secretary
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With Joy... From Sally

Jesus – The Reality Show

It seems that more and more reality shows are popping up on television. I can't stand to watch most of them and I'm not sure whose reality they express, but certainly not mine. They must strike a chord with part of the population, however, because new reality shows keep appearing. We seem to be mesmerized by stories of people and about stuff and about people with stuff! We find out more than we should want to know about who's who, what's what, and the stories behind the story.

It struck me this year as I heard again the story of Christmas from Luke's narrative that Luke gives us, "Jesus – The Reality Show." He doesn't just give us the unfolding story of Jesus' beginnings, he gives us the connections and the relationships behind the story. Luke connects the story to the world in which it took place...names of people, places, who's in charge...and most of it is NOT a pretty picture. Into a crazy mix of people and power comes Jesus...teaching and living a new relationship with God. Luke writes his account of Jesus' life, giving it relevance in HIS time. Our mission is to give Jesus' life relevance in OUR time and place.

My reality is that Christmas is barely past, Epiphany is at hand and Lent is knocking at the door. That's life! It certainly was Jesus' life. Thirty plus years must have seemed like a finger snap. Yet Jesus brought all to completion in that time...love, forgiveness, sacrifice, new and sustaining presence through all time. So with Mary & Joseph, the magi from the east, the twelve, and the women in the garden we catch our breath, wipe our tears, and try to communicate our experience with Jesus.

Sally



FROM BJ'S DESK...

"The church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." That is the mission statement of the United Methodist Church. I like it. It has punch, it has clarity, and it is biblical. We are here to grow up disciples of Jesus Christ, and disciples of Jesus Christ work for the transformation of the world.

The statement (and the Great Commission in Matthew 28 that tells us to "go into all the world and make disciples . . .") begs the question: What is a disciple of Jesus Christ? A short survey reveals that there are many definitions. Some define a disciple by what the disciple does: a disciple is someone who goes to church, reads their bible, prays, works with others, is nice, and does works of kindness and mercy. Others have defined a disciple by what they believe: a disciple is someone who believes the right things and has correct theological understandings.

I would suggest that disciples of Jesus Christ are known by who they are. The transformation of an individual is done from the inside out. As I become fully devoted to Jesus Christ, I undergo a heart, focus, and thought transformation. As I become a more fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, this inner transformation becomes revealed in my outward activity. I like to think of it this way: I practice the spiritual disciplines – prayer, study, worship, meditation, celebration, etc. – as a way to deepen my connection and relationship with Jesus Christ. This exposure to Jesus Christ changes me and I slowly and gradually become more like Jesus.

As I am slowly and gradually made more like Jesus, my values change and as my values change, my priorities change, and that leads to behavior changes. Disciples of Jesus are fully devoted and are using their gifts, talents, resources, and selves in mission and ministry.

For six Sundays beginning February 10, I will be preaching on the hallmarks of the Disciple of Jesus Christ. We will talk about prayer and study and worship. We will also talk of giving of ourselves and serving Christ in mission and ministry. I am looking forward to taking this Lenten journey with you

Pastor BJ

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 13, 2013 at 6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday is the traditional beginning of the season of Lent. We will gather for worship at 6:30 (following our first "Lenten supper and discussion" at 5:00). The Ash Wednesday service is a call to "change" and an invitation to more disciplined spiritual living. We will offer the "imposition of ashes" for all who desire to utilize this ancient symbol of repentance and remorse.

Outreach Opportunities

BLANKET SUNDAY OFFERING FEBRUARY 10

P X S H L L P F Q K R T Z A Y
 V H E P P E Q I N D B S L N V
 Z J E U M D W V K S N L U Q U
 T O D M X U Q E K G U U Y X B
 Y T S K V Q P D T U E E C L N
 T R E T I O J O B E A C A N Z
 K Q A N Y T D L W M V N R I I
 I Y D U T R H L K A K D E O C
 M K V E R H P A P E T O T F E
 R E T A W B W R T R B O I C A
 Z D X O W Q E S O S X F L R L
 X O F E F O D F T E N T S H C
 E W L M I Z M Z W G E O T G R
 V L W G T O T A I E S P Q R O
 S O L F C S E I L P P U S W S

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| BLANKETS | PUMPS |
| CARE | SEEDS |
| COMFORT | SUPPLIES |
| FEBRUARY | TENTH |
| FIVEDOLLARS | TENTS |
| FOOD | WATER |
| LITERACY | WELLS |

*Let your light shine before men
in such a way that they may see
your good works, and glorify
your Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 5:13-16



JOURNEY'S END - WELCOMING REFUGEES

Christ Church has welcomed refugee families from all over the globe through Journey's End Refugee Services since 1999. Each family brings memories and traditions from its home country, abilities, skills, and dreams for a new life in the U.S. CUMC has sponsored a construction worker and a champion swimmer from Bosnia, an entrepreneur and an advocate for women and children from Sudan, a Bantu family from Somalia, a mechanic and a seamstress from Burma, a philosophy professor from Cuba who has a special place in his heart for the teachings of "Juan Wesley", and a high school math teacher and an engineer from Iraq.

Members of our congregation have guided these families and formed lasting friendships. Most of the families have stayed in the Buffalo area and are helping to rebuild our community. While many people are leaving the city, the newcomers are living and working there, fixing up homes that have fallen into disrepair, and striving to create safe neighborhoods.

We plan to sponsor a new family this spring. You can help by giving household goods and furniture, helping to set up an apartment, and offering friendship to them as they learn English, explore their new community, and strive to build a better life for their family. Answering Christ's call to welcome the stranger gives these families a future with hope, enriches all our lives, and strengthens our community so that we may all live in God's abundance.



Pre-K-Grade 5 † Sunday mornings † 10 am † Lower level
February 3 & 10

HERO QUEST

Christ Church agents continue their quest to see how God's presence and the trust a person has in God become the power that makes an ordinary person a hero. Having met Bible heroes like Daniel, Esther and some people so determined to get their friend to see Jesus that they lowered him through a roof, we know it's more than muscles that make us strong. We'll meet a widow who dares to give everything she has, and Jesus, our ultimate hero. Along the way we're meeting local heroes and finding the hero inside of all of us. Join us!

Middle School Group
Grades 6 thru 8



Room 22, Lower level
Sundays at 10am

The Middle School Youth have been newspaper reporters and photographers, getting the story on faith heroes, and publishing a newspaper in the Christ Church Computer Lab. Thanks to Mr. Mestler for helping us!

A.O.L. @ CUMC

Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church
Sunday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room

February 3 & 10

The Will of God

A study continues of Leslie Weatherhead's classic book, *The Will of God*, on how God wills a world of love and justice in spite of human sin, and how the ultimate will of God must prevail. *Roger Johnson, facilitator*

February 17 - March 24

Following The Way

Based on scriptures for the Lenten season, this discussion leads us through the cold, gray part of life, which is death. The journey to Resurrection travels through the valley of the shadow of death and shows us the Christ we are called to follow. Lent is the time to practice walking in the way that leads to life.

Weekday Bible Study

Thursdays † 10 am † Wesley Room † Pastor BJ - facilitator

All are welcome to join in ongoing study and reflection.

A.O.L. continued on page 5

YOUNG MUSICIANS

Encore Experience presents
Encore Ensembles @ Christ Church

Jazz Band for Beginners meets Sundays from 12:30-1:30 pm. Anyone in 5th grade or above who plays a wind instrument may audition to play in that swinging style.



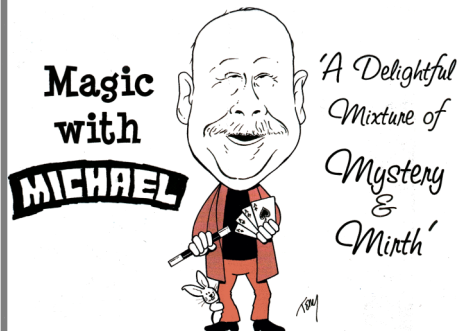
Sweet Sixteens will meet Sundays from 2-3 pm. Young women in 6th grade or above may audition to sing pops songs in 2-part harmony. Please call Music Director Valerie Suffoletto at 406-8942 to get yourself or your child involved!

Visit www.EncoreExperience.com to learn more about their Spring Break workshop and summer offerings.



Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Marion Swenson, 94, who passed away December 13, 2012. A memorial service was held at the church on December 20.

MID Years + Ministry invites you to their: **Annual Soup & Sandwich Event**



Sunday, February 10, at noon
Featuring "Magic with Michael"
Soup, sandwiches, dessert, and beverages \$7 per person, under 10 free
Or sign up to bring a crock pot of soup to serve 8.
Sign up Jan. 27 & Feb. 3 in Crafts Hall
Questions? Marcia Snyder 741-6901

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Gentlemen, start your engines! At least get up off the couch and join us at the 2013 Buffalo Auto Show at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center on Saturday, February 9th.



We'll meet at church to car pool at 10 am. Lunch will follow at a local restaurant. Get your \$8 discount ticket at Tops, Wegman's, NOCO, or Dash's in advance or be prepared to pay \$9 at the door. Also, please plan to leave heavy coats in the car as it's pretty hot in the Convention Center. Further info? Call Tom Nye at 648-1850.

Our January trip to see the model trains at the Historical Society was a great time, with 14 attending. Bob Nachbar's scratch-built coal tower was part of the exhibit!



JOIN US FOR JAZZ!

CUMC Youth Group Presents:
Ron Corsaro Trio and Friends

Sunday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m.
Christ United Methodist Church

Donations will be gratefully accepted and used for the Youth Group's 2013 Mission Trip.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

We'll soon be starting our 2013-2014 Pledge Campaign and S&F would like to take this opportunity to give you a preview of what we are planning.

On February 3 the S&F Team will hand out a booklet entitled: **“Six Steps to a Generous Life: Living Your Commitment to Christ”**. For the six weeks from February 10 through March 17 we'll be studying this booklet and B.J. will base his sermons on that week's theme.

The topics are:	Feb. 10	Beginning to Pray
	Feb. 17	People of the Book
	Feb. 24	Worshiping
	Mar. 03	Telling the Story
	Mar. 10	Serving
	Mar. 17	Blest to be Blessed

We are looking forward to this endeavor and ask that you all join us on our Stewardship Journey for the coming year

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

- 3: City Mission 3-6 pm
- 10: Ron Corsaro Jazz Concert 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
Fundraiser for the youth group's mission trip.
- 17: Pancake Brunch servings at 10 am and Noon
- 22-24: 30-Hour Famine to combat hunger



More Information? Call Tim Reed, 838-4230 or Viki Smith, 839-1989

XP COMPUTERS NEEDED FOR COMPUTER LAB

As part of the Resource Room expansion, the computer lab has been renovated. We are in need of surplus Pentium 4 desktops running Windows XP **ONLY**, including the operating system disks. We do not need CRT monitors but could use flat panels. More info? Please call Richard Mestler at 830-1175.



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, February 7 at 7:30p at the home of Barb Mitchell, 112 Mt. Vernon Rd. 839-2435. Our hostess will be Kay Barber 634-6987. Kathryn Miles-Kania from Gateway will speak. Contact Barb or Kay if you plan to attend.

Deborah Circle: Tuesday, February 19, in the Wesley Room at 12 noon.

Rachel Circle: 12 noon, Tuesday, February 26, in the Wesley Room.

MARCH CALLER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
QUESTIONS? CONTACT KATHY WEAVER @ 839-5918 OR KOWEAVER23@VERIZON.NET

2013 BIBLE READING PLAN

Read two or three Old Testament chapters and one New Testament chapter each day, and read through the Bible in one year.

Here are February's readings:

Day	Old Testament	New
1	Exodus 30-32	Acts 8
2	Exodus 33-34; Psalm 16	Acts 9
3	Exodus 35-36	Acts 10
4	Exodus 37-38; Psalm 19	Acts 11
5	Exodus 39-40; Psalm 15	Acts 12
6	Leviticus 1-3	Acts 13
7	Leviticus 4-6	Acts 14
8	Leviticus 7-9	Acts 15
9	Leviticus 10-12	Acts 16
10	Leviticus 13-14	Acts 17
11	Exodus 15-17	Acts 18
12	Leviticus 18-19; Psalm 13	Acts 19
13	Leviticus 20-22	Acts 20
14	Leviticus 23-24; Psalm 24	Acts 21
15	Leviticus 25; Psalm 25-26	Acts 22
16	Leviticus 26-27	Acts 23
17	Numbers 1-2	Acts 24
18	Numbers 3-4	Acts 25
19	Numbers 5-6; Psalm 22	Acts 26
20	Numbers 7; Psalm 23	Acts 27
21	Numbers 8-9	Acts 28
22	Numbers 10-11; Psalm 27	Mark 1
23	Numbers 12-13; Psalm 90	Mark 2
24	Numbers 14-16	Mark 3
25	Numbers 17-18; Psalm 29	Mark 4
26	Numbers 19-20; Psalm 28	Mark 5
27	Numbers 21-23	Mark 6-7
28	Numbers 24-27	1 Corinthians 13

A.O.L. continued

LENTEN SUPPER & STUDY

Ash Wednesday, February 13 – March 27 5 – 7 pm

Join us for a shared meal followed by discussion & reflection based on Adam Hamilton's book:

The Way: Walking In The Footsteps of Jesus

Follow Jesus' life through historical information, archeological data, and stories of faith, using a DVD exploring locations where His ministry took place, as well as first-hand reflections from CUMC travelers to the Holy Land.

Continues Wednesdays through Lent at 5 PM.

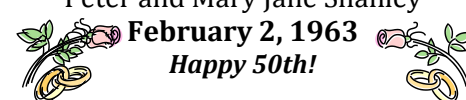
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Burr	03
Marion Rowlands	03
Kelsey Reed	04
Ellen Parker Lines	07
Emily Mugel	07
Kristin Scaringi	07
Dorothy Brown	08
Joshua Reagan	09
Jayne Kremzier	11
Beth Sweet	12
Diane Lovejoy	13
Peter Shanley	14
Olivia Smith	14
Donna Yungbluth	15
Marilyn Welker	17
Ben Bermudez	20
Matthew Ronan	21
Abigail Johnson	23
Viki Smith	25
Caroline Hess	26
Janice Beckwith	27
Michele Sciolino	27
Ashton Hannon	28



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Peter and Mary Jane Shanley
February 2, 1963
Happy 50th!
 Gregg & Julie Jackson Janecek
 February 14, 2004



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>February 2013</h1>					1 Books We Have Loved 10a MYM Board Meeting 12n	2
3 Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a Rev. Pollard Preaching Dress Our People 12:30p Youth City Mission 3p	4 Zumba 6p Praise Team 6p SPR Team 7p	5 Library Team 9:30a Ballroom Dance 6:15p	6 Choir 7:30p	7 Bible Study 10a Elizabeth Circle 7:30p 	8 Dorothy Brown is 98 	9 Men's Club 10a Buffalo Auto Show
10 Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a MY+M Soup & Sandwich Event 12 noon RON CORSARO JAZZ CONCERT FOR YOUTH 7p	11 Zumba 6p Praise Team 6p Sugar & Spice 7p	12 Ballroom Dance 6:15p	13 CALLER DEADLINE Lenten Supper & Study 5p Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30p Choir 7:30p	14 Bible Study 10a Stewardship/Finance 7p 	15 Books We Have Loved 10a	16
17 Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a Youth Pancake Brunch	18 Office Closed  Zumba, Praise Team 6p	19 Rachel Circle 12n Ballroom Dance 6:15p Christian Ed. Team 7p	20 Lenten Supper & Study 5p Choir 7:30p	21 Caller Collation 9:30a Bible Study 10a Trustees 7p	22 Youth 30-hour Famine 6p  Game night 7:30p	23 Youth 30-hour Famine continues
24 Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a Youth 30-Hour famine ends 8a	25 Zumba 6p Praise Team 6p	26 Deborah Circle 12n Ballroom Dance 6:15p	27 Lenten Supper & Study 5p Choir 7:30p	28 Bible Study 10a Church Council 7p 		