

Christ United Methodist Church

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

Worship Service - 10 am

Education Hour - 11 am

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE

Pastor
Rev. Daven Oskvig

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

www.ChristChurchAmherst.org E-mail: Cumc350@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-5 Thursday 9-noon

Office Closed:

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

Wednesday, January 1 & Monday, January 20, 2020



February/March 2020 Caller Deadline:

Monday, January 13

to

caller350@yahoo.com or

bbmitch@verizon.net

Questions? Contact

Barb Mitchell 839-2435 or bbmitch@verizon.net



Photo by Janelle Martin
Music & Meditation '18

December '19/January '20



As many of you know, there is a balance to parenting, a delicate dance that parents do with one another that allows each to find the moments to recollect and recharge. We find ways to allow the needs and wants to be met, splitting household duties and parental oversight.

Mornings, for example, are my time as Lianne prepares for work, to help Amelia get ready for school. I have gotten this down to a ritual in how I set out breakfast, prompt and provoke teeth to get brushed and hair combed, and corral my ladies out the door. This exercise is matched with the devotions at the start of the day, expressions of thankfulness which spill over throughout the day. Often I find at the close of the day, those that opened the day have come full circle in our hands joined together at the table before the evening meal or in prayers before bed. What is significant through this experience for me is how much more fervently I have come to pray through the day, how the words arise from my heart. It is not as though I wasn't truly thankful for the day or for the food before, but now my prayers have an intensity heretofore not present. As devoted as I have been about these disciplines in the past, it has now become essential whether they are the prayers of my head at the start of the day, prayers at the close of the day, prayers over my daughter throughout the day, or prayers for the world that we all live in.

In some way or another, whether literal or by connection through family, friends, or as God-parents, we form spiritually the possibility for what the world can be like literally. We come to church not simply to hear what might be, but to be reassured in what can be and will be through God's grace with Christ in our lives. We, then, apply it as a church in the church and out of church that for ourselves and for all our sons and daughters earth may truly become like heaven through such efforts. With the coming of Jesus, the dawn of a new possibility once again arises. Let us pray throughout the day and work in each day that possibility becomes reality.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*

December Birthdays



January Birthdays

Robert Paddock	3	Marie Miller	1
Mary Parsons	4	Phyllis Nicholson	1
Jean Ericson	4	Barbara Critoph	2
Diane Klenk.....	6	Tom Weaver	4
Michael Keller.....	8	Guy Ferrelli	6
Dave Wolf	11	Mary Jane Shanley	7
Geoff Hill.....	11	Pam Lopez.....	9
Carol Maltbie.....	12	Lindsay Darling.....	10
Betty Krieb.....	13	Bob Loesch.....	10
Marilyn Morris.....	13	Matt Thormahlen.....	12
Chris Smith	14	Millie Staley	16
Amy Thormahlen.....	22	Lucillie Mooney.....	18
Lois Lewis.....	23	Nicole Sciolino	20
Tim Reed.....	25	Robert Lovell.....	23
Laurie Hannon	27	Elvira Gonzalez.....	25
Emily Scaringi.....	27	Barbara McCray	26
Teresa Watson.....	28		
Paula Kreib.....	29		
Barb Pryor.....	31		



December Anniversaries



Clem & Karen Arrison.....	December 02, 2000
Patty & Michael Keller.....	December 05, 1987
Peter & Patricia Zaleski	December 23, 1960
Joseph & Carolyn Day.....	December 27, 1951
Tom & Kathy Brunner.....	December 27



Dave and Barb Mitchell wish to thank everyone for their prayers and support during Dave's recent hospitalization and recovery. We are truly blessed to have such caring friends and we wish you all a truly blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CUMC



Crafting for a Cause



Photos by Peg Bermudez



Community Youth Group Pumpkin and Apple Picking

Photos by John Miller

Leadership Conference Debriefing

Photos by Peg Bermudez



UMW November meeting with guest speaker Brad Loliger

Photos by Peg Bermudez

FAITH X PRESS

Sunday mornings - 11 am - Lower Level

We are reading Mary's story in Luke and preparing for the Christmas play.

After the Christmas Play on December 15, instruction will continue on December 22.

There is NO FaithxPress on December 29.

On January 5, when instruction resumes, the theme will be "Jesus Leads the Community."
January 19 is another VeggieTales Sunday with a video in the Library for children and families.

Community Youth Group



December 8 & 22, 2019
11 am

Completing work on the room
Event: Service Project TBD

January 5 & 19, 2020
Event: Sledding date dependent on weather

Contact John Miller (jptmiller30@msn.com)
with any questions or to sign up!



The Christmas Play is now seeking participants to rehearse on Sundays through November and December after worship. Mary Loliger will be directing!

The performance will take place on December 15 after worship in Crafts Hall.



**Christmas Tea & Mini Bazaar
Wednesday, December 4
2 - 3:30 pm**



This year our UMW is hosting the Christmas Tea for the residents at Beechwood. Cookies as well as helpers that day will be appreciated. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Jan Rhinehart at 839-2940 or jan.woody@verizon.net for details. Thanks!

**Friday, December 6—Sugar & Spice Evening
7 pm**

Beading with Millie Staley
Cost: \$15

Please contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com if you plan to attend.



**UMW Study – Thirstaid Thursdays, 1 -2:30pm
In the Wesley Room, Beginning January 9th**

A Year of Biblical Womanhood, a study by Rachel Held Evans
Led by Diane Klenk

How did a liberated woman find herself sitting on her roof, covering her head, and calling her husband “Master”? Is this what God really expects of women? In this humorous and thought-provoking study, we’ll discover what the Scriptures say and explore the lives of women of grace and strength whose stories still speak to us today.

UMW Board Meeting - Tuesday, December 3, 1:00 pm

We have openings for Vice President, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, and Publicity and would love to have you join us. We will be planning our programs for 2020 and would like to hear your ideas. If you would like to serve or have program ideas, please contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 pm** for our annual Christmas Buffet at Katie Cady’s home, 226 Golden Pheasant (688-7477.) Contact Katie to let her know what you plan to bring. **No meeting in January.**

Rachel Circle will meet **Tuesday, December 17 at 12 Noon** at Asbury Pointe. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 28 at 12:15pm.**

Circle of Joy will meet **Thursday, January 9 at 7 pm** at the home of Lisa Lawson for a game night. **No meeting in December.**



The **Worship Team** will be selling poinsettias after worship **November 24th - December 8th**. Other orders should be returned, with payment, **by December 8th**.
Make checks payable to CUMC and mail to Christ Church or bring to Janelle in the church office.

Cost: \$9 per plant

Include: Your name and phone number

Number of red _____ Number of white _____

In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____



Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families
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 Tigers Den

For **December and January** they are collecting **pasta (wheat & gluten free,) tomato products (spaghetti sauce, tomato paste, crushed tomatoes, diced tomatoes,) and cereal (no Cheerios.)**

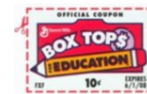
Collecting bins are in the office hall and are marked for Tiger’s Den and for local families.

CODE BLUE

The providers of shelter for the homeless during the bitter cold days and nights of winter in Buffalo have had their supplies stolen and are in need of replacements. They are asking for T-shirts, hats, gloves, twin sheets, blankets, boots, coats, slippers, and socks for women and men. Bring your donations to CUMC and put them in Crafts Hall. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Questions? Contact Diane Klenk 651-0236

SEASONAL REMINDER



‘Tis the season of Christmas cards arriving at your home, so remember to save your cancelled postage stamps. Also remember to save the Campbell’s Labels for Education, and General Mills Box Tops for Education, as well as Dash’s register tapes. Place them in the labeled boxes on top of the microwave in the Kitchen. Thank you!



As you know, Christmas Eve will soon be upon us. As we finish our preparations on the order of worship and other internal matters, comments by Brian Bauknight caught my attention. He writes:

“Recent studies show that

many marginally churched and unchurched people want to be in a church on Christmas Eve. Something about the mystery and drama of the Christmas Story draws them toward a hoped-for encounter with God in this sacred season. More so than Easter. People seem to worship on Easter because it is the expected thing to do. They worship at Christmas looking for something of depth and wonder in the journey of life. Thus, we need to pay attention to our Christmas Eve worship with great care. We need to make entry easy and thoroughly welcoming . . . If at all possible, volunteer parking lot attendants need to be in place. Greeters and ushers need to be reminded that some arriving worshippers are coming to church—or back to church—for the first time in a long time. The worship guide needs to be written with care—with special attention to those who do not know the customs of your particular congregation. And the message needs to reflect God’s presence filled with mystery, awe, and conviction in an uncertain time.” With that in mind we are looking for some ambassadors in ministry that will undertake and coordinate some additional efforts in our hospitality on Christmas Eve. Give it some thought and prayer about how God may be calling you and your family to share the message of grace through one of the following areas:

- ◆ Parking lot attendants (to greet people in the lot and direct them to the closest open spots)
- ◆ Church entrance greeters (to usher visitors, share information about the church, and hand out candy canes)
- ◆ Coat checkers
- ◆ Special facility enhancement (like walkway luminaries)

Let us seize this opportunity in ministry to offer through such simple efforts the beginning of an experience that will continue through worship of God’s incredible grace and love. Please contact the church office if you would be willing and interested in helping out as a hospitality ambassador. (839-2460)

Spiritual Formation Team and Stewardship Team

Thirstaid Thursdays
 1:00 – 2:30 in the Wesley Room
 December 5th, 12th, and 19th

Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem
 (Adam Hamilton)
 Led by Paula Kreib and Peggy Bermudez

Beginning January 9th -

A Year of Biblical Womanhood (Rachel Held Evans)
 Led by Diane Klenk

A. O. L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)
 Sundays following worship at 11 am
 December 1—January 5 and
 Searching the Scriptures—Tuesdays at
 Noon (Wesley Room)



Digesting the Sermon - Figures of the Nativity
 Led by Rev. Oskvig

Have you ever been curious about the setting and all those figures that are part of most nativity sets? A stable, animals, angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Kings,... and sometimes a host of others! Did you know that not all of these figure within any single story about Jesus? So where did they come from? What’s their importance? Why does it matter? We will be exploring the figures of the Nativity through the seasons of Advent and Christmas through the sermons and worship, Tuesday’s Scripture Study, and Sunday’s AOL which follows worship. Don’t miss out on these exciting opportunities to grow in your understanding and appreciation of the figures of the nativity.

January 12– February 23

What are your ideas for an inspiring and meaningful study as we begin 2020? Please share your ideas on the Connection Card in the bulletin.

OUTREACH MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

*Opportunities to share ourselves, our talents,
and our resources with others.*

Christmas Candy/Baked Goods Sale—December 15



We will be having our Candy and Baked Goods fundraiser on December 15th. Donations of baked goods and candy will be much appreciated. Please bring your goodies to church by December 14th to enable us to arrange them on festive holiday plates in time for the sale on Sunday, December 15th. Cookie/candy platters are great for gifts and entertaining! All proceeds go to the many outreach missions of our church. Thank you so much for your support!

Giving Tree

The tradition of The Giving Tree continues! The tree is in the Family Room. If you wish to participate, please take a tag and return your gift **unwrapped** by the date specified below.



Seneca Street and Gateway Longview—Dec. 1

Haven House—Dec. 8

SPCA and Family Justice Center—Dec. 15

Primera Iglesia (Jehovah Jireh)—Dec. 22

Please attach the tag to your gift to assure it gets to the right person. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Klenk at 651-0236.

Let us remember those who are less fortunate at this time of the year and make their lives more joyful!

We are so blessed; let's pass that on to others! Thanks for your help!



Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2, 2020

We will be selling homemade soup to benefit the many missions of the church.



ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

District Superintendent Carlos Rosa-Laguer will preside over the Annual Conference on **Sunday, January 19, 2020** in the Sanctuary from **3-5 pm**. An essential part of our identity is in connecting through Holy Conferencing. Through this we come to understand how, where, to whom, and in what ways the Holy Spirit is calling us. It is so much more than just business! So don't miss out! Join us to have your voice and your vote count.



Fridays during Advent
November 29, December 6, 13, and 20
at 5:30 pm

30 minutes of meditative songs, scripture reading,
and prayer in a quiet, candlelit setting.

Give yourself the gift of quiet reflections in the
midst of the Advent-Christmas season.



Tuesday, December 24 at 8 pm

Join us for "A Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service of Lessons and Carols"

If you would like to join the choir for this
service, contact Paul Staley at

niagaraorg@mac.com or 536-5370 for rehearsal information.



FINANCE TEAM—NOVEMBER

As usual the congregation of Christ Church was most generous with their gifts for the November 2nd **Sunday Offering** for the Turkey Baskets and \$503 was received!

The 2nd Sunday 2nd Helping recipient for **December** will be **The Center for Elder Law and Justice** and for **January** the recipient will be **Compass House**.

The offering for World Communion Sunday was \$340.

To date we have received 69 pledges totaling \$178,110. Compared with last year's 82 pledges totaling \$198,184 this shortfall would mean we would not be able to fund all the ministries we would like. It is not too late to turn in your commitment card!

As you are doing your year-end and estate planning, please keep Christ Church in mind.

- CUMC Finance Team