

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Worship Schedule

- Worship 10 am
- Education Hour 11 am

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE

Pastor

Rev. Daven W. 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



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-5, Thursday 9-Noon

OFFICE CLOSINGS

December 24 at Noon, December 25 Closed

December 31 at Noon, January 1 Closed

January 21 Closed



Photo by Ian Webber

December 2018 - January 2019



Greetings and grace to you all:

This is a time that stirs our memories as we parade out decorations and indulge in special seasonal recipes. Smiles radiate through these activities complimented often with tears of joy remembering all those who have been a part of our Holy-days past. For all of us, there are particular ways or moments that capture this season with its emotions and feelings. I thought I would share a few of mine While there were many ways that my family home displayed preparedness for the holy-day, the moments that particularly stir my memories are of Christmas Eve. We always went to the midnight service in the churches we attended which would conclude early Christmas morning. Donning our very best (and sometimes newest) church clothes and having scrubbed and cleaned our home and selves, we went to church to hear the news. Arriving while anxious for what lay ahead in service and Christmas morning, my brothers & I would be rubbing our eyes with the time, far beyond our normal bedtime. But in the dimly lit sanctuary we would find our imaginations stirred as the story of the first Christmas was retold in scripture and song. I remember that we were sent out into the night holding our candles singing *Silent Night*. There, on the church lawn, surrounded by hundreds of other candles, I was overwhelmed how our tiny flames were matched by the thousands of pinpricks in the sky above shining down upon us. I knew that thousands of others stood with us on that night singing those words, holding that delicate flame, aware of something... different about life, but not having the words to describe it. On the way home my brothers & I often fell asleep in the car. And with the night still fresh in our memories, we would awaken at dawn to new possibilities on Christmas morning. Every year presents an opportunity for us to make new memories, to be moved by the Christmas story, and to come to see the possibilities for our lives with Christ in them as we hold the light of grace in our hands. Every year encourages us to awaken to the dawn of new possibilities in our lives and with our lives. Let us join together to prepare for and ultimately to welcome this reality in our lives this year.

God bless you all,
Pastor Daven



The Worship Team will be selling poinsettias after worship November 18th - December 9th. Orders should be returned, with payment, by December 9th. 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 _____



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Clem & Karen ArrisonDecember 02, 2000
- Michael & Patty KellerDecember 05,1987
- Peter & Patricia Zaleski **58 Years!**December 23, 1960
- Joseph & Carolyn Day **67 Years!**December 27, 1951
- Tom & Kathy BrunnerDecember 27
- Ian & Hilde WebberDecember 28

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES - NONE

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Robert Paddock03
- Mary Parsons.....04
- Jean Ericson.....05
- Diane Klenk06
- Alicia Ticconi.....07
- Michael Keller.....08
- Geoff Hill.....11
- Dave Wolf.....11
- Betty Kreib.....13
- Marilyn Morris.....13
- Chris Smith14
- Guy Castellino17
- Amy Thormahlen.....22
- Lois Lewis23
- Tim Reed25
- Jacqueline Morris26
- Laurie Hannon27
- Emily Scaringi27
- Theresa Watson28
- Paula Kreib29
- Barb Pryor31



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Marie Miller01
- Phyllis Nicholson.....01
- Barbara Critoph02
- Tom Weaver04
- Guy Ferrelli05
- Mary Jane Shanley.....07
- Pam Lopez09
- Lindsey Darling10
- Bob Loesch10
- Matt Thormahlen12
- Millie Staley16
- Carol Teresi.....17
- Lucille Mooney18
- Nicole Sciolino20
- Robert Lovell23
- Elvira Gonzalez25
- Barbara McCray.....26

Our New Look!

Café Renovation



Before



Photo by Barb Mitchell



During



Photo by Barb Mitchell



Almost done

Photos by Barb Mitchell

Community Room-awating furniture



Photos by Barb Mitchell



Barn Red doors



With Joy... From Sally

Each year as the children, youth, and adults gather to prepare for the Christmas pageant, I remind them of the story we're telling. God is doing something through Jesus—something that will involve *all* things. In his letter to the people of the church in Ephesus, Paul writes, "*God made known to us the mystery of God's will according to God's good pleasure, which God purposed in Christ... to bring unity to all things...*" Two things catch my attention – it's God's "*good pleasure*" to connect with humankind and to bring unity to *all* things. That's an important message for us to hear and to share. Though we enjoy creating a fun Christmas pageant, dressing up and all the rest, it's retelling the story that matters. It's a way we connect with God and offer the opportunity for *all* to hear that it's God's desire and *pleasure* to connect with them too. This is a story that brings us together.

We retell all kinds of stories. It happens at family gatherings, class reunions, and memorial occasions. When we retell those stories we don't remove the unfortunate events, or the ugly parts when we weren't at our best. We include them. Sometimes we even embellish those parts! In retelling, we see them in a new way. They take on new meaning and perspective. We were with long-time friends recently recalling a camping trip when a skunk got into our tent! We retold the story with smiles and laughter, even though it wasn't so funny all those years ago! In the retelling, things are transformed. Sometimes the worst parts become the best parts.

The world seems scattered and broken for all kinds of reasons. It brings God *pleasure* to gather up and bring *all* things together—nothing left out. Listen for the message of Christmas... retelling... reconciling... renewing... putting things back together.

Sally

Faith Xpress

Greetings From The Heart –

The Secret Life of Christmas Cards

Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 16

10 am Worship

Party From the Heart – Share the Story

After worship enjoy food, friends, and time for writing some Christmas greetings to go to church friends, hospitals, and care homes.

Rehearsals each Sunday morning at 11 am and

Saturdays, December 8 & 15, 10 am – 12 noon

January

“David the King”

Although he’s remembered as Israel’s greatest king, David was a person who made many mistakes. God forgave him and continued to work through him for God’s purposes. In spite of our mistakes, God works through us too.

Faith Xpress – Youth!

January

Ordinary? Extraordinary?

Discovering ways God guides our lives.

Confirmation

Attention all 8th graders & above!!! You are invited to be part of the journey of confirmation this upcoming year. This is a time set apart for you to learn about the Christian faith—what we say and believe, our history and practices. It is your time to ask questions and explore those issues and ideas which you have always wanted to know more about. If you are interested, an informational meeting will be held following FaithXpress (12 noon) on December 2, 2018, in the Family Room. Bring your parent(s) or guardian(s) along if you come. Hope to see you there!

Educational Opportunity

a.o.l. (Adult Opportunities for Learning) @ CUMC

Advent study: Sundays 11 am, Dec. 2 – 23 in the Wesley Room

The Redemption of Scrooge

Led by Dr. David Pliss

The study will look at Charles Dickens’ classic, A Christmas Carol through the lens of faith.

Special note: Class participants are invited to enjoy the theater musical performance of “A Christmas Carol” at the Riviera Theater, North Tonawanda on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm. Contact Tom Nye 213-3642 for further information.

which has not yet been formed. Community Youth Group activities, Open Opportunities to outside community, especially special needs, – Thanksgiving baskets, warm clothing drive, etc. Cause for a pause opportunities – Halloween firepit (40 people this year), Christmas Open House, Make A Difference Day, etc. *(contingent on tech upgrades for ads)*

Service Hub - Strategic Team is still at work to determine what is needed to connect people in the church and the outside community with service opportunities. *(contingent on tech upgrades)*

Worship – Strategic Team formed following Pastor Daven’s settling in. The new worship schedule was determined –one worship service at 10am on Sundays. Music & Meditation and other special worship opportunities will be offered at other times.

There you have it! All of this is a direct result of the consultation process continuing to unfold in the days, months, and years to come. This is the work of the people called Christ Church—willing to do whatever it takes!



CAFÉ and HALLWAY PROJECT: Trustees are pleased to report great progress in completing the rehab and painting of the office entrance hallway and Café. Thanks to the many volunteers who have kept things moving along – paint prep crews; clean up crews; kitchen crew! Special thanks to Dave Mitchell for the beautiful new Corian countertops and kitchen serving doors; Scott Smith electrical work, and Dick Radel’s stairway handrail refinishing. The project includes funding from Bob Snyder’s Memorial Funds and Trustees Capital Improvement Fund. Work has involved complete patching and priming of all painted surfaces, with two coats of new paint on the walls and trim. The hallway has all new energy efficient LED light fixtures along with new closet rods. The Café, in addition to the new serving countertop and doors, received a new drop ceiling, new LED light fixtures, and new window treatments. The Hospitality Team is working with professionals from UB School of Architecture on new interior signage to be added to the fresh paint! The next step includes new floors from the back entrance, thru the office hallway, in to the Café and continuing in to Crafts Hall – budget \$18,000, and refurbishing of Crafts Hall including new paint – budget \$10,000. However, to proceed additional funding will be needed ... maybe you can help?





Consultation Update ~

Perhaps you've thought to yourself, "Whatever happened with that consultation process we began in 2016 with Pastor Jim Pollard and consultant, John Wimberley?"

Keep reading and find out!

After the initial phase with Rev. Wimberley in which the entire church community was invited to conference together, a purpose statement was created for Christ Church which says, "Making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love and service." These are the foundational words for everything that follows. Again, everyone was invited to weigh in how we would live out this purpose in our life together as the church. This was distilled into strategic areas thought to be most important.

*Technology * Spiritual Formation * Child/Family Spaces *
* Connecting with our Neighbors, * * Hub of Service * and *Worship* (delayed until the arrival of the new pastor) *

Strategic Teams were assigned to each area for the purpose of determining what was needed in order to "make connections and offer opportunities for faith, love, and service." *Keep reading...*

By the time Pastor Daven Oskvig was appointed to Christ Church these teams were well under way and bringing recommendations back to the Church Council, whose role it is to keep us moving forward.

Here's what's unfolding as we partner in God's purpose of loving the world ~

Tech Team – Wi-Fi in entire building, Upgrade computer and screens for worship- *(This was to be accomplished by November, but materials for screens was found to be unavailable.)* New information monitors, Upgrade website and social media

Spiritual Formation – Ongoing Spiritual Formation Team formed to plan and offer opportunities for study and growth for adults on Sundays, mid-week, and online opportunities *(contingent on tech upgrades)*

Child/ Family Spaces – The Christian Education Team created a Family Worship Space, Sky Box, and lower level upgrades. Youth room and multi-purpose rooms redecorated. Still pending is changing stations in restrooms which is a task for the trustees.

Hospitality – Ongoing Team formed –working on Café & building upgrades, external/internal directional signs, Sunday morning Café scheduling

Connecting With Neighbors – Requires an ongoing coordinating team



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 pm** at **Katie Cady's** (226 Golden Pheasant Dr., Getzville, 688-7477) for our annual Christmas Party. Contact Katie about what you'll bring. In **January** we will tour Platters Chocolate-Time and Date TBA

Rachel Circle will meet **Tuesday, Dec. 18 at noon** at **Asbury Pointe** for lunch. Margaret Messecar will share the history of a couple of Christmas Carols and then we will all sing several carols, accompanied by Pat Zaleski on the piano. We will meet **Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 12:15 pm** in the Wesley Room. Sally Pollard will be our speaker.

Circle of Joy will gather for dinner on **Thursday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 pm**. Place TBA. January Meeting TBA



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 4 - 2 pm in the Wesley Room



Astronomy of Christmas— Breakfast Gathering
Saturday, December 1 10 am
UMW Executive Board will host
Cost \$5

Guest Speaker: Pastor Michael Kistner of Starfish Ministry WNY

We will explore questions about faith and science such as: What was the Star of Bethlehem? What made the Magi travel? Are science and the Bible mutually exclusive?

Contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com for reservations.

Church Conference

Our Annual Church Conference will be held on **Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019** at **6 pm**. Our new District Superintendent, the Reverend Carlos Rosa-Laguer, will preside over our meeting and time together. 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!



Music and Meditation
Fridays during Advent
 December 7, 14, 21 at 5:30 pm



30 minutes of meditative songs, scripture reading, and prayer in a quiet, candlelit setting.
 Give yourself the gift of quiet reflection in the midst of the Advent-Christmas season

OPPORTUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

FEASTING ON THE WORD - a devotional meal focused on scripture

Friday, Dec. 7, immediately following the 5:30 pm “*Music and Meditation*” service, you are invited to participate in a simple meal during which a passage of scripture will be read aloud, with table conversation devoted only to reflection on the scripture. Not a “study” experience, but a time for focused listening and sharing in conversation with one another of the connection of the scripture passage with our personal life and faith as we enter the Advent season.

If you decide to participate in the meal, please call the church office, 839-6548, or e-mail the church at cumc350@gmail.com, or note on the “connection card” on Sunday. Your indication will aid in meal planning.



Monday, Dec. 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 for rehearsal information.

Thirstaid Thursdays
 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Wesley Room

The Twelve Voices of Christmas
 November 8 - December 20
 Facilitator: Paula Kreib

Bad Girls of the Bible, Part II January 10-31, 2019
 Facilitator: Diane Klenk

FINANCE—DECEMBER/JANUARY

Thank you all so much for your response to our pledge campaign for 2019! We have received 57 pledges in the amount of \$149,548. Last year we had 94 pledges in the amount of \$207,204. If you have not already turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible so we can finalize the 2019 budget.

We received \$515 to date to forward to UMCOR for Hurricane relief. The November 2nd Sunday offering for Caring Cards was \$400.

The 2019 offering envelopes will be available the 1st week of December, but please do not use them until January. Envelopes will be available for those who currently use them and also sign-up sheets for any others who want them.

The Financial status as of Oct. 31, 2019 is:

Income to date: \$280,371 (Includes the \$24,206 from the Endowment)
 Expenses to date: \$251,879
 Net Income: \$ 28,492

We continue to meet our Shared Ministries (Apportionment) obligations. Again thank you all so much for your support!

The Finance Team

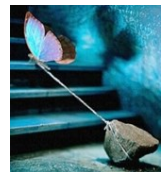
FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM:

Our theme for 2019 is “What Weighs You Down?” Through the seasons of the year, we will explore ways to keep our promises of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness by letting go of the things that weigh us down, and connecting with God, our faith community, and the world so that we may soar!

Winter – attitudes that weigh us down; moving each other through loss, illness, and grief (prayers, presence, witness)

Spring – new life, Earth Day, letting go of “stuff” (service)

Fall – recognizing abundance, living generously (gifts)



Thank You

I wish to thank you all so much for the funeral home visits, cards, and kind words at the time of the loss of my sister. It is truly a blessing to be a part of this congregation.

Doris Schanzlin



Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families

In addition to the food that goes to local food pantries, 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

They are collecting **tuna fish and garbanzo beans** during December. January 2019 they will be collecting **toilet paper and paper towels.** Collecting carts are in the office hall and are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.



*Connectional Church Caroling
Monday, December 3rd,
5:45 board bus at Harris Hill UMC
8495 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221*

People of all ages are invited to sing together to bring Christmas joy to residents at Bristol Village and FayeBrook Senior Apartments. Please sign up in the Café by December 2nd if you plan to ride the bus.

Questions? Contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com

Blue Christmas

Holidays can be a challenge for some, particularly those facing them after the death of a loved one, loss of a job, divorce or separation, living with cancer or other disease that leaves a huge question over the future, and a number of other human situations which make parties and holidays painful. Pastor Daven will lead a Blue Christmas service on **December 16, 2018 at 3 pm.** This service will be for all those living through dark times, with a reflective setting to acknowledge where we really are while holding out healing and hope. A time for conversation and reflection will follow, guided by Dr. David Pliss.

OUTREACH MISSIONS OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER '18 & JAN '19

Turkey Baskets

Thank you everyone who contributed to our Annual Turkey Basket project this year. Each year we partner with other local churches, schools, and organizations to help feed 500 families at Thanksgiving. Thank you for being a blessing to others.

Christmas Candy/Baked Goods Sale



We will be having our Candy and Baked Goods fundraiser on **December 9th**. Donations of baked goods and candy will be much appreciated. **Please bring your goodies to church by December 8th** so we will be able to plate them up on festive holiday plates in time for the sale on Sunday, December 9th. 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!








The tradition of the Giving Tree continues! The tree will be in Crafts Hall starting November 23rd. If you wish to participate, please take a tag and **return your gift unwrapped by December 9th**. **Please attach the tag to your gift** so we can be sure it gets to the right person.

- This year's recipients are Gateway Longview, the SPCA, Haven House, and Primera UMC (Jehovah Jireh). 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! Thank you for your help!

Outreach Blessings

The phone call came in at 9:30 on a Friday morning. A fellow pastor had referred the man to Christ Church. He, his wife, and 3- and 1 year-old daughters were about to become temporarily homeless. They had been staying at Motel 6 on Transit Road for the past few nights until their apartment was ready. It would be ready the following day. They had run out of money to pay for the room for one more night. Family Promise was at capacity. He could stay at the City Mission and the only place for his wife and daughters to stay was in Jamestown at a home for victims of domestic violence, but they had no way to get there. Our Outreach account had a little money that had yet to be designated. It was decided that some of those funds would pay for their last night at Motel 6. Thank you for supporting the many Outreach and missions of our church.

On Friday, December 14, from 4:30 – 9:00, Christ Church will be hosting **Family Promise** at St. Stephens-Bethlehem UCC, 750 Wehrle Dr. If you can help with meal preparation or hosting, please contact Lee Watson at lwatson60@roadrunner.com.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h1 style="color: red; font-size: 2em;">December</h1> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h1 style="color: blue; font-size: 2em;">January</h1> </div> </div>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10a Education Hour 11a Confirmation Meeting 12p	Library Team 10:30a	Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon UMW Executive Board Meeting 2p	Choir 7p	Thirstaid Thursdays 1p <i>The 12 Voices of Christmas</i> Elizabeth Circle 6:30p Circle of Joy 6:30p	Books We Have Loved 11a Music and Meditation 5:30p Feasting on the Word 6p	Cookie /Candy Sale Setup 10a Pageant Rehearsal 10a
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10a Cookie and Candy Sale Open House 5-7p	Worship 10a Exploring Sunday Scriptures - Noon Finance Team 7p	Exploring Sunday Scriptures - Noon Finance Team 7p	Choir 7p	Thirstaid Thursdays 1p <i>The 12 Voices of Christmas</i> Hospitality Team 7p	Hosting Family Promise 4:30-9p Music and Meditation 5:30p	Pageant Rehearsal 10a
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Christmas Pageant 10a Brunch 11:15a Blue Christmas 3p	Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon Rachel Circle-Noon UMM Theater 7p Outreach Team 7p Trustees 7p	Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon Rachel Circle-Noon UMM Theater 7p Outreach Team 7p Trustees 7p	Choir 7p	Thirstaid Thursdays 1p <i>The 12 Voices of Christmas</i> SPR Team 7p	Music and Meditation 5:30p	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10a Education Hour 11a	Office Hours 9-Noon Christmas Eve Service 8p	 Office Closed	No Choir	Elizabeth Circle 6:30p Circle of Joy 6:30p	 Game Night 7p	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Worship 10a Education Hour 11a	Office Hours 9-Noon	 Office Closed	Choir 7p	Choir 7p	Mind/Body Connection Yoga 7p	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship 10a Education Hour 11a		Exploring Sunday Service-Noon Finance Team 7p Church Council 7p	Choir 7p	Thirstaid Thursdays 1p <i>Bad Girls of the Bible Part II</i> Church Conference 6-7:30p	Mind/Body Connection Yoga 7p	District UMW Executive Board 9:30-Noon Crafting for a Cause 10a
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship 10a Education Hour 11a FEBRUARY CALLER DEADLINE		Exploring Sunday Scriptures - Noon Outreach Team 7p Trustees 7:30p	Choir 7p	Thirstaid Thursdays 1p <i>Bad Girls of the Bible Part II</i> SPR Team 7p	Mind/Body Connection Yoga 7p	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship 10a Education Hour 11a	 Office Closed	Exploring Sunday Scriptures - Noon Rachel Circle 12:15p	Choir 7p	Thirstaid Thursdays 1p <i>Bad Girls of the Bible Part II</i>	Game Night 7p Mind/Body Connection Yoga 7p	
27	28	29	30	31		
Worship 10a Education Hour 11a		Exploring Sunday Scriptures - Noon	Choir 7p	Thirstaid Thursdays 1p <i>Bad Girls of the Bible Part II</i>		