

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

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Office Hours:

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Barbara Burr..... | 3 | Donna Yungbluth..... | 15 |
| Marion Rowlands..... | 3 | Marilyn Welker..... | 17 |
| Kelsey Reed..... | 4 | Ben Bermudez..... | 20 |
| Emily Mugel..... | 7 | Abigail Johnson..... | 23 |
| Kristen Scaringi..... | 7 | Paul Staley..... | 23 |
| Dorothy Brown..... | 8 | Viki Smith..... | 25 |
| Beth Sweet..... | 12 | Linda Parete..... | 26 |
| Diane Lovejoy..... | 13 | Michele Sciolino..... | 27 |
| Peter Shanley..... | 14 | Ashton Hannon..... | 28 |
| Olivia Smith..... | 14 | | |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

Peter and Mary Jane Shanley.....February 2, 1963



Photo by Barbara Carier



FROM DAVEN'S DESK

"So ... what should we give up for Lent this year?" my wife asked. "I dunno," I replied having given some thought to this, but seriously stumped. Much of our indulgences, such as desert and coffee, we have already significantly limited as an economic and lifestyle choice. But

this is the route that Lenten fasts usually take--through our stomachs. We give up chocolate or sweets or soda or countless other treats. While this is connected to Christian and Jewish tradition, we risk with this approach a fast food mentality. We make choices based on ease and convenience, forgetting the larger implications. Or do we?

An interesting reality of Christianity is its lack of food rules and taboos. For example, the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, spoke and wrote of the importance of fasting. But when it came to actual diet, he saw it as an individual's choice. I believe, however, that this ancient practice related to food consumption is exactly what we are in need of. Think of just how countercultural abstinence is to the logic of consumption. That is a witness in our lives of what really matters or at least trying to grow in our understanding of what gives life meaning. And when we apply these across the calendar year, choosing to live on enough rather than more than enough, they help us to affirm an alternative logic of thankfulness.

Methodists know the rich tradition and connection between food and spirituality. Lent and its disciplines, namely fasting, are not meant to take any of that away. Rather the intention is to reconnect food and spirituality, subjecting eating to the scrutiny of Christian conscience and tradition. To ask and answer what, why, how, and how much we eat says about us and our God. So join with me as we sound a fast and reconnect to our spiritual heritage and traditions entering more fully into the life of Christ, the doctrines about him, and his sacrifices made for us.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Daven*



is a season – 40 days, evenings, nights

It is a season that brings thoughts of discipline, sacrifice, endurance. It may *not* lead us to consider the ways God enters into aspects of our lives morning, noon, and night. Lent is a season that invites us to live differently, to **release**, to let go of things and practices that may have hold of *us* so that we might **gain** an awareness of the meaning they have for us. Here are some ways you may respond to Lent's invitation...

Lent – Morning, Noon, & Night

For use at home – “Give It Up”

What holds your attention and occupies your mind? You could give those things up for a week if you wanted to, right? Take a journey of self-discovery and learn how the power of release brings great gain. Saying “yes” to this challenge of letting go could bring you closer to God. Pick up a book and enter the experience of release and reflection.

Group Study – Tuesdays at 12 noon – “Give It Up”

Take the experience of letting go a step further. Bring your lunch and gather with others on the Lenten journey of release. Share insights, reflections, and find encouragement & deeper meaning through the practice of release.

Morning Prayer – Wednesdays at 10 am

Join Pastor Daven for this mid-week time of prayer, simple chant, and scripture each Wednesday morning at 10am during Lent. You are invited to come and establish a rhythm for your day in the simplicity of morning prayer.

Study- Women of the Bible- Thursdays 1-2:30 pm

Take a look at the lives of some of the women of the Bible with Diane Klenk on Thursday afternoons, February 15, 22, March 1, 8

Friday evenings – Music & Meditation at 5:30 pm

Give yourself the gift of peace. Slow down & rest in the candle light. Allow the music, scripture, prayer and meditation to penetrate your whole being. Led by Sally Pollard, *Minister for Community Life & Paul Staley, Minister for Music*

Hooray for the New Roof! (picture on the cover)

Thanks to Dick Radel and his crew, the water damage from the old leaking roof over the sanctuary has been repaired and repainted.

OUTREACH MISSION OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY 2018



Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, no matter their age, sex, race, culture, or religion.

What is the cause? The only true cause of domestic violence is the abuser's choice

to act violently and control their partner.

Victims of domestic violence are often trapped. That doesn't mean there is no way out, but that there are many reasons not to risk ending the relationship.

Thanks to the support from organizations like Christ UMC, victims of domestic violence have a safe and comfortable place to start their long journey to safety, freedom, and independence.

The Family Justice Center of Erie County truly appreciates the prayers and financial support received from Christ UMC and want to express their thanks for all you do to break the cycle of violence.

Family Justice Center WISH LIST

- Supermarket gift cards for clients (\$10, \$25, or \$50)
- Amazon.com gift cards (to purchase books given to clients to help inform and empower them)
- Paper cups for hot beverages, tissues, and paper towels
- Individually wrapped, single portion size snacks (nothing with peanuts please) and juice boxes and "kid-friendly" short-cut meals (i.e., Spaghetti O's, Chef Boyardee, etc.)
- Keurig cups (coffee, hot chocolate, tea), individual creamer & sugar packets
- Diapers, formula, baby hygiene products
- Make-up/cosmetics (preferably foundation) to be given to clients after having injuries documented
- Ibuprofen/Advil/Motrin
- Toiletries – soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.
- Office Products: manila folders, small binders, dividers, tape
- Cleaning products: Windex, Lysol wipes, dish soap, sponges, Swiffer dry sheets

Thank you to everyone who supported the Outreach Team Annual Cookie and Candy sale in any way! Together we raised over \$900 for our church missions!!!

Thank you also to everyone who helped brighten someone else's Christmas by fulfilling a wish from the Giving Tree.



With Joy... From Sally

Tulips and Poinsettias

I'm sitting in my living room looking at tulips in a vase on the mantle over the fireplace and a poinsettia plant sitting on the hearth. Having just returned from the grocery store, where I gave in to the guilty pleasure of selecting a fresh

bouquet of my favorite flowers, I'm now preoccupied with these flowers I connect with two different seasons sitting together in my living room. The truth is that the end of the Christmas season (Epiphany) and the beginning of the Lenten season (Ash Wednesday) are only 39 days apart this year. For those of us who are planners for experiences and observances of the church seasons, that feels as close as the tulips and poinsettias in my living room.

I can't help but think that the events marked by these seasons represent a life whose beginning and ending were all too close together. Still, Gospel-writer John tells us that Jesus, the eternal Word of God, was present in the beginning and is the Light and Life of Creation. That Word became embodied- God-being, human-being, one-being. You and I are strange concoctions of that same creative stuff – dust and energized particles, body and soul, with infinite power and possibility right here, right now, close.

As we are more and more aware of this closeness to the living presence of God with us and in us, we come alive to the holiness and sacredness of *all* of life- our family, friends, neighbors, all humankind as well as our work, our play, our food, our resources- God all in all.

There are many opportunities being offered for us to experience during the Lenten season- times of worship, prayer, study, meditation, reflection, practice- all designed to wake us up to what is happening around us all the time. Read about them in this newsletter and say "yes" to as many of them as you are able. Let the experiences sink deep and reflect on their meaning for you. How will they shape your life and our life together as Christ Church? How will we move forward trusting that God is *with* us, for us, and ahead of us?

Sally

Faith Xpress!

Sunday mornings - 10 am Lower Level

Caring For Creation

With our hands we can help care for Creation. The children are practicing caring ways each week and recording them on our bulletin board. We hope they'll inspire you to pitch in a **little** and make a **big** difference.



Community Youth Group



(Middle & High School Youth)

Sunday, February 11 1-3 pm

Bring your friends!

Craft Project—Let's Get Creative!

Christmas Pageant 2017



Photos by Laura Smith



SUGAR AND SPICE PAINTING FOR PENNIES!

COME JOIN THE FUN!

NO ART SKILL NEEDED!



Christ United Methodist Church Women's Ministry presents an evening of fun! Just follow along as JAVENE McCABE shows us how to be an artist.

You will go home with an 8x10" picture "Sing for joy!" based on Psalm 100: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Christ United Methodist Church
February 23, 2018 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Cost: \$12.00



All proceeds to benefit Christ United Methodist Church
UMW MISSIONS
Please RSVP to Paula Kreib at 725-6067 by February 16th

Christmas Celebration

Photos by Laura Smith



Ash Wednesday Explained:

Why Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches.



March Caller Deadline: Tuesday, February 13

**Submit Information To: caller350@yahoo.com or bbmitch@verizon.net
Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell: 839-2435 or bbmitch@verizon.net**

FINANCE TEAM

Thank you all for your very generous Christmas Offerings. The total amount from all sources (the Christmas offering, the December 2nd Sunday offering, and the offerings from the 4 Friday night M&M programs) was \$2,617, which went to the Seneca Street CDC Program.

To date, 92 units have made pledges of \$206,424. We thank you all so much for your generous commitments to Christ Church and its ministries for the coming year.

The Finance committee is also very pleased to report that we have paid 90% of our commitment to World Service (Apportionments) this year as compared with 65% last year.

We wish you all God's greatest blessings in this New Year.

-The CUMC Finance Team

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Tour



On Tuesday, February 13th, the CUMC men's group will tour the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine (the largest building dedicated to medical education under construction in the US for \$375 Million), the John R. Oishei Children's Hospital (\$270 Million), and the Conventus Center for Collaborative Medicine. All are invited: women, children, and singles. We will meet at the church at 10 am and travel to the northern Metro rail station which leads us to the Allen Street station inside Jacobs. Lunch is a 3 block walk to Ulrich's, 1868 Tavern (German American) where we will lunch in a private room. There is no charge for the tour. Lunch, parking, and Metro have fees. Parking in the area is difficult, but if the walk to lunch is too long then driving is a recommended option. Please dress for the weather. Questions and your attendance response to Bob Lovell at 462-3733 or Tom Nye at 213-3642 by Sunday, February 11.



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, February 1 at 7:00 pm at the home of Joanne Gilbert, 2395 N. Forest Rd. Apt. 108 (580-3938.) Hostess is Marion Rowlands (688-5238.) Our program, presented by Katie Cady, will be *Memory, Forgetfulness, and the Brain*. Contact Joanne or Marion if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle will meet Tuesday, February 27 in the Wesley Room at 12:15 pm. Guest speaker Helen Markham will discuss *The Grange, an Educational History Lesson*.

Circle of Joy will meet at the home of Lisa Lawson at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 1st, to create 6X6 masterpieces!





Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women Gift Day

Saturday, February 10, 9:30 – Noon

Baker Memorial UMC

345 Main St, East Aurora, NY 14052

Representatives from each group will speak about their ministry!
Lists of needed items can be found on the UMW bulletin board in Crafts Hall. Please contact Peggy Bermudez (626-4897) if you plan to attend.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|  | | | | 1 Elizabeth Circle 7p Circle of Joy 7p | 2 Books We Have Loved 11a | 3 |
| 4 <i>Casual Praise 9a</i> <i>Education Hour 10a</i> <i>Traditional Worship 11a</i> | 5 Library Team 10:30a Praise Team 5p | 6 UMW Planning Meeting 1p Church Council 7p | 7 Choir 7p | 8 Hospitality Team 7p | 9 | 10 Niagara Frontier District UMW Gift Day 9:30a-noon |
| 11 <i>Casual Praise 9a</i> <i>Education Hour 10a</i> <i>Traditional Worship 11a</i> <i>Community Youth 1p</i> Choir 12:30p-1:30p Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra concert 2:30p | 12 Praise Team 5p | 13 UMM Tour 10a Finance Team 7p March Caller Deadline | 14  Choir 6:15p Worship Service 7p | 15 Visitation Team 10a UMW Lenten Study 1p SPR Team 7p | 16 Music & Meditation 5:30p | 17 |
| 18 <i>Casual Praise 9a</i> <i>Education Hour 10a</i> <i>Traditional Worship 11a</i> | 19  Office Closed Praise Team 5p | 20 Group Study 12 noon "Give It Up" Trustees 7:30p | 21 Morning Prayer 10a Choir 7p | 22 UMW Lenten Study 1p | 23 Music & Meditation 5:30p Sugar & Spice Paint Night 6:30p-9:30p Game Night 7p | 24 |
| 25 <i>Casual Praise 9a</i> <i>Education Hour 10a</i> <i>Traditional Worship 11a</i> | 26 Praise Team 5p | 27 Group Study 12 noon "Give It Up" Rachel Circle 12:15p | 28 Morning Prayer 10a Choir 7p |  | | |