

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



350 Saratoga Rd., Amherst, NY 14226

Phone: 839-2460 Fax: 839-2166

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Office Closed Monday, February 18th

March Caller Deadline

Wednesday, February 13

to caller350@yahoo.com or

bbmitch@verizon.net

Questions: Contact Barb Mitchell 839-2435 or

bbmitch@verizon.net



Photo by Ian Webber

February 2019



On the doorstep of this cold and short month we each become acutely aware of the wisdom of those who sought out the solace of warmer climates to enjoy these winter times. Huddled continually in our homes listening to the incessant running of our furnaces, darkness and pessimism piles on our spirits

like snow along our streets and dollars on our heating bills. It is easy to allow these factors to work against us and temper our desires to do much of anything. So for each of us the trial ahead becomes how to *NOT* let the weather hinder our enthusiasm and energy, and most especially, our spirits.

In the middle of this month comes a great celebration called Valentine's. This occasion is one that encourages the warmth of our hearts, a passion and feeling expressible by only a single word—love. Perhaps the challenge to us is to view this celebration more broadly than its current form of a time between couples driven by consumerism and consumption, marked by candy, balloons, cards, and flowers. After all, the word that is central to Valentine's and its expressions is also central to our faith and our expressions of it. So instead of allowing these 'dog days' of winter to plunge us into gloom, let us use them to grow into, warm up to, and live out our faith. This time can be for us one of growth, planning, and implementation. But it will take the ideas, gifts, and talents of each and every one of us to get past the cold temperature and the deep snow. With a unified effort we can melt the darkness and sadness wrought by these winter months with the brightness of our spirits and the joy of our praise.

So let us come together and scoop away the snow amassing between God and God's people that we might provide a clear avenue for all of us to come and be warmed and ignited by God's love. In us may the world see the light of Christ, that light not tempered by the season. And may we be moved by the Holy Spirit to be God's living expression of love, bringing others to this light and warmth amidst this month of dark and cold.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*

February Birthdays



Barbara Burr.....	3	Marilyn Welker.....	17
Marion Rowlands.....	3	Ben Bermudez.....	20
Kelsey Reed.....	4	Abigail Johnson.....	23
Emily Mugel.....	7	Paul Staley.....	23
Kristin Scaringi.....	7	Viki Smith.....	25
Beth Sweet.....	12	Linda Parete.....	26
Olivia Smith.....	14	Michele Sciolino.....	27
Donna Yungbluth.....	15	Ashton Hannon.....	28
Laura June Merrill.....	17	Herb Wilber.....	28



Finance for February

To bring you up to date, we have received 81 pledges in the amount of \$194,184 as of January 7, 2019.

The December 2nd Sunday offering was \$415, and the total of the four Advent Music & Meditation offerings was \$74, which is a total of \$489 to be split between the Tiger's Den and the Food Bank of WNY.

The Christmas Offering was \$2,361 which will be split between Restoration and Family Promise.

Our share of the Red Blazers' December concert was \$450.

We are pleased to report we have paid 100% of our 2018 Shared Ministries (Apportionments.)

There are still a few unclaimed offering envelopes in the Family Room. If you want a box of offering envelopes, please call the church office and let Janelle know.

Again, thank you all so much for your support and please join us in prayer for a blessed and successful 2019.

The Finance Team

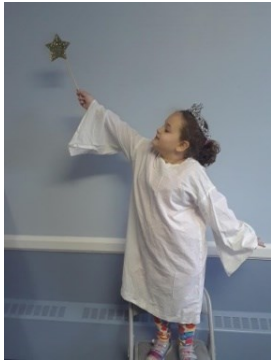


Hearts for the Homeless WNY Inc

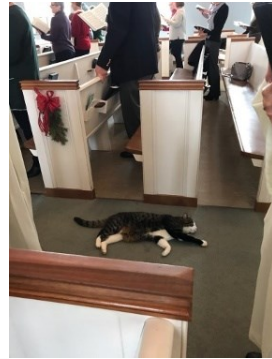


Hearts for the Homeless of Western New York, Inc. is a mobile soup kitchen that feeds the poor and homeless on the street, characterized by a profound spiritual motivation. The program offers nourishing food, as well as winter clothing, pertinent information regarding area services, companionship, and hope for the future. Look for the red bin at the back of the parking lot at Christ Church for your donations of clothing, shoes, and blankets.

Christmas Pageant Angels '18
Photos by Sally Pollard



CUMC church mouse-er Mongo
Photo by Carol Corsaro



Advent Music and Meditation '18
Photo by Janelle Martin



Sanctuary-Christmas 2018
Photo by Sally Pollard



With Joy... From Sally

For some people the Bible is a collection of old books. For others, the Bible is a collection of books, but they're more than just books. Some people read the Bible to find answers to questions, while others search for information to affirm their opinions, and others turn to the Bible to seek comfort or guidance. When we read the Bible, it's important where we start.

The Bible was written by people. If you start by going into the humanity of the writings in these books, you will find the divine. The writings about Jesus' life are found in four gospels. They tell us about Jesus being betrayed by a friend, sharing meals with his friends, being put to death by the Romans, and rising from the dead. What you'll find very quickly is that these accounts are not the same. There are a lot of disorganized and confusing details. Some people respond to this by ignoring the details, saying that it's God's word and you shouldn't question it. While others see the differences as proof that it's all a myth. If we start with the human, we might direct our attention to understanding why these particular people wrote in these particular ways. The divine will be found in and through the human. What does the story tell us about what it means to be human?

We have lots of power and ability as human beings. We can invent things, build things, dream things up, and then go make or do them! We also have the capacity to use our minds, our abilities, and our energy to further our own purposes at the expense of others. What we think and do shapes the world into a more peaceful place where everyone is flourishing ... or not.

For some people the Bible is a book about things that happened long ago, more about *then*. Many have never read the Bible as a book with power for us here and *now*. We have all this capacity to invent and create and use our power for good, to care for each other and all of creation, but what happens when it's used in destructive ways, ways that dehumanize and oppress others? Do we give up, thinking that we're powerless and it's out of our control? Or do we become more intentional about what we *can* control, being people of character and integrity, caring for our neighbor and taking better care of the earth? The writers of the Bible wrote with the

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FAITH X PRESS

Sunday mornings 11 am Lower Level

For Children & Youth

February

David the King

Although he was a person who made many mistakes, David is remembered as Israel's greatest king. God continued to work through him - his leadership, courage, faithfulness, and ability to unify.

God can work through us too!

Continued from page 3 "Sally"

anticipation of everything being restored and made right, that there is still a better future for the world. With that ingrained in our living each day, we're taking part in the future *now*.

Why have the writings of the Bible endured through time? Because they speak truth to our power as human beings. The Bible calls out injustice and the ways systems can go wrong. The Bible holds us accountable for the decisions we make. The Bible shows us some things about the many ways we wander away from the love that's been ours from the beginning, looking to find our value and sense of identity in many kinds of things and people. And all the while we've been cherished sons and daughters of a loving God.

The Bible was written by people. Why they wrote what they did, in the way that they did, and why they thought it was important are good questions to ask. It's important where we start.

Educational Opportunities

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

Sundays at 11am February 3-24 in Wesley Room

"A Disciple's Path"

Led by Dr. David Pliss

Suggested donation \$21 for Book and Workbook

Spiritual Growth and Practices Team

Thirstaid Thursdays

1:00 – 2:30 pm in the Wesley Room

Bad Girls of the Bible Part II

January 10 - February 21, 2019

(February 28 – Snow Day if needed)

Facilitator: Diane Klenk



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, February 7 in the Wesley Room at 7pm. Hostess is Julie Wisley (839-3395). Contact Julie if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle will not meet unless the January meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

Circle of Joy will meet Saturday, February 23 at noon for the City of Light Bus Tour.



All women are invited for a
Sugar and Spice Evening – Friday, February 8, at 7 pm
Hearts and Flowers Glass Painting with Kathy Brunner
Come for an evening of fun and creativity!

Cost - \$5 per person

Sherbet Dishes and supplies will be provided.

Friends and Families Welcome!

RSVP to Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897

or bradbermudez@hotmail.com

Have you have been wondering where the beautiful cards are that were made on **MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY?**

Well, don't worry!

The box of all-occasion cards is located in the office. They are organized by category so it's easy to find just what you want.

These cards are for anyone to use! Why not send a card to someone who you feel needs some happy thoughts, support, or well-wishes?

Any questions?
See Paula Kreib



Continued from page 5 "Blanket Sunday



love by providing CWS Blankets to those in need. Each blanket costs only \$10, but these blankets can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth, and encouragement. Together we can help even more families stay warm this winter. Won't you join us by making a gift today?



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 **feminine hygiene products and shampoo** during February.

Collecting carts are in the office hall and are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.

Missions of the Month — February Thank you!~ Thank you! ~Thank you!

To all of you who made the **Cookie and Candy Sale** an overwhelming success! Between the sale at the Red Blazers' concert and the sale on December 9, we raised over **\$1,000 for missions**. Thank you to all who baked, created, and supported the sale.

Thank you all for contributing to the Christmas Eve offering. We are excited to share with our neighbors in need through your generous gifts to the Christmas Offering! **Over \$2,300** will be split between **Family Promise of WNY** and the **Restoration Society** for their Code Blue Project.

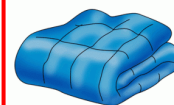
Souper Bowl Sale — February 3

The Outreach Team will be holding a soup sale on Sunday, February 3. There will be a choice of three soups which will be available in pint and quart containers. We will be offering take-out and dine-in options. All proceeds will go to missions.



Blanket Sunday - February 10








Winters in Appalachia can be long and brutal, especially if your home has broken windows and isn't well insulated. Sandy Gunnell, leader of Sisters of Hope in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, sees this scenario all the



time. While visiting vulnerable neighbors in her community to distribute CWS Blankets and other material items, she realized how cold their homes were in the winter. The members of the Burchett family had an idea to make their house a little warmer. They hung

the thick wool blankets donated to them three years ago in front of their broken windows, "to keep the heat in and the cold wind out," explained Sandy. She knows that for many families, a CWS Blanket is an important barrier separating them from the cold. "Every year the CWS Blanket is the only thing they have to keep them warm," said Sandy. Sandy recently provided the Burchett family with additional blankets to use in the various rooms of their house. "They are so appreciative of everything we have given them. And they go out of their way to tell you how much these blankets mean to them," she says. God has blessed us with so much, and we have much to share. Share this

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Books We Have Loved 11a Blood Drive 2-6p Mind/Body Connection Yoga 7p (Family Room)	2
3 Worship 10a Education Hour 11a  Souper Bowl Sunday	4 Stewardship Team 10a Library Team 10:30a	5 Mind/Body Connection Yoga 10:30a (Family Room) Exploring Sunday Scriptures—Noon Church Council 7p	6 Choir 7p	7 Visitation Team 11:30a Thirstaid Thursdays 1-2:30p Elizabeth Circle 7p - Wesley Room	8 Mind/Body Connection Yoga 7p (Blue Room) UMW Sugar and Spice 7p	9	
10 Worship 10a Education Hour 11a Blanket Sunday 	11 Christian Ed. Team 7p	12 Mind/Body Connection Yoga 10:30a (Family Room) Exploring Sunday Scriptures - Noon	13 MARCH CALLER DEADLINE Choir 7p	14 Thirstaid Thursdays 1-2:30p  happy valentines day	15 Mind/Body Connection Yoga 7p (Family Room)	16	
17 Worship 10a Education Hour 11a	18  Office Closed	19 Mind/Body Connection Yoga 10:30a (Family Room) Exploring Sunday Scriptures - Noon Outreach Team 7p Trustees 7:30p	20 Choir 7p	21 Thirstaid Thursdays 1-2:30p SPR Team 7p	22 Mind/Body Connection Yoga 7p (Family Room)  Game Night 7p	23 Circle of Joy-Noon for City of Light Bus Tour	
24 Worship 10a Education Hour 11a	25	26 Mind/Body Connection Yoga 10:30a (Family Room) Exploring Sunday Scriptures - Noon Rachel Circle 12:15p? Worship Team 7p	27 Choir 7p	28 Thirstaid Thursdays 1-2:30p Hospitality Team 7p	