

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



350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Phone: 839-2460 Fax: 839-2166

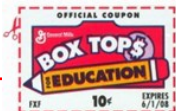
www.christchurchamherst.org E-mail: Cumc350@gmail.com

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Marcia Snyder.....1	
Gregory Yungbluth.....3	William Morris.....16
Graciello Cordero.....3	Marshall Rhinehart.....17
Kara Panasiewicz.....4	Marjory Gibson.....19
Gregory Watson.....7	Pat Noyes.....24
Brad Bermudez.....8	Peggy Bermudez.....25
Molly Reed.....8	Ashley Miller.....26
Christopher Kraatz.....9	Jordan Maliken.....29
Andrew Lopez.....12	Warren Hammond.....31
Joanne Gilbert.....15	Jan Rhinehart.....31



REMINDER

Remember to save your cancelled postage stamps, Campbells Labels for Education, General Mills Box Tops for Education, as well as Dash's register tapes for Gateway, and put them in the labeled box on top of the microwave in the kitchen. Thank you!!





Dearest Members & Friends,

As I stepped out into another single digit morning for a run, my ears suddenly caught the sound of hope rising to combat the cold and wind. I heard that suspicious melody of another season still present in the grips of this one, the birds happily regaling their chorus against all the odds of the day. As I had begrudgingly approached the workout ahead, I now found a new lightness in my step as the promise for warmer times dawned.

Doesn't this always seem to be God's mysterious way? As soon as our spirits are lowest, our faith challenged most, a ray of hope pierces the darkness. Of course, we experience this in nature like with the birds' chorus in the snow or the crocus springing out hidden beneath winter's cold grip. But also it exists in so many other ways. Maybe it is the phone call shared just when we need it or the card with well wishes; or maybe it is the kind gesture by a stranger when everything in our day is going horribly wrong. Also, through our worship in Lent, the scriptures we hear all encourage us to see the barely visible light that death shall not have the last word. Even as we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem and through the events that take place there into the cold dark grasp of a tomb, we hold onto a sense that God's grace and love is unable to be sealed away, choked off from us. And on Easter morning the light of God's grace dawns against all odds brightening the darkest valleys with the Son's shine.

The truth is that love is all around if we care to open our eyes and open our ears. God provides these glimpses and voices to us that darkness and despair will not overwhelm us, but hope and love will sustain us. And ... we too can embody this hope and love to others as followers of Christ through the words of our mouths and the actions of our hands. After all, we ARE resurrection people...!

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Daven



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SPRING FASHION SHOW



We will be holding a SPRING FASHION SHOW as a fundraiser to support our missions.



In honor of that day, we will be using a Mexican theme for our food, decorations, and possibly even some fashions! We are looking for models for that day and hope that some of our younger folks (and men!) will join us.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact SANDY CUMMING or PAULA KREIB



We expect this to be a fun day, so



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We look forward to seeing many Chicos y Chicas!

WORSHIP

As we worked with the consultant last year on developing our purpose statement and creating our strategies, one aspect that was left until after a new pastor had been appointed was a conversation concerning the worship life of the congregation. This includes Sunday mornings, but is far broader than just that aspect of worship. The Church Council has entered a time of prayerful discernment surrounding worship, including the time and number of worship offerings on Sunday morning and other aspects that can complement this key moment of each week with the objective of excellence in whatever we undertake. If you have questions or comments you would like to offer as we continue to discern, please seek out one of the Lay Leaders of Christ UMC (David Pliss or Peggy Bermudez), the Chair of Church Council (John Miller), or Sally Pollard or Pastor Daven so that they can share those remarks with the Church Council.

April Caller Deadline: Tuesday, March 13 to caller350@yahoo.com or bbmitch@verizon.net
Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell 839-2435 or bbmitch@verizon.net

OUTREACH MISSIONS OF THE MONTH - MARCH 2018



One Great Hour of Sharing

On March 11 we will join all other United Methodist churches in making our contributions to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR.)

We all know the great work that UMCOR does helping victims of fire, floods, hurricanes, and other kinds of disasters.

This year has been especially bad when it comes to people being caught in these horrible situations.

The great thing about UMCOR, in addition to the work that it provides, is that *one hundred percent* of the dollars we donate goes directly to support these efforts. Administrative costs are derived from other sources.

Thank you for your gifts to UMCOR!

Central City Café

The Central City Café is a mission of the Durham Memorial A.M.E. Church located at 174 E. Eagle Street, Buffalo, NY. Several times each year we have the opportunity to prepare casseroles which can serve 225 meals. (Each casserole feeds 15 people.) Our next opportunity is March 3. Pans and recipes will be available after each service if you would like to assist with this ministry. Another way to get involved in this ministry is to volunteer at Central City Café the second Tuesday of the month. Help is needed preparing and serving the meal. There is a sign-up in Crafts Hall. The café is located at 74 E. Eagle Street, Buffalo, NY. For more information, please contact Kathy Weaver, Lee Watson, or Peggy Bermudez.

FINANCE TEAM—MARCH

The latest report on pledges shows that 94 units have pledged a total of \$207,204. Your commitment to the future of Christ Church is inspiring. It is never too late to turn in your pledge commitment; the pledge cards are on the table at the back of the Worship Space as you enter from the Family Room. There are also sign-up sheets there should anyone want offering envelopes. The January 2nd Sunday offering for Harvest House was \$146 and the Human Relations offering was \$143.

The CUMC Finance Team



With Joy... From Sally

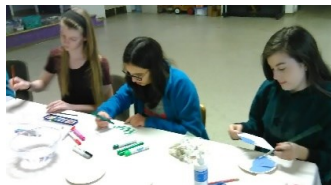
In a world increasingly characterized by fear and suspicion, what is the Church called to be? In an article by Professor of Religious Studies (St. Norbert College, Wisconsin) Paul J. Waddell, he describes an icon in an abbey in Austria. *"In the background of the picture was a small town or community. People could be seen walking the streets of the town as they attended to the tasks of the day. In the foreground was a large table. Seated around the table were people sharing a meal. Everyone in the icon looked quite ordinary except for one thing—a glow or halo encircled the head of each person. The icon was entitled, "Xenophilia," love and friendship for strangers."* Professor Waddell goes on to explain that the title invited him to look at the icon differently because it suggested that not everyone walking the streets or sitting at the table was a citizen of the town, some were strangers and outsiders and people from elsewhere. But they were able to enter the town because there was nothing to suggest that some were welcome and others were not. Anyone could feel at home in this town because everyone was welcomed as a friend. Instead of xenophobia – the fear of the stranger — this little town embodied the befriending hospitality of God. And everyone who walked its streets glowed with holiness because they had learned to love whatever neighbors came their way, especially the ones it's easy to exclude or ignore. Whether they were host or guest, citizen or stranger, love was being given and received. How will we make connections and offer opportunities that will create bonds of friendship with others? The central purpose & work of God in Jesus was reconciliation and peace. Anyone who chooses to be a Christ follower is called to do the same, to remove the barriers that divide us. Barriers rise up when differences of gender, physical & mental ability, religion or lifestyle choices cause us to close off and be unwelcoming. Sometimes we erect barriers because of unhealed hurts or painful memories. Instead of nurturing friendship we disconnect. Human beings are experts at ignoring & excluding people and situations that make us uncomfortable, that challenge us and remake or reshape our world. That's always a risk with openness and hospitality. In our world that seems to be growing more guarded and harsh, we are still called to imitate the table manners of Jesus, whose fearless love knew no boundaries. Making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love, and service is the Christ Church way of standing in hopeful contrast to the deep darkness of the world. And we will glow with the goodness & love of God. And everyone who comes will see it—even if we don't see it ourselves.

Where Christ is at the center of all that we do
Sunday mornings, 10 am Lower Level

Lent – Spending Time With Jesus

In Lent we mark the time when Jesus is in the wilderness, where he prays and prepares for what lies ahead for him. At FaithXpress, children will think about how they spend their time and find opportunities to pause, to pray, and to prepare. We'll use Lenten symbols to tell the story of the last days of Jesus' life.

Community Youth Group



CYG creating art pieces to benefit Farm Sanctuary (Watkins Glen, NY)- caring for abused & neglected animals

Next Gathering—Sunday, March 11

Event TBD

Dear Friends and Staff at CUMC,
Thank you so much for all the thoughtful prayers, beautiful cards, comforting phone calls, and well wishes I received as I recovered from my mid-December fall. Your caring and support really helped to brighten my days! I do miss seeing everyone at church, and I hope to be healed enough to be back again in March. God bless you for all your kindness!

~Love, Mary Ball

(Continued from page 8)

presence in our midst. The title of this day, Maundy Thursday, recalls the new commandment (*mandatum novum* in Latin) in John 13:34. The service may be appropriately called Maundy Thursday when footwashing occurs in imitation of Jesus' actions and as a response to his new commandment to love one another. The ancient practice of stripping the Lord's table and sanctuary following communion is a vivid and dramatic way of showing the desolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethsemane and what followed. The church remains bare until Easter.

2018 Easter Plant Order Form

Pink Tulips, Yellow Daffodils, and White Lilies

Name _____

Phone _____

Please indicate by circling one:

In Memory of

In Honor of

Name of person(s) being remembered/honored
(Please PRINT)

Flower Information

Cost of each pot of blooms is \$9.00 (several blooms in a 6" pot)

Please indicate how many pots.

____ Pink tulips ____ White lilies ____ Yellow Daffodils

Total amount paid \$ _____

Check or Cash

Make checks payable to Christ United Methodist Church (Circle one)

Distribution Instructions (Check one)

____ Will pick up after service

____ Please deliver to Beechwood or other shut-ins

____ Please decorate the Worship Space

A Worship Team member will be collecting orders in the Family Room after services on March 11, 18, and 25.





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 during Lent. On Wednesdays at 10 am 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 – 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.

Maundy Thursday Explained:

This evening service commemorates the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples’ feet and instituted the Lord’s Supper. Particular traditional actions are part of this night including confession and pardon, proclamation of the Word, footwashing, the Lord’s Supper, and the stripping of the church.

Footwashing is a powerful symbolic response to the Word, dramatizing the servanthood of Jesus, both on the night before his death and in his continuing

(Continued on pg. 9)



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

What’s Her Story? A Living Timeline

March is Women’s History Month. Who are the women who have inspired you to put your faith into action? **All** are invited to add their stories (with photos, if possible) to the United Methodist Women bulletin board in Crafts Hall. Some supplies are provided and creativity is encouraged as we celebrate women who have made a difference!

NIAGARA FRONTIER DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Communion Breakfasts & Memorial Services

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Registration and Breakfast: 9:30 am

Program: 10:30 am

Cost: \$5

LYNDONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

102 N. Main St, Lyndonville, NY 14098

Speaker: Karen Wehn on Climate Justice

Or

HAMBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

116 Union St, Hamburg, NY 14075

Speaker: Pastor Anne Cole on Climate Justice

The lives of Janice Beckwith, Evelyn Cole, and Florence Stengel will be remembered. Please call Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 if you plan to attend.

CIRCLE NEWS



Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, March 1 at 6:30pm at Musalfare to see “Smokey Joe’s Café.”

Rachel Circle will meet Tuesday, March 27 at 12:15 pm in the Wesley Room to make an Easter craft for Beechwood.

Circle of Joy will meet on Thursday, March 1 at 7:00 pm. Plans TBD

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Lenten Study 1-2:30p Elizabeth Circle at Musicallyfare 6:30p Circle of Joy 7:00p	2 Books We Have Loved 11:00a Music & Meditation 5:30p	3
4 Casual Praise 9:00a Education Hour 10:00a Traditional Worship 11:00a	5 Library Team 10:30a Make a Difference Day Planning 11:00a Praise Team 5:00p	6 Group Study 12 noon "Give It Up"	7 Morning Prayer 10a UMW Planning Meeting 1:00p Choir 7:00p	8 Lenten Study 1-2:30p	9 Music & Meditation 5:30p	10
11 Casual Praise 9:00a Education Hour 10:00a Traditional Worship 11:00a Community Youth Group  Daylight Savings Begins	12 Praise Team 5:00p Christian Education Team 7:00p	13 Group Study 12 noon "Give It Up" Finance Team 7:00p April Caller Deadline	14 Morning Prayer 10a Choir 7:00p	15 SPR Team 7:00p	16 Family Promise 4:30p Music & Meditation 5:30p	17 
18 Casual Praise 9:00a Education Hour 10:00a Traditional Worship 11:00a	19 Praise Team 5:00p	20 Group Study 12 noon "Give It Up" Outreach Team 7p Trustees 7:30p	21 Morning Prayer 10a Choir 7:00p	22 Hospitality Team 7:00p	23 Music & Meditation 5:30p	24 Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast & Health Fair 8:00a-1:00p Niagara Frontier District UMW 9:30am
25 Casual Praise 9:00a Education Hour 10:00a Traditional Worship 11:00a  Palm Sunday	26 Praise Team 5:00p	27 Group Study 12 noon "Give It Up" Rachel Circle 12:15p	28 Morning Prayer 10a Choir 7:00p	29 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00p	30 OFFICE CLOSED at NOON  Music & Meditation 5:30p	31