

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Worship 10am

Education Hour 11am

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

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN JUNE 24

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-3 Thursday 9-Noon



SEPTEMBER Caller Deadline!
Tuesday, August 13 to
caller350@yahoo.com or
bbmitch@verizon.net
Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell
@ 839-2435 or
bbmitch@verizon.net

The Caller

SUMMER 2019



See page 5 for important information

Thank You Sally!



We have a number of words that get tossed around in the pulpit and pews, words that I have taken to calling ‘church-y words.’ These are words like faith, grace, sin, peace, and hope. We use them as we worship together, and numerous sermons have been proclaimed concerning them. Yet perhaps by that very frequency, their power and meaning continue to elude us.

I came across a quote the other day as I read from one of my favorite theologians, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German imprisoned in a concentration camp during World War II and eventually put to death. In his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, he writes concerning hope: “(hope is) living every day as if it were our last, and yet living in faith and responsibility as though there were to be a great future . . . thinking and acting for the sake of the coming generation, but being ready to go any day without fear or anxiety.” What is being said concerning hope is that it is neither abiding by a bucket list with our lives nor being consumed for storing up realities for those who will follow us. Rather it is a combination of these two in a way that puts faith central to both. In other words, it is to live our lives using each day as quite possibly the last prior to meeting God, employing each moment as an opportunity to seize and express our discipleship, to allow our lives to reflect God’s glory, and to share God’s love. By virtue of welcoming each day as our last and undertaking such work, we will also be creating a better reality for the future. To this end, it is living/acting/being today in our hope of what the world will look like tomorrow.

Christian life is largely lived in such paradoxes. We, as disciples, are to use our lives to make visible things that are largely unseen (love, peace, grace, hope.) So, let us hope for the future by living it this day. Let us leave it not on the horizon or for those who come later to undertake, but to use every day as our final opportunity to make good on the prayer which we lift together: “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as in heaven.”

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Daven



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Dave & Patti Bechtel.....	June 05, 1971
Woody & Jan Rhinehart.....	June 09, 1956
Scott & Viki Smith	June 15, 1985
James & Linnea George	June 18, 1988
Frank & Nancy Annunziata.....	June 19, 2009
Allen & Joan Lesswing.....	June 20, 1953
Greg & Donna Yungbluth.....	June 20, 1981
Charles & Joanne Gilbert.....	June 22, 1968
Daven & Lianne Oskvig.....	June 28, 2002



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Dave & Barb Mitchell	July 3 1964
Tom & Darcie Beyer	July 8. 1978
James & Lisa Juergens	July 12, 2003
Chris & Laura Smith.....	July 15, 2006
Rubin & Lisa Malpica	July 16, 1988
John & Marie Miller.....	July 16, 1994
Richard and Mary Ball	July 17, 1993
Tom & Peggy Nye.....	July 20, 1974
Darren & Sandra Paddock.....	July 20, 1996
Paul & Millie Staley.....	July 23, 1977
Chris & Michele Sciolino.....	July 24, 1993



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Lynne Beller	August 6, 1977
Don & Barb Critoph	August 8, 1981
Warren & Donna Hammond (50 years!)	August 9, 1969
David & Lisa Lawson	August 15, 1987
Robert & Patricia Loesch	August 15, 1964
Ross & Grace Markello	August 15, 1953
Bim & Marion Rowlands	August 15, 1964
Larry & Ann Burdette.....	August 16, 1958
Harley & Sue Estee	August 21, 1993
Brad & Peggy Bermudez.....	August 22, 1981
Sheldon & Anne Merritt.....	August 23, 1958

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Ryan Meagan.....	2	* Patricia Zaleski.....	12
Richard Ball.....	4	Samuel Suggs.....	13
Diane Poe Schroeder.....	3	Laura Smith.....	17
Carol Gundlach.....	6	Vincent Malpica.....	18
Forrest (Woody) Rhinehart.....	6	Richard Miller.....	18
Karen Hoffmann.....	7	Andrew Rapini.....	18
Ross Markello.....	7	Donna Hammond.....	22
John Lopez.....	8	Sean Brown.....	23
Nicole Takac.....	8	Julie Sciolino.....	25
Charlotte Davis.....	9	Patricia Loesch.....	27
June Gilbert.....	9	Ruth Munson.....	27
Lisa Lawson.....	9	Bob Varian.....	27
Samantha Willhauk.....	10	Anne Merritt.....	28
Carol Ann Maltbie.....	12	Barbara Mitchell.....	28

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Patty Keller.....	2
Leanne Paddock.....	3
Ann Burdette.....	4
Sharon Ferrelli.....	4
Kathleen Cady.....	5
Peggy Nye.....	10
Trevor Smith.....	11
Frank Parete.....	11
Frank Willhauk.....	11
Tom Nye.....	14
Hannah Smith.....	16
Lynne Beller.....	17
Debbie Laberta.....	20
Kay Barber.....	21
Bruce Burr.....	23
Shirley Downey.....	26
Dede Johnson.....	26
Ryan Carier.....	28
John Miller.....	28
Brandon Miller.....	29
Cindy Fisher.....	30
Alex Ladowski.....	30
Linda Ladowski.....	30

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Allison Scaringi.....	1
Valari Zanghi.....	1
Erin Johnson.....	5
Phyllis Maliken.....	5
James Juergens.....	6
Helen Peacock.....	6
Steven Kraatz.....	7
Darryl Barrow.....	7
Rubin Malpica.....	10
Jamie Hannon Rapini.....	14
Jeremiah Cordero.....	15
Nancy Hess.....	23
Megan Weaver.....	24
Chris Johnson.....	25
Marcia Miller.....	21
Dave Bechtel.....	27
Sandy Cumming.....	27
Mary Loliger.....	27
Christopher Pollard.....	27
Shaun Carier.....	28
John Yungbluth.....	30



With Joy... From Sally



Making decisions . . . What to do . . . Who knows what I want to do? Who knows what anyone wants to do?

How can you be sure about something like that? Isn't it all a matter of brain chemistry, signals going back and forth, electrical energy in the cortex? How can you know whether

something is really what you want to do or just some kind of nerve impulse . . . some minor little activity . . . somewhere in this unimportant place in one of the brain hemispheres and suddenly . . . I want to quit my job . . . or go to Montana???

Some of that is a quote by Don DeDillo from his book, *White Noise*.

The book deals with the process we go through when making a decision, either rational, emotional, carefully deliberated, or *blink* and go with your gut. How does the human mind make decisions? Maybe if I had read the book first I would have gone to Montana!! Thinking about leaving the position as Minister for Christian Education & Community Life has taken time, thought, prayer, and consideration of both you and me.

The community of people known as Christ Church makes connections and offers opportunities for faith, love, and service. Over the years the statement has changed, but the concepts have remained much the same. Connection, community, love, & service have always been at the heart of Christ Church. Together we learn, we grow, we challenge our minds and spirits to become more than we already are. We open our lives to others who need a place and community of love and support for their lives. Whether we have made decisions by Roberts' rules or come to consensus; whether we wrote policies for our conduct, for physical/emotional safety or for the handling of finances; these decisions have been made with faith and love in order to serve the needs of people and to stand up to the challenges of the world.

The world needs the church. The church needs to live in the current culture and that means constant change. Over the years we've lived through many changes. Christ Church 2019 is just as vibrant as the 1949 version. Every person here is looking to connect with God and with a community of good people who center their lives with love. God is love. And Love is at the center of faith . . . not just Christian faith, but all faith traditions. Each person is valuable; their lives have meaning and purpose.

That's our common ground whether we're part of a faith community or none. There is no secret recipe for decision-making. There will always be unpredictable events. **Don't** over-analyze. **Do** think about why you feel what you're feeling. Keep the Spirit of Jesus alive as you live each day with joy!

FaithXpress takes a break for the summer months.



Watch for Very Veggie
Sundays during the summer!



Vacation Bible School
July 8 – 12
9 am – 12 noon
Pre K – Grade 5 (completed)
Register at:

<http://tmab.cokesburyvbs.com/christchurchamherst>
or www.christchurchamherst.org or call 839-2460.

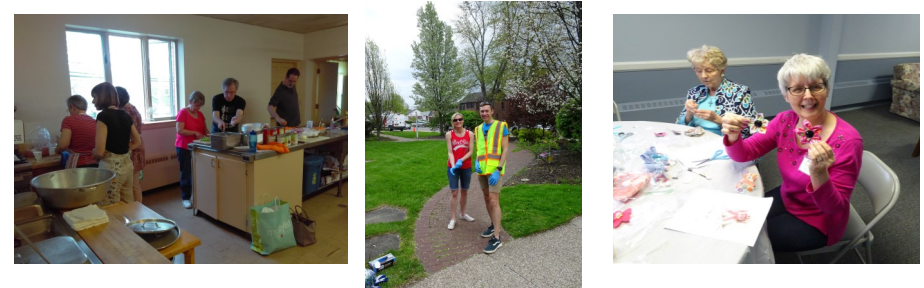
**MAKING CONNECTIONS AND OFFERING
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FAITH...**

On Tuesday at noon each week, you are invited to share in a study and reflection on the scripture text that will be the focus of the following Sunday's sermon. The group will meet in the Wesley Room.

And, during the summer, you are invited to "Digest the Sermon..." after you've heard it. Following the worship service, you are invited to join in conversation about the sermon with Rev. Daven Oskvig. Gather in the Café, pick up your coffee or tea or juice and a snack, socialize for several minutes, and then gather to share your responses, questions, and understandings of the sermon of the morning with Rev. Oskvig and your fellow worshippers.

You can participate in both of these opportunities, or either one.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2019



Photos by Janelle Martin and Barb Mitchell



Have a wonderful summer! CALLER may return in September! Deadline for articles is Tuesday, August 13.
-Barb Mitchell

UMW Activity in May

Rev. Diann Holt speaking about the Durham Baby Café at the UMW Breakfast Gathering on May 11.

(Photo by Peggy Bermudez)





Our Confirmands

Nicole Takac

Ashley Miller



The expressions of sympathy shared following my grandmother's death and the genuine concern for my wellbeing have been heartwarming. When we talk about and promote our vision of making connections and offering opportunities for

faith, love, and service, I can honestly witness to how this community has sought to live into that vision. I have been blessed by it and now have my own personal testimony to the blessings of being part of this faith community and how it seeks to embrace and live its vision. Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and support through this time.

In Christ,
Daven



As I am about to transfer my membership to a church in my new North Carolina neighborhood, I am saying a bittersweet goodbye to our church community of some 30 years up North – y'all. A heartfelt "thank you" for all your support, your cards and prayers through Ian's illness. You will always be in my heart!

In Christ, Hilde Webber



There are insufficient words to express our deepest gratitude for Sally Pollard's 23 years of ministry at Christ Church. Sally has been a constant through six different pastoral transitions, seven office managers, 1 receptionist, three organists, and three custodians. She has served in more ways that we can even begin to list with our children and youth, with our neighbors near and far, with those celebrating and with those grieving. Through worship, prayer, and all the ways she loves and cares for others, she continues to inspire each of us. As Sally leaves the Christ Church staff to begin a new chapter in her life, all are welcome to celebrate and joyfully give thanks for her ministry.



A celebration of Sally's 23 years of ministry at Christ Church will be held on **Sunday, June 2nd** at **Classics V Banquet Center, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst** from **4 to 7 pm**. The cost is \$25 per person and includes assorted finger foods, a carving station, cake, juice punch, coffee, and tea. Cost for children ages 5-12 years old is \$15; children under 5 are free. A cash bar will be available. Tickets are required and can be purchased after worship on **Sunday, May 26th**. **Contact Pat Noyes (857-0839)** if you need transportation or have questions concerning the event.

Many Missions this Summer

Family Promise of Western New York



All emergency shelters provide a meal and a place to sleep. Because Family Promise of WNY runs a small-scale program, they are able to offer guests an array of services that are above and beyond what typical bigger shelters can provide:

- ◆ The ability to keep families together, which include fathers and teenage sons;
- ◆ Intensive case management that feels personal and tailored specifically to each family in order to help guests meet their goals;
- ◆ A fully-equipped Day Center where guests can receive mail and which includes internet, telephone, laundry facilities, showers, TV equipped with video games and DVDs, and private spaces in which each family can relax and keep their belongings secure;
- ◆ A hot, nutritious home-cooked dinner every night that includes fresh fruits and vegetables;
- ◆ Overnight accommodations at a local congregation;
- ◆ Assistance getting children to school upon entrance to our program while school buses are getting rerouted to the Day Center;
- ◆ Personal space in our shared kitchen to store and cook food;
- ◆ An array of baby items to borrow, such as cribs, strollers, etc.;
- ◆ Security Deposit Assistance on a case-by-case basis for families whose only impediment to permanent housing is covering initial rental costs;
- ◆ 1 year of graduate support when families exit our program;
- ◆ An amazing hospitality network of hundreds of volunteers from our community who serve over 18,000 volunteer hours annually.

For the past 6 years Christ Church has been a support congregation to different churches who help with this ministry. We assist them by providing dinner and supervision/visiting one Friday evening 4-5 times per year. Our next opportunities to host are June 28 and August 23. We need cooks to provide the meal, visitors from 7-9:30 in the evening, and volunteers to spend the night. If you would like to get involved in this ministry, please contact Lee Watson. We would love to have you join us!!

(Missions—continued next page)



CIRCLE NEWS FOR JUNE AND JULY

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, June 6 at 12:30pm** for lunch at Tavern at Windsor Park, 8444 Transit Rd., Williamsville. Contact Mary Ball (741-3301) by **June 4th** if you plan on attending.

Rachel Circle will meet **Tuesday, June 25 at 12 Noon** at Asbury Pointe for our summer picnic. Hostess is Grace Markello.

Circle of Joy will attend the Buffalo Philharmonic Concert in Clarence Town Park on **Wednesday, July 24 at 7pm**.



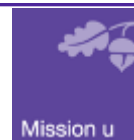
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Saturday, June 15th 9am-4pm Garage Sale Fundraiser



- If you have useful items to sell, 8 ft. tables will be available for a donation of \$15. Table reservation forms can be found on the UMW bulletin board in Crafts Hall.
- United Methodist Women and the Outreach Team will have items for sale to raise money for missions. This is an opportunity for all church teams to purge useful items that are stored around our building.
- Questions? Please contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com.

Mission U at Camp Asbury July 25th –27th

- We'll celebrate 150 Years of United Methodist Women!
- Two studies will be offered:
 - ◇ *Practicing Resurrection: Gospel of Mark and Discipleship*
 - ◇ *What about Our Money? A Faith Response.*
- **Registration forms are available on the UMW bulletin board in Crafts Hall.**
- **Cost is \$235** (double occupancy, 2 nights, 8 meals). *Christ Church UMW has scholarships available!*
- **Registration is due by July 10th**; please make checks payable to *UNYSOCM Region 3*
- Please send to Cathie Phelps, P.O. Box 171, Sardinia, NY 14134
 - ◇ 716-432-0790, cathiephelps@aol.com
- Questions? Please contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com



The United Methodist Church - General Conference, LGBT Issues, and Next Steps for our Denomination

The United Methodist Church has been in the news recently as a result of the Special Session of General Conference that took place in February 2019, and the subsequent decisions of the Judicial Council relative to the Church's stance on LGBT issues. The decisions that were made are rippling through our denomination, as well as the Upper New York Conference.

There will be opportunities in mid-June to speak with Brad Loliger as Church Council Chair, so that you can gain a better understanding of how adoption of the Traditional Plan will affect Christ Church, and what decisions our local congregation will need to make relative to the denomination itself. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

FINANCE TEAM—JUNE

The Friday night Lenten Music & Meditation Offerings going to Hearts for the Homeless totaled **\$171**.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering to date is **\$650**, the Native American Awareness offering was **\$122**, and Golden Cross to date is **\$220**.

The Easter Offering was **\$1550**.

The 2nd Sunday offering on May 12 for Make A Difference Day was \$368. When the two 2nd Sunday offerings for Make A Difference Day are combined, they total **\$658**.

Future 2nd Sunday 2nd Helping offerings :

June (6/9) will be given to Meals on Wheels;

July (7/14) will be given to Ronald McDonald House;

August (8/11) will be given to Pride Center of Western NY.

Thank you so very much for all your support of Christ Church and its ministries.

-The Finance Team

(Missions -continued from pg 6)



Family Justice Center
YOU'RE SAFE HERE

Voices Ending Violence Annual Fundraising Breakfast for the Family Justice Center

June 7 @ 7:30 - 9:00 am

Registration: 7:30—8:00 am

Program: 8:00 – 9:00 am

Complimentary Breakfast

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Monique Watts at 716.558.5295 or mwatts@fjcsafe.org. or contact Kathy Weaver.

Share a Meal for Central City Café - Our next opportunity to share a meal is June 23. We will be passing out pans and recipes on this date. You are invited to take a pan, prepare the recipe, and return it to church the following Sunday. Together we can provide over 150 meals.

Outreach Hub- We are very excited to announce that we are working towards having the Outreach information Hub up and running in September 2019. The Hub is one of the components of the revitalization strategy for our church. The hub will enable church members and visitors to explore ways of sharing God's love in the world through many service opportunities.



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 **June, July, and August** they are collecting **ketchup, mustard, mayo, flour, sugar, oil, salt, and syrup**. They also request **reusable shopping bags and paper bags (not plastic)**.

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 10a Consultation Update 11a Celebration for Sally Pollard 4-7p	3 Library Team 10:30a UMW Garage Sale Planning Team 11a Christian Education Team 7p	4 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon	5 Choir 7p Annual Conference Syracuse	6 Elizabeth Circle 12:30p Circle of Joy 7p Annual Conference Syracuse	7 Books We Have Loved 11a Annual Conference Syracuse	8 Confirmation Rehearsal & Dinner 6p Annual Conference Syracuse
9 Worship 10a Confirmation 10a	10	11 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon Church Council 7p	12	13 Visitation Team 11:30a	14 UMW Garage Sale set up 10a	15 UMW Garage Sale Fundraiser 9a-4p
16 Worship 10a 	17	18 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon Outreach Team 7p Trustees 7:30p	19	20 SPR Team 7p	21 	22
23 Worship 10a  Graduate Sunday	24 Summer Office Hours Begin	25 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon Rachel Circle 12p	26	27	28 Hosting Family Promise	29
30 Worship 10a						