

# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

**Worship 10 am**

**Education Hour 11am**

**TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE**



*Pastor*

**Rev. Daven Oskvig**

*Office Administrator*

**Sarah Wachowski**

*Minister of Music*

**Nicholas Steltzer**

*Financial Secretary*

**Doris Schanzlin**

*Custodian*

**Michael Andolina**



350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Phone: 716-839-2460

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

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9 am–2 pm**

**Office Closed Monday, September 2**



**October/November 2024**

**Caller Deadline**

**Friday, September 13**

**to**

**bbmitch@verizon.net**

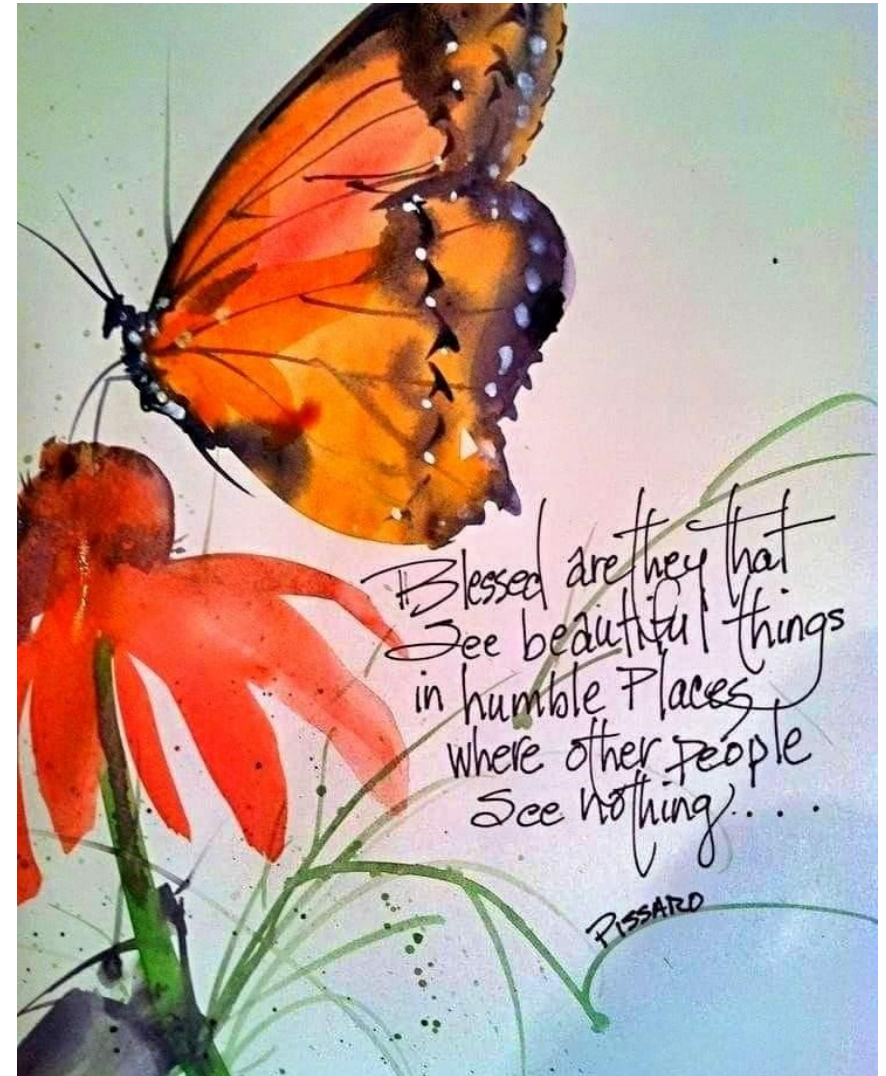
**Questions?**

**Contact Barb Mitchell**

**(716) 839-2435 or**

**bbmitch@verizon.net**

# The Caller



# September 2024



I am a baseball fan. Part of the attraction is seeing teams succeed in ways they haven't for years surging in the second half of the season. The same can be true with other sports and certainly as another football season begins, we all have the highest hopes for the Bills. When we see success, especially when it has been lacking in prior years, it can make us wonder what has happened to encourage such results.

What has changed? Years of rebuilding, finally getting the right players, the team playing like ... well, a team? Certainly that's all part of what happens, but so also is the major change that has swept over sports is increasing use of statistics and corresponding formulas and not necessarily on huge budgets to secure players to win games. Certainly I am not suggesting that such an approach is good or even healthy for the church of Jesus Christ, though heavens know how the denomination loves its statistics! What I am suggesting is that we can't simply do church as it has been in the past and expect the same results. And just as deeply as it has disrupted the culture of sports, it will disrupt the way we think church should be done or think that church should be. This will be uncomfortable because it will mean change (the dirtiest word in the church lexicon,).

We all know that things during the day don't work for the gainfully employed and they are likewise so overtaxed in time and taxiing kids around that something after work hours is largely out of the question. Others are getting older and driving after dark is disconcerting as are things early in the morning as it takes longer to simply get going. Younger people don't come to potlucks because it is not part of the culture any longer and is not worth the struggle with the kids to try and find something they will actually eat. Church dinners are gone because they lost their original purpose and even became only a minor financial boost for such major undertakings where fewer and fewer were willing to volunteer. What do we do? First off, we have to stop



*Thank you*



**Thank you everyone for your prayers of support on John's cancer treatment journey. Radiation Therapy is complete and we are praying for good results.**

**Thank you all so much,  
Linda Ladowski**



### **Caller Request from the Editor**

Do you have any Thank Yous, celebrations, pictures, or anything else that you would like to share with the congregation, please submit them to me in Publisher as a word document docx. and pictures in jpg. Send them to **bbmitch@verizon.net** or call me at **716-839-2435**. I will do my best to include them in future issues. But remember, the article has to be able to fit on 1/2 page in landscape layout.

Also, if you are willing to proofread and have Publisher on your computer, please let me know. If you have the desire to take over the editing (putting all the pieces together that are submitted) full or part time, contact me please.

Any questions or comments, call or email me with the info highlighted above.

Thank you!  
Barb Mitchell, Editor



## What's Happened at Christ Church

**MUSIC**  
**Bravo Workshop**  
 providing music in  
 Worship Service



**CUMC HOSTING**  
 Jacob Newman at Youth  
 Hockey Tournament gathering  
 concerning importance of  
 Mental Health



**UWF All Church Picnic 2024**



*Indoors and Outside*



*Celebration  
 of Rev. Jim  
 Pollard's  
 60th  
 anniversary  
 of his  
 ordination*



*Journey's  
 End  
 Move in  
 Day  
 Before  
 ←  
 After  
 →*



looking back. Looking back allows us to see where God was in the past, but not where God is calling us to be now or in the future. Secondly, we've got to get creative and try new things. A year ago we sought to do this in hosting a dream session following worship. This year we will start to create strategies relative to living those dreams.

God is calling us in fresh and new ways. What are those ways? What will the church of God look like in the coming years? Together we can be part of that next chapter which can one day be looked back upon seeing that God was present as we live and embody as a Reconciling Congregation the vision God has placed upon us - To Make Connections and Offer Opportunities in Faith, Love, and Service.

*Yours in Christ,  
 Pastor Daven*

## Leadership

Every year we look for those willing to share their time and talents serving in leadership at Christ Church. This past year each of our different Administrative and Ministry Teams shared the work they do on behalf of Christ Church hoping to inform and inspire those who might be interested in serving. We are now looking for those ready to step up and step in to these roles for 2025. If you would be willing to serve, please reach out to Pastor Daven or Peggy Bermudez.

## God Moments

Have you had a moment which just captured your imagination, made you slow down and appreciate something, an encounter which moved you? Some people call these "God moments" when an experience moves us and helps us to see more clearly. Pastor Daven tries to capture this through the Weekly Update and in Facebook messages. He is looking for others to share their experiences with him so that they can be included in one of those formats. Please reach out to him if you have something to share!

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM

### AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Sundays, September 8, 15, 22, October 6  
(no class September 29)**

**In the Wesley Room following Worship**

The English words are familiar, but how often do we think deeply about their meaning and the richness of language used in the original Aramaic prayer?

This study will provide fresh insights into the layers of meaning and guidance for living found within the Lord's Prayer.

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

### *Thirstaid*

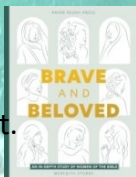
**Brave and Beloved** by Meredith Storrs (Part 2)

This study explores the wisdom and diversity of women in the Bible and offers insightful cultural context.

**Thursdays, September 19 – November 21, 1:00 pm**

On Zoom – look for the link in the Weekly Update

Facilitators: Diane Klenk & Peggy Bermudez



**Exploring Sunday Scriptures:** posted on YouTube and an in person opportunity on Tuesdays at Noon - Join Rev. Oskvig in a conversation about the scriptures which will be explored in the sermon on the following Sunday.

**Feasting on the Word** with Rev. Oskvig – posted Wednesdays on our website: [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org)



#### CIRCLE NEWS

**Elizabeth Circle** will meet at church to carpool to Niawanda Park for a walk down by the river on Tuesday, September 10 at 1pm (weather permitting.)

**Circle of Joy** will meet on Thursday, September 5, at 7:00 pm to sew MoonCatcher Kits

## September Birthdays



Jane Darling.....	3	Sandra Paddock.....	20
Pastor BJ.....	5	Beth Reilly-Brown .....	20
Lianne Oskvig .....	7	Hildegard Webber.....	20
Bim Rowlands.....	9	Lisa Malpica.....	24
June Gilbert .....	10	Nora Townsend Wilber .....	24
Patti Bechtel .....	11	Barbara Carier .....	26
Nancy Annunziata .....	16	Jean Wood .....	27
Jim Pollard.....	18		
Jonathan Miller .....	19		

## September Anniversaries



Herb & Jane Darling .....	68 yrs	September 08, 1956
Tom & Kathy Weaver .....	40 yrs	September 08, 1984
Herb & Nora Townsend Wilber.....		September 21, 1990
Greg & Phyllis Maliken .....		September 22, 1979
Frank & Linda Parete.....		September 27, 1975

If you would like to add your birthday and/or anniversary to the list, please contact the church office at (716) 839-2460 or Barb Mitchell at (716) 839-2435.



We wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Michael Sulzbach upon his death in August 2024. He was a tenor in our choir and a musician, blessing us with his many solos.





Wouldn't it be great if books grew on trees?! You could pick a new one whenever you wanted. Fiction, history, romance, mystery, whatever you wanted right at your finger tips. The ' **Books We Have Loved** ' book group is the next best thing to a book tree. Participants bring their recently read books, give a brief synopsis (or read from the book blurb) and make the books available for your picking!

Sometimes the books can be passed along to others or returned to the original reader. What a great (and inexpensive) way to find your next reading adventure!

'**Books We Have Loved**' meets on the 1st Friday of the month at 11am in the Wesley Room.

### FINANCE TEAM

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Offerings were as follows:

May— Durham Maternal Stress Free Zone: \$435.

June—Hearts for the Homeless: \$578.

July—Journeys End: \$290.

August—Seneca Street UMC Ministries: \$220.

We also received for:

Golden Cross Sunday: \$170.

Peace With Justice Sunday: \$137.

The Finance Team wishes to thank you all for your faithful giving over these summer months!

CUMC Finance Team



## Niagara Frontier District United Women in Faith Annual Meeting



### Living the Kin Dom

**Baker Memorial UMC**

**345 Main Street, East Aurora 14052**

Parking in the lot behind the church

**Saturday, September 21, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.** Doors Open, Registration, Continental Breakfast  
Bring Reading Program books you have finished to trade

**10:00** Worship, Keynote Speaker, Business Meeting  
(Offering divided between UWF Mission Giving and Providence Farm Collective)

**Registration: \$10.00 due by September 6**

**Speaker: Providence Farm Collective, Kristin Hellman-Weiss and friends**



Live-stream also available on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com@bakerUMC>

**If attending in person, Registration is due no later than Wednesday, September 6 to:**

Vergie Oeltinger  
157 Evergreen Dr  
Tonawanda, NY 14150

716-239-0833 (cell)

Checks payable to **Niagara Frontier District UWF**

## Christ Church United Women in Faith Friday, September 27, 7:00 pm in the Family Room



Sugar & Spice "Off the Wall"

Curious Objects from Our Homes

Hosts: UWF Leadership Team



## Christ Church UWF Sunday and Children's Sabbath Sunday, September 29, 10:00 am Worship



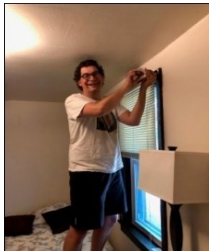
**Guest Speakers:**  
**Fiona Schaeffer**  
**and Andy Cammarata**  
from Journey's End  
Refugee Services



# Missions of the Month

*Opportunities to share ourselves, our talents, and our resources with others*

## Journey's End Refugee Services



For 25 years, Christ Church has partnered with Journey's End Refugee Services to welcome new arrivals to our community. Over the years, we have welcomed families from Bosnia, Sudan, Somalia, Burma, Cuba, Iraq, and Syria.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, we set up an apartment for a family of 5 from Iraq. The husband and father of this family is disabled, so the space needed to be accessible to accommodate his wheelchair. The Outreach Team and Church Council extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave furniture and household items and those who helped with moving furniture and setting up the apartment. 25 people donated goods and 10 people helped on moving day! The Outreach Team was also able to provide one month's rent for the family thanks to YOUR support of the Cookie and Candy Sale last December and the Souper Bowl Sale in February!

Recently, we received this message from Andy Cammarata, Director of Outreach and Volunteers at JERS: *"The family is doing well, they loved their home and are grateful for the additional support through the rent check. The parents are coming to JERS for English classes, the mom is also looking for a job. They seem to be stable at this time. We can't do the work without community support which we appreciate more than you will ever know!"* Christ Church was recognized for our efforts with posts on the facebook pages of Journey's End Refugee Services and United Methodists of Upper New York.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY**

**Saturday, September 7, 2024**

**9:00 am – noon**

**We will be gathering items for:**



**Tiger's Den Food Pantry  
Christ Church Free  
Little Food Pantry**

**Non-Perishable Food Items**

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**Clothing, Shoes, Blankets**

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**Backpacks**

**Crayons**

**Notebooks**

**Erasers**

**Regular pens and pencils**

**Glue sticks**

**Colored pencils**

**Scissors**

**Rulers**

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**Christ Church Toolbox Ministry**

**Hand Tools in Good Condition**



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**Used Bicycles and Bike Parts**

**Team Activities:**



**Preparing a Meal for Seneca Street Church  
Collecting 1-Ply Toilet Paper & Paper Towels  
Harlem Road Sidewalk Clean up**



**Document Shredding**



**Safely destroy documents  
containing sensitive information.**

**Volunteer Sign-ups are posted in the Family Room.**

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM

As we look forward to cooler temperature this Fall and perhaps more time indoors, consider this helpful information about how to use plants to make your home safer from pollutants.

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Sources</u>	<u>Solutions</u>
Formaldehyde	Foam Insulation	Philodendron
	Plywood	Spider Plant
	Clothes	Golden Pothos
	Carpeting	Bamboo Palm
	Furniture	Corn Plant
	Paper Goods	Chrysanthemum
	Household Cleaners	Mother-in-Law Tongue
Benzene	Tobacco Smoke	English Ivy
	Gasoline	Marginata (Dragon Tree)
	Synthetic Fibers	Janet Craig (Dracaena Fragrans)
	Plastics	Chrysanthemum
	Inks	Gerbera Daisy
	Oils	Dracaena Warnickii
	Detergents	Peace Lily
	Rubber	
Trichloroethylene (Chloroform-like odor)	Dry Cleaning	Gerbera Daisy
	Inks	Chrysanthemum
	Paints	Peace Lily
	Varnishes	Dracaena Warnickii
	Lacquers	Marginata (Dragon Tree)

No matter which plants you choose, don't forget to water them using cooled, previously boiled water from veggies or pasta, water your dog didn't drink(!) or any other unused water before you choose water from the tap. Your Planet will thank you.



### Hearts for the Homeless \* Mobile Food Pantry

Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Food Pantry needs **your** help. Please prayerfully consider helping for an hour or more on a Monday afternoon between the hours of 12:30pm and 4:30pm when the mobile food pantry is parked in front of Christ Church. Volunteers welcome and encourage shoppers and assist them in selecting and bagging groceries. If you can help with this ministry please see Toni Neidel.

### Christ Church Free Little Food Pantry

Our Little Food Pantry is doing its job and needs your help in continuing to offer sustenance and hope to our neighbors. Please consider adding an extra item to your grocery list and bring it to church with you next week.

The current needs are:



- Canned Fruit**
- Canned Soups**
- Oatmeal Canisters**
- Pasta/Pasta Sauce - no mac & cheese please**
- Canned proteins: Tuna, Chicken, Ham**
- Toothpaste**
- Toilet Paper/Paper Products.**

- Canned Veggies**
- Peanut Butter**

**Juices**

*Thank you to all who participate in this ministry!*



### WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

**For Children's Ministry  
"God's Community"**

September 8, 2024

11am-Noon

Story Room 20 and Art Room 21  
1st and 3rd Sundays every month



**Church Office Hours** to resume regular hours,  
Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 9am— 2pm

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Worship 10a	<b>2</b>  Mainstage Studios 5p Church Council 7p <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b> Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and online) Music with Micah 3p Mainstage Studios 5p	<b>4</b> Feasting on the Word (on website) Zumba & Barre 6p Choir 4:30p	<b>5</b> Mainstage Studios 5p Amherst Nursery School Meeting 5:30p Circle of Joy 7p	<b>6</b> Books We Have Loved 11a Music with Micah 3p	<b>7</b> Zumba 9a <b>MADD (Make a Difference Day) 9-noon</b> GBYO 1p
<b>8</b> Worship 10a 2nd Sunday 2nd Helping to Family Justice Center <b>AOL 11a</b> CUMC Kids Place 11a Welcome Back GBYO 2:30p	<b>9</b> Mainstage Studios 9:30a Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p GBYO 6p Finance Team 7p CUMC Kids' Place Team 7p	<b>10</b> Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and online) Amherst Nursery School 9a Elizabeth Circle 1p Music with Micah 3p	<b>11</b> Feasting on the Word (on website) Amherst Nursery School 9a NCWC Luncheon 11a Roswell Grief Support 6p Zumba & Barre 6p Choir 4:30p	<b>12</b> Mainstage Studios 5p	<b>13</b> Music with Micah 3p <b>Deadline for Oct/Nov Caller</b>	<b>14</b> Zumba 9a Crafting for a Cause 9a
<b>15</b> Worship 10a <b>AOL 11p</b> GBYO 2:30p	<b>16</b> Mainstage Studios 9:30a Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p GBYO 6p	<b>17</b> Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and online) Music with Micah 3p	<b>18</b> Feasting on the Word (on website) Mainstage Studios 9:30a NCWC 1p Zumba & Barre 6p Roswell Grief Support 6p Choir 4:30p	<b>19</b> Thirstaid 1p SPR Team 7p Mainstage Studios 5p	<b>20</b> Music with Micah 3p	<b>21</b> Zumba 9a Niagara Frontier District UWF Annual Meeting 9a
<b>22</b> Worship 10a <b>AOL 11a</b> CUMC Kids Place 11a 	<b>23</b> Mainstage Studios 9:30a Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p GBYO 6p	<b>24</b> Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and online) Music with Micah 3p	<b>25</b> Feasting on the Word (on website) Mainstage Studios 9:30a Zumba & Barre 6p Choir 4:30p	<b>26</b> Thirstaid 1p Mainstage Studios 5p	<b>27</b> Music with Micah 3p UWF Sugar and Spice 7p	<b>28</b> Zumba 9a GBYO 10a
<b>29</b> Worship 10a UWF Sunday/ Children's Sabbath GBYO 2:30p	<b>30</b> Mainstage Studios 9:30 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p GBYO 6p					