Christ UMC Vision Statement
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"

Sunday Worship Schedule
Praise Celebration 9 am
All Ages Education Hour 10 am
Traditional Style Celebration 11 am

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP
PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE
Serving - the nature of stewardship

Christ UMC Staff
Senior Pastor
Dr. B.J. Norrix
Minister for Education & Community Life
Sally J. Pollard
Office Manager & Ministry Assistant
Rachel Vaughan
Director of Music
Elizabeth Holt Curtis
Financial Secretary
Doris Schanzlin
Custodian
David Wolf

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Caller

April 2013

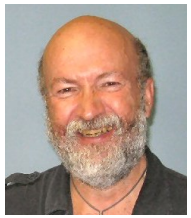
With Joy. . . From Sally

One of my favorite songs is "This is a Day of New Beginnings." (hymnal 383) I love everything about it: Brian Wren's words and Carlton Young's tune, and the combination of the two. It's located in the section of the hymnal titled, "Rebirth and the New Creature." To me it's a celebration for every milestone in life/faith, life and faith being one thing, not two. The song is also appropriate for the millions of other times when you feel like a disappointment or a loser and then you experience something that turns it all around. Suddenly (or not so suddenly) you remember who you are, that you're loved completely by God, that you have family and friends who love and support you, and you discover a new way to move forward. This IS a day of new beginnings!! April feels like that.

April feels like a new beginning because we have just journeyed through Lent and celebrated Easter resurrection. Like the words of the song, we have remembered and moved on…laying to rest the pain that's gone. Jesus' life and death have made for us a world of difference as faith & hope are born again. With the Spirit's daring, we step from the past, leaving behind disappointment, guilt, and grieving. We seek and find new paths. Then comes my favorite verse… "Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new." This song makes me feel just that way.

J.R.R. Tolkien is best known as the author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings,* but he was a scholar, a writer, and an expert in the history of languages. In one of his essays he used the term *eucatastrophe*, adding the Greek word *eu*, meaning good, to the familiar word we use for something that ends in colossal failure. What seemed like an inevitable disaster instead results in joy. Tolkien wrote in *The Monster and The Critics*, "The Birth of Christ is the eucatastrophe of Man's history. The Resurrection is the eucatastrophe of the story of the Incarnation. This story begins and ends in joy." I agree. "Christ is alive and goes before us… our God is making all things new."

Sally



From BJ's Desk...

The early Christians understood that the magnitude of the resurrection event could not be limited to a single day. Not only did they create a 50-day Easter season, they also treated every Sunday as if it were a little Easter. The resurrection of Jesus is the pivot of our faith. I'm not going to go into all of the "proofs" of the resurrection, as I don't always find them terribly helpful. What we know for sure is that something happened on that first Easter morning that radically changed our world. What I know for sure is that Jesus of Nazareth is not just some historical figure of long ago, but is a living presence in the world today and in my life.

As Christ followers we understand that Jesus did not take the terror of death and pain and humiliation away by making it go away but by entering into it. Jesus transforms human suffering by enduring the worst suffering imaginable. Jesus eliminates the fear of death not by making it go away but by enduring it and then overcoming it. When I look at the Cross and the empty tomb, I am reminded that I can endure and trust God through my darkest trials as well. When I look at the events of Holy Week and Easter, I am encouraged, dare I say challenged, to hold on a little longer, to endure to the end, to trust God to raise me up and to not be afraid. It will take more than a season to process that profound understanding and to strive to live into this new reality.

At the heart of the Christian story is Incarnation. God dwells among us. In our suffering and sorrow God is one with us through Jesus on the cross. In our darkest moments, when all seems lost, God is with us in the miraculous and wondrous power of the resurrection. We celebrate the Resurrection season rejoicing in the profound knowledge that no matter what our human situation or season or condition, we are not on this journey alone. God is with us. Christ is Risen! Alleluia. Amen.

The risen Christ is with us.

Pastor BJ

May Caller Deadline: Saturday, April13 to caller350@yahoo.com
Questions? Contact Kathy Weaver at 839-5918 or kdweaver23@verizon.net

MISSION OF THE MONTH

April 2013

Journey's End

Join us for

"A Refugee's Journey"

The Courage of Buffalo's Newest Families

Sunday, April 21, 2013
12:30 pm in Crafts Hall

Journey's End Refugee Services will present a one-hour interactive tour. Learn how Buffalo's emerging refugee communities are rescued, nurtured, and empowered, and their impact on our city.

A light lunch will be served.

MISSION of the MONTH is the new focus for the restructured Outreach Team! It is now comprised of sub-committees each addressing particular outreach opportunities. We are looking for new members to join these subcommittees. Please see the list below with names to contact if you are interested in helping with a particular mission. Each month we will be highlighting a different mission of our church with an opportunity to serve.

Journeys End - Peggy Bermudez
UMCOR - Chris Klenk
Dress our People - Molly Butler
Niagara Frontier City Ministries - Peggy Nye
Habitat for Humanity - Marg Bauza
Uganda Mission Team - Kathy Weaver
Food Ministries - Rosemary Kochan
Giving Tree - Marilyn Welker
Family Promise - Lee Watson

BLAST OFF with a new Mission!

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:13-16

FAITH PRESS

Pre-K–Grade 5 ✝ Sunday mornings ✝ 10 am ✝ Lower level

April 7 – May 19

EASTER PEOPLE

The lives of Jesus' followers were changed on the day of resurrection. They had hidden themselves away. But their fear changed to strength, belief, and the ability to do the work God planned for them. Our lives are changed as we become Easter people through God's love.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE SUNDAY, MAY 19

Children, Youth, and Adults will be involved in serving projects.

Middle School Group
Grades 6 thru 8

SoulStrength

Room 22, Lower level
Sundays at 10 am

A.O.L. @ CUMC

Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church

Sunday mornings ✝ 10 am ✝ Wesley Room

Digital Disciple

This time in our society is unlike any other. People communicate daily without ever having to speak face to face, news breaks around the world in seconds, and our favorite TV shows can be viewed at our convenience. We are, simultaneously, a people of connection and isolation. As Christians, how do we view our faith and ministry in this culture? Come and join in the conversation.

Weekday Bible Study

Thursdays ✝ 10 am ✝ Wesley Room ✝ Pastor BJ, facilitator

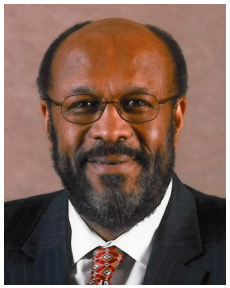
All are welcome to join in ongoing study and reflection.

Going Deeper

Sunday evenings ✝ 6:30p ✝ Pastor BJ, facilitator

Join our small group as we study and discuss how to deepen our faith and learn to walk in the ways of Jesus. Presently, we are discussing C.S. Lewis' book *The Great Divorce*. Open to all.

Colgate Rochester President to Preach April 14



Dr. Marvin A. McMickle will be our guest preacher at 11 am on April 14.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1948, Dr. McMickle earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and holds three honorary doctorates, including one from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. McMickle was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1973 at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City where he served on the pastoral staff.

Dr. McMickle served as the Senior Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland from 1987-2011. During that time he led the church in establishing a ministry for those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, the first of its kind in the country. In May of 2011 he was elected the 12th president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, NY.

Dr. McMickle is the author of 14 books, and dozens of articles that appear in professional journals and magazines such as *Feasting on the Word* and *Preaching God's Transforming Justice.*

He has been married to Peggy Lorraine Noble since 1975, and has one son, Aaron, who resides with his wife in New York City. Dr. and Mrs. McMickle welcomed their first grandchild, Aaliyah Ramos McMickle, in March 2012.

Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, April 4 at 7:30 pm at the home of Carol Corsaro, 2784 Stenzel Ave. 689-0368. Hostess will be Joyce Moser 632-1617. We will discuss Human Trafficking.

If you need directions contact Carol. Please contact either Carol or Joyce if you plan to attend.

Deborah Circle: Tuesday, April 16, in the Wesley Room at 12 noon.

Rachel Circle: Tuesday, April 23, in the Wesley Room at 12 noon.

Mark Your Calendar!

"Fashion in Bloom" Fashion Show & Luncheon, on May 18 from Noon to 2:00 pm in Crafts Hall. Hosted by Christ Church UMW with narration by Linda Ladowski of T.J. Maxx. All proceeds will go to the UMW Missions and Ministries. Door prizes and drawings. Tickets sales to begin soon. Cost $15.

The Christian Education Team would like to acknowledge and thank Guildcraft Arts & Crafts, 100 Fire Tower Dr, Tonawanda, NY 14150, for donating craft kits and supplies for FaithXpress and Vacation Bible School at Christ Church. To see all that Guildcraft offers, go to www.GuildcraftInc.com.

Uganda Well Project

Thirsty? How about a nice drink from this mud hole? About 300 families have no choice but to do just that.
Their village, Nabukondo, in the Gomba district, has some of Uganda's highest levels of illness due to contaminated water, including dysentery and malaria.

Pastor BJ told me a mission trip is most successful when you get home, remember what you experienced, and continue to make a difference where you can.

You can help me make a difference by praying for these families and supporting our effort to raise the funds needed to drill a water well.

We need to raise approximately $10,000. Please make your check payable to CUMC with "Uganda well" in memo section and mail it to the Church.

Together we can make a difference for the people of Nabukondo.

Thank you for your support.

Kathy Weaver

Stewardship & Finance

With Commitment Sunday behind us, the Stewardship & Finance Team thanks all of you for your generous support of Christ Church. If you've not returned your Pledge card, it's not too late; just drop it in the offering plate any Sunday. If you didn't receive a pledge card, please call the church office.

Remember that this pledge period runs from May 5, 2013 through April 27, 2014. Your new envelopes will be available during April at the back of the Sanctuary. If you did not turn in a pledge card but would like a box of envelopes, please call the church office and Rachel will take your request.

Again, thank you all for your most generous support as we go forward for another year trying to make a positive difference, not only in Snyder, but all over the globe.

United Methodist Men - SWEET!

Savor real maple syrup at Moore's. This Men's Club trip is open to the Sweet Women in our lives. It's 50.08 miles or 1 hr. 11 min. from the Church, although you might prefer to drive separately to be free to stop at the numerous shops on the way back. For GPS input, the "Sugar Shack" is at 10437 Galen Hill Road, Freedom, NY 14065.

They invite you to view the actual process from sap-to-syrup. Meet at the church at 10 am on Saturday, April 6, where we'll pass out Navigational Saps. For questions call Don Maple Critoph at (716) 832-4408. See you there, "Buckwheat"!

Don Critoph photo

Don Critoph photo

United Methodist Youth

7 City Mission, 3 pm
14 Rent-A-Youth - for chores, etc. 12:30 pm
21 Canoeing with Seneca Street youth
26-28 CCYM Gathering

More Information? Call Tim Reed, 838-4230 or Viki Smith, 839-1989

April Birthdays

Caleb Parete 3
Kathy Weaver 5
Charles Gilbert 6
Stephen Mugel 6
Larry Burdette 10
Don Critoph 10
Julie Jackson Janecek 11
Alexia Malpica 11
Mary Jayne Nehrboss 12
Wendy Johnston 14
Linda Rekate 15
James Luss 17
Joyce Delong 18
Ed Maker 18
Charles Terranova 19
Janet Barber 20
Courtney Hannon 21
Drew Smith 21
Chris Klenk 22
Pamela Gibson 23
Doris Schanzlin 26
Karen Bellimer 30
Benjamin Weaver 30

April Anniversary

Andrew & Jamie Rapini
April 26, 2003

2013 Bible Reading Plan

Read two or three Old Testament chapters and one New Testament chapter each day, and read through the Bible in one year.

Here are April's readings:

Day	Old Testament	New
1	Judges 11-12, Psalm 50	2 Corinthians 1
2	Judges 13-16	2 Corinthians 2
3	Judges 17-18, Psalm 89	2 Corinthians 3
4	Judges 19-21	2 Corinthians 4
5	Ruth 1-2, Psalms 53&61	2 Corinthians 5
6	Ruth 3-4, Psalms 64-65	2 Corinthians 6
7	1 Samuel 1-2, Psalm 66	2 Corinthians 7
8	1 Samuel 3-5, Psalm 77	2 Corinthians 8
9	1 Samuel 6-7, Psalm 72	2 Corinthians 9
10	1 Samuel 8-10	2 Corinthians 10
11	1 Samuel 11-12, 1 Chron 1	2 Corinthians 11
12	1 Samuel 13, 1 Chron 2,3	2 Corinthians 12
13	1 Samuel 14, 1 Chron 4	2 Corinthians 13
14	1 Samuel 15-16, 1 Chron 5	Matt 1
15	1 Samuel 17, Psalm 9	Matt 2
16	1 Samuel 18, 1 Chron 6, Psalm 11	Matt 3
17	1 Samuel 19, 1 Chron 7, Psalm 59	Matt 4
18	1 Samuel 20-21, Psalm 34	Matt 5
19	1 Samuel 22, Psalms 17,35	Matt 6
20	1 Samuel 23, Psalms 31,54	Matt 7
21	1 Samuel 24, 1 Chron 8, Ps. 57-58	Matt 8
22	1 Samuel 25-26, Psalm 63	Matt 9
23	1 Samuel 27, 1 Chron 9, Psalm 141	Matt 10
24	1 Samuel 28-29, Psalm 109	Matt 11
25	1 Samuel 30-31, 1 Chron 10	Matt 12
26	2 Samuel 1, Psalm 140	Matt 13
27	2 Samuel 2, 1 Chron 11, Psalm 142	Matt 14
28	2 Samuel 3, 1 Chron 12	Matt 15
29	2 Samuel 4-5, Psalm 139	Matt 16
30	2 Samuel 6, 1 Chron 13, Psalm 68	Matt 17

GERRY ALEXANDER

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Geraldine Alexander, who died March 7, 2013. Gerry was 91, and joined CUMC in 1953.

JEAN DIDOMENICO

We are also keeping in our hearts the family of Jean DiDomenico, who died March 12, 2013. Jean was 93, and also joined CUMC in 1953.

Make a Difference

Sunday **May 19** **9:30a-1p**

What if…
There was a day set aside to participate in projects that make a positive difference in people's lives, even your own?

Would you help?
You can have an incredible impact locally and globally by gathering clothing, household items, old electronics, and more.

Let's come together!
Bring your items to our collection trucks on Sunday, **May 19**, from 9:30a-1p at Christ Church in Amherst.

Coming Soon! It's time to MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! Last May, you helped in many different areas to benefit our community.

This year, Make a Difference Sunday is May 19 from 9:30 am to 1 pm with lunch to follow. Once again, we are offering opportunities for YOU to become engaged and MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the community.

We are looking for folks to get involved and to help brainstorm. Look around your home, work, school, etc. and see what needs to be done. Is it a project the church can help with? Let us know! Cumc350@gmail.com or 839-2460.

Be looking out for the list of opportunities and the team sign-up sheets. If you would like to be a team leader, contact the church office. Be the Church… and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

Allaire FINANCIAL STRATEGIES

Shredding Truck
This truck will be on site and provided by Allaire Financial Strategies. Bring your outdated bank statements, tax returns, receipts, correspondence, and much more! All records will be shredded onsite and then recycled… *good for you, great for the environment!*

eWASTE alliance network Habitat for Humanity®

Electronics Collections Truck
This truck will be on-site to collect your electronics to recycle. They will take computers, laptops, monitors, televisions, fax machines, VCRs, cell phones, and much more.

Visit HabitatBuffalo.org for more information.

Stay Tuned - More to Come!

Americans for African Adoptions, Inc.™
'reach into the heart of Africa and save a life'

African Angels Event

Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Auction

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Time: 4 pm to 7 pm

Christ United Methodist Church

350 Saratoga Rd., Amherst, NY 14226

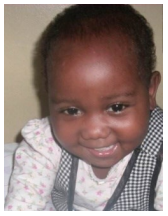
Tickets $20 (kids under 3 free) Call 716-873-8700

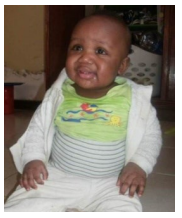
Pre-order Gluten-Free or To-Go Meals Available

A WNY family is trying to raise $35,000 to adopt a family of three Ugandan infants (twins and their older sister - all under two!) Please help us keep these babies together as a family and bring them home by buying a dinner or donating.

To follow our adoption journey, join us at:

https://www.facebook.com/LimMarcantonioAfricanAdoption





Mid Years Ministry

For those age 55 plus

Dinner in the Country

Sunday, May 5, at 1:30 pm
The Wilson House Restaurant
300 Lake Street, Wilson, NY 14172 Phone 716-751-9888

Buffalo Stuffed Chicken Breast, Italian Baked Haddock, or Pot Roast
with Dinner Salad, Potatoes, Vegetable, Bread, Butter, Coffee, Tea, and Dessert.

Please make entrée selection when purchasing your ticket.

Tickets: $18 each, available April 14th, April 21st, April 28th in Crafts Hall.

Driving directions and maps will be available with your tickets. Driving distance is 30 miles.
Let the ticket sellers know if you need transportation and it will be arranged.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Praise Team 6p SPRT 7p	**2** Library Team 9:30a Ballroom Dance 6:15p Church Council 7p	**3**	**4** Bible Study 10a Elizabeth Circle 7:30p	**5** Books We Have Loved 10a	**6** Men's Club to Sugar Shack 10a @ church
7 ***Praise Worship 9a*** ***Education Hour 10a*** ***Traditional Worship 11a*** Children's Choir 11:15 Beginners' Jazz 12:15 Youth City Mission 3p **Going Deeper 6:30**	**8** Praise team 6p	**9** UMW Board 4p Ballroom Dance 6:15p	**10** Choir 7:30p	**11** Bible Study 10a Stewardship/Finance 7p	**12**	**13** **CALLER DEADLINE** Adoption Benefit 4-7p
14 ***Praise Worship 9a*** ***Education Hour 10a*** ***Traditional Worship 11a*** Dr. Marvin McMickle preaching Kids Choir 11:15, Jazz 12:30 RENT-A-YOUTH 12:30p **Going Deeper 6:30**	**15** Praise Team 6p	**16** Rachel Circle 12n Ballroom Dance 6:15p	**17** Choir 7:30p	**18** Bible Study 10a Trustees 7:30p	**19** Books We Have Loved 10a	**20**
21 ***Praise Worship 9a*** ***Education Hour 10a*** ***Traditional Worship 11a*** Children's Choir 11:15 Beginners' Jazz 12:15 **Journey's End 12:30p** **Going Deeper 6:30**	**22** Praise Team 6p	**23** Deborah Circle 12n Ballroom Dance 6:15p	**24** Choir 7:30p	**25** Caller Collation 9:30a Bible Study 10a MYM Board 12n	**26** Game Night 7:30p	**27** UMW Spring Weekend ☜ April 26-28 ☞ Prior Reservation Req'd
28 ***Praise Worship 9a*** ***Education Hour 10a*** ***Traditional Worship 11a*** Children's Choir 11:15 Beginners' Jazz 12:15 **Going Deeper 6:30**	**29** Praise Team 7p	**30** Ballroom Dance 6:15p	**April 2013**			