

# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"Living Christ's ways and exploding with 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**

*Interim Pastor*

**Rev. James M. Pollard**

*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**



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**Phone: 839-2460      Fax: 839-2166**

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

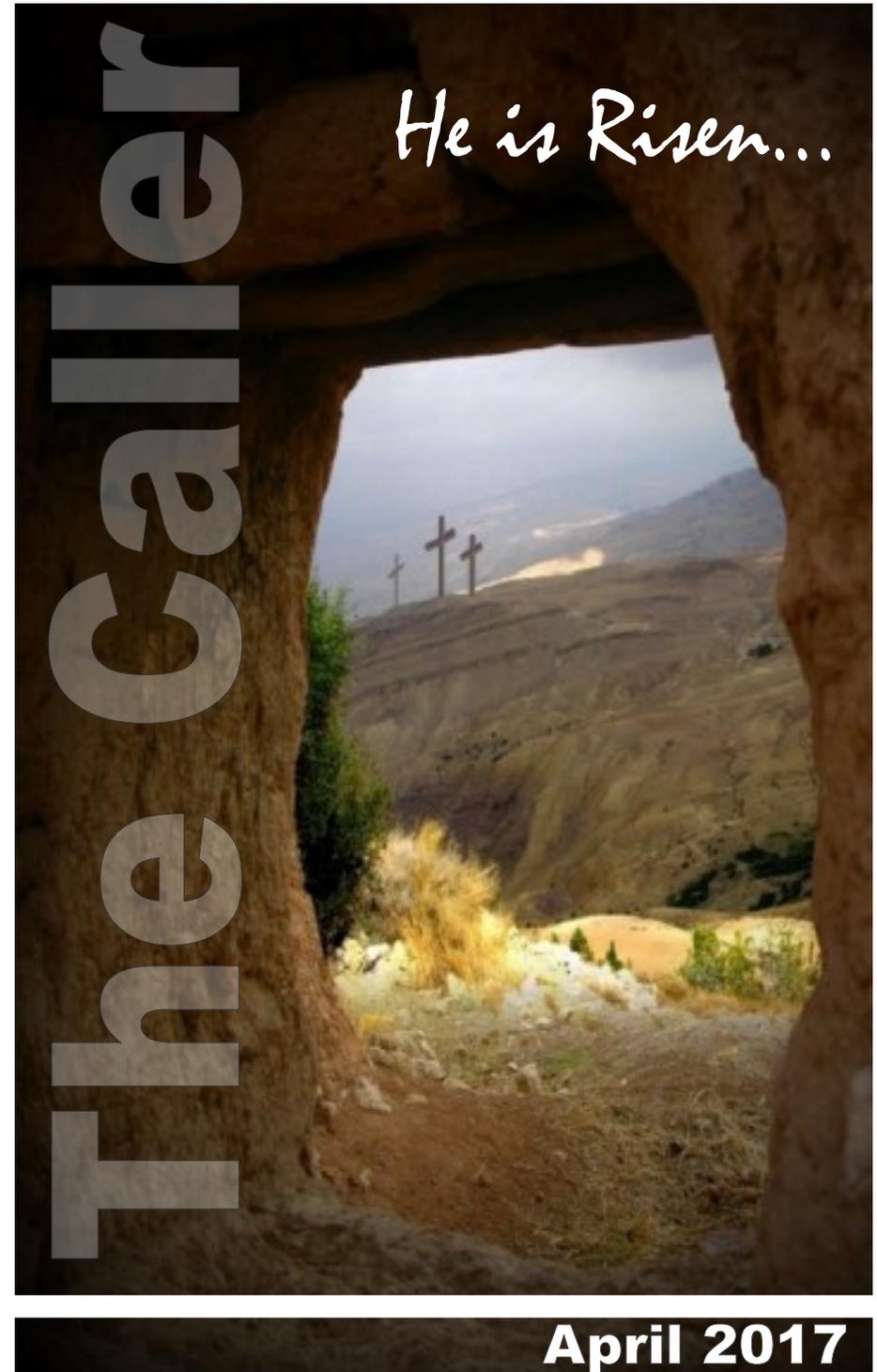
**OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-5      Tuesday & Thursday 9-Noon**

## CHILDREN LOVE ANIMALS

During April/May the children of FaithXpress will be collecting toys and supplies for cats and dogs sheltered at the local SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). On Make A Difference Day, Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>, the children will visit the animals at the SPCA and deliver the supplies. We invite everyone who loves animals to help us with this project. Look for collecting bins in the church entrances. A full list of items is available on our website.

### Items to Collect:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| -Newspaper                                     |                               |
| -Cat Food (dry or canned Fancy Feast/Friskies) | -Plastic Pet Carriers         |
| -Dog Biscuits                                  | -Dog Collars                  |
| -Washcloths & Hand Towels                      | -Long-handled Pooper Scoopers |





*With Joy... From Sally*

### **Moving toward the Darkness**

That doesn't sound like a smart move, does it? Who moves toward darkness, danger, or trouble? Shouldn't we run the other way? From the moment human kind thought they knew better than God and decided to take matters into their own hands, God

has wanted to be reconciled with humanity. Still they remain determined to frustrate God's plan. In God's active loving-kindness and faithfulness, righting the wrongs of the world remains the plan, even when those wrongs are inflicted by those God claims as beloved sons and daughters. The end goal of God's action is justice—restoring life so that all people and all of creation will flourish together. When we celebrate Easter we're acknowledging that God, in the life of Jesus the Christ, set right all of the wrongs of a darkening world. Jesus moved toward the darkness. He could have run the other way. Instead he offered freedom and recovery and shows us how to do the same.

At times we become overwhelmed by circumstances and conditions in our world. We express sympathy, even empathy for ones who are experiencing trouble, oppression, even dealing with violence. We may ask "why?" of God and pray and plead for release. The frustration and waiting can lead to wrapping ourselves in despair and silence, locking ourselves away from the pain and injustice. Asking "why" of God doesn't betray our faith, it pulls us closer. And when we call out to God as our God rather than some far off deity whom we want to do "stuff" for us, we're drawing closer. We're moving toward the reality of what God has been showing us all along. We are God's beloved sons and daughters, loved and valued beyond measure, and we can move toward the darkness and suffering even when we don't see a way forward. Whether we experience God's answers in the ways we long to experience them doesn't change who God is. God is love and love works for good forever. God meets us in our waiting and our frustration, in our aching and our acting. We stand together with those who are suffering and place ourselves with those who are putting their own lives at risk to intervene. As a church, we are a place that we go to with others and find strength and stability as we stand together. We keep God's vision alive. God has chosen to invite us into that vision and work so that all of life will flourish. Our prayers do and will matter. As God's people, loved and valued, we will keep moving toward the darkness.

*Sally*

### **Half Truths**

**Conversation based on the book by Adam Hamilton.**

Discussion led by Dr. David Pliss. Through Palm Sunday.

**Sunday mornings † 10 am † Wesley Room**



### **A PERSONAL WORD FROM JIM POLLARD**

Living as Easter People...

According to the Gospel of John (20:1-18), on Easter morning, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb...and found it empty! Mystified, she ran to get Peter and

"the beloved disciple" (John), who hastened to the tomb with her. Entering the tomb, they saw the grave-cloths, including the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head, rolled up. Not understanding, they left and returned home.

Mary remains, and the risen Jesus appears to her. Believing him to be the gardener, she pours out her grief and fear that Jesus' body has been taken away. When he speaks her name, she recognizes him as her beloved teacher, and he sends her to tell the others that he is ascending to "my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." "I have seen the Lord!" she tells them.

Later, gathered in a locked room, the risen Lord appears to the disciples, blesses them with the gift of peace, breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit, and commissions them for the mission of forgiveness of sin and grace-filled living of the love of God that they have experienced in his love. They, and all who believe, become "Easter people."

What marks us as "Easter people" is living the love of God in Jesus in such a way that a relationship with God's limitless love is opened to the world. Through God's grace, through self-sacrifice and compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation bring wholeness to life, and the way is opened for the world to overcome division, hatred, and violence and receive the gift of God's peace. In the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples and the church become the living evidence of the presence of the risen Christ in the world and for the sake of the world.

In Christ's service,

*Jim*

**MAY CALLER DEADLINE: THURSDAY, APRIL 13 TO CALLER350@YAHOO.COM  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT BARBARA MITCHELL @ 839-2435 OR BMITCH@VERIZON.NET**

## OUTREACH MISSIONS OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2017

**The Family Justice Center** provides free services for domestic violence victims and their children through an extensive collaboration with several partner agencies, all located at one secured, comfortable location, where victims can get all the services they need to safely escape abuse.

If you would like more information, join them for a BEHIND CLOSED DOORS TOUR—April 4 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. at Family Justice Center, 438 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14202 .Step behind their doors and witness first-hand what the FJC is all about. See what they do, why they do it, and how their one-stop, free wrap-around model works. To attend a tour, contact Tiffany Szymanek at [tszymanek@fjcsafe.org](mailto:tszymanek@fjcsafe.org) or call (716) 558-5272.

They are also in need of the following items: new and gently used blankets, cosmetics, paper cups, diapers, formula, gift cards to TOPS and Amazon to purchase books to empower the victims, toiletries, new and gently used children's books, Ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, snacks, and juice boxes.

Volunteers are also needed to assist clients with the intake process and respond to inquiries. If you would like to help in any way, please see Kathy Weaver.

**Crafting for a Cause** (CFAC) is a relatively new ministry of the church. Its purpose is to share God's love in the world through the creation of handmade, useful items for people in need. We are currently sewing burrito-style pillowcases for the Ronald McDonald House. We meet one Saturday morning each month in the Wesley Room. We have plenty of fabric, but donations of sheets of cotton batting or gift cards to Jo-Ann Fabrics would be very helpful. All are welcome. If you would like to get involved with this ministry please see Diane Klenk or Lee Watson.

### **Native American Ministries Sunday is April 30, 2016**

This ministry funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries, and annual conference Native American ministries. Your generous gift empowers local spiritual development and educates Native American students to serve God faithfully.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Heritage Discovery Center will be the subject of our April 1st activity. All are invited. The site, the former Buffalo Color at 100 Lee St. houses two museums: the Steel Plant Museum and the WNY Railway Historical Society Museum. Admission is free but donations are eagerly accepted. The majority of items at the Steel Museum are from Bethlehem Steel with additional items from Republic Steel, Hanna Furnace, and others. The Railroad Museum has displays of various artifacts from railroads that were part of the region. Meet at the church at 10 am Saturday, April 1st to carpool. We will have lunch following at a local restaurant. For questions please call Tom Nye at 213-3642.



## FaithXpress

10 am Sunday mornings Lower Level

Thank you for joining the children on pathways of peace!



**Through April we continue our theme--**

**Peacemakers – Journey Toward the Promise**

God leads people today to trust God's guiding, to work for the well-being of all people, and to live together in peace. To help us do that, God gave us special laws called the Ten Commandments. Focusing on the story of God using Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt & across the Red Sea and then wandering and struggling in the wilderness, we discover how we can continue on the pathways toward God's promise even in hard times. God shows us the way and doesn't leave us without resources. God wants to be close to us and helps us to live closely with others.

April 2 – Create 10 Commandment bead zipper pulls

Go on a scavenger hunt for 7 kinds of bread with Ms.Kreib

April 9 – Peace Palm crafts with Mrs.Lawson

April 16 – Happy Easter! **No 10 am FaithXpress**

April 23 & 30 – Preparing for our Make-A Difference day project

## Roll Down Justice – Lenten Supper Series

April 5 5 – 7 pm

*Give yourself the gift of peace*

### **Music & Meditation**

Fridays during Lent

5:30 – 6 pm April 7 & 14

Contemplative form of prayer, meditation, music, silence, and candlelight



## DAY OF SINGING—APRIL 30

Eat with us at 12 noon

### “Hymns & Hers” at 1:30 pm



Celebrate the men and women composers, poets, and arrangers of some of our most beloved and famous Protestant hymns and spirituals. This presentation will highlight brief biographies of these famous and not-so-famous creative personalities as well as the singing of many of the beloved works found in the United Methodist Hymnal.

### Presented and Accompanied by Paul Ferington

Paul Ferington is a talented teacher and musical maestro who has been referred to as a “distinguished local conductor” and a “local musical treasure.” A graduate in Orchestral Conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, Paul served as a professor and senior academic administrator, conducted the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in over 450 performances in more than 68 locations, and has received numerous awards, honors, and recognitions for his contributions in music and academia. This is just a small sampling of what Maestro Ferington has accomplished in his career. Paul is a life-long United Methodist. He & his wife Karen are members of the Williamsville UMC, where they enrich the music ministry with their participation. Enjoy learning more about songs and song writers, hear Paul playing the Arrison pipe organ, and enjoy this opportunity to sing along on this Day of Singing.



## THANK YOU,

... church family for your cards, thoughts, and prayers following my fall and elbow surgery.

Peter Shanley

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Weaver.....	5
Charles Gilbert .....	6
Stephen Mugal.....	6
Tom Brunner .....	7
Larry Burdette .....	10
Don Critoph.....	10
Mary Jayne Nehrboss .....	12
Michele Cordero.....	14
Wendy Johnston .....	14
Linda Rekate .....	15
Joyce Delong .....	18
Charles Terranova .....	19
Courtney Hannon .....	21
Drew Smith .....	21
Chris Klenk .....	22
Pamela Gibson.....	23
Doris Schanzlin .....	26
4 Benjamin Weaver.....	30



## 2017 Easter Plant Order Form

Pink tulips, Yellow Daffodils, and White Lilies

Bulletin Information Section – Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate by circling

In Memory of

In Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person(s) being remembered/ honored (please print)

Flower Information

Cost of each pot of blooms: \$8.00, 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:

\_\_\_ Will pick up after service  
\_\_\_ Please deliver to Beechwood or other shut ins  
\_\_\_ Please decorate the sanctuary

## UGANDA MISSION

## AUGUST 9 – 23, 2017

The Uganda Mission Team - **John and Jonathan Miller, Samantha Farino, Janelle Martin, Bob Keitz, and Kathy Weaver** - is preparing for their trip to Africa this August! Your backing is vital not only in helping our six travelers get there, but also in helping to fund projects on which we'll be working – repairing and creating clean water wells, supplying a medical clinic with essential medicines and supplies, supporting local churches, etc.

### Fundraiser Dates:

Saturday, April 22 (mid-day) – Sub Sandwich Sale

Saturday, May 13 (morning) – Pancake Breakfast

Friday, June 16 (evening) – Spaghetti Dinner



## UGANDA SUB SANDWICH FUNDRAISER!!!

The Uganda Team is having a sub sandwich fundraiser on **Saturday, April 22**. Enjoy delicious sub sandwiches: ham, turkey, or assorted (ham/turkey/salami) - and help the team raise funds for trip expenses and supplies for their August mission trip.

The team is collecting sub orders through Good Friday, April 14. All subs are \$7.50 each and will be fresh-made on April 22. Pick your orders up at the church between Noon and 2pm. Contact the church office (cumc350@gmail.com) or see a team member in church to place your order!



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**UMW General Meeting** All women are welcome to gather for breakfast on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10 am in the café. Elizabeth Circle will serve breakfast and our program will be "What's Her Story?" Cost \$5. Please RSVP to Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or [bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com) by Sunday, Mar. 26, if you plan to attend.

## NIAGARA FRONTIER DISTRICT UMW

### Communion Breakfasts & Memorial Services

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

Registration and Breakfast: 9:30 am - Program: 10:15 am

Cost: \$5 per person

Two Locations:

#### NORTH RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3930 N. Ridge Rd., Lockport, NY 14094

*Speakers: Cheryl and Jim Brown on Kairos prison ministry*

or

#### ELMA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2991 Bowen Rd., Elma, NY 14059

*Speakers: David and Carol Weaver on prison ministry*

Please contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 if you plan to attend.



## CIRCLE NEWS

**Elizabeth Circle** will meet Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 pm at the home of Paula Kreib, 10 Constance Lane (725-6067.) Hostess is Marion Rowlands (688-5238.) Our program will be a Bible Study provided by Javene McCabe. Contact Paula or Marion if you plan to attend.

**Rachel Circle** will meet Tuesday, April 18 in the Wesley Room at noon.

**Circle of Joy** will attend a performance of *Godspell* at the Lancaster Opera House, date TBD

## FINANCE TEAM

Please note that April 16 is Easter Sunday. Those with offering envelopes have two envelopes for that date, one regular and the other for the Easter Offering. If you do not have them, please put your offering in a pew envelope and mark it as an Easter Offering. The Easter offering is part of our budgeted income.

Please consider using online giving (VANCO) to keep offerings current, especially during the summer when many are away. To give online, go to [ChristChurchAmherst.org/donate](http://ChristChurchAmherst.org/donate).

The March 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Helping offering was \$101. The offerings from Music & Meditation to date totals \$128, making a total of \$229 for Compeer of Greater Buffalo as of March 12, 2017.

## PASTORAL APPOINTMENT



Bishop Mark Webb of the Upper New York Annual Conference will appoint Rev. **Daven Oskvig** as pastor of **Christ UMC**, effective July 1, 2017.

Rev. Oskvig was presented to the CUMC SPPRC by District Superintendent Wayne Butler Sunday evening, March 5. Nine members of the SPPR Team were present and participated in conversation with the candidate to learn about him, his faith journey, and approach to ministry. The team enthusiastically supported the appointment of Rev. Oskvig to be our next pastor. With the ap-

pointment of Rev. Oskvig and our ongoing activities with the Planning Team and consultant Rev. John Wimberly, there are ample reasons for optimism regarding the future of CUMC.

Rev. Oskvig spent part of his youth in Rochester. A graduate of Lycoming College, he studied at the Princeton Theological Seminary, graduated from Boston University School of Theology, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology at UB. He was ordained elder in June 2006 and is currently pastor of Kenmore UMC. CUMC would be the fifth church he has served. In addition to serving as senior pastor, he has served the community and conference in many other capacities.

Rev. Oskvig is married to Lianne, an elementary teacher in Lancaster, and they have a seven year-old daughter, Amelia. They own their home at 688 Longmeadow Road, Amherst, NY 14226, and will not be living in our parsonage. For those interested in his name, it is Norwegian. He is also an avid runner who runs marathons to warm up for the real races! You may have seen him on his runs through the neighborhoods of Amherst.



Pastor Daven, Amelia, and Lianne at a Bisons game



## REV. VERNON C. FRENCH, JR.

1927-2017

We are saddened to report the death of former pastor, Rev. Vernon French, in Dover, NH. Rev. French was Senior Pastor of CUMC from 1988 to 1991. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 1, at First UMC, Rochester, NH. Cards and notes may be sent to his wife Jeanne and family at Langdon Place, 60 Middle Road, Dover, NH 03820.

## APRIL ANNIVERSARY

Andrew & Jamie Rapini.....  ..... April 26, 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <small>Janelle Martin Photo</small>	 <small>Janelle Martin Photo</small>	 <small>Tom Nya Photo</small>				<b>1</b> <b>UMW</b> General Meeting 10a Men's Group Trip 10a
<b>2</b> Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a	<b>3</b> Library Team 10:30a	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Lenten Supper and Study 5p Choir 7:30p	<b>6</b> Praise Team 6:30p Elizabeth Circle 7p	<b>7</b> Books We Have Loved 10a Music & Meditation 5:30p	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a Baptism: Audrey Lynn Johnson	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Choir 7:30p	<b>13</b> <b>MAY CALLER DEADLINE</b> Maundy Thursday Service 7p	<b>14</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Office Closes 12N Worship 12N Music & Meditation 5:30p	<b>15</b> Worship Team Flower Set-up 10a
<b>16</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Praise Worship 9a Traditional Worship 11a Reception of New Members	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Rachel Circle 12p Trustees 7:30p	<b>19</b> Choir 7:30p	<b>20</b> Praise Team 6:30 SPRT 7:30p	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>  <b>Uganda Sub Fundraiser 12n-2p</b>
<b>23</b> Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Choir 7:30p	<b>27</b> Visitation Team 10a Praise Team 6:30 Hospitality Team 7p	<b>28</b>  Game Night 7p	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>DAY OF SINGING!</b> Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a Hymns & Hers w/Paul Ferington 1:30p				<b>April 2017</b>		