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 Enrichment
Sally J. Pollard
Office Manager/Ministry Assistant
Janelle Martin
Minister of Music
Kevin Durkin
Financial Secretary
Doris Schanzlin
Custodian
David Wolf

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
May 18
10am - 1pm

WILL YOU BE THERE?

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
350 Saratoga Road, Snyder, NY 14226
Phone: 839-2460 Fax: 839-2166
www.christchurchamherst.org
Church E-mail: Cumc350@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, NY
PERMIT NO. 3774

Dated Material

The Caller

May 2014

With Joy. . . From Sally

Being Normal

I heard an author speak recently about his process for writing. In the course of his response he said that he believes a book is a collaborative effort. The author writes the words and the rest is up to the reader. Even the title he chooses for a book he sees as a mystery, for whatever meaning it holds for the reader. The author was asked whom he'd like to portray his characters if his story were made into a movie. He preferred not to give a response to this as it might destroy some image that he had or his readers might have in their minds. Anyone who has ever enjoyed a book knows that feeling when the story becomes a movie and you discover that it doesn't have the same impact as the story in your own imagination.

I believe the same is true when we read the Bible narratives, themselves an epic account of the work of God in history and the restoring of relationship with humanity. Kirbyjon Caldwell, pastor of Windsor Village UMC in Texas, is quoted as saying, "There are two great moments in a person's life, the moment you were born and the moment you realize why you were born." I think the majority of people would agree that they want to love and be loved, to be treated with dignity and respect as a human being, to have opportunities and not be judged by the color of our skin or the nature of our sexuality or culture, but by our character and willingness to focus our energy on the common good. We all want freedom to pursue our hopes and dreams with the grace of God to try again; to not be judged by the number of times we fail, but by the number of times we regroup and try again. No doubt we want to find comfort in times that try us and help in times of need. We are not self-sufficient. We need other people, someone who is on our side when the days are rough.

Now that we have journeyed with Jesus through the ups and downs, the endings and beginnings of his life to resurrection, we find that there is triumph in the midst of the raging storms of modern living. Reality TV says that the purpose of life is to claw your way up, (even lie or "spin" as I heard on one of the morning "news" shows recently,) to do everything you possibly can to make money, to win and be number one regardless of what happens to others. Resurrection reality with Jesus offers us a purpose far beyond looking out for number one or just advancing your career and earning money. Jesus demonstrates a way of living according to God's purposes of love and compassion and invites us to share in the ongoing restoration of creation. Read the book…and imagine what part you'll play as the story unfolds....

Sally

From BJ's Desk...

Breathe in, breathe out . . . breathe in, breathe out . . . grace flows in, grace flows out . . . grace flows in, grace flows out. . .

The balance and rhythm of the Christian life is expressed in God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3: "... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Abraham was blessed that he might be a blessing to others. That sense of "blessing in/blessing out" is the heart of the biblical story and is the heart of all that Jesus taught. We are blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

We have moved from March through April in the season of Lent, then Holy Week, and the ultimate celebration of God's blessing through the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. We have focused on our inner selves, our spiritual selves, and we have received time and time again the powerful and transformational blessings of God. My prayer is that God has met you in your prayer time, that you have experienced new depth in your relationship with Jesus Christ through our worship experiences, and that you have experienced in new ways God's abundant grace.

It is May and the blessing received now becomes a blessing given to others. Rev. Richard Davis Matovu, my good friend and mission partner, will be visiting us from May 5 through the 14th. Davis will be meeting with several groups, attending events with me, and preaching on May 11th (Mother's Day) here at Christ Church. We have partnered with Davis through our support of water projects and our support of our medical and teaching missions these past three years. He is here say thank you and to explore ways to deepen our partnership and to expand that partnership to other congregations. God has blessed us, we have blessed Davis, and Davis continues to bless others who bless others (you get the idea!)

May 18 is our Make a Difference Day. We have been blessed with Time, with Talent, with Treasure, and with our Testimonies. God expects us to bless others with what God has given us. Make a Difference day is a "Taste and See" mission event. We have multiple projects, doing everything from cooking and cleaning and gardening to collecting and constructing and educating. It is a day we have set aside for all Christ church members and friends to intentionally be a blessing in the wider community all around us.

How is the balance of your life? I don't remember who first said it, but I love this quote: "You make a living by what you earn, but you make a life by what you give!"

God has blessed you . . . go and be a blessing for others.

Dr. BJ

FAITH PRESS

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

May – Make A Difference

May 4 – Assemble Welcome Packs for Make a Difference Day

May 11 – Bake cookies for Make A Difference Day

May 18 – Make A Difference Day – Hand out Welcome Packs & cookies to guests

May 25—No Faith Express

Mission Youth

Next gathering takes place on Sunday, May 9, with our guest Rev. Davis Matovu from Uganda

Support our Confirmation Students and Mentors with your prayers

Jonathan Miller & Brad Loliger
Robert Paddock & Lynn Ramsey
Paige Shupe & Laura Smith

A.O.L. @ CUMC

Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church

Sunday mornings ✝ 10 am ✝ Wesley Room ✝ Rev. Jim Pollard - facilitator

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World – An experience of 40 days of daily prayer

We live in a world of noise. Everywhere we go, we hear sounds that compete for our minds and hearts. Listening to God requires a deliberate choice to shut out the chaos around us and focus our thoughts.

Listen, *by Rueben P. Job, is a 40-day experience created to offer help to those new to prayer, those with a daily prayer routine, and those whose lives seem too busy to pray. With a focus on listening prayer and prayer as a two-way conversation, the experience will assist individuals and groups in building and deepening a personal prayer practice and spiritual discernment.*

As we learn to listen, we find a new depth and fulfillment in our relationship with God and a new experience of God as guide and companion in our lives. The daily prayer pattern includes an invitation, silence, Bible reading, a story, guided time for reflecting and listening, and practical help for developing six specific prayer practices.

Listen *will be the focus for Sundays at 10 am beginning on Sunday, April 27. Participants will be invited to enter into an experience for 40 days of daily prayer, with Sunday discussion of each of the six prayer practices.*

Participants will practice a specific practice of prayer for one week, and the Sunday class will be a time of sharing and reflection based on each week's experiences of daily prayer.

Whether you already practice a daily prayer discipline or are seeking a way to make daily prayer more a part of your daily life, this class is an opportunity for growth in your prayer life.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays ✝ 10 am ✝ Wesley Room ✝ Main level

All are welcome to join in this ongoing study and reflection.
Facilitator: Rev. BJ Norrix

CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, May 1 at 7:30 pm at the home of Carol Corsaro -2784 Stenzel—694-0368. Hostess is Joyce Moser 632-1617. We will have a musical program with Mac Sobol. Contact Carol or Joyce if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle meets Tuesday, May 20 at Noon in the Wesley Room.

Deborah Circle meets at Noon, Tuesday, May27, in the Wesley Room.

JIM LUSS

Jim Luss, 63, died suddenly at his home on March 26, 2014. A longtime CUMC member, for more than 20 years he led the choir procession each Sunday. A service in celebration of his life was held April 5. Our prayers and sympathy go out to his mother Ruth, his family, and his friends.

Back by popular demand
The CUMC Men invite all CUMC members and friends

LET'S GO TO THE BALL GAME

Saturday, June 7 - 6:00 pm - Star Wars Night
Buffalo Bisons vs. Syracuse Sky Chiefs
Reserved seats in the Club Level "Special Reserved' Section

The group ticket price (20+) for Reserved seats is $10.25 per person. For an additional $6.50 per person you can get a hot dog and a Coke.
If you don't have transportation, call the church and a ride will be arranged.

Baseball! Luke Skywalker! Darth Vader! Fireworks! Something for everyone!

Buffalo Bisons Baseball, June 7, 6:05 pm. Bisons vs Syracuse Sky Chiefs

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____ Cell_____

Number of tickets _____ @ $10.25/person = $_____

Optional Hot dog & Coke Number _____ @ $ 6.50/person = $_____

Total amount due and enclosed $_____

Mail with check payable to Christ UM Men to Church Office by Sunday, May 4

VERSATILE
VIBRANT
VIVACIOUS
VERY ENTERTAINING
VARIETY SHOW

Friday, May 16, 2014
7:00 pm
Christ United Methodist Church
350 Saratoga Rd, Snyder,NY
(corner of Harlem)
Tickets: $10.00
to benefit the missions of
United Methodist Women & Habitat for Humanity Buffalo

United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Habitat for Humanity

For Tickets call 839-2460

May Birthdays

Tom McCray 1
Roger Johnson 2
Ruth Kitson 2
Margaret Mugel 3
Ruth Swenson (90) 4
Rosemary Little 12
Mary Ball 13
Charles Terranova 13
Jamie Carney 14
Jordan Lawson 14
Linnea George 16
Kristen Darling 18
Mary Landel 20
Rebecca Lopez 21
Ryan Lopez 21
Scott Smith 21
Rachel Vaughan 21
Taylor Deer 22
Lisa Juergens 22
Sally Pollard 22
Janet Hider 24
Pastor Theva 24
Marg Bauza 26
Christopher Maliken 27
Kent Panasiewicz 27
Annette Smith 27
Jacob Rhinehart 28
Alice Schmidt 28
Megan Noyes 30
Adam Schroeder 30
Alexander Juergens 31

Stewardship & Finance

The offering envelopes for May–December are available in the Parlor. Please let the office know if you did not request envelopes, but would like some. The team would like to thank all who have returned the interim pledge/commitment card and ask those who have not yet responded to please get yours in, so we have an idea where we're headed with our ministries. On May 11 (Mothers' Day) will be the annual Golden Cross Sunday special offering with all proceeds going directly to Beechwood. Thanks again for your support of Christ Church.

Sally Pollard Photo

April Anniversaries

Greg & Lynn Ramsey ..... May 4, 1984
Roger & Dede Johnson ..... May 10, 1986
Brian & Jamie Carney ..... May 16, 2009
Chris & Diane Klenk ..... May 19, 2007
John & Pam Lopez ..... May 21, 1994
Wayne & Molly Butler ..... May 29, 1982

June 2014 Caller Deadline is Tuesday, May 13
E-mail to caller350@yahoo.com
Questions? Contact Kathy Weaver @ 839-5918 or kdweaver23@verizon.net

Make a Difference

What if there was a day set aside for you to MAKE A DIFFERENCE Would YOU join in?

Allaire Financial Strategies

Habitat for Humanity

Shredding Truck will be on-site 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.

Clara's Closet (Central Park UMC)
We will have a van at the church collecting baby items, gently-worn clothing, toys, and small household items (no furniture).

Shoe Collection
We are collecting shoes of any size, any style, any condition! Your shoes will:
Þ Help prevent disease
Þ Create small businesses to support families in developing nations,
Þ Keep shoes out of landfills, which is good for the environment!

Habitat for Humanity Truck
This truck will be on-site to collect your kitchen appliances such as microwaves, refrigerators, blenders, etc. Visit HabitatBuffalo.org for more information.

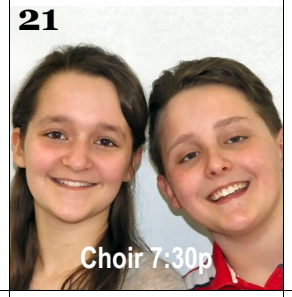
There's a spot for you! We have teams impacting our neighborhood through gardening, construction, cooking, quilting, etc. If you would like to volunteer with one of our teams on May 18, please call 839-2460 or email cumc350@gmail.com. Teams will gather at the church at 9am. Let's make a difference together!

Make a Difference Projects Include:

Þ American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge
Þ Central City Garden
Þ Cheektowaga Food Pantry
Þ Dress Our People
Þ Buffalo City Mission
Þ It Takes a Village
Þ Family Justice Center
Þ And More!

Sunday, May 18, 10a-1p

MAY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bible Study 10a Elizabeth Circle 7:30p	2 Books We Have Loved 10a	3
4 *Praise Worship 9a* *Education Hour 10a* *Traditional Worship 11a* MYM Dinner in the Country Disciple Bible Study 6p	5 Praise Team 6p SPR 7p	6 Library Team 9:30a UMW Exec Board 4p Ballroom Dance 6:15p	7 Choir 7:30p	8 Bible Study 10a	9 Mission Youth 6:30p	10 Men's Club visit to Buffalo Maritime Center 10a Ballroom Dance 7p
11 Mother's Day *Praise Worship 9a* *Education Hour 10a* *Traditional Worship 11a* *Special Guest* *Rev. Davis Matovu* Disciple Bible Study 6p	12 Praise Team 6p Discussion/Action Group 7p UMW Variety Show Practice 7p	13 JUNE CALLER DEADLINE Ballroom Dance 6:15p Stewardship/Finance 7p	14 Choir 7:30p	15 Bible Study 10a UMW Variety Show Set-Up 4:00p	16 Books We Have Loved 10a UMW Variety Show 7p	17
18 MAKE A DIFFERENCE SUNDAY *Worship 9a* *Service Projects 10a-1p* *Lunch 1p*	19 Praise Team 6p Carl Ericson Memorial Service 7p	20 Rachel Circle 12p Ballroom Dance 6:15p CET 7p Trustees 7:30p	21  Choir 7:30p	22 Caller Collation 9:30a Bible Study 10a	23	24
25 *Praise Worship 9a* *Education Hour 10a* *Traditional Worship 11a* *No Faith Express* Disciple Bible Study 6p	26 MEMORIAL DAY Office closed	27 Deborah Circle 12p Ballroom Dance 6:15p Church Council 7p	28 Choir 7:30p	29 Bible Study 10a	30 Game Night 7:30p	31