CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"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

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The Caller

November 2015

Wilson Muzorewa Photo

With Joy…From Sally

Practice kindness all day to everybody and you will realize you're already in heaven now." Jack Kerouac; author, poet.

Although kindness is the foundation of all spiritual traditions, at some point kindness has become something intangible, hazardous, and a behavior to be avoided. On a recent episode of the TV show, "The Good Wife," lawyer Louis Canning is trying to convince lawyer Alicia Florrick that she needs to toughen up. He shows her a video of two people bumping into one another as they pass on a stairway. They immediately turn to each other and respond at the same time, one saying, "Sorry!" while the other says, "Watch out!" Mr. Canning's implication is clear. To be successful, Mrs. Florrick needs to adopt the attitude of the second response.

When did we stop being kind? When did kindness become a vulnerable-making behavior to be avoided? In one sense kindness is always hazardous because it's based on an open-heartedness and susceptibility to others, an ability to identify with others in their joys & sufferings. Recently our FaithXpress children were immersed in what it's like to live in another part of the world, putting themselves in someone else's shoes. While some of their experiences were challenging, like carrying heavy water jugs, the children mostly empathized with having to drink dirty water and becoming ill with no easy access to medical care. Children begin their lives naturally kind. The forms kindness takes are learned in part from the culture in which they grow up and can be unlearned or resisted. We usually know what the kind thing is to do and we recognize kindness when it's shown to us. We also readily register its absence when kindness is not shown. Nothing outrages us more than people being unkind to us. But when we deny our own kind impulses, we also deny ourselves the pleasure our acts of kindness produce.

Everyone is vulnerable at every stage of their lives; we're subject to illness, accidents, personal tragedy, political and economic realities. Bearing other people's vulnerabilities requires being able to bear our own. What we have in common is our vulnerability. It's a connection we recognize in each other.

We need to build a culture and communities that help us keep faith with kindness and discover the joy of caring for others. Western ideas about "the good life" gained through self-sufficiency, the rise of cynicism, and the internet's "outrage culture" are a kind of self-defense. We don't want to expose a crack in our armor of independence. We remain impervious to the needs and troubles of others, and by doing so, we inflict more suffering. Real kindness changes people in the doing of it. Kindness is a risk because it blends our needs and desires with those of others. Kindness is a way of knowing people beyond our understanding of them. How have we come to believe that the best lives we can lead involve giving up the best things about ourselves? How have we come to believe that there's any greater pleasure than kindness?

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Colossians 3:12

For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22

Sally

From Darryl's Desk…

"Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality"

My dear friends,

Greetings and my warmest regards to all of you at Christ UMC!

My thanks to all of you for renewing your financial pledge, or offering for the first time a financial pledge or contribution to the Christ Church 2016 ministry budget. Without these generous gifts we would not be able to sustain the many vital ministries of this church to the communities around us and the world at large. You continue to demonstrate "living Christ's ways and exploding in love and service" in very tangible ways. It is still not too late to offer your pledge if you haven't been able to do so as yet. We continue to hold you in prayer as you ponder this decision as a steward and disciple of Jesus Christ!

Beginning in November and continuing in mid-January to early February, May, and July, we will focus upon this very important theme for our church family, "Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality." As a United Methodist congregation, we have a rich heritage of offering Christ's grace to all – the foundation for our Wesleyan Faith. I strongly believe as our church seeks to become a more vital, relevant church in the community, there are some basic, perhaps foundational principles that will get us there. These principles have always been at the heart of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ in the United Methodist Church. Indeed, the integration of personal devotion and social holiness has been a hallmark of our tradition. We affirm the biblical principle that "faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17.) Therefore in this sermon series we are being challenged and encouraged to:

Reclaim the Wesleyan Social Witness – One of Wesley's great contributions to Christendom was the linkage of passionate commitment to Christ with courageous social witness. Wesley believed that wherever the good news of Christ is preached and received, social holiness follows. Alas, we "later-day" Wesleyans have allowed the indefensible positions of 'conservative' versus 'liberal', or 'evangelical' versus 'social activist,' to characterize our discipleship. This is unfortunate.

Reclaim a Forgotten and Essential Small Group Experience – Every member is encouraged to be in a small group, historically known as a class meeting, to support one another in our efforts to become increasingly faithful Christians who are growing in love of God and neighbor, and in so doing invite others who are not yet in the fellowship to join their small group. Small groups offer opportunities for prayers, play, participation in mission and ministry. This is an historic Wesleyan practice – the small group. We at Christ Church can give it fresh meaning by showing its relevance for the church today. It may be a perfect means for church renewal and vitality, a gift of God, through the Wesleyan movement, for such a time as this.

Reclaim Evangelism and Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit – We can learn from John Wesley that our evangelism, that is our sharing of Christ's love as good news to all who will hear, is effective when we are enabled by grace to offer ourselves to our hearers as a persistent messenger and servant of God – rather than flinging the gospel at people like a baseball bat. It is the grace of compassion, the compassion of Christ's self-giving love that transforms people's hearts. We therefore offer Christ not in judgment or with self-righteousness rather with humility and love. For Wesley, the essence of faith was personal and inward, but the evidence of faith was public and social. "It is expected of all those who continue in these Societies (meeting places/class houses) that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation – first, by doing no harm…, second, by doing all the good they can..., and third, by attending

☜CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Missions of the Month

The Giving Tree

Each year, it is our tradition to set up a **Giving Tree** in Crafts Hall. The purpose of the tree is share the true spirit of Christmas . It is decorated with tags for this year's charities. These include Gateway, Haven House, Primera Iglesia UMC, Habitat for Humanity, Family Justice Center, and local veterans. The Giving Tree will be in Crafts Hall starting November 22. To participate, please take a tag and return your gift *unwrapped* by December 13. Please attach the tag to your gift. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Klenk, 651-0236.

Let us remember those who are less fortunate at this time of the year and make their lives more joyful! We are so blessed; let's pass that on to others! Thank you for your help!

United Methodist Student Sunday

United Methodist Student Sunday is November 29 this year. Right now there are UMC young people who did not have the resources to attend the school of their choice, or for some, any school at all. These students have been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously, you support these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

Darryl's Desk, *continued*

upon all the ordinances of God..." (citation from the General Rules.) Those of us who are trying to live the Wesleyan way have a great challenge. However, here is a grand invitation and opportunity for us at Christ Church to rethink our Christian commitments and affirm that there is real hope for a reclamation of our Wesleyan Vitality!

You can reach me at: darryl@christchurchamherst.org or church phone: 839-2460. I use Fridays as my Sabbath day. I am praying for you and with you daily. May God's love and blessings be always with you, and my love to all of you. See you in church and always invite someone to join us for worship!

Risking for Justice with Grace,

Darryl

FAITH PRESS

Christmas Presence

Because of the presence of Jesus,
we bring presents to Jesus!

Rehearsals continue for this year's Christmas pageant. Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am. There are speaking parts, non-speaking parts, and parts for musicians! There's a place for you!

Rehearsals – Sunday mornings November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
10 am Lower Level

A.O.L. @ CUMC

Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church

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

The 2015-2016 series of CUMC A.O.L. will convene in the Wesley Room at 10 am. on Sunday mornings. A.O.L. is an opportunity to engage in exploration of a variety of topics important in living a Christian life. In a conversational setting, participants will share insights, encounter new ideas, and engage with others in living as a Christian in a challenging world.

Schedule of Studies through December:

10/25 – 11/ 22 – **Five Marks of a Methodist** – study book by Stephen Harper, cost $6

11/ 29 – 112/20 – **Advent: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** – Advent and Christmas with Charles Wesley, based on his hymns, cost $10

Study books will be available prior to the first session of each series at the cost listed.

Contact Rev. Jim Pollard (839-6548) with questions and to indicate your participation.

Disciple I Bible Study

Monday evenings ✝ 6:00 pm ✝ Rev. Jim Pollard, facilitator

November Birthdays

Joyce Moser 08
Tammy Mugel 08
Ian Johnson 10
David Mitchell 10
Grace Markello 12
Carol Corsaro 13
Ian Webber 13
Chris Sciolino 15
Lynn Ramsey 16
Ashley George 19
Jim Beller 20
Evelyn Cole 21
Reid Lesswing 22
George Voskerchian 23
Wyatt Hannon 24
Peter Johnston 26
Anne Reed 27
Mary Jo Evans 28
Barbara Weaver 28
Alicia Bermudez 29
Sean Johnson 29

November Anniversaries

Geoff & Janet Hill ..... November 21, 1970
Jim & Laurie Hannon ..... November 22, 1980
Guy & Sharon Ferrelli ..... November 24, 1974
Fraser & Lucile Mooney ..... November 14, 1984
Ian & Nicole Johnson ..... November 15, 2014
Al & Julie Wrisley (53 years!) ..... November 24, 1962
Jim & Sally Pollard ..... November 28, 1981

United Methodist Women

General Meeting

Saturday, November 14th, 10:00 am

"Keeping in Touch"

World Thank Offering, Least Coin Offering, Pledge Service, Election of Officers

Hostesses: Elizabeth Circle
Cost: $5.00

Wilson Muzorewa Photo

Wilson Muzorewa Photo

Janelle Martin Photo

Janelle Martin Photo

Annual Church Conference November 14

The Annual Church Conference will be held in Regional format at 3pm on Saturday, November 14 at Clarence Center UMC, 9750 Clarence Center Road, Clarence Center 14032. All CUMC members are entitled to vote and are encouraged to attend.

$tewardship & Finan¢e

The Stewardship and Finance team would like to thank all who have returned their 2016 commitment cards, and we thank you for your generosity. Your pledges will help us put together a budget to further the ministries of CUMC for 2016. If anyone did not receive a commitment card or has misplaced theirs, please call the church office and Janelle will get one out to you.

Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet at 7 pm on Thursday, Nov. 5 at the home of Paula Kreib, 10 Constance Lane, Cheektowaga (725-6067.) Hostess is Barb Carier (839-0933.) The program is our service project for the Women Veterans. Please bring any items you have collected. Contact Paula or Barb if you plan to attend.

Circle of Joy held its November activity last month. No additional meeting is planned.

Rachel Circle will meet in the Wesley Room at Noon on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Program is a video entitled *Ben Carson, MD.*

United Methodist Men

On Saturday, November 7th all are invited to gather at the church at 11:45am and carpool to Larkinville for a tour of the Flying Bison Brewery at 840 Seneca street, Buffalo 14210. The tour will begin at 1:00 and is free of charge. Samples, in various configurations, are provided at a nominal charge, and soft drinks are available for those who prefer. After the tour we'll enjoy a late lunch at a restaurant in one of Buffalo's most exciting areas. Questions? Richard Mestler @ 830-1175 or Tom Nye @ 213-3642.

Dec. 2015-Jan. 2016 Caller Deadline: Friday, Nov. 13 to caller350@yahoo.com
Questions? Contact Kathy Weaver @ 839-5918 or kdweaver23@verizon.net

Operation Christmas Child

The Christian Education Team invites you to share God's love with children around the world in a tangible way. Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected and delivered more than 113 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in over 150 countries through Operation Christmas Child. This year we will partner with them.

Shoe boxes are now available for individuals and families to pick up and fill with toys, gift items, and notes of friendship and encouragement. Filled boxes should be returned to CUMC by Sunday, November 8 to be taken to the drop-off site. Donors will be able to find out the country where their gifts are delivered by the use of shipping labels that you can track online. (More later.)

Boxes and "How To Pack A Shoebox" brochures, including gift suggestions, box labels, and instructions for packing are also available now. Donation envelopes will be included for a donation of $7 to cover shipping cost per box. If you care to make a cash donation only and not pack a box, the donation will go to cover these shipping costs. Members of the Uganda Mission Team spotted OCC boxes when they were in Uganda this summer, so we know they really bring joy to children around the world. Watch for information at church and coming soon on our website www.christchurchamherst.org.

MYM Christmas Dinner Event

Sunday December 13 at 1:00PM

Sean Patrick's Restaurant
3480 Millersport Hwy
Getzville NY 14068

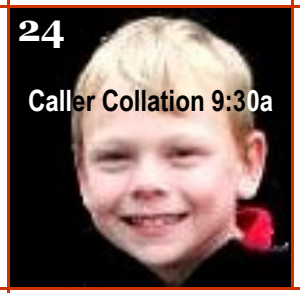
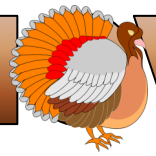
Dinner Selections:

Prime Rib	**$32.00**
Salmon	**$26.50**
Chicken Cordon Bleu	**$23.50**
Vegetarian Lasagna	**$22.25**

Dinner includes: Salad, Herb Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine, Rolls and Butter, Ice Cream with Caramel Sauce, Coffee and Tea

Entertainment by Directors Cut, a Barbershop Quartet.
Members are: Mac Sabol-lead Kevin Koczka-tenor
David Lawson-baritone Michael Honeyman-bass

Please purchase your tickets in Crafts Hall on Sunday, Nov 22, 29, and Dec. 6 after the 9:00 or 11:00 service.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Sunday *Praise Worship 9a* *Conversation with Rev. Davis Matovu 10a* *Traditional Worship 11a*	2 Library Team 10:30a Disciple I Study 6p	3 Central City Café 9a-1p	4 Choir 7:30p	5 Life Lessons 10a Elizabeth Circle 7p	6 Books We Have Loved 10a	7 Men's Club 11:45a Flying Bison Tour Carpool @ CUMC
8 *Praise Worship 9a* *Education Hour 10a* *Traditional Worship 11a*	9 Disciple I Study 6p	10 Stewardship/Finance 7p Worship Team 7p	11 VETERANS DAY Office Closed Choir 7:30p	12 Life Lessons 10a SPR Team 7p	13 DECEMBER – JANUARY CALLER DEADLINE	14 UMW 10a Annual Church Conference 3p Clarence Center UMC
15 *Praise Worship 9a* *Education Hour 10a* *Traditional Worship 11a*	16 Disciple I Study 6p	17 Rachel Circle 12n Church Council 7p CET 7p Trustees 7:30p	18 Choir 7:30	19 Life Lessons 10a	20	21 Crafting for a Cause 10a
22 *Praise Worship 9a* *Education Hour 10a* *Traditional Worship 11a* CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 11a	23 Disciple I Study 6p	24  Caller Collation 9:30a	25 Choir 7:30p	26 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED Game Night 7p	28
29 *Praise Worship 9a* *Education Hour 10a* *Traditional Worship 11a*	30 Disciple I Study 6p	 NOVEMBER 2015				