

# 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 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**

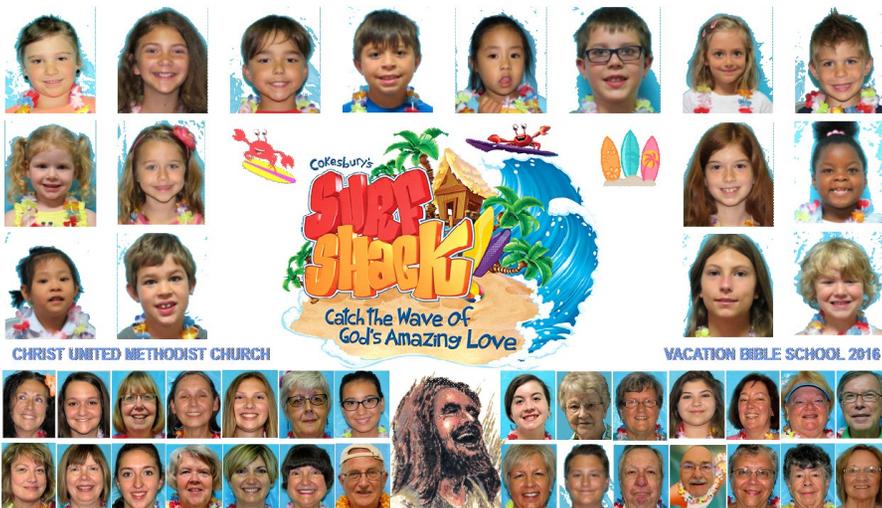


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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016



September 2016



## *With Joy... From Sally*

### **From Folding Chairs to Pews**

Describing oneself as “faithful” in Western Christianity today has come to mean holding a set of beliefs about the Bible, about Jesus as the Christ, and about certain church doctrines, as true. We’ve come to take this so much for granted that when we look at the early church and see that they had no creeds, that followers referred to this Christian movement as “The Way” and to its disciples as followers of “the path,” some may think this is falsehood or a clever plot to undermine “the faith.” “Are you a believer?” has come to mean, “Are you a Christian?” To have faith has come to mean believing the things the church has taught us about Christ rather than what Jesus taught his first followers about God. The idea of faith as a way of “being” in the world, instead of loyalty to a set of creeds and doctrines, is unknown to those who have left the church and find no reason to return. To say one “believes” something requires nothing in the way of a changed heart or attitude or spirit. Nor does it change the world. Faith as *simply agreement* is powerless. Faith as *following* changes everything! It’s incarnation that is distinctly Christian teaching: God’s love alive in the life of Jesus, or as early church father St. Irenaeus put it, “The glory of God is a human being fully alive.”

A Jewish boy born in common circumstances becomes the Son of God. After a brutal execution and burial, his followers experience his ongoing presence. The early church begins to organize itself after a long delay in the second coming. Those first followers waited with their bags packed and waiting by the door. They died waiting and so did a second generation. It was time to unpack. The beloved community of **followers** organized itself into a community of **worshippers**, and as Robin Meyers puts it in his book, *Saving Jesus From The Church*, “the evolution from folding chairs to pews had begun....”

The recent Global Leadership Summit featured speakers from all kinds of leadership roles: corporate CEOs to philanthropists to pastors, providing dwelling space for displaced persons. The event began with Andra Day singing her song, “Rise” with these powerful words:

*You're broken down and tired  
Of living life on a merry-go-round  
And you can't find the fighter  
But I see it in you so we gonna walk it out  
And move mountains  
We gonna walk it out and move mountains  
And I'll rise up, I'll rise like the day  
I'll rise up, I'll rise unafraid  
I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again  
And I'll rise up, high like the waves  
I'll rise up, in spite of the ache  
I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again  
For you....For you....For you....For you....*

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

### **INVITATIONS....**

As September arrives, I extend some invitations....

**Pray for Christ Church.** This is an important year in the life of Christ UMC. Surround, undergird, sustain Christ UMC with your prayers. We often turn our prayers into lists of what we want and hope for. But our prayers for Christ Church need to be “listening prayers,” attentive to what God calls the church to be.

**Worship regularly.** The church is the “body” of Christ. The body is not complete without our gifts and graces. Worship inspires us, equips us, forms us for our everyday living as disciples of Christ. Worship builds up the body of Christ. Worship is a sign of God’s presence in the world. Worship is where God meets us. Offer yourself in service to others. Servanthood is a disciple’s calling.

**Study the Bible.** Experience its depths of faith, the struggles for hope, the power of its prayers, Come to know the people who have shaped our faith, challenged injustice, known God’s forgiveness, and proclaimed God’s abiding presence and love for humankind. Find the Living Word of God through its words.

**Participate** in the consultation experiences which will occur during the year as together we seek to discern the direction of Christ Church’s ministries for the future.

**Welcome** any and all who come hoping that Christ Church will be a place where they can find hope, and grace, and faith.

**Join with others** in exploring the challenging questions and issues of living as disciples in our community and world.

I Invite you to enable Christ Church to be a vital, serving congregation of Jesus’ disciples.

*Jim*

## OUTREACH MISSIONS OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2016

### DAY OF DANCE FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, Sept. 24, Christ Church and USA Dance WNY Chapter #3013 will be raising funds to support:

**Habitat for Humanity Buffalo**  
**Family Promise of WNY**  
**Alzheimer's Association**



The event will be held at Christ Church and will include hourly dance lessons for children (ages 8-12) and adults (ages 13 and up) from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. for \$5 per lesson. A Double Dance will be held in the evening from 7:30–10 p.m. featuring Ballroom Dance in Crafts Hall and Swing, Salsa, & Hustle in Youth Hall. Admission for the Double Dance is \$5.

Throughout the day and evening, Christ Church will offer concessions for sale in the Café. To make this event a success, please sign up to volunteer or provide items for concessions. Sign-up sheets are located on the Outreach bulletin board in Crafts Hall. Thank you for your generous support of this event!

### Christ Church and Journey's End Refugee Services



In September, Christ Church will welcome another family! Watch for details about the family and their arrival date coming soon. Help will be needed to move furniture and household items, set up an apartment, and make the family welcome once they arrive. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Peggy Bermudez (626-4897). Thank you!

### UNITED METHODIST MEN

The "Masters of American Architecture" tour in downtown Buffalo has been rescheduled for Saturday, Sept. 17. Meet at CUMC at 8:45am sharp to carpool to the Buffalo Niagara Visitor Center, Washington & Clinton Streets, for the 10 am tour.

Everyone is welcome! Wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing, as the tour will take place rain or shine! After the tour, we'll have lunch at 716 Restaurant.

For more information, visit [www.explorebuffalo.org](http://www.explorebuffalo.org). The tour cost is \$15 per person, paid by check (made out to Christ UMC) or cash to the church office by September 12. This will be a great day for fun and facts about our hometown! Call Bob Snyder (741-6901) with any questions or concerns.



**OCTOBER CALLER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 TO [CALLER350@YAHOO.COM](mailto:CALLER350@YAHOO.COM)  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT BARBARA MITCHELL @ 839-2435 OR [BBMITCH@VERIZON.NET](mailto:BBMITCH@VERIZON.NET)**

## FaithXpress

10 am Sunday mornings Lower Level

September 11 – October 23



# CREATION

Children will discover that God created the world and provides for all of creation.

Sept. 11 – Light and Dark    Sept. 18 – Sky & Sea  
Sept. 25 – Land, Plants, & Trees    Oct. 2 – Sun, Moon, & Stars  
Oct. 9 – Fish & Birds    Oct. 16 – Animals & People  
Oct. 23 – God holds the whole world



## COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP

(MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 1-3 PM

**COME AND BUILD A HOVERCRAFT!!**

**WITH MARK SWIHART**

Professor of Chemical and Biological  
Engineering at SUNY Buffalo



*Bring your friends!! Be a human hockey puck!*

**Sunday, September 25 1 p.m.**

*Born to be a star? Try out your acting skills with  
Valerie Villa, Encore Experience*

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The question was posed, "What's filling your passion bucket?" "What do you see happening (mountaintop or deep valley experience) that is causing you to get up and do something, you just can't do nothing?"

What will make *you* rise with God's love and be fully alive?

*Sally*



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kayleen Hannon .....	4
Ryan James .....	4
Pastor B.J. Norrix .....	5
Kathleen Morris Mong .....	6
Keith Nehrboss .....	6
Al Wisrley .....	6
Bim Rowlands .....	9
Patti Bechtel .....	11
Darcie Beyer .....	11
Kathy Brunner .....	11
Barbara Brayman .....	14
Glenn Hurst .....	17
Kevin Johnston .....	18
Jim Pollard .....	18
Jessica Lawson .....	19
Jonathan Miller .....	19
Sandra Paddock .....	20
Beth Reilly-Brown .....	20
Hildegard Webber .....	20
Lisa Malpica .....	24
Danielle Keller .....	25
Barbara Carier .....	26



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Herb & Jane Darling (60 Years!) .....	September 08, 1956
Tom & Kathy Weaver .....	September 08, 1984
Jeremiah & Michelle Cordero .....	September 12, 2014
Herb Wilber & Nora Townsend .....	September 21, 1990
Greg & Phyllis Maliken .....	September 22, 1979

## FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

### A Glance Back and a Look Forward

Since I joined the staff at Christ Church last January, my wife Millie and I have truly been blessed by the warmth of the welcome we have received from you, the members of this faith community, as well as the tremendously dedicated and gifted staff that serves here. I can truly say that being among you is like being surrounded by family. To those of you who may not have attended for a while, I can only say that in this topsy turvy-world that often seems to be spiraling out of control, there is no better place to be than here, where the love of God is so abundantly expressed.

Christ Church is unique in many ways, not the least of which is its support of the arts. This is clearly evident in the array of arts-related groups that call Christ Church home. This year we are welcoming the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra and Greater Buffalo Youth String Orchestra, who will call CUMC their home base. The Youth Orchestra is a full symphony orchestra of 85 high-school age musicians, and the string Orchestra is a smaller group of 30 string players. They are well known for their high level of performance and professionalism both here and abroad, and we are delighted to be hosting them.

### CUMC CHOIRS - A Look Forward

Yes, Choirs! This year we are beginning a **Youth Choir** starting Sept. 14 that will meet Wednesdays at 6 pm. This choir will participate in Sunday worship on a regular basis. It will be open to all students, members and non-members, in grades 4 - 7. This is not carved in stone, and there is age flexibility depending on response. The program will obviously center around learning and preparing music for Sunday worship services. However, it will also include a curriculum for learning the rudiments of music and basic music skills through games, exercises, and the use of simple percussion instruments. We will also encourage our young instrumentalists to contribute their talents to the program. Finally, we believe that this is a wonderful way to make leadership in the church part of our youth's lives. They are the future! So please encourage your children to participate.



We are blessed with an **Adult Choir** of great talent and dedication who enrich and elevate our worship every Sunday! They begin regular Wednesday rehearsals at 7:30 pm on Sept. 7. Membership is open to anyone from high school age through adulthood wishing to be part of this important ministry. The fellowship is wonderful, and we work hard and have fun doing it!

If you are interested, please email me at [niagaraorg@mac.com](mailto:niagaraorg@mac.com) or call me at 536-5370 for more information.

Looking forward to a bright future for the music ministry at CUMC!

Yours in Christ, *Paul Staley*



# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

## Bored? Join our Board!

UMW is seeking women interested in serving on the Executive Board for 2017. We need your input and guidance to keep our activities fresh and mission-focused. The Board meets 3-4 times a year to plan our larger events. If you have an interest in supporting us on the Board or would like to nominate someone for a position, please contact Beth Sweet, 210-8966, or at [bthswt@gmail.com](mailto:bthswt@gmail.com).

## UMW General Meeting

All are welcome on Saturday, October 1st, at 10:00 am in the Café for Breadtime Stories with Chet Fery.

Chet is a retired teacher and amateur bread baker. He will show how random acts of kindness can change our lives and create a world community that is caring, supportive, and secure. Chet has given away over 10,000 loaves of bread to family, friends, colleagues, and strangers. Through this effort he has created hundreds of stories that will touch your heart and stimulate your soul. Hostesses will be the Elizabeth Circle. Cost is \$5 per person.



## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

The Stewardship & Finance Team would like to thank those who have kept up your pledge commitment over the summer months. This has enabled us to keep up with our current bills.

A revised budget has been put in place for the remainder of this year. We were able to decrease the deficit with substantial cuts from the SPR Team's portion and the addition of some late pledge commitments. At the recommendation of S&F, the revised budget was adopted by Church Council.

We also wish to acknowledge a gift from the children of Dr. Robert & Elaine Fuller with a note that stated how much the Fullers had loved Christ Church. Along with input from the Trustees, we plan to use this money for tree replacement or new, living landscaping.

Our thanks to all who work so hard on behalf of the ministry of Christ Church!



## CIRCLE NEWS

**Elizabeth Circle** will meet Thursday, September 1st at 7 pm at the home of Mary Ball, 5919A Vincroft (741-3301). Joyce Moser (632-1617) is hostess. Dr. Ian Webber will share his wonderful photography. Contact Mary or Joyce if you plan to attend.

**Rachel Circle** will meet Tuesday, Sept. 20 in the Wesley Room at noon.

**Circle of Joy** will meet at Canalside on Thursday, September 1 at 7 p.m.



Peggy Bermudez Photo



Peggy Bermudez Photo

## A REMINDER

Please save cancelled stamps (tear off the envelope corner from cards), Campbell's labels, Box Tops for Education, and Dash's register tapes. Place them in the appropriate containers on top of the microwave in the kitchen.

They will be given to various charities. Thank you!



## MATURE YEARS MINISTRY AUTUMN DAYS

Our annual time for renewal, community, and relaxation for those over 55 in a beautiful lakeside setting will be held September 27-29, 2016.

Our facilitator for this year will be the Rev. Gail Lewis, a retired Elder who has been active in retreat ministry since the late 70's. She has worked with lay and clergy, churches, and districts as well as in KAIROS (women's prison) and KOINONIA (interdenominational), and was the founding Spiritual Director for FOOTSTEPS Buffalo for teens. An annual women's retreat at Kenmore UMC has continued for 30 years. Her teaching, musicianship, and sense of humor are highlights of each retreat.

We'll be staying at the United Methodist House at Chautauqua, a special place for small gatherings. Rooms have private baths & are handicapped accessible.

The cost is \$90 per person, and confidential partial scholarship help is available. Reservations are limited to 20 people, so register early! Act now! Send your check payable to "MYM" with this form:

### MYM AUTUMN DAYS REGISTRATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$90 or  I wish for partial scholarship help.

I can drive and have room for  additional passengers.

I (we) need transportation.  I request a wheelchair.

Please mail to: **Phyllis Nicholson**  
**17 Princess Drive**  
**Cheektowaga, NY 14225**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SEPTEMBER 2016</b>				1  Circle of Joy 7p Elizabeth Circle 7p	2	3
4 Praise Worship 9a Traditional Worship 11a	5 <b>Labor Day</b>  Office Closed	6  Staff Parish Relations Team 7p	7  Choir 7:30p	8	9	10
11 Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a Community Youth 1p 	12	13 <b>OCTOBER CALLER DEADLINE</b>  UMW Exec Board 4p Stewardship/Finance 7p	14  Youth Choir 6:00p Choir 7:30p	15  Visitation Team 11a	16	17  UM Men Masters of Architecture Tour 8:45a
18 Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a UMW Mission Pin Ceremony	19 	20  Rachel Circle 12p  Trustees 7:30p	21  Youth Choir 6:00p Choir 7:30p	22	23	24  <b>Day of Dance Fundraiser</b>
25 Praise Worship 9a Education Hour 10a Traditional Worship 11a Community Youth 1p	26	27  Church Council 7p	28  Youth Choir 6:00p Choir 7:30p	29	30  Game Night 7 p	
<b>MYM Autumn Days Retreat at Chautauqua</b>						