

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“Making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love, and service”

Worship Schedule

Casual Praise - 9 am Traditional Celebration - 11 am

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE

Senior Pastor

Rev. Daven W. Oskvig

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



350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Phone: 839-2460 Fax: 839-2166

www.christchurchamherst.org Email: Cumc350@gmail.com

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9-5; Tuesday & Thursday 9-noon



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We all had a ball! Next year, come one, come all!



Cover Story - Page 8

September 2017



With Joy... From Sally

While enjoying some summer reading I learned about bioluminescence. Bioluminescence is the biochemical emission of light by living organisms such as fireflies and marine life such as dinoflagellates (plankton) and some deep-sea fishes. These creatures live in darkness and are able to give off light. The characters in the book, *Stay With Me*, by Sandra Rodriguez Barron, encounter this phenomenon in

the Caribbean seas. The main characters were orphaned as children in the Dominican Republic, adopted by families in the United States, and have no knowledge or memories of their parents or families due to their young age. Now in adulthood they finally learn of their beginnings in an orphanage. They travel to see the place where their life began and meet a nun and a Peace Corp volunteer who made their adoption and new life in America possible.

While enjoying a nighttime kayaking trip they experience bioluminescence. As the darkness deepens, anything that moves provokes a release of light in the water, including the waves themselves as they pass by. They feel as though they're floating in an otherworldly field of curling, sparkling light. The glow lingers for a few seconds, then fades to dark, and disappears.

One of them asks the tour guide, "What good does it do for light to follow prey as they move away from their predators? To be of use, light should lead, rather than follow." The tour guide explains that it's used as a defense mechanism. The flash of light is a kind of alarm, meant to make its predator jump and worry, and also to attract a secondary predator that will be more likely to attack the initial predator. Pretty clever.

Later, after reflecting on this marine experience as well the new details of his life, the main character makes some connections, concluding that he has figured out "the parable of the bio-bay." He recalls that it's only in absolute darkness that the dinoflagellates fully release their light. They charge up in the daylight. And he feels that going back to the place of his birth and meeting people involved in his beginnings has released a kind of light into his life. The bioluminescence they experienced in the bay represented a physical or literal release of light, and he concludes that people can do the same thing—release every bit of love, energy, and intelligence they have in hopes of scaring away the predator. But what good does it do for the light to *follow* rather than lead? What's the point of being wiser *after* the experience, after the risk, after the mistake? "The plankton in the bio-bay see the light as a kind of warning to change their course. Are we that smart?" he asks.

Jesus calls us to be light for the world. Light for all to see. At times we experience darkness in our lives, illness, grief, pain, aging, loss, fill in your own darkness. Who creates light for you-- light that chases away the fear, the loneliness, the regret; light that helps you find a way when you didn't know where to turn; light that says "here's another possibility, you can make a change and move on." Who is your light in the darkness? Who needs YOU to be a light in their darkness?

Christ Church: Making Connections and Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love, and Service. Release every bit of your love, energy, and intelligence as together we make a difference for our neighbors near and far as Jesus shows us the way.

Sally



FROM DAVEN'S DESK

Dearest Members & Friends,

At a time when we are looking toward the fall start of our full programming, conversations always include how we can reach new people, what else we can offer/do, what we can change, what we can enhance, what no

longer is a viable use of time/talent/treasure, where we need to focus more of our time/talent/treasure. These discussions can often become the beginning of creative ministries as we seek the discernment of the Holy Spirit for our future.

But there always exists a tension between old & new, between what always has been and what can be. My brother recently extended a blog post to me from Bruce McCracken, Washington Post blogger and author of *Gray Matters: Navigating the Space Between Legalism & Liberty* and *Hipster Christianity* entitled "How to keep Millennials in the church? Let's keep church un-cool." The title itself implies that the church lacks cultural relevance by declaring it "un-cool." Yet what McCracken argues is that the church's relevance particularly to millennials is directly related to the church's not adapting and changing to meet the latest trends. So in this way it will be decidedly "un-cool," but it will be true to itself by resting on its long traditions and history. As McCracken says, "I can say with confidence that when it comes to church, we don't want cool as much as we want real." Rachel Held Evans, quoted by McCracken from a CNN piece, said "We're not leaving the church because we don't find the cool factor there; we're leaving the church because we don't find Jesus there."

We must make sure that in all we do, we do it with integrity; that in all we do within the church and beyond its walls, that the teachings of and even the person of Jesus is within it. McCracken concludes, "What I really need from the church is not *another* yes-man entity enabling my hubris and giving me what I want. Rather, what I need is something bigger than me, older than me, bound by a truth that transcends me, and a story that will outlast me; basically, something that doesn't change to fit me and my whims, but changes *me* to be the Christ-like person I was created to be."

Let us pray that the same can be said in all we undertake together as we seek to make connections and offer opportunities in faith, love, and service!

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Daven

OUTREACH MISSION OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2017

Second Annual Day of Dance — Saturday September 23

Have you always wanted to learn to dance? This September 23 we will be joining with WNY Dance USA for the Second Annual Day of Dance! All proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association, the National Parkinson's Foundation, and Seneca Street UMC. It will be a fun-filled, daylong event with reasonably priced hourly dance lessons during the day. In the evening there will be two floors of dancing. We will be providing refreshments. Help is needed in preparing and serving refreshments. If you can help, please see Kathy Weaver or Lee Watson. More details will be forthcoming.

Garage Sale — September 16

Save the Date: Attention treasure seekers! The Outreach Team will be having a Garage Sale on Saturday, September 16 from 9am to 2pm, followed by a bag sale on Sunday, September 17 after church. In a bag sale, you get everything you can fit into a bag for \$5! All proceeds will benefit the various church missions in our community.

FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team thanks all who have kept up their pledge commitments over the summer months. You have truly set a record in keeping up your end financially and have kept CUMC in wonderful shape over this past summer!

We would like to remind you of our Endowment Fund and how much those earnings help us with our finances in the course of a year. In the past we have had several members make gifts to the Endowment Fund in their wills, but you may also make gifts to the Fund while you are living. Should you wish to make a living gift, you need only make out your check to Christ UM Church and place it in an envelope marked "Endowment Fund," and we will see that it gets to the Trustees for deposit.

Again, thank you all so much for your support!



FaithXpress

10 am Sunday mornings Lower Level

September 10 - October 29

Joseph

Join us as we learn about Jacob's favorite son, and why his brothers weren't too happy about that! Hear Joseph's story! Create Dream Catchers! Bake a Cake of Many Colors! Have some fun on Game Day and after worship on Sunday afternoon, October 29, we'll have lunch and watch the movie,

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Bring your friends!



To fulfill the purpose of Christ UMC of "Making Connections and Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love, and Service," one of our strategies is to offer opportunities for spiritual growth and study. The Strategy Team would like to know your thoughts and ideas about how we can build this ministry for our families, children, and all who gather to worship and know GOD better in our lives at Christ Church.

In what ways can we better provide times for Bible studies? For families, children, adults; young and older, working and retired?
How can we raise participation and attendance in youth groups, families, and adult groups?
Please note your ideas on the yellow card in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate. Ideas may also be emailed to Paula Kreib. Please put "Spiritual Growth" in the subject line

snowflake.paula@gmail.com

We'd like to have your responses no later than September 30, 2017.

The Spiritual Formation Strategy Team



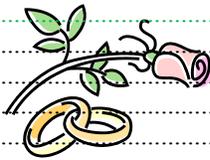
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kayleen Hannon	4
Ryan James	4
Pastor B.J. Norrix	5
Al Wrisley	6
Bim Rowlands	9
Patti Bechtel	11
Darcie Beyer	11
Kathy Brunner	11
Barbara Brayman	14
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
Jean Wood	27



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Herb & Jane Darling (61 Years)	September 8, 1956
Tom & Kathy Weaver	September 8, 1984
Jeremiah & Michelle Cordero	September 12, 2014
Herb Wilber & Nora Townsend	September 21, 1990
Greg & Phyllis Maliken	September 22, 1979
Frank & Linda Parete	September 27, 1975



NOTE: NEW CALLER E-MAIL ADDRESS

October Caller Deadline: Wednesday, Sept. 13 to bflokids@yahoo.com
 Questions? Contact Barbara Mitchell @ 839-2435 or bbmitch@verizon.net

PLEASE insert the word "Caller" on the title line of all emails



NIAGARA FRONTIER DISTRICT UMW SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Friday – Saturday, September 29 -30
 Center of Renewal Retreat and Conference Center
 at Stella Niagara
 4421 Lower River Rd., Lewiston, NY 14144

This year's retreat will use Dr. Seuss' The Lorax as inspiration for God's command to be stewards of the earth.
 Cost is \$90 (includes Friday overnight, Saturday breakfast and lunch)
 Brochures can be found on the UMW bulletin board in Crafts Hall or call Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897.

UMW GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 am in the Café
National Federation for Just Communities of WNY

Speaker: Rene Petties-Jones
 Hostesses: Rachel Circle
 Cost: \$5.00
 ALL are welcome!



UNITED METHODIST MEN

This month the UMM will attend the General Meeting of the United Methodist Women at 10 am in the Café.
 See article above for details.



CIRCLE NEWS



Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, Sept. 7th at 7 pm at Vincroft Congregate Bldg., 5945 Vincroft Dr.
 Coordinator is Mary Ball (741-3301). The program will be music with Paul Staley. Hostess is Joyce Moser (632-1617). Contact Mary or Joyce if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle will meet Tuesday, Sept. 19th in the Wesley Room at Noon.

Circle of Joy will meet on Thursday, Sept. 7th at 7 pm at Peggy Bermudez's home.

Save the Date: Pastor's Potluck
 Sunday, October 1 at 12 Noon Beverages & Dessert Provided

COVER STORY: THE PEACE POLE

The Peace Pole is an internationally recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family, standing vigil in silent prayer for peace on earth, started in 1955 by Masahisa Goi, who decided to dedicate his life to spreading the message of peace in response to the bombings of Hiroshima. Each Peace Pole bears the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in different languages on each of its four or six sides. There are tens of thousands of Peace Poles in nearly every country in the world dedicated as monuments to peace.

Our planting a Peace Pole at Christ UMC highlights our commitment and work toward world peace and inner peace. It’s a symbol of our mission of making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love, and service, and a link to our work with that of people of all faiths and nationalities worldwide who are striving for a better world.

As the name of this Church recalls, Christ spoke a message of peace in all that he did. We affirm those words and pray this pole may express our commitment and this place may be a place where all peoples can find sanctuary, solace, and peace.

HOSPITALITY TEAM

As many of you know, the Café is an important gathering space each Sunday morning. The Café provides beverages and light refreshments for those who wish to visit with others prior to or following worship. It’s also a place where we can welcome friends and visitors to our church. In order to make the Café a welcoming and inviting place to gather, volunteers are needed.

The Hospitality Team is working to create a schedule of groups willing to help host the Café on Sunday mornings. In the past, the women’s circles would often sign up to host for an entire month. This helped to ensure that this much needed ministry was always covered. We’d like to revive the practice and extend it to all groups, such as women’s circles, men’s group, choir, MYM, SPR, Hospitality, Altar/Worship, and Outreach, just to name a few.

The Hospitality Team will be the first group to host the Café, beginning this month. Each Sunday, a few team members will work together for both services. At your next gathering, please discuss having your group host this vital ministry for a month. Schedules are available for your members to sign up for the week(s) and times they can host. Please contact Michele Sciolino (mbosciolino@msn.com) or Mary Ball (rball@roadrunner.com) if your group is interested in hosting.

If you have never hosted the Café and would like to attend a hands-on training, please contact Michele by email or at 632-0752.

DISCIPLE I BIBLE STUDY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 24

You’re invited to attend the Disciple I Bible study beginning September 24. The study is an intense 34-week course of reading and studying Scripture, watching a DVD, answering and questioning what God has called his people to be, praying for one another, and ultimately going out into the world more equipped to spread the Good News. The cost of the materials is approximately \$35 and must be ordered in advance. Please let us know by September 15 if interested. Please contact Julane Beck at 345-1064 or call the church office.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Many have expressed an interest in exploring the commitment of membership to Christ UMC. If you would be interested, please speak with Sally Pollard or Rev. Daven Oskvig. We will be looking to bring everyone together a few times to share the story of Christ UMC and learn more of your story. Our time together will include a complete tour of the building and grounds, the history of the church, our ministry and teams, how we make decisions, the value and meaning of membership, and time to answer any outstanding questions and curiosities.

LEGACY GIVING

Remember the Church in your will. Have you ever heard that phrase? Maybe you’ve seen it on the back of an envelope or in a newsletter? Have you ever wondered if anyone ever does this? Does anyone ever really remember their church in their will? The simple answer is YES! The Church has received many generous bequests from a number of estates over the years. Giving a legacy to the church is an expression of gratitude and thanksgiving towards God for all that we have been given and enjoyed during our life. It is also a means of ensuring that our past can become part of the future of our church’s life, through mission and ministry to all God’s people.

Our Church exists to continue the ministry of Jesus. We can express our commitment to Him by reaching out to the people of the world he loves.

A legacy gift is a testament to our commitment to the ministry of Christ and can help to ensure that Christ UMC continues to share in God’s mission for years to come. There are many different avenues to do this. Talk to your financial/legal advisor about the options in adding CUMC to your will.

FAITH AND SCIENCE

Would you be interested in a class which explored the intersection and sometimes contentious relationship between religion and science? With all the recent news of genetic manipulation, this has once again shot to the forefront, though it is by far not the first time of conflict between the two. If interested, please let Rev. Daven Oskvig know so he can look for a time and day for this 4-6 week discussion.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SEPTEMBER 2017					1	2 Outreach Team 10a
3 Casual Praise 9a Traditional Worship 11a	4  Office Closed	5 Outreach Team 7p	6 Choir 7p	7 Circle of Joy 7p Elizabeth Circle 7p	8	9 UMM and UMW GENERAL MEETING "National Federation for Just Communities of WNY" 10a
10 Casual Praise 9a FaithXpress 10a Small Group Gathering with Pastor Daven 10a Traditional Worship 11a	11 Praise Team 5p Christian Ed. Team 7p	12 Finance Team 7p	13 OCTOBER CALLER DEADLINE Choir 7p	14 Hospitality Team 7p	15	16 OUTREACH TEAM GARAGE SALE 9a-2p
17 Casual Praise 9a FaithXpress & New Member Class 10a Traditional Worship 11a Small Group Gathering with Pastor Daven 12p Community Youth 1p	18 Praise Team 5p	19 Rachel Circle 12p Trustees 7:30p	20 Choir 7p	21 SPR Team 7p	22	23 DAY OF DANCE Fundraiser 11a-10p
24 Casual Praise 9a FaithXpress 10a New Member Class 10a Traditional Worship 11a	25 Praise Team 5p	26	27 Choir 7p	28	29  Game Night 7p	30 Crafting for a Cause 10a Memorial Service— Clarence Spitzer 11am