CHRIST CHRONICLES

Christ United Church of Christ, 1414 Ligonier Street
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650

October 2018

Let us join together with Christians all over the world for World Communion Sunday - October 7 at 11:00 AM

Worship Services for October 2018

10/7 - Sunday Morning Worship, 11:00 AM, *Holy Communion*
10/14, 10/21, 10/28 - Sunday Morning Worship, 11:00 AM

October 28 - Reformation Sunday - Remember to Wear Red

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.

Concerns of the Congregation

Please pray for: Marcie Baker, Scott Barr, Tom Cernetic, Kristen Disciascio, Rosalie Drago, Tim Farkas Family, Barry Harr, Pam Hedman, Treasure Keys, Ron King, Zoe Klug, Jim and Kathy Koontz, Leanne Lehosky, Donna Lenz, Lorraine Mickinack, Patrick Miller, Ray Mitchell, Sarah Moyer, Brian Musick, Joan Musick, Bob and Evelyn Neighly, Betty Newman, Duane Noel, Richard Porembka, Joyce Puzak, Louise Quitko, Shirley Robb, Bailey Robinson; Dave Somerville, Emily, Eva, and Graeme Sautter; Terri Selembo, Ken Sible, Jean Sheffler, Judith Short, Laken Smith, Rick Stahl, Kathleen Swartz, Peter Usher, Ray Wible, Sara Young, Bob Zeiders, Frank Zook

We especially hold in prayer the Family of Jean Noel
(Mother of Harvey Noel and Bonnie Pickle) who passed away on September 13, 2018

Praying the roll: Everyone on the church roster will have a turn at experiencing the comfort and peace of intentional prayer. We are family . . . .and families pray for one another! Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers for the entire week.

Week of October 7 - Susan Renz, Kenny Repko, Linda Repko
Week of October 14 - Leroy and Janet Reyholds, Shirley Robb, Ellen and Wayne Sautter
Week of October 21 - Aloysius II and Aloysius III Schmucker, Pastor Dick and Eileen Seigfried, Terri Selembo and Lori Cramer
Week of Octtober 28 - Julie Sexton, Jean Sheffler, Judith Short

USHERS LIST - October

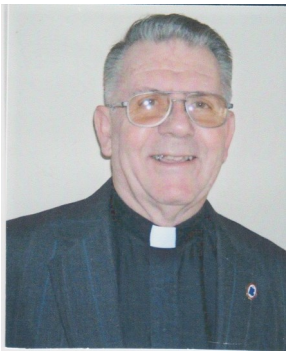
October 7 - Judy Holden and Mick Mattern
October 14 - Jim and Elena Sillaman
October 21 - Marsha Ackerman and Larry Staruk
October 28 - Sally Walker and Art Dira

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE USHER LIST, SEE SALLY WALKER OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

GREETERS ARE NEEDED for the month of October. Please sign up in the Chapel.

Communion Servers for Sunday, October 7
Elder/Assistant … Carolyn Stutzman, Art Dira
Deacons/Main Servers … Art Dira, Geraldine Boring, Rick Kunkle, Don Burd
Deacon/Auxillary Server. . .Elena Sillaman

A Message From Pastor Dick



It's dinner time! Mom has prepared a delicious meal and the table is set. We gather around the table and we pray a prayer of blessing and thanks for God's gifts. We sit down, pass the food and the conversation begins.

I'm sure you all can relate to this scenario when the family gathers day by day or on special holidays. In actuality it is a holy time for there is another guest, Jesus. It is a time of sharing not only the food but our conversation with each other.

The above scenario will happen in all Christian Churches the world over. It is World Communion, thus the table is huge as we share this Holy meal with all believers. Jesus is not only a guest but the host. He has prepared the meal. He has placed a loaf of bread and a cup on the table symbolizing his body and blood. He has prepared this meal by sacrificing his life on the cross.'

It will also be a time when we share our abundance with our Neighbors in Need. The conversation will be about the sacrifice made by Jesus.

The invitation comes from Jesus when he says "Come for all things are ready". Will you accept the invitation?

Come and join us at the Lord's Table at Christ Church and St. John's on World Communion Sunday, October 7th. We are reserving a place for you and your family.

See you in church. God bless,
Pastor Dick

Welcome Samuel Quinn

We welcome Samuel Quinn Messmer as the newest member of Christ United Church of Christ. Samuel was born on June 15, 2018 and baptized on September 16, 2018.

His parents are Meghan Stahl Messmer and Daniel Messmer. He is the grandson of Deb and Rick Stahl and the great grandson of Bob and Evelyn Neighly.
Blessings to Samuel and his family.

A Note from Julie

"Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth. Worship God with gladness: come into God's presence with singing!"

It is great to be back for the beginning of a new choir and music season here at Christ United Church of Christ!

The choir is back for Sunday morning worship to lead the congregational hymns and share an anthem each Sunday.

The bell choir has also begun rehearsals and they will be presenting "Trust and Obey" to the glory of God on October 21st.

We have started to work on the cantata, "Night of Miracles" and I would like to extend an invitation to anyone from the congregation who would like to join us just for the cantata to please come and do just that! Practice for the cantata will be right at the beginning of choir practice. Keep an eye on the weekly announcements for times.

The choir will be singing an introit on some Sundays in place of the prelude, but the prelude will still be there, just moved to before Pastor Dick does the welcome.

If you come in to church on Sunday morning and hear the piano or the organ playing, you're not late, just continue as you have been, greeting each other, finding a seat, reading the announcement page, and talking. I guess it could be called "gathering music". The idea was brought up to the music and worship committee and it was decided that we would try it this way!

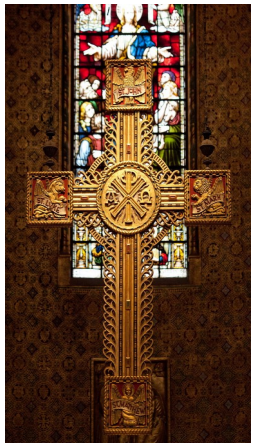
Finally, I want to extend my congratulations to Pastor Shirley Musick. The ordination service on September 16th was just beautiful and I would like to also thank the adult choir for leading the congregation in all of the responses and hymns! The singing I heard from the congregation was just thrilling! God was surely smiling!

"For God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations! (Psalm 100)

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee asks for your prayers as the search for a new pastor continues.

What a Blessed Event at Christ UCC
The Ordination of Reverend Shirley Musick



THANK YOU ALL - Reverend Shirley Musick and her family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone at Christ Church for their love, support, and encouragement during this exciting journey. From the Member in Discernment Committee to those who prepared the meal and to those who attended the service, thank you for all that you have done.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Once again Christ Church, along with St. John's, will be putting together an Advent Devotional. It was a blessing to many to journey through the Advent Season using the devotional readings and writings by many members of our congregations. Please consider contributing your writing to this special project. There is a sign-up sheet on the Chapel table. Please sign up for one or two days. Deadline for sign up is October 14 and deadline for articles is November 11.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Sunday School for Children

The new material is <u>All in One Sunday School for ages 4 through 12</u>. The bible-based lessons include special material for seasons and holidays. Take home handouts will be given to the children.

Sunday School will be offered on the second and fourth Sundays after the children's sermon. The dates for October are the 14th and the 28th.

Beginning in October, Wednesday morning bible study will meet at **11:00 AM. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE.** We are studying 'The Books of the Bible.' New members are always welcome.

Wednesday evening bible study meets each Wednesday evening from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM with a study on "Meeting Jesus." Please come join us!

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning. The class will read and discuss "If Grace is True" by Philip and James Mulhalland McGulley. Rev. Wayne Sautter will lead the discussion. Books may be borrowed from the library or purchased online.

THANK YOU: Church Family, Thank you for your continued prayers and get well cards. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. Terri Selembo

THANK YOU from the Noel Family for your cards, prayers and faithful support on the passing of Jean Noel, the mother of Harvey Noel and Bonnie Pickle.

OCTOBER SUPPER CLUB!

Jim and Elena Sillaman are the hosts for "Supper Club" on Friday, October 19 at 6:00 PM. It will be at the Road Toad restaurant on Route 30 near Ligonier. It's located just across Long Bridge. Please contact Jim or Elena by phone (724-694-9907) or email (jsillaman@hotmail.com) no later than Wednesday, October 17 to reserve a place (or two). Hope to see you there!

BIENVEUE will meet on the **first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 PM**. On **October 3** we will meet at **Eat'n Park** in Mountain Laurel Plaza, Latrobe. On **November 7** we will gather at **Gino Giannilli's**, 200 Thompson Street, Latrobe. All the ladies of the Church are welcome.

CHRIST CHURCH'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The upcoming Book Discussions will be held on **Tuesday, October 9 at 11:00 AM -** "The Opposite of Hate" by Sally Kohn and **Tuesday, November 13 at 11:00AM -** "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help with **Senior Food Distribution on Tuesday, October 23 at 8:30 AM**. Thanks so much for your help as always.

MINISTERIUM FOOD ITEMS FOR OCTOBER

The Greater Latrobe Ministerium asks churches to donate items for the Food Pantry distributions each month. The needed item for October is muffin mix. Thank you so much for your generosity. A box is in the sanctuary to collect these items.

Lay Life and Mission Committee Update

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN 2018

The Lay Life and Mission Committee has chosen to promote the Life-Way Pregnancy Center as the mission of the month in October. The center has provided plastic baby bottles for us to take home and fill with loose change or folding money. Life-Way provides life affirming alternatives, pregnancy and parenting support and social/community referrals. Save your change to help change the lives of the women in our community. Please take a baby bottle and fill it with your loose change and return it by the end of October. This campaign not only helps to raise funds, but it also helps to raise awareness in our surrounding communities as to the work that is being done. Look for the baby bottles in the back of the church.

THANKS TO ALL AGAIN!

The Flea market and book sale that was held in August has a new total of **$2,107.42.** Thanks to all who helped in any way. It was truly a success!!!!!!!

SAVE THE DATE!

October Soup and Salad Bar

The last soup and salad bar of the season will be held on **Wednesday, October 10.** As always, there will be delicious food and great fellowhip. Price remains at $7.00. Mark your calendars and be sure to attend. See you there!

ST. JOHN'S BAZAAR

Join us on **Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.** Shop early for Christmas. There are beautiful handicrafts, homemade candies and delicious baked goods available for purchase. Come and enjoy lunch with homemade haluski, ham pot pie and homemade soups available to eat or take home. Lots of delicious pies, too! We hope to see you there.

HELP SUPPORT CHRIST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MISSIONS WITH A $5.00 DONATION!

This beautiful quilt is on display in the Chapel. When you make your donation, place your name and phone number on one of the slips of paper along with $5.00 (per name) and put it into the container.

A name will be pulled from the box on November 1st and someone will receive this fall quilt. (You can place your name/phone number and $5.00 into the box as many times as you want. Remember, $5.00 per name) ***Thank you!***

Neighbors in Need (NIN)

is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. The NIN offering will be collected on **Sunday, October 7**, World Communion Sunday.

CONTACT US

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ARTICLES FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARE DUE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

Please send to cocoakitty2001@gmail.com or give to Loretta Staruk

September, 2018

Are we at risk of losing our democracy? Could Fascism worm it's way into our political system? Has it done so already? Is Fascism on the rise around the world? What is Fascism, anyway?

These are some of the disturbing questions that came to mind as I read "Fascism – A Warning," by Madelene Albright, our former Secretary of State and representative to the United Nations. Ms. Albright is a woman who has had broad exposure to the political systems of the world during the past fifty years or so, not to mention having had to flee as a child with her family from Czechoslovakia when the Nazis invaded. She uses these experiences to explore the history and definition of Fascism, and then raises concern about whether we Americans, with a long history of building democratic processes at home and abroad, are now enabling Fascistic elements to gain more and more footholds.

What are the characteristics of Fascism? As Ms. Albright points out, it is not just a dictatorial government. As she said, "A Fascist [leader] will likely be a tyrant, but a tyrant need not be a Fascist." Such a government, though, is always lead by either one very strong leader or a small cadre of autocrats. They can be "right" or "left" in their ideology, but those in charge have a strong belief that only their ideas and plans are the correct ones, and they will go to any lengths to acquire and maintain power. To help bolster their legitimacy, many of the Fascist governments have actually arisen through quasi-legal or constitutional means within their own countries. They are able to do this by organizing dedicated groups of supporters who are willing to strongly push their political goals, frequently with intimidation of or violence towards opponents. They often pit one group of citizens against another, disparage the media and public criticism and, once in power, make political and judicial appointments of people who will bend to their will. They are able to convince enough people that there are severe threats to the safety and security of their country and that only they can manage those threats. Democratic debate and reasoned discussion of political options is not part of their modus operandi.

Following WW II, the United States and our allies launched extensive efforts, such as the Marshall Plan in Europe, to help conquered countries establish stable democracies and economies capable of growing and spreading financial improvements for most of their populations. During the Cold War era, our main political and economic competition came from Russia and other Communist states. However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1980's and the freeing of the eastern European countries from Soviet domination, democratic governments appeared to be on the rise. Now, however, the direction seems to be going the other way. Particularly since the war in Iraq and the rise of terrorism and massive dislocation of middle Eastern people, more and more governments are showing clear Fascistic characteristics. Ms. Albright reviews the rise of such systems and leaders in Turkey, the Philippines, Venezuela, Hungary, Poland and even the Czech Republic, among others. These are countries which once enjoyed democratic governments, but which now are either Fascistic or tending that way.

Sadly, in the view of Ms. Albright, the United States seems to be abandoning our democratic leadership in the world. Many countries are losing their admiration for our form of government and its institutions. It appears to many of them that we, too, have developed some of the features of Fascism, fostered (unknowingly?) by our political leaders. Those in political leadership have been all too willing to exploit or aggravate people's political differences, they themselves are less willing to compromise, and they use infusions of money from special interests and rabid supporters to help maintain themselves in their political offices. However, the blame for this trend cannot be laid at the feet of the politicians alone. Many ordinary citizens are willing to vote for or accept an autocratic government just to "straighten out the mess" (or other such phrases). This same thinking allowed Mussolini to rise to power in Italy, thinking that he would "make the trains run on time" (which he never really did).

While the topic of this book is a sobering one, the book is not a difficult read. Ms. Albright has kept the chapters and overall book length short and efficient. She rapidly summarizes recent history and the worldwide political landscape. I highly recommend this one for an enlightening view of where we have been and where we might be headed.

Jim Sillaman

October 2018 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Heavenly God, help us to never grow weary in welldoing, but as often as we have the opportunity, help us to do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family of faith. *Based on Galatians 6:9-10*						
	1 Pray for those who serve as our elected officials – may they be wise in their decisions.	2 Pray for those in pain or suffering from a chronic illness.	3 Pray for government employees.	4 Pray for the ministers of the churches in Latrobe and around the world.	5 Pray for those suffering from addiction.	6 Pray for firefighters.
7 **World Communion Sunday** – Thank God for all who tell of God's love and grace.	8 Ask God to bless those who work and volunteer at Life-Way Pregnancy.	9 Pray for clients of Life-Way Pregnancy.	10 Pray for children whose parents are deceased.	11 Pray for those who protect wildlife habitats.	12 Praise God for the beauty of creation.	13 Pray for those with no access to clean water.
14 **National Clergy Appreciation Day** Remember Pastor Dick and his family in your prayers today.	15 Pray that God will prompt many supporters to increase their monthly gifts.	16 Pray for the town in which we live.	17 Pray for new believers.	18 Give thanks for community services, such as the library.	19 Pray for those suffering from abuse.	20 Pray for children who feel unloved.
21 Praise God for blessings received.	22 Pray for the poor and oppressed throughout the world.	23 Pray for the lay leaders in churches.	24 Pray for congregations without pastors.	25 Thank God for his love and mercy.	26 Praise God for the beauty of Autumn.	27 **St. John's** Bazaar – pray for our brothers and sisters at St. John's.
28 Pray for all those on the roads today.	29 Thank God for the promise of a new day.	30 Thank God for those you love and those who love you.	31 Thank God for His love.	Lord, we pray for your church in every part of the world, the great family of which we are a part: we pray for those who are denied freedom in their religious beliefs, for those called to the suffering of imprisonment, and for those few who are called to martyrdom itself: may their courage set faith alight in other lives.		

Mission Statement: To reflect Christ's love in everything we do

Vision Statement: Not our will, but God's

October 2018 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 PM Lay Life and Mission	**2**	**3** 10:00 AM Bible Study 12:30 Bienvenue Eat'n Park 6:30 PM Evening Bible Study	**4** 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	**5**	**6**
7 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY Neighbors in Need Special Offering	**8** 6:00 PM GLCC Practice 6:30 PM Consistory	**9** 11:00 AM Book Discussion	**10** No 10:00 AM Bible Study Soup and Salad Bar 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM 6:30 PM Evening Bible Study	**11** 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	**12**	**13**
14 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Children's Sunday School ***Deadline for Devotional Signups***	**15** NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	**16**	**17** 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Evening Bible Study	**18** 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	**19** 6:00 PM Supper Club Road Toad	**20**
21 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	**22** 6:00 PM GLCC Practice	**23** 8:30 AM Senior Food Distribution	**24** 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Evening Bible Study	**25** 6:30 PM Bell Choir (tentative) 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	**26**	**27** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM St. John's Bazaar
28 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Children's Sunday School	**29**	**30**	**31** 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Evening Bible Study			

Christ Church Consistory

Geraldine Boring
Don Burd
Art Dira
Judy Holden, Vice President
Rick Kunkle
Kenny Repko
Elena Sillaman
Loretta Staruk, Secretary
Carolyn Stutzman, President