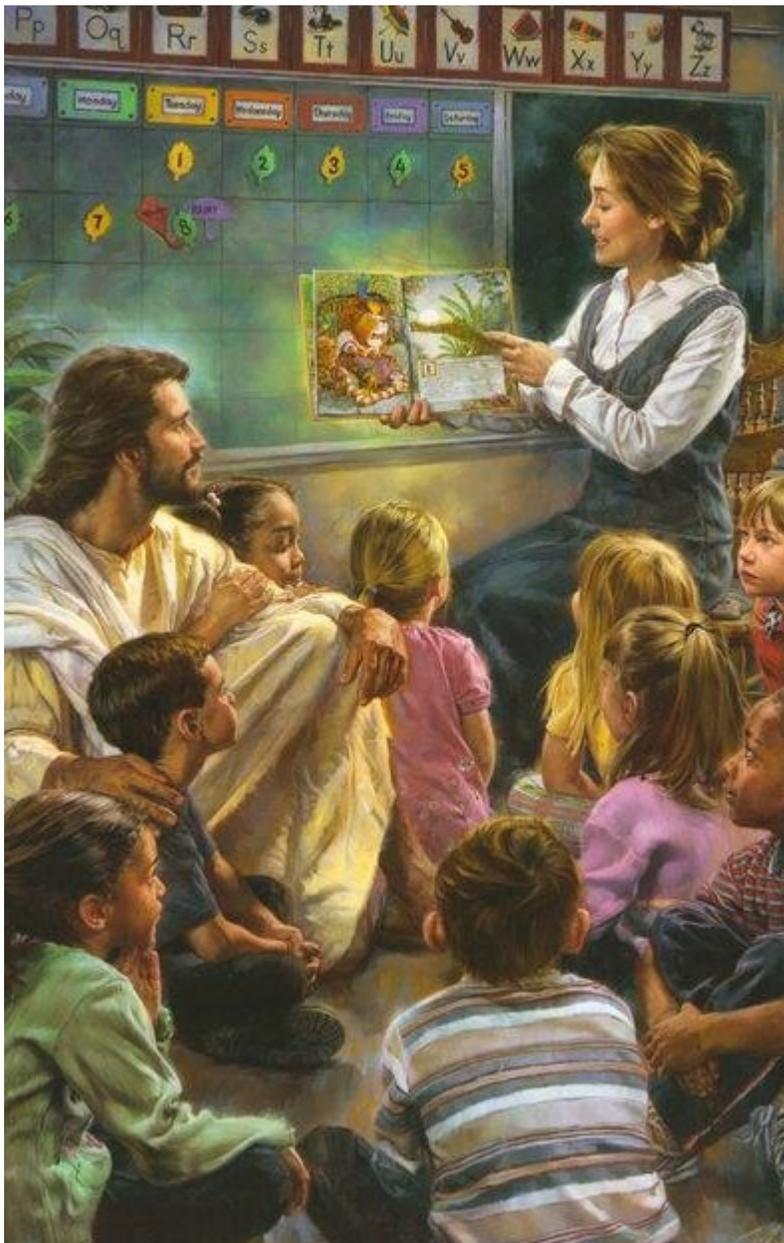


CHRIST CHRONICLES

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

September 2020



Worship Services for September

9/6, Sunday Morning
Worship, 11 AM,
Holy Communion

9/13, Sunday Morning
Worship, 11 AM,
***Congregational Meeting
as part of our the
worship service***

(alternate date 9/20)

9/20, 9/27
Sunday Morning
Worship

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

Concerns of the Congregation

Please pray for: Henry Arelt, Marcie Baker, Donna and John Brajdic, Eleanor Bridge, Ruth Burns, Pastor John Cofield, Kristen Disciascio, Charles and Dorothy Facemyer, Tim Farkas Family, Viola Helmetzi, Helen Hoover, Ron King, Stacey Klug, Zoe Klug, Leanne Lehosky, Mick Mattern, Chuck McNerny, Ben and Jane Miedel, Ruby RaeLynn Moore, Joan Musick, Bob and Evelyn Neighly, Betty Newman, Richard Porembka, Joyce Puzak, Shirley Robb, Bailey Robinson, Carrie Rosebrock; Emily, Eva, and Graeme Sautter; Ken Sible, Judith Short, Laken Smith, Rick Stahl, Scott Thompson, Sara Young, Bob Zeiders



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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 September 6 - Sarah Davis; Thomas and Lauren Davis; Margaret, Asrat, Debreyesus, Biruk and Mimi Delle

Week of September 13 - Valerie Demichele, Caryn and Geary Dettling, Donna Dinco

Week of September 20 - Art Dira, Beverly Dumas, Ruth Eversole

Week of September 27 - Charles and Dorothy Facemyer, Sandra Fircetz, Bradley Fritz

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

September 13, 2020

(as a part of our worship service).

Please Plan to Attend This Important Meeting

We will be selecting new Consistory members

Alternate date 9/20/2020

Ushers for the Month of September

Week of September 6 - Harvey Noel and Sally Walker

Week of September 13 - Jim and Elena Sillaman

Week of September 20 - Bob and Carolyn Stutzman

Week of September 27 - Larry and Loretta Staruk



ARTICLES FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ARE DUE ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

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

A Message from Pastor John



About a month ago, we returned to worship in the sanctuary. I would say that it's gone well.

The committee that prepared for our "reopening" did an impressive job, establishing guidelines and protocols for mitigation.

So far, we've been able to "re-introduce" most of the familiar elements of worship including corporate confession, unison prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer, a creed and Prayers of the People. Some worship elements are still on the horizon: congregational singing and full-blown responsive prayer, like reading the Psalms.

We're even celebrating communion together, with a "full-blown" Eucharistic prayer and "sharing the elements," with the individual wafer and juice packet, handed to each person separately as they walk in.

Given where we're at, another month of this pandemic with no hope on the horizon, yet, I think we've done and are doing rather well. If you feel comfortable, and haven't yet, please join us for worship.

Of course, we cancelled the church picnic, not surprising given the conditions. But worship in the sanctuary was well attended.

We would not call our situation normal, and it's certainly not all we might hope it would be. Nonetheless, we, the Body of Christ, have begun to gather again, and in that gathering we welcome the Spirit. We can see each other again, and with proper social distancing and mitigation we can share conversations before or after worship. We're no longer isolated.

During this time, hold this passage, and others like it, in your heart: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

The Psalmist reminds us that we cannot escape God's presence:

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. (Psalm 139:7-8)

May God bless you,

Pastor John

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

Vision Statement: Not our will, but God's

WELCOME, SAWYER!

Stevie and Ashley Batsa are proud and happy to announce the birth of their son, Sawyer Michael. Sawyer was born on June 28, 2020. He is the great grandson of Alzene Heining and great nephew of Sherry Heining. Sawyer's big sister, Scarlett, is so happy that he is here. Congratulations to all.



A Note from Julie



"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And He took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10: 14-16.

I chose this favorite verse from Mark as a reminder to all of us that as we enter the month of September, our children and our teachers and our parents of school age children, all of them children of God, will be entering a school year full of doubts and very real fears. Let us keep all of them in our daily prayers .

I hope that as the month moves forward, that more of our congregation will begin to feel more comfortable coming to worship on Sunday mornings. It is comforting looking out from the organ bay and seeing the faces of so many friends.

The bell choir is rehearsing every Thursday evening preparing bell anthems to be presented to the glory of God at worship on Sunday mornings. Moving into the fall, I am going to try to add some vocal music, sung with masks and probably from the chapel. This will ensure an adequate social distance from the singer or singers and the congregation. I will also continue to play some familiar hymns as the "musical meditations" during the worship.

I am going to include my email in this article so if anyone has a hymn suggestion that they would like to hear, I will be happy to use it on a Sunday morning. If by some chance I don't have the music or can't find the music, I'll let you know.

My email is: julsexton@comcast.net

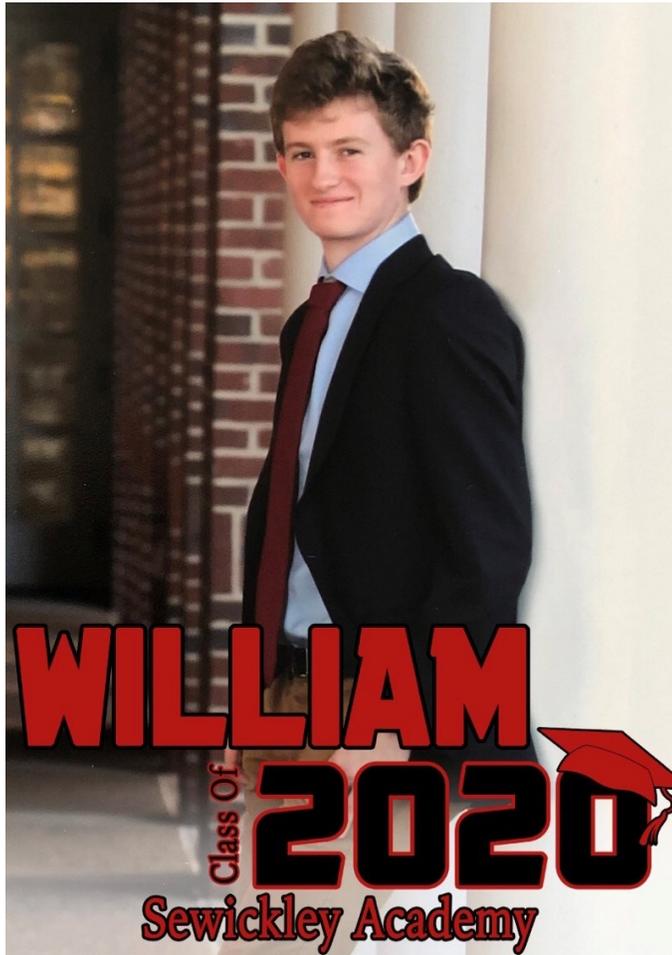
"Lift up your heads ye gates, lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in. Who is he, this King of Glory? The Lord Almighty! He is the King of Glory!"

Love and peace to all,

Julie

Congratulations, Graduates

William Abert Mallah



Will graduated from Sewickley Academy Class of 2020; Accepted into the Honors Program at St. Vincent College. His major is Astro and Bio Physics. Will is the son of Susan and Al Mallah and the grandson of Shirley Holden Robb

Makenzie Franklin



Makenzie graduated from Kindergarten in Latrobe and will enter First Grade in Norvelt Elementary School.

Makenzie is the great granddaughter of Harvey and Helen Noel.



Jared Crawford

Jared graduated from Pennsylvania College of Technology in June of 2020 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Residential Construction Technology and Management.

In 2018 he earned an Associates Degree of Applied Science in Architecture Drafting and Design.

Jared is presently employed as a Field Engineer at the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in Baltimore, MD.

He is the grandson of Dick and Mary Crawford.

Finance Report as of June 30, 2020

On the following page you will find an abbreviated spreadsheet showing our church's finances for the first six months of 2020 in comparison with the same period in 2019. Following is a brief explanation of the categories:

The first few lines show the BALANCES in our regular Commercial Bank checking account (which is used for ordinary expenses), the Repair Fund and a CD at Westmoreland Federal Savings (which is specified for organ repairs). Since the current balance in CNB is somewhat low, our Long Range Planning committee made the decision to transfer \$10,000 from our United Church Funds into the checking account.

The next few lines show a comparison of various INCOME categories. The "Offerings" line includes all forms of offerings (regular Sundays, Lent, etc.). The "Shared Ministry" line shows the contributions from St. John's which help support our church. Note that our regular offerings are about \$5,500 less than the same period last year. We suspect that most of this can be attributed to the restrictions on attendance as a result of the covid pandemic.

The next two lines compare our total EXPENSES for the two six month periods. Our expenses this year are greater than last year primarily because we now have a full time pastor, an expense which we anticipated.

Next are a few lines showing a summary of our INVESTMENTS, most of which are with United Church Funds and some in an annuity. As you will note, the overall value has increased, although, as mentioned above, we just recently transferred \$10,000 into our CNB checking account.

Finally, the last section summarizes the balance in our REPAIR FUND. I want to make special notice of the *average monthly contributions* for the first six months of this year. You have been very generous in your giving to this fund, with contributions more than covering the almost \$1,000 loan payment that we must make every month. This has allowed us to make a \$10,000 payment toward the principal of our loan in February. However, I must also note that we are facing necessary repairs to our roof before winter, a cost estimated at ~ \$15,000.

In summary, the Long Range Planning committee is continuing to monitor our financial situation. We want to thank all members of the church who continue to contribute regular offerings and to those who have made additional contributions to the repair fund. We are living through extraordinary times which have surely affected income for some of you. And the inability to physically attend church likely influences some people's pattern of offerings. We know that you understand that most of the expenses of the church continue, whether the doors are open each week or not. We pray for a return to normalcy which will allow us to re-connect with each other and with our beautiful sanctuary in a more intimate and meaningful way. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

	End of June 2019	End of June 2020
Commercial Bank checking	\$28,139	\$ 6,313
Comm. Bank Repair Fund	\$56,238	\$25,375
W'land Federal	\$ 3,337	\$ 3,358
Total:	\$87,714	\$35,046
Offerings	\$57,964	\$52,488
Shared Ministry (St. John's)	\$5,580	\$ 5,580
Facility use	\$ 550	\$ 300
Total Income:	\$64,094	\$58,368
Total expenses:	\$64,561	\$78,122
Pastor expenses	\$14,950	\$29,239
United Church Funds	\$276,464	\$288,103
United Church Funds	\$ 1,035	\$ 1,053
GBU Annuity	\$26,935	\$28,107
Total:	\$304,434	\$317,263
Repair Fund		
Balance at end of January 2020:		\$29,053
Payment on principal:		\$10,000
Monthly loan repayment:		\$ 989
Avg. monthly contribution first 6 months 2020:		\$2,213
Balance at end of June 2020:		\$25,375

“C” Dollar Bills for the Union Mission - Christ Church Charity

An almost painless way to support the Union Mission

As of August 23, 2020 our accumulated total is
\$342.00.



The donation jar is on the table in the vestibule.

Thanks so much for your support.

Christian Education Committee Update

Sunday School for Children will resume in September. **It will be held on the second and fourth Sunday of every month. In September the dates will be the 13th and the 27th.** Children will meet the teachers in the back of the church following the children's sermon. Sunday School will be held in the Fellowship Hall with social distancing and all teachers and children will wear a mask. Focus will be on the Lord's Prayer and Old Testament bible stories. Parents are welcome to attend if they wish.



Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, September 8 - 10:00 A.M. The discussion will be on *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout - The author continues the life of her beloved Olive Kitteridge, a character who has captured the imaginations of millions.



In October, the group will meet on Tuesday, October 6 at 1000 A.M. and will discuss *Middlemarch* by George Eliot. George Eliot's great novel creates a world and portrays a whole community - tradespeople, middle classes, country gentry - in the rising provincial town of Middlemarch, circa 1830.

SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15. Volunteers will be needed that day at 8:30 A.M. Thanks so much for your help as always.



MINISTERIUM FOOD ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER



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



BIENVENUE will meet on **Wednesday, September 2 at 12:30 PM at the home of Ellen Sautter, 351 Oakridge Lane, Latrobe.** Please bring a lunch and a beverage. All the ladies of the church are welcome.

Lay Life and Mission Update

Lay Life and Mission Committee will hold their monthly meeting on **Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.**

THANKS to all who donated to the Life-Way Pregnancy Center. The total collected from the baby bottles was \$342.18.

Mission of the Month

The Lay Life and Mission Committee has chosen Blackburn Center as our mission for September 2020.

In 1975, a task force of the National Organization for Women met to address rape and sexual assault issues in Westmoreland County. The result was Westmoreland Alliance Against Rape whose hotline answered its first call on December 6, 1976.

Since then, what is now Blackburn Center, has grown to a staff of more than 30, with an active team of volunteers. Through this growth, they have developed an array of services for adult and child victims of sexual assault and domestic violence as well as comprehensive community education and professional in-service training programs.

Blackburn Center will support victims with their shelter, counseling, and advocacy services as long as there are victims who need them.

Items are needed to sustain the shelter. Donations will be welcomed during these months.

CONTACT US

Newsletter Editor, Loretta Staruk - 724-879-8631 - cocoakitty2001@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant, Caryn Dettling

Church Email: christchurchucc@verizon.net

Church Office Phone: 724-537-4901

Christ UCC Website - www.ucclatrobe.org

Pastor John Cofield - 724-537-4901 (office) or 563-357-6171 (cell)

Happy Birthday!

September 5 Theodore Marcinik
September 12 Karen O'Connor
September 13 Richard Crawford, Sr.
September 17 Alice Harr
September 24 Joan Zeiders

Happy Anniversary!

September 14 Don and Amy Burd
September 5 Jim and Karen O'Connor
September 12 Stevie and Ashley Batsa
September 17 Karen and Robert Lihan



Charles and Dorothy Facemyer have moved.

Their new address is:

**Life's Promise
2053 PA 711, Ligonier, PA 15658**

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 4**, World Communion Sunday.



Christ Church Consistory

**Rick Kunkle
Michelle Kutzer
Harvey Noel**

**Jim O'Connor, Acting President
Kenny Repko**

September 2020 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Continue to pray for all affected by Covid 19.		1 Pray for parents of school children.	2 Pray for school students in this unsettled time.	3 Pray for teachers and school administrators.	4 Lift up school support staff – teaching assistants, secretaries, custodians, and food service workers.	5 Pray for those who endeavor to stop bullying in schools.
6 Pray and give thanks for those willing to serve on school boards.	7 Labor Day – pray for the unemployed.	8 Pray for those who work long hours.	9 Pray for those whose daily work is hard or monotonous.	10 Pray for those who are taking their first steps in their skill, trade or profession.	11 Remember those who are under stress at work.	12 Pray for wisdom for those whose professions call for accurate skill and critical decision making.
13 Pray for those who recently lost jobs.	14 Pray for those seeking discernment about a job.	15 Pray for students struggling to pay for school.	16 Pray for all who teach children about God.	17 Pray for students who struggle in school.	18 Ask for strength and reassurance for those who are bringing up families.	19 Pray for those who are struggling with teenage rebellion and self-will.
20 Pray for those with no access to Bibles.	21 Pray for those struggling to find God in this world.	22 First Day of Autumn Praise God for the beauty of the seasons	23 Lift up those who have provided support to you in times of need.	24 Remember the choir and those who share their musical talents for God.	25 Pray for those who struggle to pay their bills.	26 Keep the members of St. John's in prayer today.
27 Pray that God will surround our children and schools with God's protection.	28 Pray for those learning to walk again.	29 Pray for those who are in abusive relationships.	30 Praise God for the lovely countryside around us.	Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with Your most gracious favor and further us with Your continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You, we may glorify Your holy name and finally by Your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.		



SEPTEMBER 2020 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:00 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Bienvenue at Ellen Sautter's Residence	3 6:30 PM Bells	4	5
6 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed	8 10:00 AM Book Discussion	9 10:00 AM Bible Study Consistory Reports Due	10 6:30 PM Bells	11	12
13 11:00 AM Worship Congregational Meeting <i>Sunday School for children follows the children's sermon</i>	14 6:30 PM Consistory	15 8:30 AM Senior Food Distribution 6:30 PM Lay Life Meeting	16 10:00 AM Bible Study October Newsletter Deadline	17 6:30 PM Bells	18	19
20 11:00 AM Worship Alternate Date Congregational Meeting <i>Afternoon Wedding</i>	21	22	23 10:00 AM Bible Study	24 6:30 PM Bells	25	26
27 11:00 AM Worship <i>Sunday School for children follows the children's sermon</i>	28	29	30 10:00 AM Bible Study			