



# THE CHURCH CANDLE

## OCTOBER 2017

A Newsletter of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



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*“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not extinguish the light.” John 1:5*

We would like to express our appreciation to Pastor Kevin and Shannon Arensman who shine their light in the darkness through their service to our church and community. Baskets for cards will be placed at each entrance during the month of October if you would like to express your appreciation to Pastor Kevin and Shannon in this way. Or you may send a card to: 410 Lincoln Street, Sayre PA 18840.

We also thank our church leaders who share their love of God through their service to our church. *Together, we serve to be an “outpost” of God’s Kingdom on Earth: “Bringing hope to our neighborhood and changing the world!”*

### FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY - OCTOBER 1

On the first Sunday of the month, we observe Food Pantry Sunday, asking each family to bring a non-perishable food item to church which will be given to the local food pantry, “Feed My Sheep” at the Athens United Methodist Church on S. Main Street. In September, we collected 44 items. This past Sunday (Oct 1) we gathered 66 items. Some of those items were brought by those who participated in the food packaging event. Thank you to Laura Stephenson for delivering these items monthly.

The Athens United Methodist Church Family responds after the September collection was given. Thank you for your recent donation of food items for our “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry. This ministry continues to serve many families in Sayre and Athens. God bless you for your continuing support. *“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”*

*Proverbs 22:9*

### GUITAR (and Ukulele) Club

#### Free Lessons in October

Free Guitar (and Ukulele) lessons began on Monday, October 2, 2017 in the side vestry from 6:00 -7:30 pm. These are beginner lessons. Experienced players are invited to come for “Guitar Club” at the same time; learning by playing (and singing) together. All ages and levels of experience are welcome, as are other stringed instruments. Call 570-886-0006 for more information.

### STEWARDSHIP DEVOTIONAL

#### “The Community of Prayer”

This year we are offering a stewardship devotional by Bruce Barkhauer who is the minister for Faith & Giving for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) Let’s think about stewardship differently this year. A paragraph from Rev. Barkhauer’s introduction encourages me to use this devotional during the month of October. This is what he has to say:

“Stewardship is not fundraising—it is a spiritual discipline. It is about responding with our whole being to the generosity of God. Stewardship impacts every aspect of life. How unfortunate for us that we have reduced this rich biblical concept to being simply about money. Perhaps the greatest sin of all is that we have made it about budgets and board reports instead of about a life-giving adventure and an invitation to discover deeper joy in discipleship.”

If you choose to read through “The Community of Prayer” for 29 days you will encounter scripture and ideas about stewardship and an opportunity for prayer. This devotional is available at the back of the sanctuary and in the side vestry. Cost is \$5.00. The royalties for this publication benefits the Center of Faith & Giving for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) Envelopes are available for payment. You may place your payment in the offering plate.

Wendy McKeithan

## KEVIN'S KORNER . . .

Words matter! Watching the recent use, and mis-use, of words in our public conversation, I thought that I should consider recent words that I used in worship. On September 24, I stood before you to invite you to join me in celebrating Communion, the Lord's Supper. But I also invited you to consider some words. I reminded you that, as important and central to our worship of God communion is, we do not worship the Lord's Supper. We also do not worship the Bible, as important as it is for our faith and understanding of God. Nor do we worship the church, our building, any of its furnishings, or our practices. Now, all of these things are important. Each of them can help to lead us to a closer faith and relationship with God. But none of them can replace God or our relationship with God. They can each be used for God's purposes. But, if we use any of them as tests of faith to divide some as being closer to God than others, these gifts from God can actually be used to work against God and God's purposes of bringing all people into closer, "right," relationship with God. It is important, as followers of Jesus, for us to choose our words carefully, to never lift any object, practice, or belief, higher than God; or higher than God's purposes; never! I hope we can all agree on this and use it as a starting point for conversation and building deeper understanding and stronger relationships among us.

This can be challenging in our world where so many competing loyalties vie for our allegiance. Some of us have been raised or taught in other faith traditions, which emphasize differing practices and some beliefs. We have loyalties to family, to our nation, to certain values, philosophies or leaders. We have loyalties to friends, employers, associations, even sports teams. It can be challenging to set our priorities between these loyalties, and especially to articulate clearly how we do this. Words matter. We see this issue almost daily in our society where people confuse words or symbols for the values they stand for. Most recently people have used important symbols of nation, flag, and patriotism to divide, diminish, or even de-humanize people or their values; when doing so actually diminishes the values and beliefs that those symbols actually represent. I don't want to take sides, just point out the challenges. Words matter!

I'm looking forward to our "Dinners for 8", which Shannon is helping to organize. These will be fun opportunities to gather around common interests of good food and good relationships. They also will have a little bit of structure to help us to use comfort of food and friendship to deepen our levels of conversation and understanding of each other in order to build stronger relationships, which in turn can help build a stronger church and hopefully, a stronger connection with God and God's purposes. Words will be important, most importantly the word "love," which stands for an attitude, feeling and action, also a description of God and the church, and all true followers of Jesus. Words matter! *Love matters!* Let's practice using words that communicate love! I hope you practice with us over dinner!

Blessings,  
Pastor Kevin Arensman

### **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP for FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD OR GRANDCHILD**

The Elders have given their support to starting a support group for those families who have lost a child or grandchild. The first meeting of this group was held recently with five different families present. This loss can be traumatic and stressful for all. The Elders want to help you through this, not just now but when needed, with God's help. There is no quick fix but remember the greatest support is provided by God and His people. We can come to him in prayer at anytime and anyplace. God does have a plan. We just have to wait for it. So, if you need to talk or listen, come to the Board Room on Sunday at 9:30 am.

Marlene Enlow, Elder

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS**

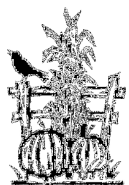
Rick Rava will begin to lead the Adult Sunday School class on **October 8, 2017 at 9:00 am.** The resource used for the Sunday School discussion is "The Lookout," published weekly by Standard Christian Media. "The Lookout" has been written as "The Growing Christian's Weekly Resource." However, the editor previews changes to this publication, beginning with the November 12 issue. Their focus will be to provide a resource that will equip a church member to be a disciple and a disciple maker. Does this sound interesting? Join Rick and the group Sunday morning.

**SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR October 2017**



**ELDER/DEACON:** Susan Hurd, To Be Announced  
**DEACONS:** Bethanne Chernosky, Kathy Rava, Richard Rava, Karen Sykas  
**JR. DEACONS:** Sierra Garrison, Shawn Shaw  
**STEWARDS:** Nancy Swartwood, Margaret Crowley

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**HALLOWEENFEST WILL HAPPEN  
 on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017  
 at the Sayre Christian Church**

Our church will be hosting the fifth HalloweenFest! on the night of **Sayre Trick or Treat Night, Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.** Our church will provide food, “treats,” and music to the neighborhood. Assistance will be needed to help set-up, serve the food (hamburgers and hot dogs, beverages), pass out “treats”, and clean up. If you would like to be part of this special event contact the Church Office, 570-888-2683. Donations of food and candy are welcome.

**REPORT ON GIVING FOR AUGUST 2017**

The following monies are received through our weekly Sunday offering and from the groups that use the building on a weekly basis.

Current Expenses . . . . .	\$5,094.24
Local Outreach . . . . .	\$ 2.00
World Outreach . . . . .	\$ 152.00
Building Fund . . . . .	\$ 912.00

Our congregation donated \$811.00 to Week of Compassion of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the relief of those who are in crisis due to the recent hurricanes. Thank you for your generosity!

**WEDDING NEWS**

**Nick Rava and Casey Leed** became husband and wife on September 16, 2017 by the Ridgebury Lake on a beautiful sunny day. Nick is the son of Rick and Kathy Rava. May God bless this couple in the many years ahead.



**SEED FAITH CIRCLE**

The Seed Faith Circle will gather for dinner on **Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 6:00 pm** at the new Yanuzzi’s Restaurant on Desmond Street. Please contact Wendy McKeithan if you plan to attend. All women of the church are invited to join us for a social time over dinner.

**CONDOLENCES**

We would like to express our sympathy to the family and friends of:

- **Margaret Chamberlain** who passed away on September 20, 2017. Margaret faithfully attended our church many years ago.
- **June Harding** quietly passed away in Maine on September 25, 2017 with her family by her side. June was 99 years old. A memorial service will be held at the church on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 11 am.

We pray that God offers comfort and peace to those who mourn Margaret and June. Beth Thompson Mattison certainly feels the loss of Margaret who was her “best friend.”

*Heaven is a promise of peace, love, and eternal life for each one who believes.*

*“To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”*

*Luke 23:43*



**“STORIES” COFFEEHOUSE  
 PREVIEW**

The Ministry Council has made plans to offer a preview Coffee House on **Thursday, October 26, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Our artist for the night will be Karen Sykas showing and telling about her Face Painting. We are seeking musical entertainment, likely with a Halloween theme. Details will follow. This will be a fun and relaxing evening, which is a great opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, or stranger!

**“SONGS WE LOVE TO SING!”**

On Sunday, **October 29, 2017**, we will once again observe a Sunday praising God with music. You are invited to participate by submitting your favorite hymn or praise song for us to sing, as we offer the message through music. Anyone interested in performing a song, please contact Janet or Kevin. It will be an exciting service! We plan to make this type of service a habit. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we will share the “Songs We Love to Sing!”



## SAMARITAN'S PURSE: Operation Christmas Child

For over twenty years, Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization has coordinated Operation Christmas Child. Individuals are asked to fill a shoebox with various items (school supplies, hygiene items, toys, etc) for a boy or girl, 2-14 years of age. If you would rather not pack a shoebox, donations of items to put in the boxes will also be needed. Containers will be available at each entrance of the church to place your donations. The Outreach Committee would like to encourage church members to support this program. Decorative shoeboxes have been purchased from Samaritan's Purse for everyone to use this year. You may pick up the boxes on Sunday, or from the Church Office, Mon-Friday, noon - 4 pm. Bring boxes/donations to the Sayre Christian Church by **Sunday, November 12, 2017. We will have an Assembly Party to begin after the worship service.** You may also include a personal note in your box with a photo of you and your family. If you include your name and address, and an envelope with a stamp, the child may write back. Boxes will then be delivered to a local Collection Center during the third week of November (November 13-20, 2017). Each box is checked at one of the national centers before it is sent overseas. You may also visit: [samaritanpurse.org/occ](http://samaritanpurse.org/occ) for further details. **Each box costs \$9.00 to ship (new cost.)** Therefore, monetary donations are accepted as well. You may place that in an envelope indicating it is for Operation Christmas Child/shipping.

### Items that can be placed in the box are:

Toys such as dolls, cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, yo-yos, jump ropes, and deflated soccer ball (w/pump), musical instruments, puzzles, etc.

School Supplies such as pens, pencils, crayons or markers, notebooks, coloring books, etc

Non-liquid Hygiene Items such as toothbrush, mild bar soap, comb, washcloth, etc.

### We can not send:

**Candy, toothpaste, (these are new restrictions.)** Used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, seeds, breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers, aerosol cans, liquids or lotions.

### A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR CHOIR

The Senior Choir began to practice at a new time, on Thursday evenings, beginning at 5:45 pm. It is good to hear their combined voices from the choir loft on Sunday morning. Thank you to those who offer their talents to our church, Janet Frisk, our pianist, and Julie Allis who returns as the Choir Director.

**"HALLELUJAH!!!"**

New members are always welcome. See Janet Frisk or Julie Allis if you are interested to join.

### THANK YOU!

I would like to thank my church friends, for their prayers, visits and cards, during my recent surgery, and rehab. God Bless You. Barb Lincoln

It is good to see you on your feet again! Wendy



**THANK YOU!** to all those who contributed to our Food Packaging Event held on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Fifty-sixty volunteers packaged 10,000 meals for school children.

### MY BROTHER'S KEEPER (UGLY QUILTS)

Gloria Riegel, who is our contact with My Brother's Keeper is grateful to all who have contributed to this group. If you haven't heard about them, this ministry (mostly women, but some men) gathers every Tuesday at the Athens United Methodist Church on S. Main Street from 9-noon. They prepare sleeping bags for the homeless. At this time, the group serves six agencies/charities in NY and PA.

They are also creating patchwork quilts as blankets are also needed for the homeless. There is a great demand because the person will often take the blanket with them when they leave the shelter. So, if you are cleaning out and have extra blankets; think about taking them to the Methodist Church.

Helping hands for an hour or two are needed on Tuesday. All you need to do is tie a knot. If you are unable to go on Tuesday, materials can be taken home to sew the basic 7 x 7 foot squares together. If you have any questions, contact Gloria Riegel, 570-888-0885.

*I shall pass thru this world but once. Any good I can do, or any kindness that I can show any human being, let me do it now and not defer it. For I shall not pass this way again.*  
Stephen Grellet

## A THOUGHT OR 2 FROM PAULA . . .

### Why Attend Sunday Worship Service?

You hear it a lot, why go to church? What do I need church for anyway? I believe in God, I don't need Church. But, don't we need it really, doesn't scripture compel us to worship God? Can we worship God in isolation? I can witness to the fact that worship in a communal setting, Church, can and does change lives. You cannot truly claim to be a Christian if you don't attend a Christian worship service. Regular participation in worship with a family of believers has been proven to transform worldviews and alter Christian's actions. To quote Gail Ramshaw in her book *Christian Worship – 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals* "In one way or another, worship will affect the individual, the community, the social order, and perhaps even the cosmos" (202). For centuries there has been an order or *ordo* to Christian worship: the gathering, the word, the meal, and the sending. This is what we follow every Sunday morning at Sayre Christian Church.

The worshippers gather and worshipping with the community strengthens our resolve to believe. It is comforting to be in the presence of others who believe as we do. When one is missing we feel the absence because each person's presence enriches the other (Ramshaw, 203). We are all a part of the body of Christ and part of each other. Many of us develop deep and meaningful relationships from the community gathered in Worship. For some these are our family as much as the family we are born into. We help each other, we mourn together, and we rejoice together, that is what a community of worshippers is and should be.

We receive the word of God at worship. How many of us who don't attend worship regularly read scripture? Scripture provides us with moral compasses, we strengthen our faith through the reading of scripture and through the interpretations provided in the sermons and discussions with fellow believers. "Hearing the word reminds the assembly that in every time and place, humans have suffered" (Ramshaw, 207). We need those reminders that encourage us to work to alleviate the suffering of others and to help the less fortunate.

The meal is a symbol for many things, when families gather there is food. The bread and wine shared in the meal around the table, communion, is a symbol of the goodness of the harvest that God provides. It is a symbol of the mystery of the Last Supper, the bread is Christ's body and the wine [juice] is his blood of the new covenant. Communion is also a reminder for us that food is best consumed when it is shared with others, we share this bread and wine symbolically with believers around the world, *all* are welcome at the table.

Finally, we are sent to share the good news to the community outside the walls of our building. We begin our week with praise and gratitude and we carry that with us throughout the week. It is a little like gassing up before a trip; on Sunday mornings in the worship service we receive the fuel of the Spirit so we can face the world with an attitude of gratitude. We are to share that feeling with others, to be 'salt and light' adding flavor and direction to a community so that by our example they can see what God is like.

These are the reasons Christians have worshipped for 100,000 Sundays. I am happy to be part of that group of worshippers. Maybe we can consider these reasons the next time someone asks, "Why go to Church?"

Source of quotes:

Ramshaw, Gail. *Christian Worship - 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009. Print

Paula Kraus, Chairperson of the Board/Seminarian

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 01- Nathan Preiser
- 04 - Stephanie Boockoff
- 06 - Shawn Shaw
- 07 - David Mareck
- 08 - Paula Kraus
- 10 - Dolores Smith, Benjamin Clark Fiske
- 15 - David Wright Jr.
- 16 - Justin Hazelton
- 19 - Tiffany Robert
- 22 - Marge Orłowski, Jay Sinsabaugh, Shirley Rolls

*Special birthday wishes are sent to  
Jay Sinsabaugh and Marge Orłowski  
who are members of our 90-year Club!*

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 2 - Jim & Marcy Spowls
- 4 - David & Laurel Mareck
- 7 - Jerry & Nancy Bradley
- 19 - Mark & Julie Allis
- 22 - Steve & Denise Hurd

### CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

On October 29, 2017, we will honor all those who celebrate a birthday or anniversary this month. Since it is the fifth Sunday of the month, we will celebrate with a fellowship dinner after the worship service in Matthew's Place (side vestry.) Plan to join us for fellowship and good food!

Sayre Christian Church  
427 S. Keystone Avenue  
Sayre PA 18840-1527  
Church Office: 1-570-888-2683  
E-Mail: sayrechristianchurch@gmail.com  
[www.sayrechristianchurch.org](http://www.sayrechristianchurch.org)  
Kevin Arensman, Pastor



## THE "CHURCH CANDLE" October 2017

### UPCOMING EVENTS - OCTOBER 2017

#### October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

- October 1 Food Pantry Sunday  
Reconciliation Offering Received
- 8 Adult Sunday School begins at 9 am
- 10 Church Board Meeting at 6 pm
- 17 Seed Faith Circle at 6 pm  
will meet at Yanuzzi's Restaurant
- 26 "Stories" Coffeehouse Preview 7-9 pm
- 29 Commitment Sunday  
Celebration Sunday!
- 31 HalloweenFest! from 6-8 pm  
Food, Music, and Fun!

Like Us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/SayreChristian](http://www.facebook.com/SayreChristian)



**HALLOWEENFEST!**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017**  
**SAYRE TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT**  
**6-8 PM**  
at the  
Sayre Christian Church  
427 S. Keystone Avenue  
Food, Music, and Fun!