



# THE CHURCH CANDLE

## OCTOBER 2023

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

**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY ...** On the first Sunday of the month, our church family observes Food Pantry Sunday. Each family is asked to bring a non-perishable food item which will be given to the "Feed My Sheep" Food Pantry. In September, 76 food items were delivered. Thank you to Oliver McKeithan for taking the food to the Methodist church.

A note from the Athens United Methodist Church - "Thank you for your recent donations of food and money to our Feed My Sheep Food Pantry. Generosity like yours enables us to keep serving over 100 families each month. We are so blessed by your faithful giving." (Proverbs 19:17)

*Our church family would like to express their Sympathy to the friends and family of:*



**Sandy Keener**, who passed away on August 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Athens Healthcare and Rehab Center. Sandy is the wife of Gerould Keener, Sandy and Gerould had been married for 66 years.

### FREE COMMUNITY DINNER Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

Our church will be sponsoring a free community dinner this year, to be held at the Church of the Redeemer on the last Thursday of the month, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The Local Outreach Fund provides \$100 to pay for the food for the dinner. The meal is no longer served take-out but is available in the fellowship area of the church.

Three or four volunteers are needed to help serve the meal from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are asked to come to the church by 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. Desserts are also needed. If you would like to serve or provide dessert, please contact Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008.

### CONGRATULATIONS ...

To Jim Barber and Bev Anderson as they welcome their great-grandson, **James Parker IV**. James was born weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20 1/2". Baby James and mom, Courtney, Jim's granddaughter, are doing great.



To Sheila Donovan on the birth of her new grandson, **Oliver Wark**. Oliver was born on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Parents are Catherine and Jimmy Wark.

### SEED FAITH CIRCLE ...

All women of the church are invited to a social evening on **Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**. Every third Tuesday of the month, a group gathers at a local restaurant to share a meal and fellowship.

This month, the group will go to Tomasso's Restaurant in Chemung, NY. We will meet at the restaurant at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to go, please contact Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008.



### THE COOKBOOK ...

"Gathered Around the Table: Delectable Dishes from the East Central District of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)" will be available for sale the first week of November.



## PASTOR PAULA’S PAGE

Dear Church,

October is upon us, by now you are aware of some changes at Sayre Christian Church about which I am excited. The first change is that beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> Hope Words will no longer be on the radio. I will record Hope Words daily and post them on the Facebook page. I know this is sad for some who enjoy listening to them during their workdays, however the cost of these recordings was too prohibitive for us to continue.

That said, due partially to this change, we can offer to you at no cost a subscription Christian video streaming service that you can access at any time. This service can be compared to Netflix for Christians with thousands of videos, children’s content, bible study content, etc. that you can access on your phones or computers – any time you wish. You can share this service with family, with your children and grandchildren and the church is footing the bill. By now, those of you with e-mail addresses we know have received an announcement and invitation to create an individual account. I hope you take advantage of this service for yourself and for your families. If you haven’t gotten an e-mail announcement from me or from the vendor, RightNow Media, and you are interested in this video streaming service call the church office and give us a valid e-mail address so the invitation can be sent to you directly. We will also be able to use this video service for bible study and Sunday school content. We have prayed for a long time for ways to reach youth in our community, while this service is currently available to you as members, we hope to make it available to a wider population of youth through your contact with your children and grandchildren.

I want to close this with these words of prayer *“May God bless you, keep you be gracious to you. May God give you grace never to sell yourself – or God – short. Grace to risk something big for something good. Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. So may God take your mind and think through it. May God take your lips and speak through them. May God take your hands and do good with them. May God take your heart and set it on fire. Amen”* (from Cameron Trimble “Searching for the Sacred”)

Blessings, Pastor Paula



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### SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2023

**ELDER:** To Be Determined / **STEWARDS:** Nancy Swartwood and Margaret Crowley

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This information will get you started on your video steaming adventure! As I noted in my letter to the church this month we are providing you with access to thousands of Christian content videos to stream on your home computer, iPads / tablets, TVs, or phones. Click this link to go to the registration page and set up your FREE account to this service - <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/sayrecc> OR text the code SAYRECC to 49775 to receive a text back welcoming you to RightNow Media and providing you with the invite link to register. You can also scan this QR code which will take you to the invite link as well. (Share this with your children and grandchildren!!!)

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## HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 01 — Nathan Preiser
- 03 — Joshua Wurmbrand
- 05 — Jacob Michael Rava
- 06 — Shawn Shaw
- 07 — David Mareck
- 08 — Paula Kraus
- 10 — Benjamin Clark Fiske
- 10 — Dolores Smith
- 15 — David Wright, Jr.
- 16 — Justin Hazelton
- 19 — Tiffany Robert Wendela
- 21 — Tamara Stanton
- 22 — Shirley Rolls
- 23 — Patricia Sjostrom
- 25 — Gayle MacDowall
- 30 — Jane Donahoo
- 31 — Parvin Mensch



## HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES ...

- 01 — Parvin and Valerie Mensch
- 02 — Jim and Marcy Sprowls
- 04 — David and Laurel Mareck
- 19 — Mark and Julie Allis
- 22 — Steve, Jr. and Denise Hurd

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## CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

**Celebration Sunday!** will be observed on **October 29<sup>th</sup>**. All those who have a birthday or anniversary during this month will be recognized. Afterwards, there will be a Pot Luck get together in Matthew's Place. Bring your favorite dish to share. Please stay for the celebration!

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## 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 years to 14 years of age. These boxes are sent to children in third world countries. This has become a year round ministry for the Samaritan's Purse.

Brochures and decorative boxes will be available in the sanctuary beginning on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no need to wrap the box. Each box costs \$10 to ship. It is appreciated if you pay this cost. Place the money in the envelope provided with the brochure and place in the box, on the top. Checks can be written to "Samaritan's Purse." Donations will be accepted for the boxes.

A container will be placed by the table at the front door of the sanctuary. Please return boxes to the church by Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be delivered to a collection station during National Collection Week, November 13<sup>th</sup> through November 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## LET US PRAY ...

Ric Rava  
Don and Donna Johnson  
Mike Spencer  
Bonnie Beley  
Our Friends in Nursing  
Homes



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**BEST OF LUCK TO ... Justin Hazelton,** who has started classes for Automotive Courses at Alfred State. He graduated from Newark Valley High School in 2021. Justin is Joan Nolan's grandson and Nancy Swartwood's nephew.

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## THE “CHURCH CANDLE” OCTOBER 2023

### *Important Dates for October ....*

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> — World Communion Sunday**

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School **every** Sunday

Food Pantry Sunday this morning

Reconciliation Ministry Offering

Christmas Child Boxes are available

**Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 3 p.m. - Elder/Deacons Meet**

**Wednesdays** - 10 a.m. - Bible Study

**Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 p.m. - Celebration of**

Life for Mary Ann Musto / Reception to follow

**Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m. - Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m. - Seed Faith Circle**

Dinner Out at Tomasso’s Restaurant

**Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. -**

Community Dinner at the Church of the Redeemer

**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> - Celebration Sunday - Come**

and celebrate October Birthdays and October Anniversaries, following the Worship Service.

**1:00 p.m. - Worship at the Athens Healthcare & Rehab Center**



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