Descriptive Summary:

**Title:** Christ United Methodist Church Papers

**Date Span:** 1949-1988

**Acquisition Number:** N/A

**Creator:** Christ United Methodist Church

**Donor:** Christ United Methodist Church

**Date of Acquisition:** 1988

**Extent:** 7 reels

**Format:** Microfilm; 16mm filmed with a 34X lens

**Language:** English

**Location:** The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State

**Processed:** Arranged and indexed 1988, Clarence E. Spitzer; reprocessed 2017, Hope Dunbar

Information on Use:

**Access:**
The Christ United Methodist Church Papers is open for research. Materials are only available on microfilm for access within the department. Appointment required.

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Preferred Citation:
[Description and dates], Box/Item/Reel number, Christ United Methodist Church Papers, The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State.

Biographical Note:
Christ United Methodist Church is located at 350 Saratoga Road in Amherst, NY. The church was founded in 1945 by Pastor Glenn Alty Crafts who was a former Navy Chaplain during WWII. Crafts served as senior minister until 1965 when he was appointed to Grace Methodist Church in Rochester, NY. From humble beginnings, the church grew exponentially within the 1950’s as Buffalo’s suburban community expanded; the congregation expanding by ten times within ten years. In 1962, after years of planning, the church incorporated a new sanctuary and bell tower. The bell was cast by Buckeye Bell Foundry in Cincinnati, OH in 1867. The sanctuary was a designed space for mothers of young children allowing them to listen to the sermon while simultaneously care-giving. Together, the sanctuary and bell cost a substantial $368,585.

1964 saw the church expand its services to include three on Sunday; the 5 P.M. mass being the first of its kind in the area. On 4/13/1966, the churches Women’s Society for Christian Service hosted an original satire, “Drive out the Devil.” The successful event included 200 members of the church. In addition to the church sponsoring Hungarian and Czechoslovakian refugee families, they also hosted Swedish exchange students and donated a bell to a church in Kocki, Japan.

Although now there are only two Sunday services, the church still plays an important role in the community. As of 2017, in addition to a place of worship, the church serves as a venue for achieving personal growth. For example, Christ United holds meetings for ‘food addicts in recovery.’ Moreover, the church incorporates various programs into their mission that include: the annual ‘Make a Difference Day,” SPCA Collections, and Electronic Recycling Drives.

In addition, the church’s lower east wing now serves as a Cooperative Preschool, “Amherst Nursery School.” Originating in 1938 as a study group by mothers of preschool children and one teacher, it would become Western New York’s first cooperative nursery school. The NYS accredited school currently consists of five classrooms, a large playroom, a music room, an outdoor playground and an office.

-Composed and researched by Mat Crissey, Museum Studies Graduate Program, 2017
Scope and Contents:
Administrative records; Church leger; church membership; church programs; committee records; conference reports and materials; ephemera; event programs; financial reports and records; funeral programs; guidelines; letters; minutes; newspaper clippings; personal letters; photographs; planning reports; printed programs; records of marriages, deaths, and baptisms; reports of the pastor; scrapbooks; and tax records.

Inventory: See below.
Index and Introduction to

The Microfilmed

Christ United Methodist Church Historical Archives

(7 rolls)

Part of

The Buffalo State College Regional History Collection

Copies of the microfilmed titles are housed in
The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections,
E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State

Arrangements were made for microfilming the papers by Dr. James McDonnell, Professor of History at Buffalo State College. The filming was supervised by Monroe Fordham, also Professor of History at Buffalo State College.

The papers were organized and indexed by Clarence E. Spitzer, Chair of the church's Archives and History Committee.

The 16MM film was filmed with a 34X lens
February 24, 1988

Dr. Monroe Fordham, Chair
Department of History
SUNY College at Buffalo
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Dear Sir:

The Archives and History Committee of Christ United Methodist Church would like to cooperate with the Department of History of Buffalo State College in the microfilming of our church records. Our Administrative Board approved this request at a meeting on February 25, 1988.

Dr. James McDonnell has spoken to our committee in regard to many of the details involved in such a project and recommends our action in getting in touch with you.

Our records are already in good condition and quite extensively indexed. We would be able to take the documents to the College and pick them up when finished.

Will you please let me know whether your department can take on this project and what time considerations would exist?

Sincerely,

Clarence E. Spitzer
Chair, Archives and History Committee
Kinds of material in the collection are listed below. These can relate to any administrative or program category. The symbols and categories below do not refer to what is collected but only to the form in which we have collected them.

A  Artifacts, 5-dimensional objects
B  Booklets, brochures, programs, folders, leaflets
Bitn  Bulletins of Sunday morning services
C  Callers
D  Documents - minutes, letters, cards, memos, awards, flyers, small posters
N  Newspaper clippings
No  Notebooks, scrapbooks, bound collections
P  Photographs
S  Slides
T  Tapes - audio, video

Subject categories of the material in the church archives

100       ADMINISTRATION of the church
101       Pastors
101.1     Glenn Alty Crafts
101.2     Lawrence Elliott
101.5     Clytus Mowry
101.4     James Pollard
101.5     James B. Burwell
101.6     Calvin Sheasley
101.7     Marvin Krieger
101.8     John Pascoe
101.9     Carl Lindquist
101.10    Richard Harrington
101.11    Larry Beman
101.12    Edward Read
101.15    Ted Anderson

102       Charge Conference Proceedings (annual conf. of local church)
105       Administrative Board minutes and related material
104       Trustees’ minutes and related material
104.1     Community use of building
105       Building planning, related ceremonies
106       Financial records - Financial Secretary, Treasurer
106.1     Commission on Finance
106.2     Campaigns for annual giving, annual budgets
106.5     Campaigns for special funds
106B      Membership records
Christ United Methodist Church

107 Pastor-Parish Relations, other personnel matters
107.1 Employees, staff
108 Communications
108.1 Christ Church Caller
108.2 Newspaper coverage, releases
108.5 Communications Committee
108.4 Directories
108.5 Scrapbooks of miscellany
108.6 General Mailing, multi-topic

109 Time and Talent cards
110 Committee on Nominations
111 Visitors' Packet
111.1 Welcome cards
112 Building views, exterior/interior
115 Individuals in church activities
114 Visiting clergy
115 Surveys, all-church studies
116 Pre-1949 material
117 Archives and History Committee
118 Ideas and long range planning committee

200 PROGRAM of the church
201 Worship services - bulletins, sermons, Advent and Lenten folders, aids to private devotions, songbooks
202 Council on Ministries/ minutes, related material
205 Commission on Discipleship (or Evangelism), spiritual concern
204 Commission on Education, related committees
204.1 Sunday School student material
204.2 Sunday School activity
204.5 Vacation Church School
204.4 Summer camps
204.5 Sunday School teacher material
204.6 Education promotion
205 Commission on Missions
205.1 Mission events
205.2 Parsons family, Japan
206 Commission on Worship, Music Committee
206.1 Special services, concerts, recitals
206.2 Choir
206.5 Greeters, ushers, acolytes
207 Commission on Social Concerns
207.1 Special programs, drives
208 Ministries, Councils - Children's. Family Life, Youth, Adult, Mature Years
209 Junior High Youth Fellowship
209.1 Retreats, projects

210 Senior High Youth Fellowship
210.1 Local church projects, retreats
210.2 Philadelphia
210.5 Tyrand Parish series
210.4 South Bronx
210.5 Other projects outside local church

211 Adult Education Committee
211.1 Sunday seminar records
211.2 Sunday seminar sessions, content
212 United Methodist Women, WSCS
212.1 Historical scrapbooks
212.2 Circle activities
212.5 UMW activities, projects
215 Altar Guild
214 Library Committee
215 Sampler Committee
215.1 Series promotion

217 Ceremonies, anniversaries (except those regarding buildings), weddings, funerals, confirmation, joining church, baptisms not during church service
218 Men's Club, Retired Men
219 Singles' groups, young marrieds' groups, Mr. & Mrs. Club
220 Other material related to Christ Church (except administrative), all-church events, interest groups

500 OUTSIDE local church: activities of members and pastors
500.1 Methodist district, conference, jurisdictional, national
500.2 Ecumenical
500.5 Personal notices, non-church activities
501 Material relating to historical, educational, technical programs beyond the local church