



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY
"Making Connections & Offering Opportunities
for Faith, Love & Service"

Weekly Update – April 1



Broken

This little bunny was presented to me with a plea of repair. Among Amelia's toys, this one is a character which I play, have invented a backstory for, provide a specific voice to, and is a key figure among the animal families occupying Honeysuckle Hollow. Reassuring the watery eyes that repair was possible, superglue was sought to reattach the broken limb.

This scene is reminiscent to me of the words and actions of Jesus to make us whole. With eyes filled with sadness at our broken state, one leaving us unable to connect to God and connect to / be fully part of the community, we are presented for repair. This repair we call repentance and forgiveness. The superglue is the grace of God in the cross of Christ, the only thing which can offer us wholeness from our current broken, fallen state. And once this salve is applied, so begins our re-acquaintance and introduction to the possibilities of a full life with God as the person God knows us to be and in community.



Will the bunny every be perfect? No, the scar will always remain and the ear will never be perfectly aligned despite my best efforts. Will we be perfect? Truthfully, those scars of who we were, of life apart from God will remain. But perfection is possible in our relationship with God and to one another as we work in life to align the holiness of our hearts to the holiness of our lives. And that is something for all of Honeysuckle Hollow to celebrate!

-Pastor Daven



All church activities are currently suspended. We do, however, have audio recordings available on our website and videos on our YouTube channel, as well as links on our Facebook page, for you to take part in at your convenience! Our website will be the place where we have all opportunities available as they are posted. We desire to remain connected as much as possible via online opportunities during this time.

[Click here to be connected to our website.](#)

[Click here to be directed to our Facebook page.](#)

[Click here to check out our YouTube channel.](#)

Finance Update

Thank you for your continued support through this time. The prayers, words of encouragement, efforts to remain connected and engaged in ongoing opportunities for faith, love and service are inspiring. Our primary concern remains the health and welfare of the community.

Suspending all activities in and of Christ Church within our physical building was a challenging decision, but we know it was the right one. While we knew this would minimize some expenses in a reduction of utility use, we understood this action would have consequences to our fiscal health and ministry plan through lost revenue in groups meeting at the church and weekly giving. Through careful financial management, Christ Church remains in a sound position with 6-9 months of financial reserves for maintaining current expenses. The decision was reached to take the endowment disbursement early to inject further capital, providing additional security through these uncertain

times. Also, initially we committed to maintain all staff of Christ Church at full compensation through April 20, 2020.

The Church Council will be meeting via Zoom this coming Tuesday as we begin to strategize through mid- and long-range planning, which will explore the impact not only to this year's ministry plan, but likely many more beyond. If you are in a position to maintain your giving / pledge, please do so by mailing them to the church or using our online giving platform which can be found [on our website](#).

We remain committed and are doing all we can both during this time and with eyes beyond it to live into our vision of Making Connections and Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love and Service. Thank you for your support in prayers, encouragement, connection, and giving.

In Christ's Service,
The Finance Team

Ways to Make a Difference

Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families

In addition to the food that goes to local food pantries, Christ Church serves local families in need. The following items are needed: **cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, deodorant, and soap.**

The Tiger's Den is **collecting spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, and tomato paste** during **April**. They also request **paper bags** and **reusable shopping bags (NOT plastic bags)** to pack groceries.

Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 12 pm

All activities of and in Christ Church are suspended through April 30. Please call the office (839-2460) or Pastor Daven (903-6024) with any questions or concerns.

Daily Bible Reading – 2020 *Shaping Our Life Experience*

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

April 1: Judges 6-7; Luke 8:1-21

April 2: Judges 8-9; Luke 8:22-56

April 3: Judges 10-11; Luke 9:1-36

April 4: Judges 12-14; Luke 9:37-62

April 5: Judges 15-17; Luke 10:1-24

April 6: Judges 18-19; Luke 10:25-42

April 7: Judges 20-21; Luke 11:1-28

In Our Healing Prayers

Chuck Gilbert - minor heart attack, at home

Scott Smith - dealing with medical issues

Bruce Burr, Helen Peacock, Dick Ball, Sissie Mooney, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Joe & Carolyn Day, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola

*Those affected with COVID-19 and all impacted by the suspension of work and activities.

*Those who are **care partners** with others

*Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson, serving in the US Navy

