



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

## Weekly Update –April 14

### *Rainbows*

I saw this sign in the sky last week as I was dashing around trying to accomplish too much in too little time. Frustrated by everything, muttering at traffic, tortured by my own imposed demands - at war with myself and the world around me - it stopped me. I paused rather than rushing out into traffic to just look at the glory of the colors splashed across the heavens. The magnificence of color in combination, the way it appears on what feels the darkest of days and times, and the calm it seems to evoke reached deep within me.



I thought of the story of the origins of the rainbow following the flood, contemplated God's promise and covenant, and pondered its call to us. A covenant is a promise between parties. In God's case, the rainbow was the sign of the covenant between God and all life that God would not visit such calamity upon the face of the earth again. While Genesis does not speak of the demand to us, what the rainbow reminds us is that if God makes such a promise then we, too, are to live into this same promise.

Jesus comes in the season of resurrection with words of peace in each visit. It is more than greeting, but inspirational and aspirational of what followers of Christ are to embody to the world. The rainbow appears time and again throughout our lives in the dark sky as another reminder of this, to let go of our hostility, anger, frustration, and violence; to repent of our sin; to seek forgiveness and give forgiveness; and to embody peace to ourselves and our world. As we do this, the spectrum that will be made visible

through the community formed will be as inspiring as the rainbow.  
God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Gen. 9:12-13

-Pastor Daven

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*Worship is available on Sunday mornings at 10am,  
both in person and online!*

*Live-streamed worship will be available beginning at 10am each Sunday,  
with a direct link posted on our website and Facebook page to our  
livestream: [www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live](http://www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live)*

*Recordings of each service will also be available on our YouTube channel for  
viewing once the service has ended.*

Please be advised of new guidelines for those wishing to worship together in person at Christ Church:

- All will be required to wear a mask. We will have a limited supply of masks on hand for those who come without one.
- Enter through one door at the main entrance.
- Use hand sanitizer at the provided station before entering the Sanctuary.
- Maintain social distancing (6 feet apart) from those not within your immediate family.
- Please do not enter the building if you are experiencing any symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, chills, diarrhea).

*We will continue to provide online opportunities for worship and connection.* Our [YouTube channel](#) is the best way to find new content and worship services. We encourage you to 'Subscribe' to our channel! You'll be notified each time new content is uploaded, and the more subscribers we have, the less ads will appear!

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

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

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

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## *This Week at Christ Church*

### **Winter Office Hours:**

*Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday  
9a.m. - 2p.m.*

*At all times, even during office hours, the building will remain locked. Please call for admittance.*

**Sunday, April 18** – Native American Ministries Sunday  
**10 a.m.** - Worship Service  
*In-Person and Live-Stream*

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### *Daily Bible Reading – 2021 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 14: 1 Samuel 15-16; Luke 14:25-35

April 15: 1 Samuel 17-18; Luke 15:1-10

April 16: 1 Samuel 19-21; Luke 15:11-32

April 17: 1 Samuel 22-24; Luke 16:1-18

April 18: 1 Samuel 25-26; Luke 16:19-31

April 19: 1 Samuel 27-29; Luke 17:1-19

April 20: 1 Samuel 30-31; Luke 17:20-37

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## *In Our Healing Prayers*

-**Dave Mitchell** – pacemaker procedure tomorrow

-**Sandy Cumming** – hospitalized following successful procedure yesterday

Carolyn Day, Kevin Cetola, Paul Staley, Scott Smith, Debbie Laberta, Dave Wolf, Laura June Merrill, Helen Peacock, Mary Gerhardt (Mother of Lisa Lawson), Lynda Painton, Sue Estee, Ruth Munson, Nancy & Frank Annunziata, Joe & Carolyn Day, Dick Ball, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Jean Ericson

\*Those affected with COVID-19, those working on the front lines, and all impacted by the changes of work and activities.

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

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

## Sunday, May 2 is Bring a Young Person to Church Day!



Following 10am worship on **May 2**, the Children's Ministry Team will lead children, youth, parents, grandparents, and friends in a flag making activity from **11am-1pm** in honor of Earth Day! Art materials will be provided, please bring a mask and your creative ideas!

All are invited! Register with the church office at [cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:cumc350@gmail.com) so that we have enough supplies for everyone.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

### *Altar Flowers*

The flowers on the Lord's Table for Sunday, April 18 are given by Diane Klenk in memory of Chris Klenk's birthday on April 22 (Earth Day!).

### *Native American Ministries Sunday - April 18*

This Sunday we will receive a special offering that directly supports Native American congregations as they minister in their communities, while honoring creative expressions of culture and heritage. The offering also provides scholarships for Native American seminary students. Through our denominational connection and our offering, we live out our commitment to repentance, healing, forgiveness and love

## *Mission Of The Month*

During the month of April, the Outreach Team will provide a food bin by the Church entrance to collect goods for HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS. This organization works tirelessly to bring meals, necessities, and comfort to those in need.



We will be collecting: **canned beef stew, chili, baked beans, canned potatoes, canned carrots, spaghetti sauce, & parmesan cheese.**

Thank you for sharing God's love!

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## *Custodian Position*

We are hiring! A job description and online employment form are available on our website for those interested in applying. You can find both under the "Staff" menu heading on [the Custodian page](#).



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## *CUMC Identity - Questions to Ponder*

A small team has been meeting over the past few months to discuss the identity of our Church, so we better understand ourselves, tell our story to the community, and invite others into our community. Over the next few weeks, we invite you to ponder the following questions:

- **Why does Christ Church exist?**
- ***Other than the people*, why do you come to Christ Church?**
- **What would you nurture in our Church to see it through to the future?**

A fillable Google Docs form is available on our website under the "News" section, or [click this link](#). Team chairs will also be discussing these questions with their groups. We look forward to your response as we take stock of where we've been, where we are, and as we imagine what the future will hold!

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