

# Weekly Update: April 19, 2016

## A Word From Janelle...

This past weekend a group of women from Christ Church went to the United Methodist House at Lake Chautauqua for a time of rest, relaxation, and lots of laughter (check out some pictures from the weekend on our Facebook page)! Rev. Mary Martin facilitated discussion around the theme of “Sabbath”- taking time away to focus on our needs and spending time getting in touch with God.

In what ways can you spend time refreshing your soul this week? A cup of coffee with a good friend? A walk outside enjoying the gentle spring breezes on your face? Time spent with family while the phones are put away and the television is off? A few quiet moments of prayer as you begin and end your day? God made us all unique with different ways of being refreshed and re-energized. Find what works for you and be intentional in setting aside time to have a Sabbath rest.

It was a joy to baptize Sophia Evelyn Swist at the 9 a.m. worship celebration on Sunday morning! We also rejoice with Darryl as he is in Trinidad this week celebrating the marriage of Darryl Jr. and spending time with family.

Join us for worship this Sunday! Invite a friend to come as we strive to live out the mission and ministry of Christ Church – to be a place of hospitality that “lives Christ’s ways and explodes with love and service!”

## What is the General Conference and Why Is It Important?

In May, 2016, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will convene for a 10-day session in Portland, Oregon. The General Conference, which meets every four years, is the body that governs The United Methodist Church and approves the mission, organization, policies, agencies and The Book of Discipline – the document that guides the church in its global mission.

How is it structured? Who votes? What proposals and issues are on the agenda for the 2016 General Conference? How will the decisions of the General Conference affect the local churches, annual conferences, and program and administrative agencies of the church in fulfilling the mission of the church “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?”

**On two Saturday mornings, April 23 and April 30, you are invited to participate in “An Overview of the 2016 General Conference. The sessions will be led by Rev. James Pollard, and meet from 9:30 am – 11:30 am on each Saturday at Christ UMC. Conference Lay Leader, Scott Johnson, a delegate to the Conference will also be present for details and questions.**

**Session 1, on April 23, will describe the organization and process of decision-making of the General Conference, and will begin an overview of the major reports and recommendations on the agenda. You will also be invited to share in a district-wide prayer vigil for the General Conference.**

**Session 2, on April 30, will continue a review of the various proposals .that will be in consideration.**

Although not essential, it will be helpful to you if you download and print a General Conference Guide, which is available at [http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website\\_Properties/general-conference/2016/documents/gc2016-guide.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/general-conference/2016/documents/gc2016-guide.pdf) (Note: 50 pages).

*You are invited...*  
*To a Recital of Great Masterworks*  
*and Victorian Confections*  
*by Paul Staley, organist*  
*Sunday, April 24 at 4:00 pm*  
*at Christ Church*

### **Sleepover!! Children and Youth! – Saturday, May 14 - 4 pm**

We'll be filled with the Spirit for this sleepover – preparing the church for Pentecost Sunday – May 15. Projects include tie dying, banner & pin wheel making, cupcake baking & more! Join us and celebrate the birthday of the church!

*Sign up on the bulletin board located at the bottom of the stairs.*

### **Daily Bible Reading – 2016      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 19: 1 Samuel 27-29; Luke 17:1-19

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

April 21: 2 Samuel 1-3; Luke 18:1-17

April 22: 2 Samuel 4-6; Luke 18:18-43

April 23: 2 Samuel 7-9; Luke 19:1-28

April 24: 2 Samuel 10-12; Luke 19:29-48

April 25: 2 Samuel 13-14; Luke 20:1-26

April 26: 2 Samuel 15-16; Luke 20:27-47

## In Our Prayers

**JOY!** Darryl is celebrating the marriage of Darryl Jr. in Trinidad this week

**Elvira Gonzalez** – now at Weinberg Campus

**Glenn Hurst** – Buffalo General Hospital

**Guy Castellino's father, Gaetano, Sr.** – ICU at St. Joseph's Hospital

**Patty Keller** – upcoming surgery

**John Lopez** – health concerns

**Nancy & Frank Annunciata** - recovering at home

**All who are caregivers for others**

**New pastor appointment process**

**Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson\* (deployed)** – all serve in the US Navy

## This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, April 19 – Noon – Rachel Circle

7:30 pm – Trustees

Wednesday, April 20 – 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 21 - 10 am – Life Lessons

Saturday, April 23- 9:30 am – General Conference Overview

10 am – Crafting for a Cause

Sunday, April 24 – 5th Sunday of Easter John 13:31-35; Acts 11:1-18; Rev. 21:1-6

“Shift” – Guest Speaker: Peggy Bermudez

**4 pm – Spring Organ Recital**

## Opportunities to Make A Difference

**Food Pantry** – This weeks suggested items:

April 17 – Canned Fruits & Vegetables (low sodium)

April 24 – Rice & Beans

*All food items, paper products and toiletry items are welcome anytime.*

Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!

## **We're Collecting! - Check around your home as you do your Spring cleaning!**

Baby Clothes – newborn to 6X - *for Baby Blessings*

Clothing Items – new & gently used - *for Clara's Closet*

Women's interview appropriate suits and blouses,

Professional separates, work appropriate shoes, jewelry, scarves,

handbags – reg. & plus sizes - *For Dress For Success*

Clothing & shoes in any condition – *for Planet Aid*

*And don't forget the Shredding truck will be here on Sunday, May 15 to safely shred your documents, papers and files. (Provided by Allaire Financial Strategies)*

## **Donate to the Church through your IRA**

There is a provision allowed the taxpayer age 70½ or older to make direct distributions from an IRA account for a contribution to a qualified church or charity, bypassing recognition of the distribution as income. For more information see the [original article about charitable distributions from your IRA](#).

## **You can also donate to Christ Church online!**

Visit the website at [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org) It's easy!

## **Offer Hospitality - Host the Cafe**

Sign up on the bulletin board in the café to host some Sunday morning! Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you!

Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.



## **Hearts and Hands - Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Links willing volunteers with older or physically challenged adults for basic services such as transportation for medical appointments, errands or social activities, caregiver respite, companion visits, wellness checks, phone pals and minor home maintenance. Call 406-8311 or visit [www.hnhcares.org](http://www.hnhcares.org) *Call 406-8311 to sign up for a volunteer orientation (about 1 hour).*

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“On the front end it (Sabbath) hurts. Leaving my to-do lists alone. Trusting the universe will continue its forward motion without my intervention. Demonstrating that it is God who sustains me and not my own efforts. Sabbath is like the scary free fall of faith, in microcosm. And it is good for our hearts to practice. It gets easier.” — [Marcia Lebhar](#)

“Sabbath is that uncluttered time and space in which we can distance ourselves from our own activities enough to see what God is doing.” —**Eugene Peterson**