



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

Weekly Update –April 21

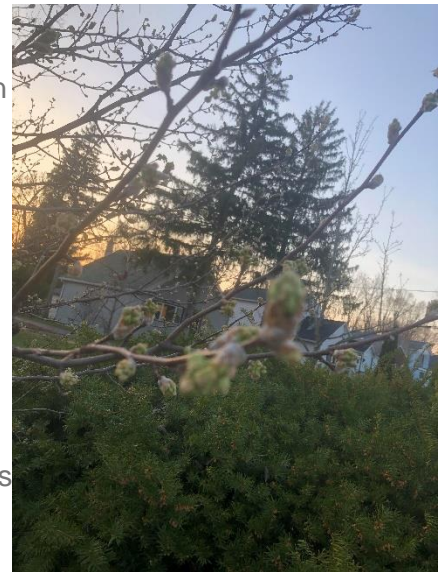
Leaf Buds

We admired the aliveness all around us as we walked the dog on a recent evening. Bird chorus cheering on the verdant shades of green everywhere filled the air. As late evening light provided its own colorful backdrop, we came upon this tree with its branches raised to the sky close to the sidewalk. We admired nature's magnificence in the leaf buds about to unfurl to begin the important process of nutrient consumption and conversion.

With snow back in our forecast and floating in the air, its easy to fall into a state of gloom alongside of the temperatures. We forget so quickly these signs of spring or worry anxiously about the impacts to tree and flower. Dragging the shovels back out of garage and shed, we mutter our 'why?' heavenwards. Truthfully any number of factors can cause these feelings and emotions to arise even on the hottest and sunniest of summer days, let alone the dark cold snowy ones. In these moments we do well to remember the challenge the disciples had when Jesus spoke of his death. They muttered their own 'why?' failing to hear that he always also spoke of what would take place three days later. They only heard the forecast of cold, darkness, and death. They failed to hear that what would follow would be God's Son-light, joy, and the warmth of love. They could not hold out for hope in midst of despair.

Death and resurrection are wedded. This prophetic message of faith transformation by the power of love is what provides us the same ability to weather any of the challenges we face. It is in the one followed by the other through which the process of transformation and conversion takes place. Those leaf buds are yet another symbol for us. Like Jesus and his prophecies, when we look close enough we see God's divine miracle unfurling before us inviting us through the experience of grace once again to conversion.

-Pastor Daven



**LIVESTREAM
WORSHIP**



*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*

*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](#)

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 25

10 a.m. - Worship Service

In-Person and Live-Stream

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 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

April 27: 2 Samuel 17-18; Luke 21:1-19

In Our Healing Prayers

-Dave Mitchell, Sandy Cumming, 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 so that we have enough supplies for everyone.



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the Lord's Table for Sunday, April 25 are given by Dick Radel in loving memory of Judy Radel, who would have been 81 on April 17. She went home to heaven on April 23, 2019.

Mission Of The Month

During the month of April, the Outreach Team is providing a food bin in 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!

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!

We are hiring for two positions: Office Administrator & Custodian!

Job descriptions and online employment forms are available on our website for those interested in applying. You can find both under the "Staff" menu heading on [the Custodian page](#) and [the Office Administrator page](#) on the Christ Church website.

A Note From Your Office Manager & Ministry Assistant-

It is with mixed emotions that I write to tell you that I will be resigning from my position as Office Manager and Ministry Assistant at Christ Church in mid-May. I have accepted a full-time position as Communications Assistant at MissionGo (formerly Global Outreach Mission) in Getzville, NY. I am very excited about this new opportunity that God has led me to, as it combines my love of missions and international cultures with my administrative skills. I look forward to working with missionaries serving around the world to help them effectively communicate their on-field experiences with their sponsors and churches.

It has been an absolute joy to serve at Christ Church these past 7 1/2 years,

and I have grown to love and cherish the relationships I have formed with the congregation and community. I will dearly miss you all and serving behind the scenes. I plan to remain a part of the community and desire to stay informed and come for visits when I'm able. CUMC will forever hold a very special place in my heart, and I'm so grateful for all the opportunities you have afforded me and all the support, love, and encouragement I've received over the years!

-Janelle (Martin) Davis