

Weekly Update: April 5, 2016

On Sunday we welcomed Dr. David Pliss as guest preacher. Pastor Darryl was away at Camp Casawasco for meetings with the delegates for General and Jurisdictional Conference. David's dramatic "today's version" of the story of Jesus and the fisherman opened the way for our thinking about new ways and new opportunities that are placed before us. Like the fisherman, sometimes we forget that Jesus has called us from our comfort and sameness for a purpose. God needs us, choosing to work through human lives and placing before us many ways to make a difference. Are you ready for your next adventure with Jesus as Christ Church?

Women! Come Away to a Quiet Place

All women are invited to a retreat at the United Methodist House in Chautauqua being held April 15-17. The facilitator for the retreat is the Rev. Mary Martin, retired clergy. Sign up on the UM Women bulletin board in Crafts Hall. The cost is \$80. Contact Beth Sweet or Peggy Bermudez for more details.

AARP Driver Safety Class

The class will be held on Friday, May 20, from 8:45 am to 3:30 pm. The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members payable on the day of the class. Bring your own lunch or option to purchase lunch for \$5. The class is limited to 30 people. Sign up by calling the church office at 839-2460. Jim Pollard is the instructor.

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.

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 (Note: 50 pages).

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.

The Caller

The “Caller” monthly newsletter will now be made available electronically right to your email address. Print copies will be available to pick up at the church on the first Sunday of each month. Mailed paper copies will be made available by contacting the church office. As always, the “Caller” will be available on the church website at www.christchurchamherst.org. **Please notify the church office with the method of delivery (email, church pick-up, or mail) you prefer by April 13.**

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 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

April 8: Ruth 1-4; Luke 11: 29- 54

April 9: 1 Samuel 1-3; Luke 12: 1-34

April 10: 1 Samuel 4-6; Luke 12:35-59

April 11: 1 Samuel 7-9; Luke 13:1-21

April 12: 1 Samuel 10-12; Luke 13:22-35

In Our Prayers

JOY! To have **Diane Klenk** back with the Praise Team on Sunday.

Wisley and Lopez Families- Al Wisley's mother, Esther, died on Thursday, March 31 at the age of 97 years.

Paul Staley – on the recent death of his uncle

Elvira Gonzalez – rehab at Buffalo General Hospital, still making progress

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

Patty Keller – upcoming surgery

Barry Wood – now at home

Nancy & Frank Annunciata - recovering at home

All who are caregivers for others

People of Brussels and Pakistan

New pastor appointment process

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

JOY! To have **Nicole Johnson and baby, Hunter**, in church while visiting grandparents, Dede & Roger.

This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, April 5 – 11 am – New Vision Circle
1 pm – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 6 – 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 7 - 10 am – Life Lessons w' Pastor Darryl
7 pm – Circle of Joy
7 pm - Elizabeth Circle

Friday, April 8 - 10 am – Books We Have Loved

Saturday, April 9- 10 am – UM Men's trip to Basilica and Botanical Gardens

Sunday, April 10 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Food Pantry - This weeks suggested items

April 3 – Kid's snacks – fruit rolls, fruit cups, raisins, graham crackers, etc.

April 10 – Tuna, mushroom soup, pasta

*All food items, paper products and toiletry items are welcome anytime.
Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!*

Make A Difference Day – Sunday, May 15

You make a difference! On Sunday, May 15 there will be many opportunities to serve the needs of others. Projects include cooking, baking, cleaning, garden & outdoor clean up and more... Everyone is welcome-all ages, abilities. Invite your friends and neighbors!

NOW AVAILABLE!!

Sign-up clipboards are available on the bulletin board in the main worship space.

Keep Calm & Make A Difference

Order your new church shirts! Sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the main worship space. Cost is \$10.

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 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.

Ways to save –

Each week many paper cups and napkins are used by church groups. Mugs are always available for your use. Baked goods & cookies are always enjoyed in the café. Donations are 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

Call 406-8311 to sign up for a volunteer orientation (about 1 hour).

Hearts & Hands Training at CUMC – Tuesday, April 13 at 2 pm

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“Every mental act is composed of doubt and belief, but it is belief that is the positive, it is belief that sustains thought and holds the world together.”

– Søren Kierkegaard

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DRB/sjp