



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

Weekly Update – April 8



Behind and Beneath

I have some boards and stones out by the shed which had been used for a raised garden. Having sat for the better part of a year, the time finally prevailed to deal with them, which proved no easy task! They had to be convinced to come away from the ground. As each came up, the part which had been against the ground was covered in a rich layer of soil resplendent with worms! I did my best to loosen the soil away along with its residents so all could remain to nourish the respective ground. Underneath and behind things we think nothing could possibly live and be. When we actually turn things over and open things up, we find it teeming with life.

This is our holiest of time. While today is not part of the Triduum (the three holiest days), it is still a part of Holy Week. Wednesday marked the day of Judas' betrayal. Historically today was observed as 'Spy Wednesday' recalling Judas as the clandestine spy among the disciples. Needless to say, whether it is this traditional recalling or our current reality, this is a dark time. There is the weight and darkness of all that follows for Jesus and disciples. And Heaven knows that we feel bound up, behind closed doors and underneath the weight of social distancing and isolation.

What those stones and boards showed me and helped me to see is the life that lies behind and beneath this weight. In fact, sometimes the conditions which that provides grants the perfect setting for life to flourish. So hold fast! As the doors are once again opened and connection returns there will be opportunities which teem with life!

-Pastor Daven

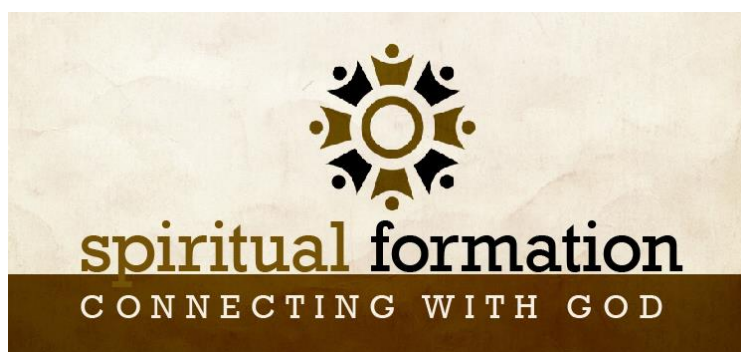


All church activities are currently suspended. We do, however, have audio recordings available on our website and videos on our YouTube channel, as well as links on our Facebook page, for you to take part in at your convenience! Our website will be the place where we have all opportunities available 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.](#)



Here are some opportunities for Socially Distanced Spiritual Formation during these times:

- Christ Church has a 90-day free subscription to Study Gateway, where a wide variety of Bible Study videos can be viewed. They have everything from Rob Bell to Max Lucado to Rick Warren. If you would like to use this platform for spiritual formation during this time you can use this link: <https://www.studygateway.com/invite/pz56>
 - If you have Prime Video, check out Zero Weeks, a documentary about the need for paid family leave. United Methodist Women is promoting this movie as part of their *Living Wage for All* initiative.
 - If you have Netflix, the movie Same Kind of Different as Me is based on the book by Ron Hall which was on our UMW reading list a few years ago.
 - Listen to UMW Faith Talks. These monthly podcasts are archived and cover a wide variety of topics. Here is the link: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>
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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 May 15. 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 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

April 13: 1 Samuel 13-14; Luke 14:1-24

April 14: 1 Samuel 15-16; Luke 14:25-35

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

In Our Healing Prayers

Betty Kreib, Chuck Gilbert, Scott Smith, 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

April Birthdays!

Due to the postponement of The Caller newsletter, we've included our April birthdays here!

Happy Birthday to:

April 5 - Kathy Weaver

April 6 - Chuck Gilbert

April 7 - Tom Brunner

April 10 - Larry Burdette & Don Critoph

April 12 - Mary Jayne Nehrboss

April 13 - Al Tolsma

April 15 - Pastor Daven & Linda Rekate

April 22 - Chris Klenk & David Lawson

April 23 - Pamela Gibson

April 26 - Doris Schanzlin