

Weekly Update: August 23, 2016

A Personal Word ...From Your Office Manager ☺

At the beginning of each new year, I've begun a tradition of taking some time to pray and ask God for a word to guide me through the year, and a theme verse to meditate on throughout the months ahead. In the past God has given me "seek", "joy", and "love". This year He gave me the word "change". Ugh. I hate change, unless it's the kind that jingles in my pocket! Really, God? Are You sure that word wasn't meant for someone else? Someone who might actually enjoy change (are there people out there who even fall into that category?)?

As the year has progressed and summer is drawing to its inevitable end, the word "change" continues to soak into my thoughts. It's a time of transition, not only in my life but for many others. Back to school. Moving. Relationship shifts. Job transitions. Marriage, new babies, death. At Christ Church we're also in a season of transition and change. It's time to learn from the past and embrace a new future.

"But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.

For I am about to do something new.

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness.

I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."

Isaiah 43:18-19

Change is hard. It takes effort, determination, and an adaptive mindset. I often tell myself to "put on my big girl pants and deal with it!" But we can take comfort in the fact that even though the world around us is constantly changing, we serve a God who is the same "yesterday, today, and forever."

~ Janelle

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.

August 23: Psalm 119:105-176; 1 Corinthians 5

August 24: Psalms 120-123; 1 Corinthians 6

August 25: Psalms 124-127; 1 Corinthians 7:1-24

August 26: Psalms 128-131; 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

August 27: Psalms 132-135; 1 Corinthians 8

August 28: Psalm 136-138; 1 Corinthians 9

August 29: Psalm 139-141; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

In Our Prayers

Alicia Ticconi – upcoming surgery for breast cancer

Carolyn Day, Peter Zaleski, Janet Hill, Susan Schauer, John Yungbluth – recovering at home

Jean Ericson – Wesley Rehab, Glenn Hurst – rehab at Elderwood at Bassett,

Carol Corsaro, Patty Keller, Charles Terranova, Richard Mestler, Guy Ferrelli, Fred & Lynda

Painton, Gaetano Castellino Sr., Castellino Family

Elvira Gonzalez –Bristol Village on Clarence Center Rd.

Florence Stengel – Beechwood Continuing Care

Chris Maliken, Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson – all serve in the US Navy

Louisiana flooding victims

College students heading off to school

This Week at Christ Church

Friday, August 26 – 7 pm Game Night

Sunday, August 21 - Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

“Where to Sit?”

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Rev. Jim Pollard and Sally will be taking a vacation from Mon., Aug 15 through Wednesday, August 24. Rev. Mary Kelly, Pastor of Central Park UMC, has agreed to be on call. In the event of a need for a pastor, please call the Christ Church office (839-2460) and Janelle Martin will contact Rev. Kelly.

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Uganda Wells of Love

An anonymous donor has generously agreed to make a matching gift to the Wells of Love project sponsored by our friend Rev. Davis Matovu from Uganda!! All gifts *up to \$5,000* will be matched to provide clean, safe drinking water to remote areas of Uganda. Your gift makes a difference! Donations and questions can be directed to the church office or Kathy Weaver.



Food Pantry - suggested items:

August 21 – Canned Fruits & Vegetables (Low Sodium)

August 28 – Juices & Powdered Drinks

Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation!

Our food carts have been low. Food items are always needed.

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

Café – Food donations are welcome in the Café for use on Sunday mornings – baked goods, lemonade, fruit & cookies are useful!

Hospitality & Welcome

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.

A Note From Bishop Mark Webb

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Words cannot describe the severe flooding that the residents of Louisiana have suffered through. The flooding has brought devastation to countless people in the Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church and throughout the state. You can find details about the flooding and response on the Louisiana Conference website: www.la-umc.org.

I ask you to support the people of Louisiana and the United Methodists who are responding with both your prayers and your gifts.

First, let us hold up all those impacted by the flooding in prayer. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones

to find healing and for those who lost property to feel hope for the future. Let us pray for the United Methodists in Louisiana and beyond who will be caring for the hurt and broken people of Louisiana. Let us pray that we as the United Methodist Church can be a shining light for all those who are suffering and truly be God's love in their lives.

Second, I ask that you consider taking an offering at your local church on one of the three coming Sundays (Aug. 28, Sept. 4, or Sept. 11). Checks for the offerings received may be sent to the Conference Office, 324 University Ave. 3rd Floor, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210, with "Louisiana Flooding Advance #901670" written in the memo line.

Much like with the response to the West Virginia flooding, opportunities for individuals and groups to serve on work teams will be shared in the coming days.

One of the most amazing things about being United Methodist is our connectional system. Though our connection, we can support people around the country and throughout the world in their times of need. Thank you for being a part of that connection.

Grace and peace,

Bishop Mark J. Webb

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Men's Group

The "Masters of American Architecture" tour in downtown Buffalo has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 17. We will meet at 8:45a.m. sharp at Christ Church and carpool downtown to the Buffalo Niagara Visitor Center (Washington & Clinton Streets). The tour begins at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome! Wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing, as the tour will take place rain or shine! After the tour, we will have lunch at 716 Restaurant.

For more information, visit www.explorebuffalo.org. The tour cost is \$15 per person, paid by check (made out to Christ UMC) or cash to the church office by September 12. This will be a great day for fun and facts about our hometown! Call Bob Snyder (741-6901) with any questions or concerns.

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"How strange that the nature of life is change, yet the nature of human beings is to resist change. And how ironic that the difficult times we fear might ruin us are the very ones that can break us open and help us blossom into who we were meant to be."

— [Elizabeth Lesser](#), [Broken Open: How Difficult Times Can Help Us Grow](#)