



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY

"Making Connections & Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love & Service"

Weekly Update – December 11



Christmas Lights

As we made our way home last night, I enjoyed seeing all the houses decorated. Christmas lights have changed dramatically over the years, now mimicking icicles, constantly flowing through different colors & speeds, and covering bushes and trees in orderly netting. I remember years ago my brother leading the family on our drive home after Christmas Eve service to a tree randomly strung. He swore the lights looked like Elvis doing a wheelie on a motorcycle holding a guitar in one hand. While abstract, we could with imagination see this vision.



Maybe this is what this season of Advent is all about, coming to see in truth what our imaginations envision. No, I'm not talking about Elvis on a motorcycle. Rather I am speaking of the vision God has for the world which we come to know in Jesus Christ. It is a vision of hope, joy, love, and peace. We see through the figures of the nativity; one captivated by story and art; one sung about in carols; and one held in candlelight on Christmas Eve.

It takes our imaginations to see it. But then over the course of this season of Advent our eyes are opened to behold it. In the end we are asked, as my brother did, to share this vision of hope, joy, love and peace with the world. Can we see it?

-Pastor Daven

We are happy to report that we are nearing God's hopes for Christ Church in Vision 2020! We have now received 80 pledges. We are also now close to reaching Vision 2020. Please help to achieve God's hopes for Christ Church in 2020 through a pledge. If you have not yet returned a commitment, please do so at the earliest convenience; if you have lost or misplaced your blue commitment card, call the church office to have another sent to you or extras can be found in the rear of the church. Cards can be returned in the offering plate, through the mail slot of the Church Office or sent through the mail.



"Something Like a Christmas Play"

Sunday, December 15

During Worship

Reception in Crafts Hall Following Worship

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 **pasta (wheat and gluten-free), tomato products (spaghetti sauce, tomato paste, crushed and diced tomatoes), and cereal (not Cheerios, please)** during **December**. 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.

Giving Tree

There are still ways to get involved with the Giving Tree, which is up in the Family Room!

Consider taking a tag and purchasing a gift for a neighbor in need. Please return gifts

unwrapped with the tag attached by:

SPCA and Family Justice Center—Dec. 15

Primera Iglesia (Jehovah Jireh)—Dec. 22

Thank you for your generosity!

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm, Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Wednesday, December 11

*Happy Birthday to our Custodian,
Dave Wolf!*

- **7pm- Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, December 12

- **1pm - 'Thirstaid' Thursday Study**

Friday, December 13

- **5:30pm - Music & Meditation**

Sunday, December 15

- **10am - Worship Service & Christmas Play**
- **Candy & Baked Goods Sale**

Supervised Child Care, Sky Box and Family Worship Space available

*Visit the **Café Connection** each Sunday morning and enjoy delicious, fair trade, **New Day Coffee**, morning treats and friendly conversation.*

Daily Bible Reading – 2019 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.

December 11: Hosea 9-11; Revelation 2

December 12: Hosea 12-14; Revelation 3

December 13: Joel 1-3; Revelation 4

December 14: Amos 1-3; Revelation 5

December 15: Amos 4-6; Revelation 6

December 16: Amos 7-9; Revelation 7

December 17: Obadiah 1; Revelation 8

Joys

Joy! We received \$419 from Sunday's 2nd Helping Offering to benefit the Center for Elder Law & Justice!

In Our Healing Prayers

Barbara Carrier - broken ankle

Sheldon Merritt, Mary Parsons, Dick Ball, Al Wrisley, Bruce Burr, Sissie Mooney, Dave Mitchell, Barbara Weaver, Jan Rhinehart, Pat Zaleski, Inez Beachley, Joe & Carolyn Day, Bob Varian, Inez Beachley, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Joyce Moser, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola

*Those who are **care partners** with others

*Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson, serving in the US Navy

Upcoming Events

Music & Meditation

Fridays, December 13, & 20

5:30 - 6 p.m.

Join us during the Advent season for 30 minutes of meditative songs, Scripture reading, and prayer in a quiet, candlelit setting.

Christmas Play

Sunday, December 15

During Worship

Reception to Follow in Crafts Hall

Christmas Eve

"A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols"

Tuesday, December 24

8 p.m.

Candy & Baked Goods Sale



The Outreach Team will host a Candy and Baked Goods fundraiser on **Sunday, December 15**. Beautiful platters and boxes of baked goods make a great Christmas gift! All proceeds will support the many outreach missions of our church.

Donations of baked goods and candy are much appreciated. Please bring your goodies to church *by Saturday morning, December 14* for plating.



spiritual formation

CONNECTING WITH GOD

A.O.L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

Sundays Following Worship

Digesting the Sermon - Figures of the Nativity

Led by Rev. Oskvig

Have you ever been curious about the setting and all those figures that are part of most nativity sets? A stable, animals, angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Kings,... and sometimes a host of others! Did you know that not all of these figure within any single story about Jesus? So where did they come from? What's their importance? Why does it matter? We will be exploring the figures of the Nativity through the seasons of Advent and Christmas through the sermons and worship, Tuesday's Scripture Study, and Sunday's A.O.L. which follows worship. Don't miss out on these exciting opportunities to grow in your understanding and appreciation of the figures of the nativity.

Searching the Scriptures

Tuesdays at Noon

Each Tuesday Pastor Daven leads a time exploring the upcoming Sunday's Scripture. This will provide context to the Scripture(s) being explored and ultimately enrich the experience of worship itself. All are welcome anytime!

Thirstaid Thursdays

Thursdays from 1-2:30 p.m.

Through December 19

"Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem"

A study by Adam Hamilton

Led by Peggy Bermudez & Paula Kreib

Spend some time with Mary during this Advent season. In "Not a Silent Night", Adam Hamilton looks at Jesus' life through the eyes of his mother. Imagine what Bethlehem must have looked like from Mary's point of view. Focus your own gaze on the Savior she knew as her beautiful child! Beginning with the crucifixion and resurrection, then backtracking through Jesus' life and ministry, Hamilton paints a fresh and moving portrait of the Messiah's life in this 5-week Advent study.