



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

Weekly Update – December 16

Tea Time

Lately every afternoon I have instituted tea time. While this could simply be a recovery of this habit from my semester abroad years ago in Oxford, England, it has provided something far deeper and more helpful than I could have imagined. I'm uncertain if that is due to the encouragement to slow down as I wait for water to boil and tea to steep or the quiet time of reading, reflection or conversation away from screens and devices during tea time. Whatever it is, it is now the time I most look forward to each day.

After times of intense social realities, miracles, teachings, and even just interactions with his close circle Jesus nearly always follows with some quiet prayer time alone. I wonder if he was showing us the importance not only of prayer, but of the quiet times without distractions. These are part of the rhythms of God's time, built into the foundations of creation — rest and recreation. We, whether by arrogance, sense of necessity, or excessive worry, tend to fill every last moment with work, activity and distraction. It is little wonder that Christmas Eve still holds the mystery it does as it offers a rare moment to quiet our lives and pick up again God's rhythms.

I can't endorse tea time as a particularly spiritual discipline, but I hope I can encourage everyone in these final days of Advent to find an equivalent in your life. In the small ways we not only recover a sense of God's timing, but we make room in our lives for Emmanuel - God with us!

-Pastor Daven





NYS has created a color-coded system to indicate levels of COVID-19, with limitations imposed based upon color. Currently our region is in an **'orange zone'**, which limits our in-person gatherings for worship beyond those directly involved to 20 people.

We are inviting those interested in attending worship *in-person* to call or email the church office (839-2460) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each Friday prior to the weekend's service, with those 20 spots being reserved on a first-come-first-served basis.

If our region moves into a **'red zone'**, all in-person worship will be suspended.

We continue to offer online worship opportunities via Live-Stream on [our YouTube channel](#), which is archived following its conclusion. While our hope remains to have in-person opportunities for Sunday worship and Music & Meditation on Friday evenings, we are committed to the health and safety of all people. We will follow all guidelines provided and strongly advise any who are nervous or feeling even slightly unwell to please stay home and worship virtually through this time.



Christmas Eve worship this year will be a Livestream / online only experience. This is based on the priority of people's health and safety in addition to our objective of offering a more complete experience than would be possible in-person.

The Christmas Eve service will Livestream on our YouTube channel first at 5 PM on December 24th. Following the conclusion of the Livestream, it will be available on our channel at any time.

Music & Meditation
Friday, December 18
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.

This opportunity will also be available via live-stream (www.YouTube.com/CUMCAmherst/live), and then archived on [our YouTube channel](#).



Worship is now 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

Fall 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.

Thursday, December 17

1 p.m. - Thirstaid Thursday Study

Friday, December 18

5:30 p.m. - Music & Meditation

Sunday, December 20

10 a.m. - Worship In-Person and Live-Stream

Monday, December 21

7 p.m. - Advent Zoom Study

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.

December 16: Amos 7-9; Revelation 7
December 17: Obadiah 1; Revelation 8
December 18: Jonah 1-4; Revelation 9
December 19: Micah 1-3; Revelation 10
December 20: Micah 4-5; Revelation 11
December 21: Micah 6-7; Revelation 12
December 22: Nahum 1-3; Revelation 13

In Our Healing Prayers

-Laura June Merrill

Lynda Painton, Amy Thormahlen, Geoff Hill, Scott Smith, Sue Estee, Ruth Munson, Parents of Brad Bermudez, Mother of Lisa Lawson, Dave & Barbara Mitchell, Paul Staley, Jim Pollard, Dave Wolf, Valari Zanghi, Debbie Laberta & Chrissy Merrill, Kevin Cetola, Nancy & Frank Annunziata, Helen Peacock, Joe & Carolyn Day, Dick Ball, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Jean Ericson

*All educators and students dealing with new school realities

*Those affected with COVID-19, those working on the front lines, 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



Each Christmas we collect gifts that various charities would like to receive to support their missions. While we've passed the deadline for receiving gifts for Gateway-Longview, we are still collecting for **The Family Justice Center**.

Given the unique challenges that this year brings, we will only be collecting gift cards at this time. Suggested retailers include: Walmart, Target, Amazon, Tops, and Wegmans. All gift card amounts will be accepted and are appreciated!

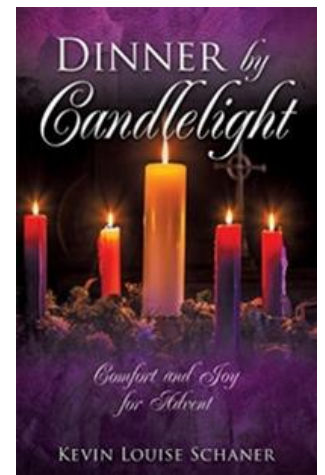
If you wish to participate, please purchase a gift card and submit it to the church office or Diane Klenk. Please contact Diane (651-0236) with any questions. Arrangements can also be made for pickup of gift cards if you are unable to bring them to the church.

Monday Night Zoom Study
Dec. 21 @ 7 pm

Dinner by Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent
by Kevin Louise Schaner

Christmas Is Coming! Feeling Anxious? Expect Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace this Advent. Rekindle your anticipation of Christ's birth with comforting conversation. This daily devotional is a collection of deeply engaging essays that provide not only food for thought during the pre-Christmas season, but also inspiration and hope for the future.

Paperbacks are available through a variety of online vendors including Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. A digital version is available from Nook and Kindle. Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez



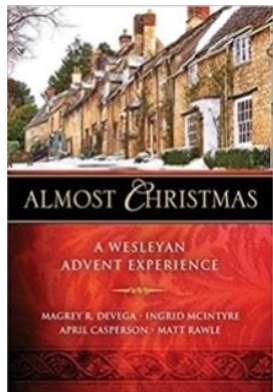
Topic: Advent Study - Dinner by Candlelight
Dec 21, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83024787818>

Meeting ID: 830 2478 7818
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,83024787818# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Thirstaid Thursdays
December 17 @ 1 pm



We will be connecting the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace to our Wesleyan heritage. Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience explores John Wesley's encouragement to follow Christ wholeheartedly with the commitment we can make to Christ in Advent. In addition to this Thirstaid time, each week in Advent there will also be an opportunity to engage with Almost Christmas on our YouTube channel. The book is not required, but if you would like to purchase a copy, paperbacks are available through a variety of online vendors including Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. A digital version is available from Cokesbury, Nook, and Kindle.
Facilitator: Rev. Oskvig

Topic: Thirstaid - Almost Christmas

Every Week on Thursday until December 17

Dec 10, 2020 @ 1:00 PM

Dec 17, 2020 @ 1:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87676063612?pwd=eXIYSTJJSHpQclNiQmRgajJxc0Vjdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 7606 3612

Passcode: 689315

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,87676063612#,,,,,0#,,689315# US (New York)

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available in the back of the worship space for those who have indicated an interest in receiving them. They can be picked up following Sunday worship, or during weekly office hours (Mon/Wed/Fri, 9am-2pm). If anyone is unable to pick them up from the church, please let the church office know and your box of offering envelopes can be mailed to you.



Seneca Street Church would like to thank everyone at CUMC for their continued support. They received the cumulative donations which we had collected from several members. They are very grateful for all we do to help them keep their ministry alive!