

Weekly Update – December 23

Christmas Cookies

Many years ago I saw the deep connection between when we are at a loss for words and the gift of food. This revelation came in the wake of loss and the overwhelming amount shared by friend, neighbor, colleague, and faith community. There was far more than was needed or possibly could be eaten. Such acts are what flows when words fail.

Never before had I connected Christmas cookies to this phenomenon, but this year I am wondering if these traditions of Christmas treats (including exchanges of cookies and sweets) really is a gesture of the heart where our words fail. Knowing just how special and significant the gift of God's love in Christ is, how our words can fail to communicate the blessings we feel, and our own desire to share both our appreciation and care of others and by extension God's love and care, we bake and cook.

Maybe every one of these sweet gifts and special treats is really another way we experience, express and share this gift. So whether it is your own baking, receiving from another, sharing your goodies, or just the enjoyment ... take a moment to say thank you in your heart to God. Every little treat is just another way we experience the sweetness that life with God in Christ offers, another expression when words fail.

-Pastor Daven





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.



We are asking that all who are interested in attending worship in-person on Sunday mornings at 10am to please register with the church office. With the church office closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's, we are asking that those who would like to RSVP for services on December 27 and January 3 should do so on **Wednesday, December 23 and Wednesday, December 30 from 10am-2pm**. You may call (839-2460) or email (cumc350@gmail.com) the church office to reserve your place in worship. Space is limited to the first 20 spots on a first-come, first-served basis to comply with the "orange zone" restrictions currently in place for Erie County. 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, 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.



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. **The church office will be closed on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1.***

Thursday, December 24
5 p.m. - Live-Stream Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 27
10 a.m. - Worship In-Person and Live-Stream

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 23: Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 14

December 24: Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 15

December 25: Haggai 1-2; Revelation 16

December 26: Zechariah 1-3; Revelation 17

December 27: Zechariah 4-6; Revelation 18

December 28: Zechariah 7-9; Revelation 19

December 29: Zechariah 10-12; Revelation 20

In Our Healing Prayers

-Al Wrisley

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



The staff of Christ Church would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to all who gave generously so that they could receive a special Christmas bonus!

We are so thankful for all of you and the joy you bring to our lives! May you have a blessed celebration of the birth of our Savior!

With Love & Thanks, The Staff of Christ Church

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.



Merry Christmas From the Staff of Christ Church!