



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

## Weekly Update – December 30

### *Cold Moon*

We've had a quite a bit of celestial activity recently. From meteor showers to the planetary alignment of Saturn and Jupiter, gazing heavenwards has given us a great end of the year show. Just last night was a full moon, deemed a 'cold moon' referring to the conditions that come to grip us at this time of year. It was clear, reflecting its bright light off of our frosty landscape.

At this time when it seems that we are all hunkered down and focused in, maybe we should be gazing toward the stars, letting our hopes rise alongside the nightly show. The wise men followed the signs in the stars which led them to the very heart of God. Scripture explains that they returned by a different route after they paid homage. I have long pondered whether this was more an expression of the change which they experienced.

So maybe we should all take a little time and let our eyes reach toward the stars. It might help to give us new insights, lead us to the heart of God, and change the way we go through life as we begin a new year.

-Pastor Daven

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Many of you have by now heard the story of Kimberly Weston and her boyfriend Nathan Grammer, who were struck by a car on the evening of Christmas. Kimberly's wheelchair was destroyed as a result, a necessity for her due to cerebral palsy. Rev. Chris Wylie helped to orchestrate and coordinate the purchase of a replacement chair funded completely by Christ Church. In exchanged messages which thanked him for connecting us to the need and helping, he said, "I'm just grateful to help. I might have said it before but that's ministry. Just looking for opportunities to shine light."

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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 service on January 3 should do so on **Wednesday, December 30 from 10am-2pm**. You may call (839-2460) or email ([cumc350@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](#)

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## ***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, January 1.***

**Sunday, January 3**

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

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*Daily Bible Reading – 2020/21 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 30: Zechariah 13-14; Revelation 21

December 31: Malachi 1-4; Revelation 22

January 1: Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1

January 2: Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2

January 3: Genesis 6-8; Matthew 3

January 4: Genesis 9-11; Matthew 4

January 5: Genesis 12-14; Matthew 5:1-26

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***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

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*A new 2021 flower chart is located in the Family Room for those wishing to provide flowers for the Lord's Table on a given Sunday. If you are interested in beautifying the worship space with a floral arrangement in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion, please sign up on the chart and a member of the Worship Team will be in touch. If you are not coming to worship in-person at this time but would still like to provide flowers, please contact the church office (839-2460).*

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## *Thirstaid Thursdays*

January 7 – February 11, 2021

1:00 – 2:30 on Zoom

Broken Crayons Still Color:

From Our Mess to God's Masterpiece

A study by Shelly Hitz

Facilitators: Diane Klenk & Peggy Bermudez

This book is available in paperback and digital editions from a wide variety of booksellers, including Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

A Zoom meeting link will be available next week!

