



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

## Weekly Update – December 9

### *Lost and Found*

Mongo the cat is a regular addition to the staff of Christ Church. Actually, he is just a huge part of this community- participating in worship, showing up for meetings and choir, and helping to manage the grounds. While he appeared midweek asking to be let in, after some conversation and a little affection, he quickly disappeared. He was later discovered comfortably curled up in the Lost and Found.

Mongo has a home and family while also being an active and regular part of Christ Church. But there was something about him in this bin that made me see an honest expression of life and faith. Maybe at its best that's what the church is — a place where however we feel lost or suffer loss we can be comfortable, cozy ... seen and ready to be found by the grace of God. During the time we have on this earth, as much as we might find and create a home, have a sense of belonging, we also as people of faith look to something beyond. We are both lost AND found. We reside in an odd in-between, now-and-not-yet reality as we apply our common prayer working to make earth reflect heaven little-by-little. And, as I saw in Mongo, the church is that place of belonging, that bin which holds us in the realities of the lost-and-found of life and living offering us just a little peace.



I know that not being able to physically gather, to inhabit the space of the church or delight in the fellowship and conversation of one another is exceptionally challenging. But maybe we can all find, if it is worshipping online, in daily prayer, or immersed in God's story, a sense of the security to let us curl up in coziness ever so briefly in the the confidence of one day being found by the grace of God in Christ.

-Pastor Daven

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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, Music & Meditation on Friday evenings, and on Christmas Eve, 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.

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***Music & Meditation***

***Fridays, December 11 & 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](http://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](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.*

### **Thursday, December 10**

**1 p.m.** - Thirstaid Thursday Study

### **Friday, December 11**

**5:30 p.m.** - Music & Meditation

### **Sunday, December 13**

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

### **Monday, December 14**

**7 p.m.** - Advent Zoom Study

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## *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 9: Hosea 1-4; Jude 1

December 10: Hosea 5-8; Revelation 1

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

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## *Joy*

**Joy!** Bill Swenson has moved back to his apartment at Amberleigh after time in rehab! His address remains the same as before: 2330 Maple Road Apt. 131 Williamsville, NY 14221.

## *In Our Healing Prayers*

-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, Sandy Cumming, 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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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.

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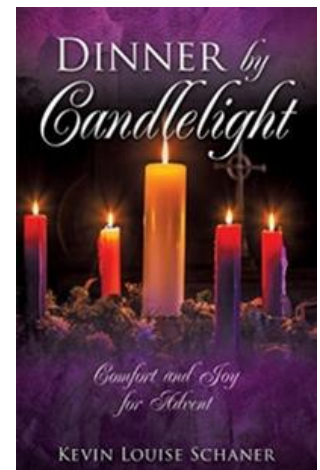
## **Monday Night Zoom Study** **Dec. 14 & 21 @ 7 pm**

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  
Time: Every week on Monday, until December 21  
**Dec 14, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Dec 21, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83024787818>

**Meeting ID: 830 2478 7818**

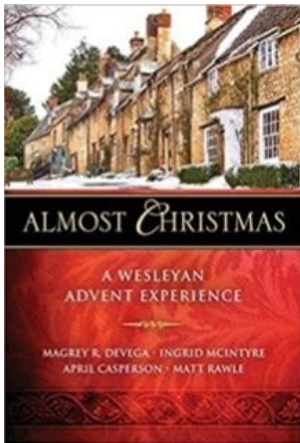
One tap mobile

+19292056099,,83024787818# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

**Thirstaid Thursdays  
December 10 & 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=eXIYSTJJSHpQclNiQmRqajJxc0Vjdz09>

**Meeting ID: 876 7606 3612**

**Passcode: 689315**

One tap mobile

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

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## ***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.

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Dear Christ Church friends,

I thank you for your prayers, cards, good wishes and telephone calls during my almost month-long hospital stay and the days following. I've been home since Nov.18, receiving physical therapy and regaining strength daily. Your kind thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated. I send my very best wishes to each one of you.

Sincerely,  
Jim Pollard