



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

## Weekly Update – February 19



### *Another Cup of Coffee*

There are maybe only a couple of occasions a year when I get the opportunity to connect with my brother and his family. Even rarer are those times when we host. This past Sunday, following a brief visit to my parents, they joined us for an overnight before school and jobs demanded their return home the following day.

What this means practically for my niece and nephew and even my brother and sister-in-law is an initial few hours cast with a certain patina of social awkwardness. The litany of common questions concerning work, family, and home is exhausted with often, because of both the infrequency and briefness of these moments, our conversations never managing to venture beyond the common. But no one seemed rushed to leave on Monday, all of us enjoying another cup of coffee and more time before finally the endless march of the clock demanded action.

Until then, for well over two hours we casually chatted about nothing in particular with no inclination or motivation to end our time together.

Jesus talked about being present with us when 2 or 3 are gathered, which I believe generally a truth no matter setting or situation. There are moments, however, such as what I experienced on Monday that gathered by love and in our connection to one another God ends up encouraging us to just remain in that holy space. When it happens, mutter a little thanksgiving to God, put on another pot of coffee, and linger for just a little longer ...

-Pastor Daven



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## *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 healthy snacks (cereal bars, granola bars, etc.)** during **February**. They 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.

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## *This Week at Christ Church*

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

### **Wednesday, February 19**

- 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, February 20**

- 1pm - 'Thirstaid' Thursday Study

### **Friday, February 21**

- 7pm – Crafting for a Cause

### **Sunday, February 23**

- 10am - Worship Service
- 11am - Educational Opportunities

***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.*

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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.

February 19: Numbers 1-2; Mark 3:1-21

February 20: Numbers 3-4; Mark 3:22-35

February 21: Numbers 5-6; Mark 4:1-20

February 22: Numbers 7; Mark 4:21-41

February 23: Numbers 8-10; Mark 5:1-20

February 24: Numbers 11-13; Mark 5:21-43

February 25: Numbers 14-15; Mark 6:1-32

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### ***In Our Healing Prayers***

**Bruce Phillips** - *receiving Hospice care*

**Peter Zaleski, Diane Klenk, Bruce Burr, Marion Rowlands, Barbara Carrier, Helen Peacock, Dick Ball, Sissie Mooney, Dave Mitchell, Barbara Weaver, Jan Rhinehart, Inez Beachley, Joe & Carolyn Day, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola**



February 26 – April 11, 2020

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**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

*February 26 at 7:00 pm*

**Music and Meditation**

*Fridays at 5:30 pm*

*February 28 – April 10*

**Donuts & Devotions**

*Wednesdays at 9 am*

*March 4 - April 8*



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

**Sundays following worship**

**Through February 23: The Letters of Paul**

Facilitator: Dr. David Pliss

What do these ancient letters that were used to encourage early followers of Christ have to say to us today

about grace, faith, joy, growth, and unity in the midst of uncertainty? All are welcome.

### **March 1 – April 5: The Grace of Les Miserables**

Whether or not you know the story, you will be engaged in this thought-provoking study that dives into six ideals - grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character from Victor Hugo's

## *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.**

Led By: Pastor Daven

Are you confused by what's happening in the United Methodist Church? Not quite sure how the United Methodist Church makes decisions, what decisions were made in February 2019, what has and has not been agreed upon and decided heading into May 2020? During February, Thirstaid Thursdays invites you to come with your questions and hopefully gain some insights.

epic story.

## *Wanted: Pet Pictures*

We will be creating a collage of pictures of Christ Church's animal friends for the March 14<sup>th</sup> Women's Breakfast. Gary Willoughby, President & CEO of the Erie County SPCA, will be speaking at the breakfast. Please send pet pictures via email to the church office, or give physical copies (with your name and your pet's name on the back) to the church office or directly to Diane Klenk **by February 29**. All are invited to attend the breakfast.

## *Catch the Spirit Discipleship Gathering*

Catch the Spirit will be held on **Saturday, March 7** from 8am-3:30pm at Clarence UMC. There are 18 workshops to choose from that cover a wide range of topics. Cost is just \$20 per person and that includes lunch! See the CTS brochures in the cafe for class descriptions and registration form. All are welcome to participate in this day of fellowship, worship and training.