



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

Weekly Update – February 5



Fruit Bowl

This plain white china bowl from England has been in my family for over 4 generations. It carries no significant value and is really nothing special with chips, discoloration, and sign of wear. I can't recall seeing it on my grandparent's table when I was young, but have been told it was always a present reality. Now it sits in the center of our table with the sixth generation of a family looking to its contents for nourishment and health.



This is not unlike our faith, which is often passed to us, if not directly from generations prior, then by our representing the current chapter of the history of God's people. The bowl has been given to our care. There are signs of the long life of this faith, the many hands which have taken from this sustenance and nourishment. This past has had plenty of challenges, chips in it by what those waving the banner of faith have done or not done, said or not said in the name of Christ. Yet it remains intact, only affected by our own care or neglect. Many view it as nothing special or of value, leaving a question of why we would seek to have or pass it on at all, particularly given all the chips and wear.

So ... will this be a continued presence on the tables of our lives? Will people of faith fill this bowl and be nourished from it by the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fruitfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23)? Because more than the cracks, chips or discoloration of the past from our neglect and failures, it shows the persistence of God's abiding presence in Jesus Christ. That remains intact.

-Pastor Daven

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.

This Week at Christ Church

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

Wednesday, February 5

- 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 6

- 1pm - 'Thirstaid' Thursday Study

Sunday, February 9

- 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.*

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 5: Exodus 37-38; Matthew 23:23-39

February 6: Exodus 39-40; Matthew 24:1-22

February 7: Leviticus 1-3; Matthew 24:23-51

February 8: Leviticus 4-6; Matthew 25:1-30

February 9: Leviticus 7-9; Matthew 25:31-46

February 10: Leviticus 10-12; Matthew 26:1-19

February 11: Leviticus 13; Matthew 26:20-54

In Our Healing Prayers

Diane Klenk - recent lung procedure, hoping to be released from the hospital today or tomorrow

Charles Staley - just had tonsils removed

Bruce Burr, Marion Rowlands, Barbara Carier, 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

Wanted: Pet Pictures

We will be creating a collage of pictures of Christ Church's animal friends for the March 14th 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.



New Resource Bookshelf

Check out the bookshelf in the Family Room! A variety of resources are available, including The Caller newsletter (February/March 2020 edition), updated church directories, The Upper Room devotionals, packets of church team lists and descriptions, church conference information, etc.

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.



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

Sundays following worship

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.

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.