



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

Weekly Update – January 20

I have been debating what to write, looking for sources of inspiration. As I brushed snow off the cars and the dusting of the driveway with flakes falling, I was admiring their unique crystalline structure. I may yet return to the snowflake, each a distinct individual and the amassing of them leading to a blanket which covers the ground, offering a fresh perspective and a sense of new beginnings. It seems such a parallel to baptism with each unique yet also connecting us to the great witnesses of faith through the generations. Instead, however, I remembered words from one of my favorite authors and felt them most appropriate for this day.

Hal Borland wrote the following in [Countryman: A Summary of Belief](#) published in 1965...

"When I write about trees and birds and the view from a hilltop, I wonder if they are important in the face of the elections, and foreign aid, and taxes, and missiles and satellites. Then I know that arguments end, men die, and nations rise and fall, but that so long as there is an earth and procession of the seasons there will be trees and birds and vistas from hilltops. And, unless we are all incredibly stupid and recklessly wicked, there will be men here to see these things ... and to feel, if never wholly to understand, what they signify."

-Pastor Daven



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 by calling or emailing (839-2460 -or- cumc350@gmail.com) between 10am and 2pm each Friday prior to the weekend's service. 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

Winter 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, January 21

1 p.m. - Thirstaid Thursday Zoom Study

7 p.m. - Staff-Parish Relations Team

Saturday, January 23

10:30 a.m. - Memorial Service: Karen Phillips
(Live-Stream on YouTube)

Sunday, January 24

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

Daily Bible Reading – 2021 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.

January 20: Genesis 46-48; Matthew 14:22-36

January 21: Genesis 49-50; Matthew 15:1-20

January 22: Exodus 1-3; Matthew 15:21-39

January 23: Exodus 4-6; Matthew 16

January 24: Exodus 7-8; Matthew 17

January 25: Exodus 9-10; Matthew 18:1-20

January 26: Exodus 11-12; Matthew 18:21-35

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Karen Phillips**, who died on January 13. Karen was the mother of Patty Sandle and Lynn Ramsey. A live-stream of the memorial service at Christ Church will be available on **Saturday, January 23 at 10:30am** on our YouTube channel: www.YouTube.com/CUMCAmherst/live

In Our Healing Prayers

- Debbie Laberta** - back pain
- Amy Thormahlen**
- Jonathan Swist** - broken foot
- Dave Wolf** - recent surgery on Jan. 18

Lynda Painton, Scott Smith, Sue Estee, Ruth Munson, Mother of Lisa Lawson, Dave & Barbara Mitchell, Paul Staley, Jim Pollard, Valari Zanghi, 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

2020 Church Reports

2020 Christ Church annual reports are now available online! These include forms for the local United Methodist Church District Office, reports from the various church teams, and the 2021 budget. Find them online at:

<https://www.christchurchamherst.org/current-news/church-reports/>

Thirstaid Thursdays

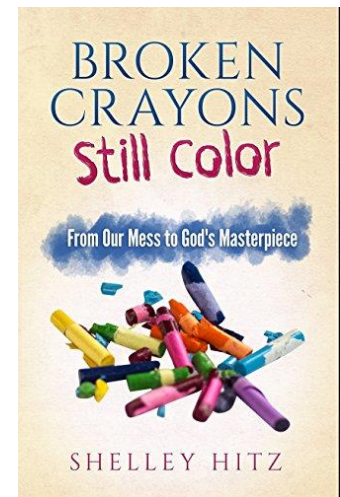
**Through February 11, 2021
1:00 – 2:30 on Zoom**

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.



Topic: Broken Crayons Still Color

Jan 21 @ 1:00 PM

Jan 28 @ 1:00 PM

Feb 4 @ 1:00 PM

Feb 11 @ 1:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82955680698>

Meeting ID: 829 5568 0698

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,82955680698# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)