



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

Weekly Update – January 22



The Big Thoughts

I was recently reading how for those of us who live in these climates, this time of year offers space for the 'big thoughts.' The writer shared how long nights, hearth fires, bare trees/open landscapes, and cold temperatures seem to encourage these explorations. Amid the flurry of commitments and complications of schedule, I'm not sure that I completely resonate with a sense of such seasonal offerings.

However, I would say that in our worshiping life it is such a time. Back in the green Sundays of Ordinary Time, we are encouraged following the big events of the season of Christmas and prior to the discipline and solemnity of Lent to let our faith open to the big thoughts and open spaces of this time where they can roam and grow. It is a time when the landscape is open - gone are the twinkling lights, trees, candles and wreaths. As we gather in the warmth of God's grace, we are invited to ponder the mystery and meaning of it all.



So as you look through the open trees, the snow falling or the flame in the hearth, even if it is only a fleeting moment between appointments, let your heart and mind wander. This is a time to look into your own heart and approach understanding.

-Pastor Daven

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Anne Merritt.
Sheldon Merritt died on Monday, January 20.

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 pasta (wheat and gluten-free), tomato products (spaghetti sauce, tomato paste, crushed and diced tomatoes), and cereal (not Cheerios, please)** during **January**. 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, January 22

- 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 23

- 1pm - 'Thirstaid' Thursday Study
- 7pm - Hospitality Team

Sunday, January 26

- 10am - Worship Service

- 11am - Educational Opportunities
- 12:30pm – Cards for Caring: Card-Making Activity

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.

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

January 27: Exodus 13-15; Matthew 19:1-15

January 28: Exodus 16-18; Matthew 19:16-30

In Our Healing Prayers

Anne Merritt, Bruce Burr, Peter Zaleski, The Moser Family, Bruce Phillips, David Brown, Marion Rowlands, Barbara Carrier, Helen Peacock, Dick Ball, Sissie Mooney, Dave Mitchell, Barbara Weaver, Jan Rhinehart, Pat Zaleski, Inez Beachley, Joe & Carolyn Day, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola



Cards for Caring Activity

Sunday, January 26

12:30 p.m.

All are welcome as we create cards to be given to those who need a note of encouragement!

RSVP to Paula Kreib (725-6067 -or- snowflake.paula@gmail.com) as soon as possible so she can get a head count for lunch!



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.

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.

"A Year of Biblical Womanhood"

By: Rachel Held Evans

Led by Diane Klenk

How did a liberated woman find herself sitting on her roof, covering her head, and calling her husband "Master"? Is this what God really expects of women? In this humorous and thought-provoking study, we'll discover what the Scriptures say and explore the lives of women of grace and strength whose stories still speak to us today. All are welcome.