



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

Weekly Update – July 15



A Flower in the Crack

I was deep into a run through an urban area covered in sidewalks and pavement, my mind wandering in all different directions. My eyes were attentive only to other people to create physical distancing and traffic to avoid being hit. Then they caught upon one brilliant color where there was nothing else. They fixed on that spot as it drew near, gazed upon it as I ran past and even looked back to verify what I saw. A single black-eyed Susan had somehow managed to find the smallest of cracks, fought against all odds to grow tall and brilliant, producing this single flower where there was nothing else. It was a bold statement of hope in a barren landscape.

We are all in need of such bold, colorful expressions of possibility. This is what the message of Jesus is to the world and we who inhabit it. He comes seeing in the sinners, tax collectors, cast offs, and socially removed something else. He looks upon the world and declares that he comes not to condemn it, but to save it. He finds the cracks in all of us, the place where through forgiveness grace can be planted and grow. It may seem impossible to believe looking upon the world, ourselves or others that something new and beautiful can flower in such difficult circumstances and hardened hearts. Where we see impossibility, God finds possibility; where we think nothing can flower, a colorful sign can grow proclaiming hope.

That single flower served as a reminder that this is what God sees in us and our world through Jesus Christ. It was the encouragement among so much being avoided to stand as a brilliant flash of color and statement of hope in the landscape of our lives and world.

-Pastor Daven



Reopening

We are hoping that our first in-person and live-streamed worship service will be this Sunday, July 19!

Live-streamed worship will be available beginning at 10am, as well as anytime following the conclusion of the worship service. There will be a direct link on our website and Facebook page to our livestream: www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live

As we look forward to reopening our doors, 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! 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

Church Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 2 pm

Please call the office (839-2460) or Pastor Daven (903-6024) with any questions or concerns.

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.

July 15: Psalms 17-18; Acts 19:1-20

July 16: Psalms 19-21; Acts 19:21-41

July 17: Psalms 22-24; Acts 20:1-16

July 18: Psalms 25-27; Acts 20:17-38

July 19: Psalms 28-30; Acts 21:1-14

July 20: Psalms 31-33; Acts 21:15-40

July 21: Psalms 34-35; Acts 22

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Jon Davis, Janelle Martin's future father-in-law. Jon died on Friday, July 10.

In Our Healing Prayers

The Burr Family - recent gathering for Bruce's internment

Paige - 21-year-old daughter of Patty Keller's best friend

Paul Staley, Carol Maltbie, Helen Peacock, Joe & Carolyn Day, Sissie Mooney, Barbara Burr, Scott Smith, Dick Ball, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola

*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

Ways to Make a Difference

Donations for Seneca Street

Seneca Street UMC continues to feed and minister to the community in the Seneca-Babcock area of Buffalo.

The Outreach Team of Christ Church is committed to financially supporting Seneca Street in their mission. If you would like to help provide meals/meat to those served at Seneca Street UMC, you can make checks out to Christ Church with "Seneca Street UMC" on the memo line.

Thirstaid Bible Study via Zoom - Rest

Thursdays: July 16, 23, 30

1 - 2 p.m.

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

This summer, we will be trying something new, a Thirstaid Bible Study via Zoom. No matter where you are, you will be able to join the conversation **every Thursday in July from 1:00 – 2:00 pm**. Our theme for the sessions will be *Rest*. Although we've all had more time at home in recent months, our time has not necessarily been restful. Stress, anxiety, uncertainty, and grief have taken their toll and we all need rest. There will be no study book or preparation, simply join the conversation as we explore what the Bible has to say about rest and how we can renew our weary souls. We hope you will join this virtual gathering as we experiment with a new way to make connections and learn together!

Topic: Rest Bible Study

Time: Jul 16, 2020 1:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95926711069>

Meeting ID: 959 2671 1069

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,95926711069# US (New York)

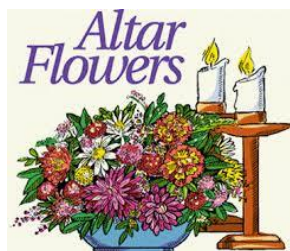
+16465189805,,95926711069# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 518 9805 US (New York)

Our Meeting ID will remain the same each week.



We are now arranging for live and artificial flowers to decorate the Lord's Table during worship in July, August, and September. If you would like to honor or recognize a loved one with flowers, please contact Barbara Carier at 688-5274, or sign up using the flower chart in the back of the worship space on Sunday mornings.