

Weekly Update: July 19, 2016

A Word From The Pastor

A PASTORAL WORD IN THE MIDST OF THE ISSUES OF RACE AND VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

The recent series of shooting of unarmed black males and targeted shootings of police officers providing escort to peaceful demonstrators have left us deeply shaken. The Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle, President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity school, writing in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, said, "It is one of the worst of times in America. The way out of this "valley of the shadow of death" will only be found when all of us realize that Black Lives and All Lives really do matter.

In a letter to the United Methodist Churches of the Upper NY Conference, Bishop Mark Webb states: *"As we pray for the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives, we are reminded that God has called the Church to be light in the midst of darkness, to be salt that seasons the world. We must find ways to increase our ministry of justice. How will we continue to not only speak against, but model the kind of lives that reject racism within our world? How do we support the ones who have offered their lives to protect us, while responsibly speaking out and working for necessary changes within our criminal justice system? How do we within the church show the world around us how to love one another as we engage in dialogue about solutions for the desperation within our world? ...*

...As the church, may we have confidence in the work of the Gospel message and may we boldly offer that message to the world. I am reminded of words we find in paragraph 121 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church: 'Whenever United Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our church to save persons, heal relationships, transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness, thereby changing the world.' May we live our mission together, as we offer Jesus to the world.

Let us not continue to model the broken ways of our societies within the church, but may we offer a different way and offer that different way to those around us, as the truth of Christ changes lives, strengthens individuals and families and offers the promise of transformation.

'He has told you what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8)

Some questions from Sunday's sermon, "What Jesus Came To Do"

When Jesus went to Nazareth at the beginning of his public ministry (Luke 4:16-30) he read from the prophet Isaiah;

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Then he announced to the people gathered in the synagogue, *Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*

The people were favorably impressed, until Jesus reminded them that God's blessing is not for believers only, but goes beyond the boundaries of religious belief and tradition.

What hard questions does this incident in Jesus' life and ministry generate for our ministries in the 21st century? Rev. Jim Pollard offered the following:

For us, for you, for me – are there people, individuals, groups, who are outside the boundaries we have set, which, if we knew that God's blessing and grace had been given to them, would cause us to be enraged?

Do we believe that we can set limitations of nation, church group, or race on God's grace?

Do we accept and seek to live out the radical inclusiveness of the Gospel? Are we seeking to grow into that inclusiveness?

Does Jesus love us only when we accept him as Savior or before we accept him as Savior? How does our answer to that question affect how we relate to others who do not accept and follow his life and teachings? Does Jesus withhold his blessings from them?

How do our answers to these questions affect our everyday behavior toward the people of our own community? About our attitudes and opinions of people of other religions, races, neighborhoods, nationalities, gender identity?

As Jesus' disciples in the faith community known as Christ UMC, can we reach beyond the boundaries that have been created and be a part of what Jesus came to do?

Daily Bible Reading – 2016 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 19: Psalms 28-30; Acts 21:1-14

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

July 21: Psalms 34-35; Acts 22

July 22: Psalms 36-37; Acts 23:1-11

July 23: Psalms 38-40; Acts 23:12-35

July 24: Psalms 41-43; Acts 24

July 25: Psalms 44-46; Acts 25

In Our Prayers

Glenn Hurst – rehab at Elderwood at Bassett, Janet Hill – recovering at home,

Susan Schauer – recovering at home

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to **Marie Maker** on the death of her husband, **Ed**, on Monday, July 11. A **memorial service celebrating Ed's life will take place on Saturday, July 23 at 11 am. Reception to follow.**

Carol Corsaro, Ed Maker, Chris Klenk, John Yungbluth – recovering at home;
Patty Keller, Charles Terranova, Richard Mestler, Guy Ferrelli, Fred Painton, Gaetano Castellino Sr., Elvira Gonzalez
Corsaro Family – death of Ron & Carol’s sister-in-law, Ann Corsaro
Chris Maliken, Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson – all serve in the US Navy

Welcome to our New Care-Giver: Becca Lopez

Becca Lopez has joined the Sunday caregiving team for little ones. She and Julie Sciolino are available on Sunday mornings to care for the children.

***Due to the cleaning going on in the Nursery School wing, the Sunday child care room is temporarily re-located to the Music Room located in the west wing-- lower level.**

VBS Was a Blast!

A big thank you to all of our VBS volunteers and friends who helped create a fun and special week for the children! Check out our Facebook page to see pictures from VBS: <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst-294709713921168/>

This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, July 19 - 12 noon – New Vision Circle at Vinecroft
7:30 pm – Trustees meeting – **Cancelled**

Friday, July 22 - 8 pm - McFarlin Memorial UMC, from Norman, OK
Group of 60 people staying overnight at CUMC on their way to Toronto for mission work with Habitat for Humanity.
Drop in and welcome them!

Saturday, July 23 – 9 am – McFarlin Group leaving for Toronto
11 am **Memorial Service – Ed Maker**
Reception to follow

Sunday, July 24 - **The Power of Small Beginnings**

Mark 4:1-9, 30-32

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Food Pantry - suggested items:

July 24 – Toiletries – Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant

July 31 – Paper Products

Please remember - *Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation!* Food is needed.

*All food items, **paper products** and **toiletry items** are welcome anytime.
Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!*

Needed

Removal of 2 dying Ash trees on the church property.

Cost - \$5000. Mark your contributions – *tree removal*.

Celebration Brick Walkway

Donations are being received to add bricks to the walkway in the Celebration Garden to honor our former Pastors

Sinnathamby Thevanesan

B.J. Norrix

Darryl Barrow

Simply mark your contributions "Brick Walkway"

Summer Sundays - Host the Cafe

Sign up on the bulletin board in the café to host some Sunday morning!

Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you!

Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

* * * * *

Benefit Fundraiser

Nora Townsend & Herb Wilber are part of the organizing committee to raise funds for their brother-in-law who has cancer. The benefit will be held on **Saturday July 30th** at the Brounshidle Post #205 located at 3354 Delaware Ave in Kenmore. The cost is \$20 for adults and children 12 and under are free. There will be draft beer, food and soda between 6PM and 11PM. A band called Big Mama will provide music and donated gift certificates and gift baskets (50 so far) will be auctioned at the event. See herb & Nora for Tickets and details.

* * * * *

Men's Group

The Methodist Men's Group invites you to our Saturday, August 6 trip to downtown Buffalo to take in "Masters of American Architecture". We will have a 1 mile, ninety minute - 2 hour GUIDED tour both in and outside of some of Buffalo's best! Included are St. Joseph's Cathedral, Old County Hall, Guaranty Building, St. Paul's Cathedral, Ellicott Square Building, and the Old Post Office. We will meet at 8:45a.m. sharp at Christ Church and carpool downtown to the Buffalo Niagara Visitor Center (Washington & Clinton Streets). The tour begins at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome! Wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing, as the tour will take place rain or shine! Restrooms are available in some buildings. After the tour, we will walk a block to the Lafayette Square Metro Station and take the free train to the 716 Restaurant at the waterfront.

For more information, visit www.explorebuffalo.org. Metered parking is free on the weekends. The tour cost is \$15 per person, paid by check (made out to Christ UMC) or cash to the church office by August 1. This will be a great day for fun and facts about our hometown! Call Bob Snyder (741-6901) with any questions or concerns.

* * * * *

"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are."

-Unknown