



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

Weekly Update – July 22



Divine Engineering

Creativity has blossomed in many ways during this crisis from within or upon the doorstep of where we live. My family, for example, has enjoyed backyard campouts, outdoor movies, biking treks and canoe outings.

During one such paddle, I shared historical information with my daughter on the Erie Canal, what a canal is / its purpose, why it is called a barge canal, why it is called the tow path, etc (I'm sure she appreciated the history lesson!). One recent water journey explored the base of the Lockport locks. Contemplating the massive obstacles that were faced in the creation of the Erie Canal, overcoming things like the escarpment, my smallness looking upon these doors ... well, it has me thinking about the state of affairs. In so many moments of history, things looked as intimidating and impenetrable as these doors from the perspective of a canoe or as impossible and impassable as the escarpment likely was during the construction of the canal. However, through inspiration, ingenuity, determination and faith these have been overcome. Whether it is sending a person to the moon, crossing an ocean by boat or plane, or creating a waterway to link the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, humankind has proven that when faced with what appears an overwhelming task, it can accomplish amazing feats.



For myself, I always find that the first and foremost of these is what was done for us in Jesus Christ. We bob among the waves of life staring up at the insurmountable, unable to see or

imagine a way forward. Like the doors of the locks or the path they ultimately create up or down the escarpment, what seems impossible and impassable - reconnecting us to God - is overcome through the grace of Christ. Through grace, divine engineering conquers those challenges, opening doors and providing a way forward for us and our world. I feel that if we once again look back upon this great divine engineering miracle and seek the same Spirit-led inspiration, we will discover the means and ability to meet this moment and move toward a future that gets closer and closer to what God has in mind for us and our world.

-Pastor Daven



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

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 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

July 26: Psalms 47-49; Acts 26

July 27: Psalms 50-52; Acts 27:1-25

July 28: Psalms 53-55; Acts 27:26-44

In Our Healing Prayers

Debbie Laberta - suffering from back pain
Dave Mitchell - hospitalized this past week
Kevin Cetola - facing eye surgery

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 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 23, 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)

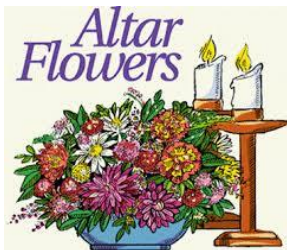
+16465189805,,95926711069# US (New York)

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.