

Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY

"Making Connections & Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love & Service"



Weekly Update - July 24

Family Movie Night

It came out in the summer of 1982 and quickly became a classic. The number of times that followed where I dressed up as the beloved character for which the movie is named for Halloween numbers ~5. Something captured my imagination, holding it through the years. Re-encountering this movie through its re-release to the theater, to DVD following, in articles & books, and in classes has only increased my adoration for it.

As part of our annual summer visit to my in-laws on Long Island, we enjoyed a family movie night taking in E.T.. The music and experience felt perfect for the summer, maybe a mirror to my experience all those years ago upon its first release. Now I have all those other experiences informing my viewing where I am hard-pressed not to see the influence of the story of Christ. This being from heaven descends in peace, is stranded, and becomes fully one of us. E.T. heals, performs miracles, but eventually dies under the hands of those who do not understand. E.T. comes back to life, creates believers out of skeptics, leaves a lasting impression and lessons before ascending back to the heavens.



There is a reason they call it the greatest story ever told. And it is told to us time and again through different seasons in different ways. The real power of the story, however, is not the medium; it is how it takes shape right before us. As I looked in that room, I saw and experienced Christ in the gathering of family bonded by love. And as I heard

E.T.'s closing words to Eliot while pointing at his heart, "I'll be right here," I felt my heart warmed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

-Pastor Daven

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 **condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, syrup), flour, sugar, oil, and salt** during the summer. 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.

Painting Fund Matching Gift

A matching gift of up to \$5,000 has been offered for the painting and renewal of Crafts Hall! Gifts can be mailed, dropped off in the office, or placed in the offering plate on Sunday, with checks made to Christ United Methodist Church and "Painting Fund" on the memo line. We've received **\$3,525** so far - thank you for your generosity in helping to update and beautify our shared spaces!

Seneca Street Church – Save the Gym!

Seneca Street Church needs their gym 6 days a week for their after school program and other ministries. Earlier this year, a flood ruined the gym floor and repair costs are \$20,000. Please help Save the Gym! Jars have been placed around Christ Church to receive your contributions. Any amount is welcome. Thank you!

Moving Help Needed

Bob Varian will be moving from Kenmore to Williamsville this Saturday, July 27, and is requesting assistance. If anyone is available to help, please call Bob at (716) 704-9222.

This Week at Christ Church

SUMMER Church Office Hours:

*Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to **3 pm**,*

Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Wednesday, July 24

- 7pm- Circle of Joy @ BPO
Concert in Clarence

Sunday, July 28

- 10am - **Worship Service**
- 11am- **Digest the Sermon with
Pastor Daven**

***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.*

Digest the Sermon

During the summer, you are invited to “Digest the Sermon” after you’ve heard it! Following the worship service, you are invited to join in conversation about the message with Rev. Daven Oskvig. Gather in the Café, pick up your coffee or tea or juice and a snack, socialize for several minutes, and then gather in the Family Room to share your responses, questions, and understandings of that morning's sermon with Pastor Daven and your fellow worshipers.

Daily Bible Reading – 2019

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 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

July 29: Psalms 56-58; Acts 28:1-15

July 30: Psalms 59-61; Acts 28:16-31

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Grace Markello and the Markello Family. Ross Markello died on Thursday, July 18. A memorial service celebrating Ross' life will be held at Christ Church on **Sunday, August 4 at 3 p.m.** No prior visitation will be held.

In Our Healing Prayers

The Markello Family, Debbie Laberta, Helen Peacock, Bob Varian, Bruce Burr, Inez Beachley, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Virginia 'Ginny' Molin, Joyce Moser, Janet Hill, Sissie Mooney, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola

*Those who are **care partners** with others

*Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson, serving in the US Navy

Thank You! Coffee Hour Sunday, August 4th, 11:00 a.m.

The Hospitality Team will host a special Coffee Hour following worship on Sunday, August 4 to thank our greeters and ushers who welcome our congregation and visitors to worship every Sunday. Please come to celebrate and learn about this opportunity for ministry. All are welcome!

How are You Connecting, Loving, and Serving this Summer?

Your Stewardship Team would love to see your answers to that question! On the bulletin board in Crafts Hall, you'll find poster board and markers. Please take a few minutes to write down what you're doing this summer. Christ Church is Making Connections and Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love and Service!