



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

Weekly Update – March 18



Social Distancing

Throughout his public ministry, Jesus reached across boundaries healing both physical and social maladies. In this way he brought people into the presence of God. This became the defining attribute of his body, the church, in living out what he proclaimed in Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Ministry and even our understanding of the presence of God is intimately bound to being together. So what does the church, the body of Christ, look like when it can't be together?

This is the challenge that we as the church now face. We are called to show that the body of Christ is not defined by a building or even physically being together. Even in isolation we can commune with God through scripture and prayer. We can continue to nurture spiritual friendships through phone calls, texts, letters, emails, and video chats. We can show the strength of the body of Christ in our expressions of care and compassion, which can withstand fear through love.

Let us work to keep this body healthy. Turn away from the 24hr news cycle momentarily and give thanks for the sunshine, to welcome spring, to know that our hope can become certainty just as surely as death can be overcome in resurrection. Reach out and connect in new ways; look for different opportunities to serve. For the truth remains - that as we are connected together, Christ is among us.

-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 healthy snacks (cereal bars, granola bars, etc.)** during **March**. 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 12 pm

All activities of and in Christ Church are suspended this week.

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.

March 18: Deuteronomy 31-32; Luke 1:1-23

March 19: Deuteronomy 33-34; Luke 1:24-56

March 20: Joshua 1-3; Luke 1:57-80

March 21: Joshua 4-6; Luke 2:1-24

March 22: Joshua 7-8; Luke 2:25-52

March 23: Joshua 9-10; Luke 3

March 24: Joshua 11-13; Luke 4:1-32

In Our Healing Prayers

We are saddened to announce that **Marion Chalmers** passed away on Friday, March 13.

Bruce Burr, Helen Peacock, Dick Ball, Sissie Mooney, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Joe & Carolyn Day, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola

*Those affected with COVID-19 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



Donuts & Devotions and **Music & Meditation**, as well as all church activities, are currently suspended. We will, however, have audio recordings available on our website for you to take part in at your convenience. We desire to remain connected as much as possible via online opportunities during this time.

[Click here to be connected to our website.](#)



The Food Pantry at University Presbyterian Church is planning to continue our regular hours for the time being – as long as we are able. The Food Bank of WNY (now FeedMoreWNY) is encouraging that in order to keep folks fed. The issue – many of our regular volunteers are in that high risk category of age plus underlying medical conditions! We are thinking that there may be people who are now working from home, or teachers out of the classroom or students home, who might be able to lend a hand with this.

Our hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00, with set-up at 11:30am. We are going to a system of pre-packed bags for now to speed up the process and reduce wait time and contact. We could use volunteers to help with distribution and with pre-packing bags as well.

If interested/ able, please contact Claudia Weiss @ cjweiss192@gmail.com