

Weekly Update: March 29, 2016

A word from Pastor Darryl

Last Sunday was Easter Sunday, and the day kicked off with an Easter Morning Jazz Brunch with Ron Corsaro Jazz Trio. I want to thank all those who supported it, either by providing the very delicious breakfast items or by being in attendance. What a delightful morning! Following the Jazz Brunch we had our traditional Easter Sunday worship with the celebration of Holy Communion. It was great to see our members along with their relatives, friends and visitors in attendance to experience an uplifting time of storytelling with the children, choral singing, organ music, the sharing of the written and spoken word and fellowship with one another! It is true that “Every Sunday is Easter Sunday!” If not, it’s time to make it that way! The call for us to consider inviting our relatives and friends and the “Easter Sunday crowd” to participate more fully in attendance at worship and in the life of our congregation beginning from this year’s Easter Sunday, is an understanding of Jesus’ Resurrection as the claim that God entered the stage of human history in order to create an *entirely new reality* all together. Every Sunday we recognize the incredible scope and titanic implications of the biblical witness that when God raised Jesus from the dead God was creating *a new reality*; overthrowing death, sin, and all that would oppress us; and declaring once and for all that *life* is more powerful than *death* and *love* more enduring than *tragedy*. Therefore, every Sunday we invite relatives, friends and visitors to live out *this new reality* that God is alive in our worship experience and in our love and service in partnership with others in our community and world! The truth is our doubts, questions, and even downright skepticism about resurrection – these aren’t the opposite of faith, but rather an essential ingredient. Faith, after all, isn’t knowledge. Rather, faith, as the author to the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, “*is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*” (11:1). Perhaps Easter Sunday – this Day of Days is as good a time as any to give God thanks for the gift of faith – the ability not to understand the mystery of the resurrection but to be inspired to hope and believe that it is true! As always, I am praying for you and with you daily. May God’s love and blessings be always with you, and my love to all of you. Invite someone to join us for worship this and every Sunday!

What is the General Conference and Why Is It Important?

In May, 2016, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will convene for a 10-day session in Portland, Oregon. The General Conference, which meets every four years, is the body that governs The United Methodist Church and approves the mission, organization, policies, agencies and The Book of Discipline – the document that guides the church in its global mission.

How is it structured? Who votes? What proposals and issues are on the agenda for the 2016 General Conference? How will the decisions of the General Conference affect the local

churches, annual conferences, and program and administrative agencies of the church in fulfilling the mission of the church “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?”

On two Saturday mornings, April 23 and April 30, you are invited to participate in “An Overview of the 2016 General Conference. The sessions will be led by Rev. James Pollard, and meet from 9:30 am – 11:30 am on each Saturday at Christ UMC.

Session 1, on April 23, will describe the organization and process of decision-making of the General Conference, and will begin an overview of the major reports and recommendations on the agenda. You will also be invited to share in a district-wide prayer vigil for the General Conference.

Session 2, on April 30, will continue a review of the various proposals .that will be in consideration.

Al though not essential, it will be helpful to you if you download and print a General Conference Guide, which is available at http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/general-conference/2016/documents/gc2016-guide.pdf (Note: 50 pages).

Sleepover!! Children and Youth! – Saturday, May 14 - 4 pm

We'll be filled with the Spirit for this sleepover – preparing the church for Pentecost Sunday – May 15. Projects include tie dying, banner & pin wheel making, cupcake baking & more! Join us and celebrate the birthday of the church!

Sign up on the bulletin board located at the bottom of the stairs.

The Caller

The “Caller” monthly newsletter will now be made available electronically right to your email address. Print copies will be available to pick up at the church on the first Sunday of each month. Mailed paper copies will be made available by contacting the church office. As always, the “Caller” will be available on the church website at www.christchurchamherst.org. **Please notify the church office with the method of delivery (email, church pick-up, or mail) you prefer by April 13.**

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.

March 29: Joshua 23-24; Luke 6:27-49

March 30: Judges 1-2; Luke 7:1-30

March 31: Judges 3-5; Luke 7:31-50

April 1: Judges 6-7; Luke 8:1-21

April 2: Judges 8-9; Luke 8:22-56

April 3: Judges 10-11; Luke 9:1-36

April 4: Judges 12-14; Luke 9:37-62

April 5: Judges 15-17; Luke 10:1-24

In Our Prayers

Family of Tom Davis – who died on March 20

Elvira Gonzalez – rehab at Buffalo General Hospital, still making progress

Guy Castellino's father – ICU at St. Joseph's Hospital

Patty Keller – upcoming surgery

Barry Wood – now at home

Diane Klenk , Nancy & Frank Annunciata - recovering at home

All who are caregivers for others

People of Brussels

New pastor appointment process

Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson (deployed) – all serve in the US Navy

This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, March 29 – 7 pm – Church Council

Wednesday, March 30 – 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 31 - 10 am – Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

**Friday, April 1 - 11 am – Memorial Service – Tom Davis
Lunch following the service**

Sunday, April 3 - Guest Preacher – Dr. David Pliss

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Help for Memorial Service – April 1st

A catered lunch is planned by the Davis Family following the 11 am Memorial Service. Help is needed to prepare & serve beverages, replenish food tables and clean up. Please contact Sally Pollard if you can help. sjjoy@christchurchamherst.org or 839-2460

Make A Difference Day – Sunday, May 15

You make a difference! On Sunday, May 15 there will be many opportunities to serve the needs of others. Projects include cooking, baking, cleaning, garden & outdoor clean up and more... Everyone is welcome-all ages, abilities. Invite your friends and neighbors!

NOW AVAILABLE!!

Sign-up clipboards are available on the bulletin board in the main worship space.

We're Collecting! - Check around your home as you do your Spring cleaning!

Baby Clothes – newborn to 6X - *for Baby Blessings*

Clothing Items – new & gently used - *for Clara's Closet*

Women's interview appropriate suits and blouses,

Professional separates, work appropriate shoes, jewelry, scarves,

handbags – reg. & plus sizes - *For Dress For Success*

Clothing & shoes in any condition – *for Planet Aid*

And don't forget the Shredding truck will be here on Sunday, May 15 to safely shred your documents, papers and files. (Provided by Allaire Financial Strategies)

Donate to the Church through your IRA

There is a provision allowed the taxpayer age 70½ or older to make direct distributions from an IRA account for a contribution to a qualified church or charity, bypassing recognition of the distribution as income. For more information see the [original article about charitable distributions from your IRA](#).

Food Pantry – This weeks suggested items

April 3 – Shoppers choice! – Any food & household items

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

Hosting the Cafe - Your Help Is Needed

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.

Ways to save –

The café uses many paper cups each week. – Mugs are available for your use or donate a sleeve of 8 oz cups. Baked goods & cookies are always enjoyed and donations are welcome in the café.



Hearts and Hands - Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Links willing volunteers with older or physically challenged adults for basic services such as transportation for medical appointments, errands or social activities, caregiver respite, companion visits, wellness checks, phone pals and minor home maintenance. Call 406-8311 or visit www.hnhcares.org

Call 406-8311 to sign up for a volunteer orientation (about 1 hour).

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In the early days of John Wesley's ministry he was racked with doubts and uncertainties. So he went to his old friend and mentor Peter Bohler and laid his soul bare. Bohler told Wesley: "Preach faith till you have it, and then, because you have it, you will preach faith." In other words, act as though you have already moved past doubt to faith and because you are acting it out it will eventually come to you. ~ Brett Blair

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DRB/sjp