



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

Weekly Update – May 12

The Servant Species

A round of robins were making their voices known, collectively protesting something as I stepped out of the house. Then I saw the reason and corresponding commotion at the end of the driveway - a crow had managed to capture a young robin, clearly so by the absence of the warm orange on the underbody. It was now seeking to terminate the life and begin to devour its breakfast when I found myself taking up the cause of the robins in a full run hoping that as the crow took flight it would leave the youngling.

It did take flight, managing to get only a few houses away before setting back down. I once again followed the robins in fierce pursuit where it flew high to a power line before deciding this chase had gone on long enough taking its prey high and far from family and human pursuer. What a sight this whole episode must have been to neighbors!

I walked back to my car reflecting on the ways of the natural world and yet my immediate response to the crisis. I recognized that this ability to 'feel with', this compassion, is part of our unique makeup and particularly an aspect of those who follow Christ. We are called to be the servant species who not only feel with, but act for others - particularly those who are caught or unable to do or speak for themselves. Yes, it was 'just' a robin, but that robin was the young hope of others. That robin was a unique individual of its own sacred worth. And if such a response can be elicited in the face of the cruelty of nature, surely we must be able to do that for one another. What a sight that would be to our neighbors!

-Pastor Daven



*Worship is 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

Spring Office Hours:

Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday

9a.m. - 2p.m.

At all times, even during office hours, the building will remain locked. Please call for admittance.

Wednesday, May 12

7 p.m. - New Testament Challenge Zoom Study

Thursday, May 13

1 p.m. - New Testament Challenge Zoom Study

Sunday, May 16

10 a.m. - Worship Service

In-Person and Live-Stream

Daily Bible Reading – 2021 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.

May 12: 2 Kings 4-5; John 4:1-30

May 13: 2 Kings 6-8; John 4:31-54

May 14: 2 Kings 9-11; John 5:1-24

May 15: 2 Kings 12-14; John 5:25-47

May 16: 2 Kings 15-17; John 6:1-21

May 17: 2 Kings 18-19; John 6:22-44

May 18: 2 Kings 20-22; John 6:45-71

Joy!

Joy! Congratulations to grandparents **Greg & Phyllis Maliken** on the birth of their new granddaughter Mila Belle Maliken, born in Asheville, NC on May 4 to parents Chris & Kristy Maliken, baby sister to Stevie, Olive and Mack.

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to **Carol Teresi**, whose brother-in-law died recently.

In Our Healing Prayers

-Jim Pollard - hospitalized with pneumonia

Dave Mitchell, Carolyn Day, Kevin Cetola, Paul Staley, Scott Smith, Debbie Laberta, Dave Wolf, Helen Peacock, Mary Gerhardt (Mother of Lisa Lawson), Sue Estee, Ruth Munson, Nancy & Frank Annunziata, Joe Day, Dick Ball, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Jean Ericson



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the Lord's Table for Sunday, May 16 are given by Diane Klenk in remembrance of her wedding anniversary on May 19.

The New Testament Challenge

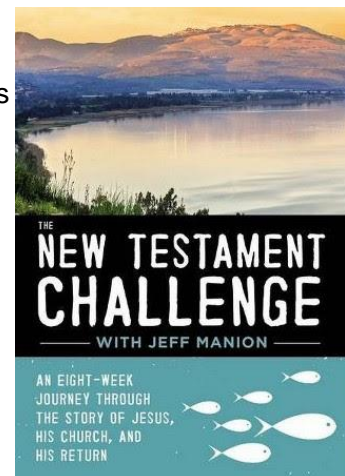
This is a 40-day reading plan which uses a special edition of the New Testament called *The Books of the Bible, New Testament*. By reading this Bible, which arranges the books with each of the four gospels at the beginning of a group of related books, you gain insights and make connections between books in a way that is both revealing and fascinating as you encounter God in a fresh new way.

Christ Church is offering two opportunities to participate in this study on Zoom:

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Facilitators: Beth Reilly Brown & Paula Kreib

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.
Facilitators: Diane Klenk & Peggy Bermudez

All are invited to participate!



**Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
May 5 - June 23**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82237527192?pwd=cWE3MXkrcUw1cHJ1NWc2cXFuYVZBZz09>

Meeting ID: 822 3752 7192

Passcode: 101207

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,82237527192#,,,,*101207# US (New York)

Thursdays at 1 p.m.

May 6 - June 24

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86838743266>

Meeting ID: 868 3874 3266

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,86838743266# US (New York)

Exploring Sunday's Scriptures

Exploring Sunday's Scriptures is returning in person next week! Pastor Daven will lead this weekly gathering at Christ Church at Noon, starting Tuesday, May 18. ESS will also continue to be available online on our YouTube channel each Tuesday.

Book Club

Christ Church Book Club will meet on Friday, June 4th at 11am in the Wesley Room at church to try out our new format and to discuss future meetings. June Gilbert will give a brief description of "All Adults Here" by Emma Straub, followed by others who wish to tell what book(s) they have read during the pandemic. The book club is considering a new format this coming year: each participant sharing a short description of a book they have read in the past month. Newcomers are always welcome!