



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

## Weekly Update – May 5

### *Dandelions*

I have written before about my annual battle against the dandelions. It's been a few weeks of my current campaign against these pernicious yellow pests. I forgo chemical warfare for hand-to-hand combat as neighbors pass by, curiously peering and commenting on the likely outcome which never seems to tip in my favor.

For me, it has become a spiritual discipline of sorts. There is something about the therapy of rooting these weeds out that asks what things have taken up a home in me that need to be worked loose and pulled out. While it may seem a more appropriate task for Lent, given that it is always in spring, I have come to see it as deeply connected to preparing for the gifts of the Spirit. To grow as strong and as full in Christ as we can, it means that these other things which grow alongside of us rooting within us, must be managed through extraction. Like the simple tool that I use, we too have tools to accomplish this in our lives through confession, forgiveness, and connection.



While I curse the interlopers popping up in my yard, I pray that as they are for me they may be for you - making us mindful of those 'weeds' in our lives. They may appear innocent enough, even colorful and pretty, but if we don't deal with them they will take over. So take up the tools of this season, uproot them in confessions, tend to the soil of the heart in forgiveness, and plant fruitful lives in Christ through connections to one another.

-Pastor Daven

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*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](http://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](#)

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## *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 5**

**7 p.m.** - New Testament Challenge Zoom Study

### **Thursday, May 6**

**1 p.m.** - New Testament Challenge Zoom Study

**7 p.m.** - Circle of Joy

### **Sunday, May 9**

***Happy Mother's Day!***

**10 a.m. - Worship Service**

*In-Person and Live-Stream*

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## *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 5: 1 Kings 10-11; Luke 24:1-35

May 6: 1 Kings 12-13; Luke 24:36-53

May 7: 1 Kings 14-15; John 1:1-28

May 8: 1 Kings 16-18; John 1:29-51

May 9: 1 Kings 19-20; John 2

May 10: 1 Kings 21-22; John 3:1-21

May 11: 2 Kings 1-3; John 3:22-36

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## ***In Sympathy***

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of former member **Mac Sabol**. Mac died on Tuesday, May 4.

## *In Our Healing Prayers*

-Jim Pollard - recovering at home

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

\*Those affected with COVID-19, those working on the front lines, and all impacted by the changes of work and activities.

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

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



## *Altar Flowers*

The flowers on the Lord's Table for Sunday, May 9 are given by the Radel Family. Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers!

## *CUMC Identity - Questions to Ponder*

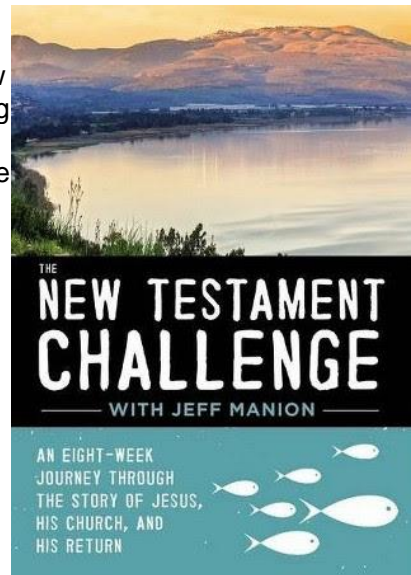
A small team has been meeting over the past few months to discuss the identity of our Church, so we better understand ourselves, tell our story to the community, and invite others into our community. Over the next few weeks, we invite you to ponder the following questions:

- **Why does Christ Church exist?**
- ***Other than the people, why do you come to Christ Church?***
- **What would you nurture in our Church to see it through to the future?**

A fillable Google Docs form is available on our website under the "News" section, or [click this link](#). Team chairs will also be discussing these questions with their groups. We look forward to your response as we take stock of where we've been, where we are, and as we imagine what the future will hold!

## ***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!

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**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**

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**Thursdays at 1 p.m.  
May 6 - June 24**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

**Meeting ID: 868 3874 3266**

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+19292056099,,86838743266# US (New York)