



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

Weekly Update – May 6



Battered Pieces

For the last couple of weeks we've had a puzzle going on our kitchen island for us to slowly work away at when taking a break. Unfortunately some pieces accidentally have found their way to the floor brushed by elbow or clothing. Once there our puppy Clover is in that wonderful phase where everything must be tasted and sampled (puzzle pieces are a delicacy!). As far as we know, all the pieces are still accounted for. Meanwhile some have become a little battered and bruised from their misadventure onto the floor. The picture won't be perfect, but they should still fit.



I would like to believe that we all fit perfectly together with all our edges and the picture of our lives smooth and clear. However, life isn't always perfect and neither are we. We have far more in common with the battered pieces. We distort the best version of ourselves, falling from God's grace, sometimes knowingly and others unknowingly. Before we know it, we find ourselves a little beat up with guilt wondering if we are good enough to keep, if we can still fit in to God's plan, and if God would even want us as a piece of that plan.

In Christ, we are retrieved in forgiveness. Even though time and again we fall and batter that image of God, by grace we are restored. And though these experiences make that picture perhaps not quite as clear, our edges not quite as sculpted, we still fit into the picture God has in store for us and our world.

-Pastor Daven



All church activities are currently suspended **until it is deemed safe and appropriate to begin reopening**. We do, however, have audio recordings available on our website and videos on our YouTube channel, as well as links on our Facebook page, for you to take part in at your convenience! Our website will be the place where we have all opportunities available as they are posted. We desire to remain connected as much as possible via online opportunities during this time.

Here is the schedule for when opportunities are posted on our website:

Sundays: Worship at 10 a.m.

Tuesdays: Exploring Sunday Scriptures

Wednesdays: Feasting on the Word

Fridays: Music & Meditation

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

[Click here to be directed to our Facebook page.](#)

[Click here to check out our YouTube channel.](#)

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 until it is deemed safe and appropriate to begin reopening. 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.

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

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

In Our Healing Prayers

We extend our sympathy and prayers to **Sissie Mooney** and the **Mooney Family**. **Mitch Mooney** died on April 30.

Barbara Carier - recovering from a procedure

David Brown's sister

Jon Davis (future father-in-law of **Janelle Martin**) - mesothelioma cancer

Barbara Burr, Kyle Ackerman (cousin of **Chris Klenk**), **Ruth** (friend of **Dede Johnson**), **Larry Burdette, Chuck Gilbert, Scott Smith, Helen Peacock, Dick Ball, Sissie Mooney, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Joe & Carolyn Day, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola**

*Those affected with COVID-19, those working on the front lines, 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

Blood Drive

The Blood Drive that was to be held at Christ Church on Friday, May 15 has been cancelled.

Blood donations are urgently needed at this time. St. Leo the Great (885 Sweet Home Road in Amherst) will be hosting a blood drive from Noon-6pm each Wednesday, or you can schedule a donation at another location through the Red Cross website. Please consider giving the gift of life. www.redcross.org



Hearts and Hands - Faith in Action, Inc. is a neighbor helping neighbor volunteer program that connects vulnerable individuals with needed services throughout Western New York. Volunteers provide free services such as: grocery delivery, transportation to appointments, and friendly conversation.

If you would like to learn more about the possibility of receiving help from Hearts and Hands, or would like to volunteer to provide assistance to those in need, call (716) 406-8311 or visit their website: www.hnhcares.org



UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) is expanding its response in the fight against Covid-19 by launching a new giving campaign, "**Sheltering in Love**". All gifts will equip U.S. and global partners to help alleviate the suffering caused by this global pandemic. Grants will be quickly disbursed to give the most vulnerable populations access to medical care, food, clean water, and other critical needs. To give to the Covid-19 Response Fund, [click here](#).