



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY

"Making Connections & Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love & Service"

## Weekly Update – November 13



### *Seeing Your Breath*

I stepped out into the cold this morning to walk my daughter to the end of the driveway where I see her off to the bus. Being garbage morning, I went in advance of her to wheel out our totes for collection. As I took my first step out of the door before I set about my tasks, I was struck with my first inhalation of the chilled air which stopped me in my tracks.

Holding it in for a moment, I then let it go in a burst where it caught in the windless morning, my breath condensing into a cloud of frozen vapor. I then repeated this several times watching the vapor slowly rising with the dawn. Watch kids at a bus stop on such a morning and you will see the simple joy they derive from this experience. Somewhere along the way we are so busy with garbage totes and schedules we lose the mystery of simply being able to see our breath.



Such mornings and moments provide spiritual clarity. The Bible is filled with times and teachings about the nearness of God, as close as and in our very breathing. Maybe we dismiss it because we can't see it or it takes the quiet focus of meditation for which we have

neither the time nor the patience. But on these cold mornings, we can't miss it. God is right there, reminding us, encouraging us with the very breath of life. Just as our breath turns to a solid, the evidence of God's presence becomes visible and solid right before our eyes.

-Pastor Daven

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The Finance Team took its first run at putting together the plan in ministry for 2020, to apply the numbers which will help bring God's vision for Christ Church into clarity. The hope was to keep spending level to 2019 while working to achieve and apply the hopes for Vision 2020. Happily, a reduction is projected in spending! However, current projected income will not allow the achievement of Vision 2020.

To date, only 54 commitments (pledges) to Vision 2020 have been received. Please help to achieve God's hopes for Christ Church in 2020 through a pledge. If you have not yet returned a commitment, please do so at the earliest convenience; if you have lost or misplaced your blue commitment card, call the church office to have another sent to you or extras can be found in the rear of the church. Cards can be returned in the offering plate, through the mail slot of the Church Office, or sent through the mail.

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## *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 **shampoo, juice, and canned soups (*not chicken noodle*)** during November. 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.

### ***Giving Tree***

The Giving Tree will be available in the Family Room starting this Sunday. Please consider taking a tag and purchasing a gift for a child or youth at Seneca Street Church or Gateway-

Longview. Gifts needed to be returned unwrapped by **December 1**. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for a neighbor in need!

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## *This Week at Christ Church*

*Church Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm, Thurs. – 9am to Noon*

### **Wednesday, November 13**

- *Caller Deadline - December/January Newsletter*
- 1pm - Nominations Team
- 7pm - Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, November 14**

- 11:30am - Visitation Team
- 1pm - 'Thirstaid' Thursday

### **Sunday, November 17**

- **10am - Worship Service**
- 11am - a.o.l. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)
- 11am - Community Youth Group
- 11am - FaithXpress

*Supervised Child Care, Sky Box and Family Worship Space available*

*Visit the **Café Connection** each Sunday morning and enjoy delicious, fair trade, **New Day Coffee**, morning treats and friendly conversation.*

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### *Daily Bible Reading – 2019 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.

November 13: Ezekiel 4-6; Hebrews 10:1-23  
November 14: Ezekiel 7-9; Hebrews 10:24-39  
November 15: Ezekiel 10-12; Hebrews 11:1-19  
November 16: Ezekiel 13-15; Hebrews 11:20-40  
November 17: Ezekiel 16; Hebrews 12  
November 18: Ezekiel 17-19; Hebrews 13  
November 19: Ezekiel 20-21; James 1

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## *Joys*

**Joy!** \$503 was received during Sunday's 2nd Helping Offering, which will benefit the Turkey Basket project.

## *In Our Healing Prayers*

**Bruce Burr, Jennifer** (Toni Neidel's daughter), **Dave Mitchell, Barbara Weaver, Jan Rhinehart, Pat Zaleski, Inez Beachley, Joe & Carolyn Day, Bob Varian, Inez Beachley, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Joyce Moser, Janet Hill, Sissie Mooney, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola**

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

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

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*We're Collecting!*

**Collection baskets are located in Crafts Hall for the following items:**

-Food for **Thanksgiving Baskets**: *stuffing mix, canned vegetables, canned fruit, brownie mix, instant mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce.* Frozen turkeys and gift cards are also greatly appreciated. Food donations will be collected through **Sunday, November 17.**

-Items for our **veterans**: *socks, underwear, white t-shirts, towels, toiletries & hygiene products, Chapstick, nail clippers, gift cards to Burger King, McDonalds, Wendy's, etc. or lap blankets.*

-Winter outerwear for **Clara's Closet, Hearts for the Homeless, and Central City Café**: *clean coats with working buttons and zippers, scarves, hats, mittens, and boots.*

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### *Pies for Central City Cafe Thanksgiving Dinner*

Central City Cafe needs pies for their Thanksgiving Dinner. If you are able to provide a pie, please sign up in the Cafe or contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or [bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com). Please bring your pie to the church kitchen by **Monday, November 25.** Thank you!

### *Christmas Tea & Mini Bazaar* *Wednesday, December 4* *2-3:30 p.m.*

This year our UMW is hosting the Christmas Tea for the residents at Beechwood. Cookies as well as helpers that day will be appreciated.

If you are able to help in any way please contact Jan Rhinehart 839-2940 or [jan.woody@verizon.net](mailto:jan.woody@verizon.net) for details. Thank you!



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## *Upcoming Events*

### *Children's Sabbath*

Sunday, November 24

Worship led by women and children of Christ Church

Guest Preacher: Dee Finch

### *Bloodmobile*

Black Friday, November 29

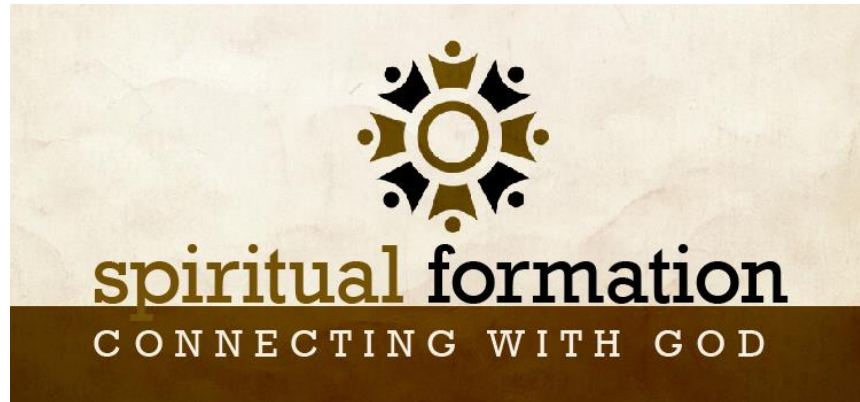
Noon - 4 p.m.

## ***Music & Meditation***

Fridays in Advent

5:30 - 6 p.m.

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## ***A.O.L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)***

**Sundays Following Worship**

***Continuing Through November***

Join as we read through the book, Making Sense of the Bible. Author Adam Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible, addressing often misunderstood

Biblical themes such as:

- How and when was the Bible written?
- Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why?
  - Were Adam and Eve real people?
  - Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?
- Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the church"?
- Is the Book of Revelation a guide to the End Times?

All are welcome!

## ***Searching the Scriptures***

**Tuesdays at Noon**

Each Tuesday Pastor Daven leads a time exploring the upcoming Sunday's Scripture.

This will provide context to the Scripture(s) being explored and ultimately enrich the experience of worship itself. All are welcome anytime!

## *Thirstaid Thursdays*

Thursdays from 1-2:30 p.m.

*Through November 14*

The Stewardship Team will be offering a study entitled, “**WHAT ABOUT OUR MONEY? A Faith Response**”. This eye-opening study will focus on our relationship with money, which shapes our relationship with God and God’s people. We’ll use some creative and thought-provoking activities to explore how our attitude toward money affects us and others every day. The answers we find may surprise us. All are welcome!