



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

## Weekly Update – November 18



I managed to get out on one of those recent late-autumn beautiful days for a long bike ride. I don't typically stop and am not prone to photos when undertaking such activities, but I was drawn to do so this time. I think it was the way I saw things opened before me. Whether a photo can capture it, I felt my body, mind and spirit reaching toward the hills, over the barren fields and leafless trees. Rather than feeling seasonal sadness, I felt drawn toward the future ... toward tomorrow.

In worship, as we move into Advent at the close of the liturgical year, it feels similar. I read the other evening about how this is the time of year for 'long' thoughts. The author explained how the landscape and correspondingly the liturgy opens which encourages the mind to reach complimented by long, dark nights. It invites us not to look back at what has been, but to look ahead and press forward toward the fields and forests of blossoming life and green growth in the future.

Look around. God is inviting us to reach with our hearts, minds and hands toward the future with nights for planning and days for doing.

-Pastor Daven

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**Thank you to all who have responded with a commitment, helping us to achieve our ambitions as a faith community to "make connections and offer opportunities for faith, love, and service." We are close to our goal to meeting our ministry objectives now, some 10+ pledges short of the current year totaling \$20,000 ministry dollars. If you have not yet returned a pledge, please do so at your earliest convenience either in the offering plate, by mail, or by submitting the Google form that can be found under the 'give' heading**

on [christchurchamherst.org](http://christchurchamherst.org). If you have misplaced or never received a pledge card, please call or email the church so one can be sent.

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NYS has created a color-coded system to indicate levels of COVID-19 with limitations imposed based upon color. Currently our region is in a **'yellow zone'** which has no impact on our current gathering with already enacted policies including mandatory masks and physical distancing. If our region moves into an **'orange zone'**, our in-person gatherings for worship will be limited beyond those directly involved to 20 people. In the event that we do move into this, we are inviting those interested in attending in-person to call the church office (839-2460) on the Friday directly prior to each Sunday between 10am - 2pm with those 20 spots being reserved on a first-come-first-served basis.

If our region moves into a **'red zone'**, all in-person worship will be suspended. We continue to offer online worship opportunities via Live Stream on [our YouTube channel](#), which is archived following its conclusion. While our hope remains to have in-person opportunities for Sunday worship, Music & Meditation on Friday evenings (beginning next **Friday, November 27**), and on Christmas Eve, we are committed to the health and safety of all people. We will follow all guidelines provided and strongly advise any who are nervous or feeling even slightly unwell to please stay home and worship virtually through this time.

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### ***All-Church Read: The Gospel According to Leviticus***

We are concluding our sermon series using the book, The Gospel According to Leviticus, as our guide. Books are available on Sunday mornings, or contact the church office to arrange for pick-up or delivery (\$15 suggested donation). The following 2 links are for videos of the final segment (Sections 5 & 6) by author David Kalas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PG5doew-Vw0>

Session 5

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96\\_dRNytTD8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96_dRNytTD8)

Session 6

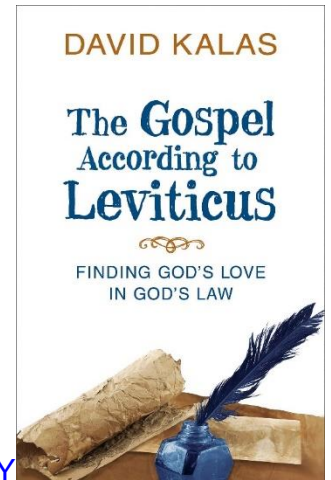
## ***Thirstaid Thursdays***

Thirstaid Thursday will also follow along with the all-church read. All are invited to join a Zoom study Thursdays at 1pm.

Topic: Thirstaid - The Gospel According to Leviticus  
Time: **Nov 19, 2020 @ 1:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6218328779?pwd=dklWSt0eXVkyWFhVWVhjYlJYeGt1QT09>



**Meeting ID: 621 832 8779**

**Passcode: 517817**

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,6218328779#,,,,,0#,,517817# US (New York)



***Worship is now 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*

### **Fall 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.*

### **Thursday, November 19**

**1 p.m.** - Thirstaid

**7 p.m.** - Staff-Parish Relations Team

### **Sunday, November 22**

**10 a.m.** - Worship In-Person and Live-Stream

*The church office will be closed November 26 & 27 in observance of Thanksgiving.*

### **Friday, November 27**

Music & Meditation

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## *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.

November 18: Ezekiel 17-19; Hebrews 13

November 19: Ezekiel 20-21; James 1

November 20: Ezekiel 22-23; James 2

November 21: Ezekiel 24-26; James 3

November 22: Ezekiel 27-28; James 4

November 23: Ezekiel 29-31; James 5

November 24: Ezekiel 32-33; 1 Peter 1

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## *Joys*

**Joy!** Congratulations to Christopher Pollard, son of Jim & Sally Pollard, who was united in marriage to Emily Novak on Saturday, November 14!

## *In Our Healing Prayers*

-Jim Pollard - *coming home from the hospital today!*

-Scott Smith

-Sue Estee

-Geoff Hill - upcoming surgery 11/24

-Ruth Munson

-Tony Bermudez, father of Brad Bermudez

-Mother of Lisa Lawson

The Bermudez Family, Dave Mitchell, Paul Staley, Pat Zaleski, Dave Wolf, Amy Thormahlen, Valari Zanghi, Sandy Cumming, Bill Swenson, Debbie Laberta & Chrissy Merrill, Kevin Cetola, Nancy & Frank Annunziata, Helen Peacock, Joe & Carolyn Day, Dick Ball, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Jean Ericson

\*All educators and students dealing with new school realities

\*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

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## ***2020 Turkey Basket Project***

The deadline for bringing in food for the Turkey Baskets has been **extended until this Sunday, November 22!**

*Help make Thanksgiving special for those in need by bringing in:*

- stuffing mix
- cranberry sauce
- canned vegetables
- canned fruit
- potatoes
- cake mix with frosting, or brownie mix

*With our gratitude and thanks for your generosity,  
The Outreach Team*

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It's that time of the year again for **the Giving Tree!**

Each Christmas we collect gifts that various charities would like to receive to support their missions. This year's recipients include: **Gateway-Longview** and **The Family Justice Center**.

Given the unique challenges that this year brings, we will only be collecting gift cards at this time. Suggested retailers include: Walmart, Target, Amazon, Tops, and Wegmans. All gift card amounts will be accepted and are appreciated!

If you wish to participate, please purchase a gift card and submit it to the church office or Diane Klenk by the given deadline (deadlines vary by charity, with Gateway-Longview's gifts needed first *by December 6*). Please contact Diane (651-0236) with any questions. Arrangements can also be made for pickup of gift cards if you are unable to bring them to the church.