



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY

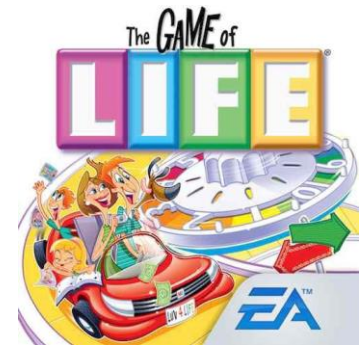
"Making Connections & Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love & Service"

Weekly Update – November 20



The Game of Life

As my daughter and I looked for a game to play the other night, she chose the game of Life. The game essentially is a series of life choices: education, occupation, living situation, income, and relationship to name a few. It is all based on a spin and number of spots moved with only a few choices that are made by anything but luck.



As with many board games, success is measured by money / wealth at the conclusion. The goal is not a life well-lived or the manner in which one conducted their life, if even just in a 'game.' In a way that I never noticed before, this really bothered me. I wondered what this taught and reinforced to children and adults. Maybe we just pass it off as entertainment, just a game. But what was lacking for me was the absence of faith, of a community, of a journey with God in Christ, of that thing which no matter what the spot landed on the ability to persevere. Where was the lifeline, the thread which provided hope to be found in the midst of challenge, strength to continue amid the circumstances, and joy to be known in the presence of the Lord?

In the game that we call life, this might be the most serious of choices. What do we believe? In what do we put our faith? Our answer will make all the difference as we spin the

spinner and journey on. Because in the end it will not be by what we have gained that we shall be judged, but by what we believe and in turn gave.

-Pastor Daven

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! 69 commitments (pledges) to Vision 2020 have now been received. While this is far closer to the achievement of Vision 2020, it remains short of our goal.

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.

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.

UMC #GivingTuesday

On **December 3**, United Methodists will once again come together to support the work of Advance missionaries and projects on UMC #GivingTuesday. Visit: www.umcmmission.org/give

This Week at Christ Church

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

Wednesday, November 20

- 7pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 21

- 1pm - 'Thirstaid' Thursday
- 7pm- Staff-Parish Relations Team

Friday, November 22

- 12:30pm – Hospitality Work Day

Sunday, November 24

Children's Sabbath & UMW Sunday

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

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 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

November 25: Ezekiel 34-35; 1 Peter 2

November 26: Ezekiel 36-37; 1 Peter 3

In Our Healing Prayers

Dick Ball - in the hospital for shortness of breath following a recent procedure

Al Wrisley - coming home today, recovering from hip replacement

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



Code Blue Supplies

As the first Code Blue was called this winter season, a terrible discovery was made. The stored totes providing the resources for the homeless facing extreme weather and cold had been stolen! Since Code Blue began, not a single life in the city of Buffalo has been lost due to weather. We are asking all to consider helping to restock the Code Blue supplies as a gesture of our care and compassion for all. They need **women's and men's: t-shirts, hats, gloves, blankets, sheets, boots, coats, slippers & socks**

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up in the Family Room! 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!

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. 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 for details. Thank you!



Women's Fun and Friendship! *Friday, December 6 at 7 pm* *Sugar & Spice Evening*

Beading with Millie Staley

We'll be creating snowflake ornaments!

Cost: \$15

Please sign up in the Café or contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com if you plan to attend.

Upcoming Events

Children's Sabbath

Sunday, November 24

Our worship service will celebrate 150 years of United Methodist Women and Children's Sabbath will

inspire us to continue the work we do for at-risk children as we give thanks for all the progress that has been made. Rev. Dee Finch will give the message and the service will be led by women, children, and youth from our congregation.

Bloodmobile

Black Friday, November 29

Noon - 4 p.m.

Contact Geoff Hill (316-1522)

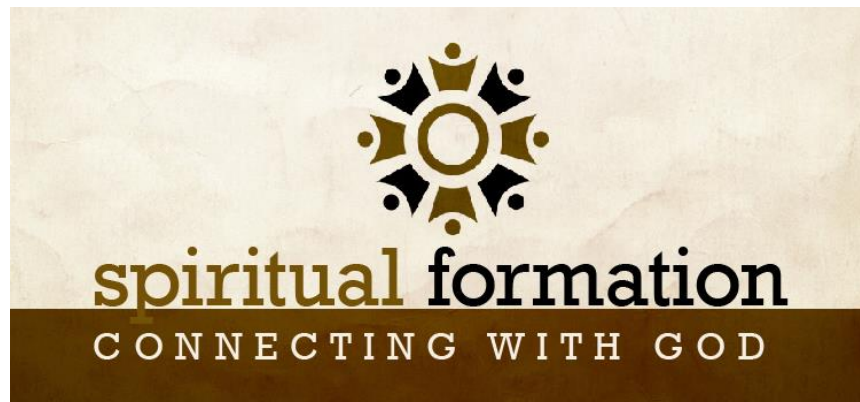
Music & Meditation

Fridays, November 29,

December 6, 13, & 20

5:30 - 6 p.m.

Join us during the Advent season for 30 minutes of meditative songs, Scripture reading, and prayer in a quiet, candlelit setting.



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

Sundays Following Worship

Digesting the Sermon - Figures of the Nativity

Led by Rev. Oskvig

Have you ever been curious about the setting and all those figures that are part of most nativity sets? A stable, animals, angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Kings,... and sometimes a host of others! Did you know that not all of these figure within any single story about Jesus? So where did they come from? What's their importance? Why does it

matter? We will be exploring the figures of the Nativity through the seasons of Advent and Christmas through the sermons and worship, Tuesday's Scripture Study, and Sunday's A.O.L. which follows worship. Don't miss out on these exciting opportunities to grow in your understanding and appreciation of the figures of the nativity.

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.

November 21 - December 19

"Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem"

A study by Adam Hamilton

Led by Peggy Bermudez & Paula Kreib

Spend some time with Mary during this Advent season. In "Not a Silent Night", Adam Hamilton looks at Jesus' life through the eyes of his mother. Imagine what Bethlehem must have looked like from Mary's point of view. Focus your own gaze on the Savior she knew as her beautiful child! Beginning with the crucifixion and resurrection, then backtracking through Jesus' life and ministry, Hamilton paints a fresh and moving portrait of the Messiah's life in this 5-week Advent study.