



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY

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

Weekly Update – November 27



The Enduring Voices

Tomorrow many of us will gather around tables with family and friends. We will make new memories as we recall tables of our past. The voices will mix, those of past and present, as will our laughter with our tears. All of them speak of the flow of time, and with it life and change. Beneath all the conversation, that's the truth of what all the voices say, if we will listen.

That could cause us to throw our hands up in despair ... the inevitability of the passing of time and change. But if we really reflect on it, what occurs is a stirring of our hopes and dreams past, present and future. Those enduring voices speak of those enduring things. It is to recognize the gift we are blessed with, of life and love which we know in Jesus Christ. It is to see and believe in what we pray for and what we commit our lives toward, that earth can be as it is in heaven. It is to reaffirm at the conclusion of one year and beginning of another the great possibility of it all.

The voices encourage us toward this, to realize that we have made a beginning in a hostile world. And for that, let us give thanks.

-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 27

- *Noon-5pm - Office Open*
- NO Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 28

- **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Friday, November 29

- *Office Closed*
- **12-4pm - Red Cross Blood Drive**
- **5:30pm - Music & Meditation**
- 7pm - Crafting for a Cause

Sunday, December 1

- **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 27: Ezekiel 38-39; 1 Peter 4

November 28: Ezekiel 40; 1 Peter 5

November 29: Ezekiel 41-42; 2 Peter 1

November 30: Ezekiel 43-44; 2 Peter 2

December 1: Ezekiel 45-46; 2 Peter 3

December 2: Ezekiel 47-48; 1 John 1

December 3: Daniel 1-2; 1 John 2

Joys

Joy! **Lee Watson & Julie Wrisley** received the UMW Mission Pin on Sunday in recognition of their service and their support of the ministries of the United Methodist Women.

Thank you to all Children's Sabbath and UMW Sunday participants and to those who planned the worship service!

In Our Healing Prayers

Mary Parsons - recent stroke

Dick Ball, Al Wrisley, Bruce Burr, Jennifer (Toni Neidel's daughter), **Sissie Mooney, 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, 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



Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up in the Family Room! Please consider taking a tag and purchasing a gift for a neighbor in need. Please return gifts *unwrapped with the tag attached* by:

Seneca Street & Gateway-Longview - December 1

Haven House—Dec. 8

SPCA and Family Justice Center—Dec. 15

Primera Iglesia (Jehovah Jireh)—Dec. 22

Thank you for your generosity!

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

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.

Christmas Play

Sunday, December 15
Following Worship in Crafts Hall

Christmas Eve

"A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols"
Tuesday, December 24
8 p.m.



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.

