



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY

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

## Weekly Update - September 11



### *Remembrances and New Life*

Today is day of remembrances. It is a time when we recall where we were, what we saw, the pain we felt, and the losses we incurred. In the days that directly followed September 11, 2001 as we all struggled digging through the rubble of broken peace and dismantled lives, we turned to faith. Places of worship filled as religious leaders sought to provide comfort amid questions clouding our minds as our fists shook at the heavens - Why? Where were you, Lord?

It's easy for us to want to blame God, to seek reason and rationale from the Almighty. I recall the episode with Lazarus (John 11:1-44) which includes those who questioned what would have occurred if Jesus had been there, if Lazarus would be now alive, along with the pain Jesus suffers in the loss of his friend mingled with the anguish of the community.

I think the answer we get is not that God was in the horrors of that day, but God was in those who rushed in laying aside self to help. God was in the gatherings of our communities in what followed. God was in our shared grief and cried with us. And God, from outside those tombs, called and continues to call us to new life to the hope that such things would never be again, where earth would indeed be like heaven. Certainly, let us never forget. More importantly, let us never abandon that call, that hope of new life.

-Pastor Daven

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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 **cooking supplies (flour, sugar, oil, and salt) and healthy snacks (crackers, granola bars)** during the summer. 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.

### *Hurricane Dorian Relief*

Hurricane Dorian has devastated the Bahamas, especially the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama. Watching and hearing all the news coverage only creates a sense of urgency to help despite the fact that we're more than a thousand miles away. While the storm is short in duration, rebuilding will take years.

The Director of Missional Engagement for the Upper New York Conference gives a couple ways we can lend aid:

-Pray for those affected and in the path of Hurricane Dorian.

-If you have a Facebook account, click on [Upper New York Conference's Facebook page](#) and click the blue "donate" button under cover photo using a credit/debit card. All donations will go to relief efforts.

For questions or more information, please contact Mike Block at (315) 898-2066 or [mikeblock@unyumc.org](mailto:mikeblock@unyumc.org). Together, we can make a difference.

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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, September 11**

- 11am - Spiritual Growth Team
- 1pm - Stewardship Team
- 7pm - Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 12**

- 1pm - 'Thirstaid' Thursday

**Friday, September 13**

- Caller Deadline - October Newsletter

**Sunday, September 15**

- **10am - Worship Service**
- 11am - A.O.L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)
- 11am - FaithXpress & Community Youth Group

*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.

September 11: Proverbs 19-20; 2 Corinthians 3

September 12: Proverbs 21-22; 2 Corinthians 4

September 13: Proverbs 23-24; 2 Corinthians 5

September 14: Proverbs 25-27; 2 Corinthians 6

September 15: Proverbs 28-29; 2 Corinthians 7

September 16: Proverbs 30-31; 2 Corinthians 8

September 17: Ecclesiastes 1-3; 2 Corinthians 9

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## *Joys*

**JOY!** We received **\$318** on Sunday for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of WNY! Thank you for your generosity!

## *In Our Healing Prayers*

**Pat Zaleski** - recent fall

**Bruce Burr, Joe & Carolyn Day, Michael Farley, Ally Stier, Dick Radel, 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

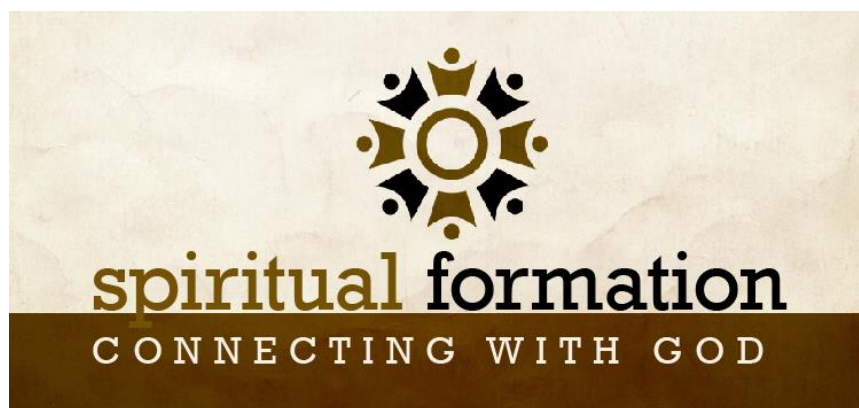
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## Make a Difference Day, Part 2 Saturday, September 28

We will be participating in several service projects beyond the church walls and out in our community. Look for sign-up sheets in the Family Room!. We will be sharing about our experiences both during worship on Sunday, September 29 and following the service in the Café.

Projects include:

- **Compass House**: clean up and improvement in the morning, concluding with making lunch and eating with the residents. (9am - 1pm)
  - **Paws in the Park**: helping with parking for this SPCA family fundraiser event. *Breakfast and lunch are provided.* (7:30-10:30am)
  - **Seneca Street UMC**: various projects indoors and outdoors, such as fall trimming & putting gardens to bed, cleaning kitchen and pantry cupboards, painting in stairwells and (maybe) bathrooms. (9am-1pm)
  - **Habitat for Humanity**: helping with a neighborhood revitalization project or sorting ReStore donations (exact project and times TBD).
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## A.O.L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

**Sundays Following Worship**

**September 8 – October 13**

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.

September 12 - October 17

All are invited to participate in discussion about prayer each Thursday afternoon in the Wesley Room. How should I pray? Does prayer make a difference? Are there different kinds of prayer? What can I do to improve my prayer life? Come quench your thirst for a vibrant prayer life!

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