

**Christ Church is Making Connections & Offering Opportunities
for Faith, Love & Service**

Weekly Update - September 19

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

Words like 'organic' are quite the vogue realities, particularly within our diets. They tend to come with higher prices and a sense of prestige attached, rather than simply sound practice and standard technique. While we can all hope that this might change over time (organically!), it is the reality we live with in the present.

As clergy we are being asked to derive discipleship programs, to set objectives, and to actively work to accomplish them. While I think that such work can be very constructive, stretching our imaginations to not just look at how things are but how they can be, it is confining the work of the church and growth in faith and of the faithful into a business plan. I guess, to put it plainly, I believe that growth in the church and in our faith is an organic process. And while all the additives might cause growth, in the long run it is found to not be healthy.

I don't know that when Jesus uses the illustration of a pearl (Matthew 13:45-46) he was thinking of the church. But I wonder if there are parallels - at least in the sense of the organic quality of growth and value that occurs over time. The others all were sold to make one for the one. I suppose for me, as in agriculture so in faith, it just makes good sense to do things organically.

-Pastor Daven



Our Worship Strategy Team will continue to meet throughout the fall for continued conversation and recommendations concerning the single Sunday morning worship service, as well as the

potential for additional worship experiences. Please see any team member with ideas, concerns, or comments you'd like to share relating to worship at Christ Church.

Worship Strategy Team members: Beth Reilly Brown, Sue Estee, Paula Kreib, Brad Loliger, Greg Maliken, David Pliss, and Laura Smith.

Daily Bible Reading – 2018 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 19: Eccl. 7-9; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

September 20: Eccl. 10-12; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

September 21: Song of Songs 1-3; 2 Corinthians 12

September 22: Song of Songs 4-5; 2 Corinthians 13

September 23: Song of Songs 6-8; Galatians 1

September 24: Isaiah 1-3; Galatians 2

September 25: Isaiah 4-6; Galatians 3

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Dr. Robert Nachbar**, who died on Tuesday, September 18. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at Christ Church on **Saturday, September 29 at 11am**. Calling hours will be held at Dietrich Funeral Home (2480 Kensington Ave. Amherst) on Friday, September 28 from 2-4pm and 7-9pm.

Joys

JOY! Over \$420 was given during the 2nd Sunday, 2nd Helping Offering, which will benefit The Teacher's Desk!

In Our Healing Prayers

Janet Hill - home!

The Nachbar Family, Woody Rhinehart, Valari Zanghi, Pat Noyes, Ann Burdette, Pam Elberson, Frank Annunziata, Michele Sciolino, Sue Estee, Mary Jane Shanley, Bob & Gloria Varian, Lois Lewis, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Sissie Mooney

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

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

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office:

Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm,

Tues. & Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Wednesday, September 19 - 7pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 20 - 1pm- "Thirstaid" Thursday Study
7pm - Staff-Parish Relations Team

Friday, September 21- 4:30-9pm- Hosting Family Promise
at St. Stephens Bethlehem UCC

Sunday, September 23 - **10 am - Worship Service**

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.*

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 **Spam, canned Spaghetti-Os & Ravioli** in September.

Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.

Hurricane Florence

The extent of the damage caused by Hurricane Florence to North and South Carolina is still unknown, leaving parts of both states in crisis. Many families are now without power, homes, and some even lost their life. Upper New York Director of Missional Engagement, Mike Block, says there's a need for help. [Click here](#) to read the full response and what you can do to help today.

Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Exploring Sunday Scriptures

Every **Tuesday at Noon**, 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"

This opportunity is offered every **Thursday** from **1 – 2:30 p.m.** in the Wesley Room. All are welcome to come for a weekly serving of "Thirstaid" to satisfy our spirits as we explore a variety of themes with different facilitators. First up: Diane Klenk will guide "Bad Girls of the Bible" through October 4. With humor and candor, we'll take a look at what we can learn from the lives of these women. Books can be purchased for \$12 following Sunday's worship service.

The Wesley Challenge!

Between October 21 and November 11 – you are invited to engage with others, using a study resource titled “**The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith,**” using questions asked by John Wesley to his students and friends at Oxford University.

On Sundays, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, and Nov. 11, Pastor Daven Oskvig’s sermons will explore three themes of the questions:

- *Relationship With God: an Upward Focus*
- *Relationship with Self: an Inward Focus*
- *Relationship with Others: an Outward Focus*

The Spiritual Formation Team invites adults and youth to participate in “The Wesley Challenge” by reading the study book daily beginning Oct. 21st (one question for each day), attending worship each Sunday, and joining with others in group reflection and conversation during the three-week period.

So we will know how many books to order, we invite you to complete the following form and return it to the church, or submit it on Sundays in the Café, or indicate your interest on the “Connection Card” (If you wish to make a donation for the book, the cost of the book is \$11 payable to “Christ UMC” with “Wesley Challenge” on the check memo line.)

Please turn in your response by Wednesday, Oct. 10

Books will be ordered based on responses, and available at the church on Sunday, Oct. 21.

The Wesley Challenge

___ Yes, I want ___ book(s).

Your name(s) _____

Address _____

Payment attached/enclosed \$ _____

Send to: Christ UMC, 350 Saratoga Rd, Amherst, NY 14226 -or- submit to church office

Got broken, chipped or unwanted dishes you'd like to give away? We'll take them!!

We're looking for colorful china or pottery pieces to be used in a breaking and remaking project for FaithXpress. Bring your items to the church office by **September 23**. Contact Kay Barber with questions (634-6987).

Women's Weekend

October 5-7, 2018

We are looking forward to the Women's Weekend! All the spaces have been filled, but any interested women may sign up on the waiting list in case of last-minute participant cancellations.

Payment for the weekend (\$90) is due as soon as possible - checks can be made payable to UMW and placed in the UMW mailbox near the church offices.

“Church begins with Jesus: who He is and what He has done. It is all about Jesus, and if it begins to be about something else, then it stops being the church as Jesus meant it to be.”

— Neil Cole, Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens

Church Office Hours:

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

SUNDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Worship at 10 am

Educational Opportunities at 11 am