



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY

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

Weekly Update - September 4



Windfalls

We have an apple tree in our front lawn typically productive every other year, this being a productive year. It's an early season apple which means the fruit is largely ripe and the tree has begun dispersing its fruit with every slight breeze or sideways look. Any fruit which falls from a tree in an orchard is not allowed to be sold to the public or used for other purposes. I don't run an orchard to sell to the public, so I have been collecting our windfalls sometimes three times a day and can testify, and remember an orchard owner back when I served a church in Niagara Falls claiming the same, the best fruit is often that which you can collect from the ground. It is a testament to its ripeness / readiness. So if you can catch them shortly after they have fallen, you have the absolute best.



I have thought about this a lot this year due to the number of apples falling ... and its got me thinking about who Jesus called as disciples, who he taught and healed, who he associated with, and God's grace in general. It wasn't the most perfect people still hanging in the tree, but the windfalls that laid upon the ground. They had been knocked off by the winds of social exclusion, of physical malady, of vocational isolation, and a host of other reasons. But Christ didn't see them as unvalued or unworthy. In fact, I would argue that Christ saw the best fruit lying in wait to be picked up by God's grace. Where the world sees unworthiness and mistakes, God sees only the best.

Heaven knows that I certainly feel like a windfall and not a picture of perfection. Thanks be to God that we are not passed over or passed by, but picked up by grace.

(Feel free to stop by and pickup a windfall or pick from the tree. We will be picking them all to press cider this weekend!)

-Pastor Daven

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 **condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, syrup), flour, sugar, oil, and salt** 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. Together, we can make a difference.

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office Hours:

Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm, Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Wednesday, September 4

- 7pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 5

- 11:30am - Visitation Team
- 7pm - Circle of Joy
- 7pm - Elizabeth Circle

Friday, September 6

- 11am - Books We Have Loved

Saturday, September 7

- 10am - UM Women Breakfast Meeting

Sunday, September 8

- **10am - Worship Service**

Backpack Blessing

- 11am - A.O.L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)
- 11am - Registration for 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.

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 4: Proverbs 5-6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-20

September 5: Proverbs 7-8; 1 Corinthians 14:21-40

September 6: Proverbs 9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-32

September 7: Proverbs 11-12; 1 Corinthians 15:33-58

September 8: Proverbs 13-14; 1 Corinthians 16

September 9: Proverbs 15-16; 2 Corinthians 1

September 10: Proverbs 17-18; 2 Corinthians 2

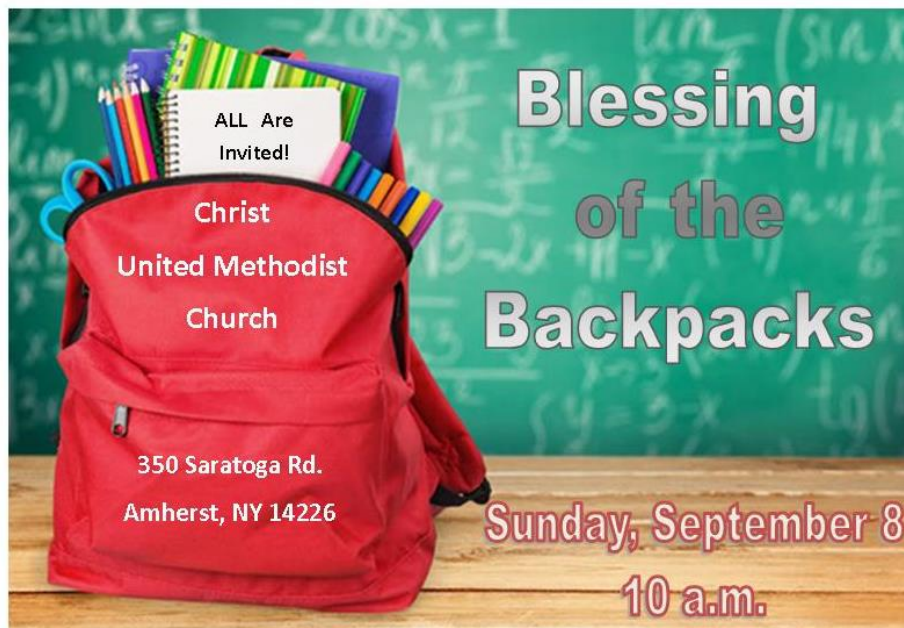
In Our Healing Prayers

Bruce Burr - in rehab at Beechwood (Bruce & Barbara recently moved to Asbury Pointe)

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



We invite all children, youth, and educators to bring in their backpacks, bags, briefcases, etc. for worship at **10 a.m. THIS Sunday, September 8!** Pastor Daven will be blessing them during the worship service.

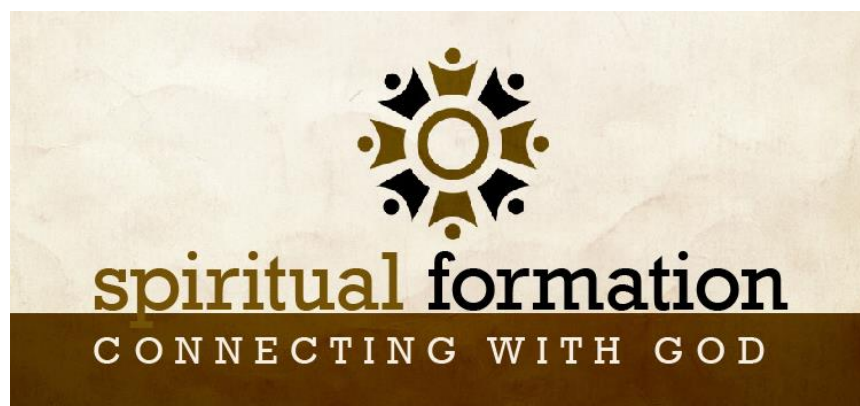
Following worship, parents, children and youth are invited downstairs for a meet and greet with the Christian Education Team in Room 18 (Music Room). Registration will take place for FaithXpress and the Community Youth Group for fall. Refreshments will be served!

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 back of the Sanctuary starting September 8. 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 this SPCA family fundraiser event. *Breakfast and lunch are provided.* (9am-1pm)
- **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).



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!

United Methodist Women's Breakfast

Saturday, September 7 @ 10 a.m.

150 Years of UMW with *Peggy Bermudez*

Hostess: Rachel Circle Cost: \$5

Who are the women who have led the way for United Methodist Women for the past 150 years? Some of the answers may surprise you. Come and hear about these courageous and innovative women whose lives continue to influence and inspire us today. All are welcome!

Christ Church Library

Our Library Team is looking for donations of nearly-new children's books (picture books through middle school age) to update the children's section of the Library. Bring any donations to the Library (upstairs by the church office) on Sunday mornings or during weekly office hours.

Western New York Refugee Film Festival 2019–2020

Show your support for refugee resettlement in Buffalo and our newest neighbors! Attend the WNY Refugee Film Festival to benefit the programs of Journey's End Refugee Services. Seven award-winning films, including a Buffalo Slow-Roll Grand Finale featuring films on the Syrian refugee crisis; a special screening at Shea's Performing Arts Center with a director-led talkback; a Global VIP Reception with international food, libations, and entertainment; food-themed door prizes; and a free WNYRFF T-shirt for all film pass holders! Buffalo Spree Magazine calls it a "Be There" event and we hope you'll be there, too! For film passes, trailers, and schedule, visit: www.wnyrff.org