

Weekly Update – June 14, 2017

Remembering you, constantly praying with joy

Thanks from Jim Pollard:

Thank you for your kind thoughts and gifts and cards and the reception on June 5. Thank you also for the privilege as serving as your pastor for this interim year – for your prayers, participation, questions, open sharing - for your faithful support of Christ UMC and commitment to the future life and ministry of the congregation. And thank you for the witness of your faith in ministries of care and service in the name of Christ. As I complete my responsibilities, my prayer for you is expressed in Paul's prayer for the Philippian church: *"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ...And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight, to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."* Philippians 1:1-6, 9-11.

What Happens At Annual Conference? – From Peggy Bermudez

It is my joy to serve as your lay member to the Upper New York Annual Conference (UNYAC) of the United Methodist Church. This year, Conference was in session from June 1-3 in Syracuse. While we do care for Conference business during those three days, Annual Conference is much more than a business meeting. In the coming weeks, I'll be sharing some of what was experienced at Annual Conference this year. To begin, we worship.

On Thursday morning, Annual Conference opened with worship which included music, scripture, litany, ashes of repentance and communion. This year's theme for UNYAC is "God is Enough". During opening worship, Bishop Mark Webb's address emphasized that we need to turn from focusing on the "what" and "how" of church so much that we forget "why" we are the church – to bring the Good News of Jesus to a despairing world. If we focus on our "why", God will show us the way into the "what" and "how". We need to turn from not trusting that God is enough. We must believe that God is enough for the future of our church and that God gives us the gifts, energy and resources that are enough to accomplish the task God has entrusted to us.

At Thursday evening's Memorial Service, Rev Natalie Hanson's message asked, "Does it Last?" As we remembered the lives of clergy and their spouses who have died in the past year, she reminded us that God uses the ordinary bits and pieces of love, compassion, mercy, and grace we offer each day to make an extraordinary impact on others. "Love lasts in ways we don't

understand and can't predict." "The measure of life is how generously, how honestly, how lovingly we live and how joyously we give ourselves away in the spirit of the One who gave Himself away for us."

Friday evening worship was a Service of Blessing and Anointing, recognizing retiring clergy and their spouses, celebrating appointments for the coming year, and affirming deacons and elders who would be commissioned or ordained the following day.

Saturday morning worship "Trust: God is Enough" was led by the Conference youth. Three dynamic young adults shared their faith experiences of struggle and discovery. Rev. Ted Anderson's 35 years of leading the Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) was celebrated as he steps down from this position.

On Saturday afternoon, Annual Conference ended with the Service of Commissioning and Ordination. All of the worship services in their entirety can be viewed on Upper New York Annual Conference site: www.unyumc.org

Daily Bible Reading – 2017 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.

June 14: Ezra 6-8; John 21

June 15: Ezra 9-10; Acts 1

June 16: Nehemiah 1-3; Acts 2:1-13

June 17: Nehemiah 4-6; Acts 2:14-47

June 18: Nehemiah 7-8; Acts 3

June 19: Nehemiah 9-11; Acts 4:1-22

June 20: Nehemiah 12-13; Acts 4:23-37

In Our Prayers

JOY! We celebrate with **Bill and Marilyn Morris** and their family on the marriage of daughter, **Sarah, to Matthew Whittaker**, which took place at Christ Church on Saturday, June 10th.

JOY! Thank you to the **Chancel Choir** and their director, **Paul Staley**, for enriching our worship with their music and song. Enjoy a summer break!

Joy! 2nd Sunday 2nd Helping Offering was \$178 for the **Tiger's Den Food Pantry** serving children & families at the Windemere and Smallwood Elementary Schools.
Thank you!

Joy! Natalie Hill to be Commissioned as Deacon

On Friday, June 16, **Natalie Hill** will be Commissioned as a Deacon in the New England Annual Conference in Manchester, NH. Natalie is the daughter of **Geoff and Janet Hill** and grew up at Christ Church and serves as a pastoral counselor.

Keep in your prayers – Erin Johnson, Kevin Cetola & Paula Kreib— recovering at home

Ed Fisher recovering, hopes to be home by this weekend

Bob Snyder – medical tests

Keep in prayer – **Laura June Merrill** and baby brother, **Patrick; Peter Shanley; Peter Zalesky**

Our sympathy and prayers are with – **Pat Noyes, Carol Corsaro, Smith & Malpica Families**

Keep the church consultation process and planning team in your prayers. Strategies and steps (both short & longer range) toward goals for the coming years have been identified based on your feedback throughout the process. They will be presented to the Church Council this Thursday for affirmation. Thank you to all who attended the **Consultation Update** last Sunday and throughout the process. Thank you to the Planning Team members for facilitating the process. Strategy Teams are now being formed for the next phase. Keep this process in your prayers.

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

Thursday, June 15 6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

7:00 pm – Church Council - Parlor

Friday, June 16 - **5 – 7 pm – Spaghetti Dinner** – benefits Uganda Missions

Sunday, June 18 - **Happy Father's Day**

9:00 am – Casual Praise

11:00 am – Traditional Style Worship

Café and Child Care, Sky Box and Family Space available all morning



Hero Central - Vacation Bible School

July 10 – 14 9am – 12 noon

Cost: \$20

Kids age 3 through Grade 5 (completed) are invited to power up at Hero Central. Discover your own super power!

To register call 839-2460 or go to

<http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/christchurchamherst>

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Blood Mobile – Friday, June 23 2-6 pm

The Health & Wellness Team is sponsoring a **Red Cross Blood Mobile** on Friday June 23 from 2-6 pm at Christ Church. Give the gift of life! Contact Geoff Hill with questions or to schedule an appointment. 316-1522

Food Pantry – June – Toilet Paper

All non-perishable food items donated will go to area food pantries. Some of the food items donated through Christ Churches collection will now be going to the newly opened Tiger's Den Food Pantry located on Main St. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Eggertsville. The Amherst Central School District asked St. Paul's to join forces with them to ensure that Amherst families in poverty receive the food they need to keep children healthy. **THEY NEED OUR HELP!** If the Tiger's Den Food Pantry can run on their own for six months to show it's worthwhile, the Food Bank of WNY will join their efforts and provide additional funding. It will also bring perishable food items such as milk, cheese, dairy products, meats, fruits, and vegetables to the pantry. Over 60% of the families in the Windemere School area live below the poverty level. Families who need it most at Smallwood and other Amherst Schools will also be able to enroll in the Tiger's Den Food Pantry. **Will you help us fill up our carts????**

Other paper goods and personal care items are also needed at the pantries.

Hosts needed--The Café is a where people connect!

Sign up to host the Café! The Hospitality Team is looking for individuals/groups to host the café and help bring people together. Connections is what we're all about! Looking forward to meeting you in the **Connection Café!**

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Collections:

For Vacation Bible School –

Boxes (any size)

Apple Juice/Lemonade

Yellow sticky notes (any size)

Graham Crackers

Pretzel Sticks

Fruit By The Foot

Cash donations for snacks appreciated

People to prepare snacks each day are needed

Please pray for the children and VBS leaders

For Uganda Team –

Neosporin

Benadryl & Hydrocortisone Creams

Tylenol

Ibuprofen

Aspirin

Disinfectant Wipes

Bandages, gauze, tape

Multi-Vitamins

Pencils

Kid's T-shirts (new, plain colors)

Reader Glasses (Dollar store or equivalent)

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"The real man smiles in trouble, gathers strength from distress and grows brave by reflection."
-Thomas Paine