



Ready for Summer

I am ready for summer. I am ready for long days and sunshine and warm weather. I am ready for ice cream from Snowman and Moxie's with a few trips to Lisa's Gelataria thrown in too... even Stewarts will do in a pinch and it is in walking distance from my house. I am ready for gardening and longer walks with the dog and roasting marshmallows over a fire. I am ready for summer.

I am also ready for the wonderful way we do worship at Christ Church over the summer. In July we will be building our services around musicals. We have already received suggestions for The Wizard of Oz and Wicked, for Lion King and Beauty and the Beast, for Les Mis and Phantom of the Opera, and many more. Is there are musical you want to suggest for the mix? Do you love musicals and want to help plan worship? Please contact the office (call or email) so we can include you. In August we will be hearing the gospel according to some voices that were not included in the official canon. Our understanding of the biblical story may be richer from considering the Gospel of Thomas, or Judas, or Mary. Are you interested in doing some reading or research and being a part of a discussion about how to communicate this neglected piece of good news to the Christ Church community? If so, please contact the church office so we can suggest some reading options and make sure to include you in the worship planning conversations.

I am ready for summer and Vacation Bible School. Children and youth from several congregations will gather August 1-4 at First United Presbyterian on 5th Street for VBS with the theme Love your Neighbor. We will have a light supper followed by story and crafts and games and music.

I am ready for summer and our annual picnic and worship at Methodist Farm. On Sunday, August 21, we will gather at Methodist Farm for swimming and fellowship and a potluck supper followed by evening vespers in the chapel.

Are you ready for summer? Please make us a part of your summer plans!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

Fundraising Opportunities and Extravagant Generosity

Church Church's 2011 Budget depends on \$10,000 in fund raising. Dinners, Talent Auction, the sale of churros, craft sales, yard sales and other fund raising activities make up this amount. If you are able to help with any of these efforts, we welcome you with open arms. You can also help by alerting us to places where a yard sale table or a craft sale table might attract a group of buyers. If you hear of community sales of any kind, or if you can help organize a fundraising event, contact Dorcas Rose at 273-6797.

Another way you can help support the events and activities of the church that you enjoy is to give a gift over and above your pledge of support. This might be a portion of your income tax return or a gift to honor a special event or a gift of gratitude for a special blessing.

As always, we are grateful to members of the congregation for your generous contributions to the relief of the disasters that seem to be more frequent than ever. This is especially appreciated in light of the recent and current economic situation.

C ontents	Music..... 2	Talent Auction..... 3	Dishes..... 6
	Churros..... 2	Devotion..... 4	Book Group..... 6
	Summer Flowers..... 2	May Flowers..... 4	Alternative Thinking..... 6
	Greeters..... 2	Summer activities..... 5	Cleanup Day..... 6
		Summer Birthdays..... 5	Spiritual Gifts..... 6
		Summer Anniversaries..... 5	Spire Deadline..... 6

God intends the church to be a community that embodies love, grace, and justice for all people. As a Reconciling Congregation, we therefore affirm the sacred worth of and welcome persons of any sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, marital status, race, ethnic background, economic condition, and physical or mental ability as full participants in our community of faith. God's love includes everyone, as does Christ Church United Methodist.

Music at Christ Church

Many thanks to all of you who've helped with our music ministry this past year! Music Sunday, which traditionally marks the end of the music program for a well-deserved summer break, will be Sunday, June 5. But, some musical moments will continue through the summer. Watch the bulletin for announcements of iGen rehearsals, which will continue for a good part of the summer. And, our Sunday Worship Planning will include a month (July) dedicated to favorite Musicals, which has already generated a great deal of interest.

Once again, thanks to all who've given of their talents via musical contributions and, as always, there is room for more if you'd like. Just see me and we'll put something on the schedule.

Warmly, in Christ,
George Garin, Minister of Music

Churros: can you help?

We are forming two teams to staff the churro booth for the summer. One again, we will be at Troy Riverfest and Troy Pig Out as well as all the Rockin' on the River concerts - saturday and Wednesday opportunities to help out with serving, taking money, handing out samples and chatting with customers so they get to know some Christ Church folk. We aim to have some training for anyone interested in making dough or cooking the churros. Anyone able to help with wednesday afternoon set-up, even if you cannot stay for the whole session is very welcome to join in as we wait for others to join their team after work. Talk to Paul Marano if you can be there.

Summer flowers

We usually have florist flowers through most of June before a less formal summer schedule. Some Sundays have been requested (July 10 and August 14). If any others are wanted, let us know (Marilyn Blom or the pastors) so they can be ordered. Otherwise, there will be a sign-up sheet on the office window if anyone would like to provide garden or cut flowers for a Sunday. This means you bring them, place them on the altar and take them afterwards. Any acknowledgement can be put in the bulletin if the office knows by Wednesday or Thursday OR it can be mentioned during the service.

If there are no flowers inside on a summer Sunday, take time to enjoy the greenery outside in the yard. Any help with watering, weeding, picking up, etc. is always appreciated.

Greeters Urgently Needed!

We at Christ Church take a great deal of pride in being a welcoming congregation. At least that's what we say. And I think we are, given that a couple of years ago we became a Reconciling Congregation. When we pass the peace at church every Sunday, we do so warmly and with sincerity. So, last fall when the church needed a coordinator of greeters I volunteered to do that, thinking that there would be no problem getting people to greet just a couple of Sundays per year. Amazingly, that's been much more difficult than I expected.

There is a core group of folks who do volunteer, and I very much appreciate their doing so. However, to make greeting really work, we need most, if not all, of those who attend church to participate. Obviously, there are people who are involved in other ministries such as teaching Sunday school and other Sunday obligations, and they have good reason why they cannot be greeters. That makes it even more important that all of us who do not have those obligations volunteer to greet.

Due to illness this spring, I have not been as active in attempting to recruit greeters as I ordinarily am. Because

of a special effort in March, we had greeters for most Sundays in April and May. However, we have none for the months ahead. I believe the same situation exists for ushers, and I know that Märta Andersen needs volunteers for that activity as well.

So, I will be talking with as many of you as I can when I see you at church and coffee hour, and asking you to volunteer. I hope you will do that, for after all, it is the congregation who will make the final decision as to whether we have greeters or not. It really is your decision. You have the opportunity to say, "Yes, I really want us to not just say we are a welcoming congregation, but to really be one," by saying yes to greeting. After all it's not rocket science, and it is actually fun. I can in two minutes provide you with the necessary "training."

It would be a great favor to me and to the church if you would please call me at 326-3212 or send me an email (still.life.guy@gmail.com) and let me know when you can greet. Obviously, our first priority is to develop a schedule for June and July. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks very much, Bob Blackmon

Talent Auction

Item 1:	Cream Tea to Go (for 4) or choice of scones
	Pastor Janet will supply scones (properly pronounced with a short “o,” by the way), cream and strawberry preserves packed in a basket with 2 bottles of spritzer, “glasses,” napkins, plates and flatware – all ready for a Sunday afternoon snack by the canal or in the park. or you can choose to have 3 batches of scones, delivered different days, to include one batch of plain scones with preserves and cream; one batch of cheese scones and one batch of fruit scones.
Items, 2, 3 & 4;	Various options to dye silk scarves for gift-giving
Item 5	Some old vinyl LP’s in remarkable condition. Highest bidder gets first pick through.
Item 6A-D	Infused olive oils
Item 7 A-B	Knitted framed art work.
Item 8	Springerle in Autumn
	For those of you who like a dessert with a fascinating heritage - a cookie that takes patience and skill to get right!
Item 9	Mother’s Little Helper by Micah Torres
Item 10	Full Italian Dinner from Beginning to Dessert
	Now that’s Italian. Theresa Manciocci will make homemade lasagna with sauce, salad and garlic bread as well as provide the drinks for four. The highest bidder may choose from the following desserts: key lime pie, chocolate peanut butter brownies, chocolate chip cookies, chocolate raspberry bars or a pumpkin cheesecake.
Item 11	Night of Babysitting
Item 12A -B and 20	Under the hood computer checkup
	The father/son team of Ron and Tim Burgin will take a look at your system and provide 2 hours of advice or technical help, as you require.
Item 13A-B	Guitar Lesson
	Take a starter guitar lesson with Minister of Music, George Garin.
Item 14.	Hand Turned Cherry Bowl
	This five inch cherry bowl is a beautiful accent piece donated by David Brooks
Item #15	One Hour Private Yoga Class
	Yoga is used to create a balance between the body and mind. Learn how to do different movements, breathing exercises, relaxation techniques and meditation. This private 1 hour yoga will help you on your way to relaxation. Donated by Joely Mork
Item 16	Out to Lunch
	You may know our Pastor Nina is an inspirational preacher, talented musician, and gifted runner, but if you weren’t around for last year’s auction or don’t get to Troy during the noon hour, you may not realize she loves to combine exploring the eateries of the City with Lively conversation. 4 lunches for one person, or 2 lunches for two.
Item 17	Hand Turned Wooden Pen
	Hand turned wooden pens make excellent gifts for that graduate coming up in June, or maybe you would like a special pen for yourself. Donated by Darlene Brooks
Item 18	Beaded Necklace
	We have all seen Lee Kemp’s crocheted handwork and know that she makes beautiful things, and this hand crocheted beaded necklace is no different.

Item 19	Tour of Albany's Gargoyles, Grotesques and Green Men
	Randi Bentley is offering a personal encounter of fascinating stone head carvings. Appreciate the talent of master carvers from Europe who came to work here.
Item 20 - see 12.	
Item 21	Not Just Any Chocolate Brownies
	This batch of brownies made by Ron Burgin are not just any brownie. Get your glass of milk and get ready for these delectable chocolate brownies.
Item 22	Help Writing that Letter you Never Seem to Finish.
	Ever start a letter and put it away unfinished? Well, Joely Mork will help you complete that letter.

No item numbers for these but there is also:

Orange Blossom Chocolate Chip cake from Ruth Morant, as is:

A Dobosh torte (a six layer cake),

Afternoon at Van Schaick pool for 2-3 people, donated by Thila Bell.

hand crocheted baby afghans: blue and pink by Suzanne Sherman , also:

A sofa-sized hand crocheted afghan in winning bidder's color choices

There are also some framed versions of our worship metaphors from Alice Rose.

And maybe a few other things added since the list was made!

Stop by at coffee hour to see where the bidding is - or call the Church Office and bid. Bidding ends at 12 noon on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th. if you cannot be there, a proxy bidder can be arranged!

May Flowers

1st	Remaining Easter flowers. This was a short service with communion, followed by 'going out' activities in the community
8th	Mothers Day: Given by Marta Andersen in loving memory of her mother, Gina Jansson.
15th	Given by Sharen, Joel & Emily Holcomb in celebration of Sharen's best friend, her mom's 80th birthday.
22nd	Wedding flowers.

Devotion:

Nancy Burgin

Yes, it IS possible to have an argument while underwater. Ron and I were snorkeling when we saw some purple and gold fish. I got all excited and pointed to my underwater fish guide strapped to my hand. I turned to the back page and, sure enough, there was a purple and gold fish. I showed it to Ron. Ron shook his head and made a horizontal slash with his hand. Okay, so this fish had its colors divided horizontally, while the one in the guide had purple in front and gold in back. We decided that in the end, it was – a purple and gold fish.

Like the (evidently) two kinds of purple and gold fish, Christians come in differing "hues". Some are more gifted in some things than others. Some see things more literally than others. But we are, when it comes down to it – all Christians. As we heard in a recent service, we are "one body, many parts"(1 Cor. 12) and diversity is to be valued, whether in humans or in fish.

Time for New T- Shirts

Sharen Holcomb is making a list of choices for new shirts. We know the color - blue- but, depending on numbers we may be able to offer women's styles as well as regular shirts, and maybe the collared shirts too.

Important dates:

June 4th	We have a sale table at the Garage Sale in Little Italy 9-2
June 5th	Church School/Music Day. We celebrate our music and church school programs with a worship service with much music and with our young people taking lead role, including a new play, on Noah, written by Alice Rose. Afterwards there is fellowship time with coffee at church or walk 4 blocks for lunch and bowling: reservations required.
June 11th	Church clean -up - see article
June 13th	Africa University meal & concert
June 16th	7pm Church Council
June 18th	Riverfest (churros)
June 22nd- August 24th	Rocking on the River (churros)
July 16th-17th	Troy Pig Out (churros)
August 1st-4th	VBS see Pastor Nina's article
August 18th	Church Council
August 21st	Spire deadline

June Birthdays

1st	Bobby Busta	1st	William Samuel Crowley	2nd	James Thompson	4th	Janet Douglass
4th	Kate Storms	6th	Georgia Holland	8th	Doris Mooradian	9th	Christopher LaMere
10th	Bruce Bassett	11th	Erika Boucicaut	11th	Nancy Farrell	13th	Shirley Behan
15th	Michael Wiltshire	16th	Tina Honsinger	19th	Timothy Burgin	22nd	William Murphy
25th	David Large	26th	Daniel Wiltshire				

July Birthdays

1st	Esther Dunagan	3rd	Linda Campbell	4th	Erica Greene	5th	Kitty Farrell
5th	Alan Baumbach	6th	Jolene Wiltshire	8th	Annee Borthwick	8th	Thomas Strock Jr
9th	Kris & Leah Cook	10th	Lowell A. Blom	10th	Dillan La Mere	11th	Jim Fenimore
12th	William Pryor	13th	George Baker	16th	Lois Bishop	16th	Carole Farrell
18th	Shirley Yattaw	21st	Richard Feiden	23rd	Lee Kemp	24th	Christine MacDonald
26th	Thomas Feiden	28th	Carol Best				

August Birthdays

1st	Joanne Douglass	1st	Patrick Lifite	2nd	Frank Feiden	3rd	Kevin Hedley
4th	Corinna Facticeau	7th	Kristin Urzan	7th	Paul McEachron	9th	Shirley Weiner
10th	Susan Fenimore	13th	Ed Valentine	16th	Judy Feiden	16th	Karen Campbell
17th	Karen Blom	17th	Rosa Baumbach	18th	Ashley Horton	19th	Ian Farrell
20th	Candy Urzan	21st	Kenneth Fletcher	23rd	Curtis Dunagan	23rd	Alexis Pryor
24th	Zachary Crowley	24th	Kenneth Large	29th	Charlotte Cape	29th	Jeffrey Strock
31st	Thila Bell						

Anniversaries

June 1st	Dick and Bev Culver	June 2nd	Henry & Heather Delamarced
June 14th	Ken and Dorcas Rose	June 19th	Tom Jr and Katie Feiden
July 15th	David and Shirley Large	July 16th	Nina Nichols and Andrew Torres
July 21st	Alice Rose & Paul Marano	July 21st	Judi Jacques and James Facticeau
July 31st	Joe and Carole Farrell	August 7th	Ian and Nancy Farrell
August 11th	Kathy & Thomas Feiden Sr	August 28th	Bill and Donna Pryor

September Spire Deadline

The September Spire deadline is Sunday August 21st.

Dishes Anxious to Go Home!

We have been accumulating your dishes, bowls and plates in the downstairs kitchen. Did you bring something for a potluck or coffee hour and forget a plate. Please look through the collection of unnamed crockery and reclaim what is yours!

Short book group: “when Bad Things Happen to Good People.”

We have a suggestion for a two meeting discussion on this well known book on suffering, written by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Where and when we meet will depend on who is interested. It is a continuation of the discussion in two chapters in the recent Lent study course (God does not “Cause Cancer, Car Wrecks, and Other Catastrophes” and “Jesus’ Death: What About Suffering?”) If those chapters left you wanting to discuss further, this might be for you! Let Janet know.

Alternative Thinking

What’s with all those Marys in the New Testament? Who was the leader of the early Jesus followers? (It was not Peter.) We heard Thomas is a doubter, and a twin (whose twin?!) but was he also a gospel writer? And what about Judas? Betrayer or best friend and most loyal disciple? And was Mary Magdalene a sinner? Friend? Chief apostle? Jesus’ wife?

These are the issues that come up in the “other scriptures”, the ones that did not make it in the New Testament. They have titles like: the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, Peter, Thomas or Judas; there are the Acts of Peter and several more Apocalypses in addition to the book of Revelation which closes our Bible.

In August we will focus on alternative views of Jesus each Sunday. If that intrigues you enough to want to watch a DVD or read a book on any of those topics or people, and maybe help plan worship, speak to Janet.

Clean Up Day

The trustees will host a church clean up day and would appreciate as many hands as possible.

On Saturday June 11th we will prepare the church for Pentecost, Confirmation and our influx of summer

visitors. We will go from 9:00 to 1:00 and will start the day with coffee and end with pizza at 1:00.

All are welcome to come and help make the church a clean and welcoming space. There is a sign up sheet in on the office window but we won’t hold it against anyone who show up to work without signing up.

Thank you. Christopher Greagan

Church School News

June 5th is the last day of church school for the summer. Please join us as the students take part in the worship service. Afterwards, we are having a bowling party, with pizza provided. We hope to see you there!

Spiritual Gifts - it’s not too late

The Retreat has happened and worship series drawing to a close but it is not too late to take a questionnaire or hand a completed one in for assessing. Those who came to the retreat sang a lot and looked at our results together. On the Saturday afternoon we took a different questionnaire to help us better know our spiritual personality on the Myers- Briggs scale.

What was interesting there is that we were very much a group of ENFPs (if you know that system)- so now we do not know --are ENFPs drawn to Christ Church- or- do ENFPs like going to retreats? If you want to know about all this. let us know in the Office -- we can always have a short event at church to test and help you understand some of the way we all think and how differently those close to us can see the very same thing, even in worship.

Two Books Making the News

“Love Wins” by Rob Bell has been making news shows and magazines; “Razing Hell” by Sharon Baker has been around a little longer but both deal with the same issues about hell and the character of God. They make great discussion material. We can get them both at 40% off if you would like to read them - or check them out of the public library. If a few of us are interested we can have a 1-3 session summer book group out in the community. Suggest your favorite Summer meeting spot.



Office phone 272-8392, Fax 273-8042, URL <http://www.ChristChurchTroy.org>

The Rev. Nina Nichols Senior Pastor email pastornina@christchurchtroy.org Urgent phone: 588-6405

Janet Douglass, Assistant Pastor email janetd@nycap.rr.com Urgent phone: 273-3713

The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus