

Dreaming

As I write this we are coming to the end of a three week worship series on dreams. If you are intrigued and missed a Sunday, don't forget there is a video of the scripture/sermon that you can watch from the website (www.christchurchtroy.org) on the weekly metaphor page... just click on the link to our ustream channel. And, of course, to view all the components of worship, DVDs are available in the office. To experience the fullness of worship, you have to be there... we can't figure out how to stream or record someone's warm smile aimed right at you, or a handshake or hug as we pass the peace... if it has been awhile, please believe that you have been missed!

But back to dreams...Psychologists believe we *daydream* anywhere from one third to one half of our waking hours. And, contrary to popular thought, scientists now believe that when the brain wanders it is working harder to solve problems-- harder, and better. At their best, daydreams allow us to relax, manage conflict, maintain relationships, boost productivity, cement beliefs and values, boost creativity and achieve goals, and relieve boredom. Prophets dream... so do artists, and scientists, and athletes... they open themselves to a vision of what might be... Acts 2 says, when God's spirit is upon us, young men and women will see visions and old men and women will dream dreams... We can look at the way things are and choose to dream a better dream.

We are dreamers at Christ Church, I think. We are dreaming about how the building might be renovated to be more welcoming to members, friends, and neighbors. We are dreaming about how to tell the old story in a new way that is engaging and relevant. We are dreaming about how to fill the hungry with good things. We are dreaming about how to love our neighbors in real ways that make a difference. We are dreaming of how to reach new people and welcome long-timers and new-comers.

I hope you will spend some time daydreaming about who and how we might be the church this year. And then, as the Monkees suggested, I pray you will be a "daydream believer."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Nina

Do you have Questions? We hope so!

Questioning is right up there in how we describe ourselves as a congregation. Living with theological questions has become a staple of study but we have heard that some of you have questions about why we do what we do and why we say this or that; questions about Methodism compared with the denomination they may have come from; and yes. about some of those words Christians love to throw around.

We want to be open to explaining and discussing these issues. So if you always wanted to know...there is now a basket at the back of the sanctuary and spare paper for you to jot down your query. It can be anonymous or signed.

On the second Sunday in March we will hold the first Coffee Talk after worship and share some of those questions, if there are some by then. Discussion subjects will be chosen by the end of February for the first Coffee Talk.

Janet Douglass & Ken Rose.

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Music at Christ Church

Along with some special music in our worship this past month thanks to Michael Lopez (vocals), Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius (piano) Paul Kirk (violin), Fritz Stafford (guitar and uilleann pipes) and our Sunday School and iGen folks, we served as the host site for over 100 musicians who attended the JamSing Thing the weekend of Jan. 14-16. Our weekly groups (Bell Choir and iGen) have re-started after the Christmas break, though some rehearsals had to be cancelled due to snow storms.

Look for some new experimental approaches in the near future. iGen will be looking at incorporating more movement and dance into their worship contributions. Some of their members may be joining those who help lead our hymn singing on Sundays. Our Bell Choir will be contributing regularly to our worship. In addition, we are looking for more folks willing to prepare and lead special musical offerings.

Finally, I have been giving more consideration to the relationship between music and prayer. One service at which some novelty might occur will be the last Sunday in January when the theme for worship will be "Unplugged for Prayer." A few times we've had music accompany our Sunday prayers. Some have found this helpful or meaningful, others not so much. Together with our worship planning teams I hope to explore further possibilities. If you'd like to know more, just google prayer and music and you'll come up with many approaches such as Taize worship, etc.

Warmly, on this coldest of winter nights thus far this year:)

George Garin, Minister of Music

Thank You

We have received kind thank you letters from many of the agencies your gifts have helped. In particular this month, we received letters of gratitude from Joseph's House for your generous holiday gifts to children in their program, and thank yous from Unity House for being able to use our space to hand out gifts to - literally thousands of children - and from Joseph's House for being host to the overflow shelter, Inn from the Cold, for the months of November and December. Thank you you all - your generosity keeps our doors open and God's love for all, a reality for so many.

Congratulations

to Micah Torres

on being selected by the Colonie AAU basketball team. We look forward to cheering you on this spring and summer.

to Matt Baumbach

Matt, grandson of Frederick & Rosa Baumbach and son of the Rev Alan and June Baumbach, has been inducted into the Stony Brook chapter of NSCS. Scholars (NSCS) is the nation's premiere organization for high-achieving students. Membership is by invitation only and is offered only to freshmen and sophomore students who carry a 3.4 grade point average or higher and are in the top 20% of their college class. Well done, Matthew!

Surveys

If you have not filled out an anonymous survey at worship, we hope you will! They are bright yellow and can be found at the back of the sanctuary, alongside a basket to put them in once completed. These are just a few questions long but will give the leadership and Finance Team an idea of how we are meeting needs and fulfilling expectations. Thank you.

Sunday School Souper Bowl Food Drive all this month!

All area food banks are in desperate need for items. Some have had to ration what they distribute to households because the need is so great. Help us help these families by bringing in cans, boxes, and bags of food during the month of February. The Sunday School will collect donated items and bring them to the Roarke Center on 4th Street, helping families and individuals in our immediate neighborhood. As you shop for groceries this month, please pick up a few extra items for this important Sunday School mission project. Thank you for your help and support.

Last Chance to Enjoy the Angels

The colorful angels hanging overhead in the sanctuary will be coming down in early March (to get ready for Lent). So, if you haven't stopped by to see them or want to sit with them one more time, this month is your last chance, until next year. Also, if you're interested in installation art and would like to learn more by helping us put away this exhibit, please contact Alice Rose. A few more helping hands are always appreciated.

The Persons in the pew: Shauna & Mike Worthley


Shauna and Mike Worthley, self-described “Air Force brats,” met in high school in Rome, New York when both of their fathers were stationed at Griffiss Air Force Base. After high school, Mike, who had grown up all over — Germany, North Carolina, Louisiana, Nevada, and Plattsburgh — went to SUNY Oswego, while Shauna, whose childhood had involved fewer moves (Panama and Maine), went to Texas State University.

Mike joined the Air Force, too, after graduating from college, completing basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas. He was then stationed at Mountain Home AFB in Boise, Idaho, and he and Shauna were married there in 1997. She finished her B.A. in elementary education at Boise State University, and an M.Ed. in educational administration at the University of Idaho. Sydney was born in Boise in 2002.

When Mike left the service, the family moved back (more or less) home: first to Fayetteville, near Syracuse, while Mike completed SUNY Morrisville’s standard-bred horse racing driver and trainer program. Moving to Troy, both he and Shauna worked for Progressive Insurance for three years. Then, having taught first, second, fourth and seventh grades while living in Idaho, Shauna began teaching at Voorheesville Elementary School, first kindergarten and now, fourth grade. Christopher, who will be five in March, was born here in Troy.

Lifelong Methodists, Mike was baptized as a baby; though Shauna’s parents brought her to church with them, they felt that it was a choice for an individual to make. Shauna made it, and was baptized at age 21. They share a love of football, though as of last weekend, both are disappointed: she’s a Patriots fan and he roots for the Saints. They also, fortunately, love to travel, as well as movies and reading (in Mike’s case, “anything about horses,” the Sherlock Holmes stories and the Harry Potter series, and in hers, Jodi Picoult as well as J.K. Rowlings’ books about the boy wizard).

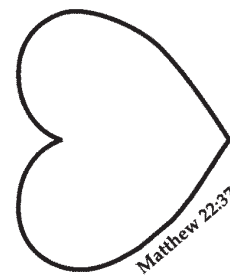
Mike and Shauna have been coming to Christ Church pretty regularly for several months, and the children are involved in Sunday School. Please, if you haven’t done so already, do stop and chat with them after worship someday soon. They’re a great couple



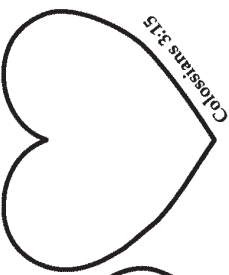
Just for KIDS

Our heart is a most important part of us!
In the Bible, “heart” sometimes means the part of us that is filled with special feelings.

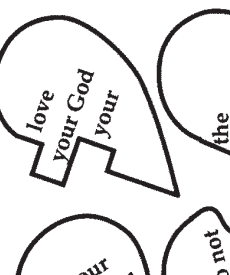
Cut out the heart pieces below and fit them in the correct heart.
You will find verses from the Bible that are about the “heart.”



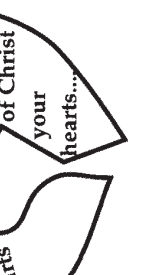
Matthew 22:37



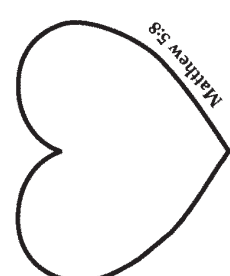
Colossians 3:15



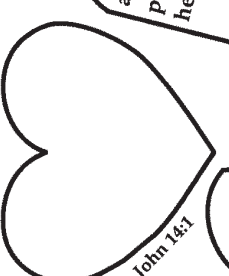
love your God your hearts...



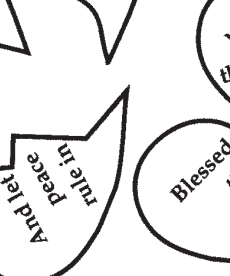
the of Christ your hearts...




Matthew 5:8




are pure heart...




let your be troubled.




Do not hearts heart...




John 14:1



And let peace rule in



Blessed the in



You shall the Lord with all heart...

Upcoming Study Opportunities

Janet Douglass

We are hoping that the Winter is going to grow kinder really soon, and that we can begin some studies. As always, I am anxious to provide the kind of study people would most enjoy and there are currently several items being discussed, though they are, by no means, the only options!

I have recently purchased the **DVD series "First Light"** - rather as "Eclipsing Empire" toured the cities where Paul taught, "First Light" tours the Galilee and Jerusalem and talks about the gospel stories. Written and presented by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, Crossan - one of the foremost Christian scholars of our age who wrote the accompanying participant reader, says of it: "It is all I have to say about Jesus after half a century of study - in succinct summary". I have previewed it and I think it is interesting and great discussion material. There are 12 sessions and we could certainly do this Tuesday evenings at Church with classes 7:00 - 8:30pm: as always, if there is sufficient interest in an alternative time, I am willing to consider that.

There are still some people who are interested in an evening or weekend study- discussion using **Living the Questions 2.0**. (There is currently a group doing this on Thursday mornings.) This study is in 3 sessions, each of 7 classes and it is a dvd-based discussion with multiple well known current Christian thinkers. Over the 21 sessions, participants hear how Progressive Christians view Christianity and the Bible, Jesus, creation myths, birth stories, the recent interest in "the rapture", resurrection and the future and meaning of the Christian faith. A commitment to the whole series is suggested to get the most from this foundational course in Christianity for the 21st Century.

Book Studies are another option and they can happen in coffee shops as easily as homes or the church. As we look towards Easter, Crossan's "The Last Week" - source of some of our Passion Sunday worship the past 2 years- is a good choice; Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg has a good study book that accompanies it and also worked well for the morning study group. And I am open to your suggestions! If this is an attractive option, let me know.

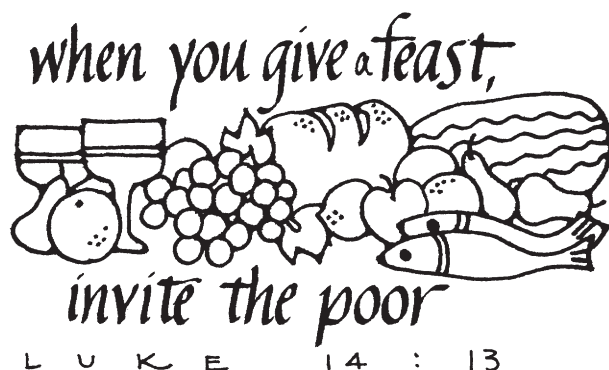
Finally, **small group studies in homes**, for those who cannot easily get out right now, are also possible. Any of the ideas above - and more- are possible. If you would like to open your home for such a study, especially if you have 5-8 people in mind, whom you would like to encourage to come along, I'd love to talk time options. Such studies can easily be tailored to meet a specific need and can be a one-off, 2-4 week or longer series. Get in touch if you have an idea.

Devotion

Nancy Burgin

I had gotten the tote out to retrieve a Christmas present I had hidden away. Gift in hand, I went to shove the tote back onto the shelf. I shoved, and shoved. It was caught on something and not moving. Annoyed now, I looked to see what was in the way. Oh, no! There was another container-the kind I store hats and mittens in for Unity House. I looked inside and discovered that's was what was in there.

I got on the phone quickly. Their Christmas distribution had just started that day, but how long did it run? Finding out I had time to get it there, I took the container the next morning. When they saw what was in it, they said, "Good! We're running low." So the mittens and hats got where they needed to be, in time for them to be used. Which shows sometimes God uses "the still, small voice" (1 Kings 19:12) and sometimes, just occasionally, He's been known to use uncooperative totes!



Spaghetti Dinner

We will be doing our annual Benefit Spaghetti Dinner on Friday night, March 25th. Paul Marano, Sharen Holcomb and Dorcas Rose will be coordinating the event and the Parker School will again be a co-sponsor. Sharing the proceeds of the dinner will be Bethany Hospitality Center, Joseph's House, Roarke Center, Troy Area United Ministries, Unity House and the YWCA. Watch the bulletins and the March SPIRE for further details.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6pm iGen 6:30pm Wshp Planning	2 7pm Handbells	3 10:30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Finance	4 6pm Soup 6:30pm Movie night	5
6	7 6:30pm Wshp Planning	8 6pm iGen	9 7pm Handbells	10 10: 30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Trustees	11	12
13	14 6:30pm Wshp Planning	15 6pm iGen	16 7pm Handbells	17 10: 30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Church Council	18	19
20 Spire Deadline	21 6:30pm Wshp Planning	22 6pm iGen	23 7pm Handbells	24 10: 30am LTQ 2.0	25	26
27	28 6:30pm Wshp Planning	Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship				

February Birthdays.

4th	Fred Baumback	9th	David MacDonald	9th	Brandon Pryor
10th	John Tinkler	12th	Randall Bentley	12th	Bennett Turk
14th	Ryan Valentine	15th	Adam Hill	15th	Stephanie Fitzgerald
16th	Barry Greene	17th	Marcia Esser	17th	Mandy Jean Strock
18th	Alison Douglass Cape	21st	Chris Greagan	25th	Nancy King
27th	Marilyn Blom	27th	Caitlin LaMere	27th	Helen Bassett
27th	Jennifer Elliott	28th	Donald Facticeau		

February Anniversaries.

12th	Ken & Patricia Large
22nd	Barry & Kim Pryor

January Flowers

2nd	Continue to enjoy the Christmas poinsettias.
9th	Given by the MacDonald Family in honor of Larry's 70th birthday
16th	Given in memory of James W. Smith (1885-1943) & Helen Ewing Smith (1892-1978) by their grandchildren, David H. Smith & Elizabeth Smith-Eisenhauer
23rd	Given by the Farrell Family in memory of loved ones.
30th	Given by his family in loving memory of Bill Blom.

Christ Church United Methodist

35 State Street, Troy, New York 12180

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Tell your family, moved-away members or friends...

Christ Church sermons and some events are archived on the church website but if they tune in, at 10:30 a.m. Sundays, to the live stream link at www.christchurchtroy.org, they can see the whole service live as it happens, and can even send us a comment. Entire services are also available, to take to shut-ins and friends, on DVD.

Spire Deadline

The February Spire deadline is February 20th

Samba In Troy!

Learn to play Rio-style Batucada Samba!

Lots of percussion parts for all levels!

Our first meeting will be at 2pm upstairs on Sunday January 30th

Taught by Jim Weber, founder and leader of The Berkshire Bateria

Donation of \$5-10 appreciated

Jim provides all the authentic Brazilian percussion and drums

There will also be a demo from members of the Berkshire Bateria (which includes new members of the church Elizabeth, Andrew & Lily Kasius)

Children welcome with an accompanying adult

Movie Night

On Friday, February 4 at 6:30 pm, after a bread and soup supper, we will be showing the Blues Brothers. The movie is an outrageous comedy from 1980, with a focus on musicians and their music. It is R rated, probably for occasional language and disorderly conduct. We'll be downstairs in Wesley Hall.

There's no charge but let the Office know if you would like to bring some soup or bread to share.



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.

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The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus