



Happy New Year

Winter Worship Series: The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity

If you are always saying to your friends, our church thinks differently...or maybe just, our church thinks...this is your chance to invite them to experience it for themselves...

- January 8** Guiding Star (Epiphany)
- January 15** Inclusive Community (Baptism of Jesus)
- January 22** Do Unto Others/Ethics
- January 29** Living the Questions
- February 5** Peace with Justice
- February 12** Love the Earth
- February 19** Commit to the Journey

All Church on Board Gathering: Saturday, January 21, 9am-2pm

Lunch and Childcare provided. Please call the church office or sign up on the office window so that we can plan appropriately.

At Christ Church we are on a journey together with Christ: Questioning, Serving, Growing. Our plan is to continue the wonderful opportunities for questioning in worship which touches both head and heart and studies that challenge and deepen our understanding. Our intention is to continue in the core call of discipleship which is serving by being good neighbors in Troy and reaching out in love and service to our community and the world. But in 2012 we are focusing on growing. Please join us for this important day of planning for our future together.

Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat and you will find some." John 21:5-6

We hope you will join us... we are hoping for and, I think, Jesus was looking for all hands on deck when it comes to casting nets and fishing for people. But we might need to be open to casting our nets a little differently.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

Epiphany Party- all welcome!

Come down to the church on Friday, January 6th for a potluck dinner and gift exchange. We will gather at 6pm in Wesley Hall (downstairs) to share table fellowship and then play the traditional gift swapping/ stealing game -- all attendees should bring a dish for the potluck table and a wrapped gift in the \$5-10 price range. It would be helpful to know numbers for setting the tables. Please call the Office: 272-8392.

Mitten tree

20 items were delivered to Unity House on Dec 16th, to be distributed to needy children. Thanks to everyone who gave!

Several bags of items are ready to be distributed and we will continue to collect through January, in case you see great deals in the winter sales: socks, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves are all needed. Local shelters always have need of socks for men: anyone sleeping out and arriving wet in a shelter needs something clean and dry for their feet.

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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 Notes

December was a wonderful month for music with our Bell Choir, Festival Choir and i-Gen contributing not only to our services, but also to the afternoon of Music and Magic we hosted as part of Victorian Stroll on Dec. 4. Our musical groups are always in search of new members, so feel free to join. All groups will be on break for the first part of January, but look for a new Music Calendar coming soon that will run through our June Music Sunday and will include rehearsal schedules for Bell Choir, Bell Ensemble, Festival Choir and i-Gen.

Another way you may wish to share your musical gifts might be singing or playing a piece during one of our services. Our Christmas Eve service was enriched when Seanie Greagan (violin) expressed a desire to play Silent Night, for example. Pretty soon, we had a mini-orchestra with Shirley and Alison on flute, Andrew on viola and me on guitar joining in to accompany the congregational singing. Let me know if you'd like to sing/play some Sunday and we'll try and have that happen!

Speaking of mini-orchestras, look for i-Gen to be starting an instrumental initiative in the coming months. For those who may not be aware, "i-Gen" stands for "inter-generational" and is an intentional, weekly group of those who love singing, dancing or playing an instrument, regardless of age or ability. We seek to incorporate all and are always on the search for new avenues of expression and participation. We've experienced some significant growth over the past year (I was surprised recently when I compiled a list of our members and found we had 24). A couple of our younger members received guitars for Christmas, so look for those instruments to accompany our chimes, steel drum, other percussion, keyboards, etc. in the near future. We've even toyed with a kazoo orchestra:) If you'd like to play along, just let me know and plan on rehearsing with us on Tuesday evenings. We're going to try and "enliven" a few traditional hymns as well as work on some contemporary ones, along with a piece or two/three written by our own members, such as the Three Ships piece written by Elizabeth which we performed, replete with Star Dust, on Christmas Eve.

Warmly, George Garin, Minister of Music

Devotion: **Nancy Burgin**

A teenager recently said to me, "It seems like the Bible doesn't want you to think, just obey." (Honestly, these kids like to keep me on my toes!) Thinking fast, I agreed that some churches give that impression. Even some of our old favorite hymns, like "Trust and Obey" do too. But then, there's the time Jesus was annoyed with the crowd for NOT thinking.

"The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Him asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. But He answered and said to them, 'When it is evening, you say, "It will be fair weather, for the sky is red." And in the morning, "There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening." Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?" (Matthew 16:1-3) In other words, "Why aren't you people THINKING? You can do it for every day stuff, why not the spiritual stuff too?" The teenager seemed to agree that meant we were encouraged to use the intelligence God gave us. I was off the hook...until next time.

Creative Giving: Tango at Christ Church.

Christ Church now hosts community classes in Argentine tango in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Members who register for the beginning level class can contribute 100% of the course fees to the church. Now, there is a creative opportunity for giving! Classes are taught by Kevin Magee, organizer of the Albany Tango Society who attends Sunday service at Christ Church. Tango Basics I meets on Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 in six-week sessions.

FREE-Intro to Tango classes meet every Tuesday from 6:30-7:00. Feel free to stop-by and check it out! No cost, no registration, no obligations. Drop-in any Tuesday evening and get started. No partners necessary. Contact details are below.

About the Artist: Kevin Magee received his MFA in Dance studies from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in 1991. Trained as a classical dancer, Kevin has performed and taught modern dance, ballet, jazz, and tango at universities and colleges throughout the US. In 2007, Kevin formed the Albany Tango Society, and he now teaches tango in venues throughout the Capital Region including RPI and Emma Willard School.

Kevin Magee
Albany Tango Society
www.AlbanyTangoSociety.org
518-266-9612

Giving Envelopes

The Finance team has been working hard to save money and still make it easy to support Christ Church and our missions financially. One item we are trying out is a slightly different envelope format. We will also be re-allocating giving numbers. These two small changes allow us to save a little money and order fewer envelopes. The downside is that you may need to learn a new giving number and/or use the envelopes slightly differently. We are also saving paper by ordering fewer envelopes. Even so, if you did not request envelopes for 2012 and now think you might like a set, we have some extra sets available as the minimum order was for 50. So, let me highlight the main differences:

- Please verify your giving number. A few will not change. But others will be different.
- The envelopes are not “dated” but rather indicate “January 1st Sunday”, etc. They are generic.
- In the back of the set are “5th Sunday” envelopes to be used on those months that have 5 Sundays. In 2012, that is January, April, July, September, and December.
- United Methodist special giving Sundays are not included in the set, but we will make other arrangements to give.
- Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas envelopes are at the back of the set.
- Each envelope has multiple lines on the front for giving. Therefore, one check can be used to give to multiple accounts, if indicated on the envelope.

New giving numbers will be available January 1st. As soon as the envelopes arrive, they will be distributed. Before then, you can use a blank envelope and write your name or number on it, or just write your number on the memo line of your check. If at anytime you have questions about the envelopes or giving logistics, please do not hesitate to contact me, Alice Rose, Financial Secretary. I am hopeful we can make these small changes in 2012 without too much difficulty and will do everything I can to help. Thank you.

Music, Dancing & Worship, Oh My ...

Throughout the year Christ Church is much more than Sunday Worship and evening meetings, it’s more than choirs and Sunday school, and it’s much more than roof repairs and building up-keep.

There is more going on at Christ Church than meets the eye, and more people are coming through our doors for community activities than ever before. As we close out 2011, the trustees wanted to let you know about the growing number of groups who have found Christ Church an ideal location for their activities, outreach and meetings. At Christ Church we are not only a growing faith community; our facilities are also becoming a dynamic community center.

Over the last year Christ Church has been home to 14 different groups on a regular basis, and continues to be a special venue for others when needed. Whether it is government meetings, dance, music, personal recovery, or community growth and outreach, it can be found within our walls and under our roof.

Not only do these friends and neighbors use our spaces, they also support Christ Church through donations for the use of the building, and when they join us for work days and help at our Church sponsored events.

Dance:

Albany Tango
English Country Dance
Troy Samba
African Dance

Community Outreach:

Habitat for Humanity
Troy Transitions
Joseph’s House, Inn From the Cold
Northeast/Roots AIDS Support Group
AA

Community & Business:

Troy City Council
Troy Food Co-Op
Troy Downtown Business Collaborative

Personal Growth & Music

Troy Yoga
English Country Music

Each year because of our commitment to the community, through word of mouth and the hard work by many within the church, more and more people are coming to know and appreciate Christ Church as a vibrant faith community and community center.

The Trustees

Given By	In Memory Or Honor Of
Thila & Harry Bell	Roger Bell
“	Loved ones
Randi Bentley	Eleanor Bentley
Anna Black	Shirley Colunio, Gilbert Black & Jane Senska
His wife, Sue & Family	Bill Blom
“	Loved ones
Lowell & Marilyn Blom	Loved ones
Linda & Mark Campbell	Their mothers, Bette Keyes & Joan Campbell
A Friend	Warren & Virginia Christian
The Cooper-Smith Memorial	Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Cooper
Curtis & Esther Dunagan	Loved ones
Margie Feiden	Fred & Mary Besaw, Catherine Stallmer & Rita Chaszczwski
Judy Feiden	Henry & Florence Feiden and Harry & Harry C. Feiden, Jr.
The Guile Family	Marjorie & Marilyn James
Marty & Kathy Hardin	Marshall hardin, Ralph King
The Hess Family	Grace Hess & her husband Wendell.
“	Their sons, Wendell & John
Elizabeth & Andrew Kasius	Her father, Ralph “Skeets” Woodbury His mother, Judith Scheer Kasius
Lee & Roger Kemp	Karen Kemp
	To honor their family
The Lovegrove Family	George Lovegrove
“	Loved ones
Paul Marano & Alice Rose	Brenda Joy Marano
“	The Roosa family
The Holland-Mattoon Family	Loved ones
Mrs. Thomas Q. McNaughton	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce J. Riggs
“	Mr. & Mrs. Dennie B. Riggs
“	Miss Thelma J. Riggs
“	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kreiss
“	Helen M.. Holmes
“	Mr.Issac Hite Riggs
Doris Mooradian	Edward Mooradian
“	Betty Sopchak
“	Loved ones
C. Michael Reger	Gladys Reger
“	Ruth Jazarnski
The Rose Family	In celebration of Christmas
Katherine Storms	Thomas Hobbie, MD
“	Elizabeth Hobbie

Sunday School thank you

Thank you to all those who helped make the lunch and play happen. Kids - the play turned out great! Thank you!

Thank you

Many thanks for the very generous gift from the congregation. We are so blessed to call the Christ Church family our church family. We look forward to all that 2012 holds!

May the Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light of the Season continue with you into the New Year,

Pastor Nina, Andrew, Micah, Moses, Joseph

Thank you all!

Thank you. once again, for your kind words, Christmas cards, and gifts. Thank you above all for your willingness to serve and be in ministry together. I am always amazed by the creativity and generosity of this congregation: generous with your time and you talents - and kind to your pastors as well as those in need!

I truly believe Christ Church to be the most exciting place to serve, and to worship, because of your eager participation. I look forward to the year ahead as we seek new ways to share God's love with those anxiously waiting to know about it.

Pastor Janet.

Charge Conference

Over 40 Christ Church people attended the Church Conference held jointly with other local United Methodist congregations at Pawling Avenue in late November. iGen invigorated the worship - each congregation was invited to participate - and each summer up their year in a report. Dorcas Rose prepared a visual record of the year in pictures and Alice Rose painted a word picture of all the things we do: and the list is most impressive.

The booklet of written reports of the past year's activities are available for those unable to attend. The annual budget will be available separately after it is finally accepted by the Church Council. Request these items from one of the pastors.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Covenant service No Sunday School	2	3 9am Wshp Planning 10:30am Study	4	5	6 6pm Epiphany party	7
8	9	10 9am Wshp Planning 10:30am Study	11	12 7pm Trustees	13	14
15 MLK service	16	17 9am Wshp Planning 10:30am Study	18	19 7pm Church Council	20	21 9am-2pm Church Retreat
22 Spire Deadline	23	24 9am Wshp Planning 10:30am Study	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 9am Wshp Planning 10:30am Study	Every Tuesday (from mid month): 6:30pm iGen 7:30pm Bells		Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship	

January Birthdays.

3rd Karl Facteau	6th Emily Holcomb	6th Robert Weiner
8th Juanita Deyo	12th Nina Nichols	13th Barry Pryor
14th David Douttiel	18th Kim Pryor	19th Janelle Russell
21st Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham	21st Joclyn Quinn	26th Peter Burgin
28th Frank Pitts	29th Bryan Feiden	29th Jane Johnston
30th Alexandra Emma Mau	31st Lisa McEachron	

January Anniversaries.

4th Ron and Nancy Burgin
29th Debbie Byers and Frank Pitts

December Flowers

11th	Given by the Lovegrove Family in memory of Loved Ones
From 18th onwards	Christmas poinsettias

From Marilyn Blom

A special 'thank you' to all our poinsettia donors. They are a colorful and living addition to our Christmas season decorations and continue to bring a reminder of this special season to the persons who enjoy them afterward.

As we move back to regular flowers, there are sometimes open Sundays if you are interested in providing flowers. Please see Marilyn Blom or notify a pastor. The regular cost for the 2 vases is currently \$48.00, for 2 larger planters \$68.00, 1 vase is \$28.00 and 1 planter is \$38.00.

Anyone giving flowers is always free to bring their own flowers. For obvious reasons, only 1 florist has a key to the church for flowers that are delivered.

Obituary

Our deepest condolences go to the family of Betty Sopchak who passed away in November. She was a tireless worker for Christ Church, working with the women's group on Lenten Lunches, Bazaars and dinners of all kinds. For years she and her sister provided desserts for the Up and Comers' Christmas Party, and their chocolates and candies were always a star attraction at the Bazaar. Our prayers are with husband Nick, son Nick Jr. and family, sister, Doris, and her daughter Amy and family.

February Spire Deadline

The February Spire deadline is Sunday January 22nd.

Love Wins discussion

20 people came to the church for food and discussion in mid-December where all were very tolerant of my very squeaky voice as we shared thoughts about this interesting book. I have heard from others who would like to read it and might want to meet and chat about it, or simply could not attend that evening, so let me know if you would like to do that. Bell make some interesting points and makes some quite difficult ideas easy to read.
Janet

Upcoming study opportunities

Starting this month, in one home, maybe 2, even 3, we are going to be looking at First Light, the DVD series from Borg & Crossan which looks at the times and places of Jesus' ministry and the earliest days of the Jesus movement. The morning study group is about to end this

study and have enjoyed it enormously. If you might want to attend a group - or hold one in your home, speak with the Pastors. We hope to hold the first sessions before our all-church Lenten study, and get together to complete the series afterwards.

Lent Study: Borg's "Heart of Christianity"

We will be ordering the book and the accompanying personal study guide very soon. Please sign up if you would like the office to get the book for you - we should be able to get the book itself for around \$10 new and pre-owned for around \$6. The optional personal study guide is similarly priced. Both are also available locally and online.

Coffee Hour Teams

A new schedule will be posted on the office window for the next four months. Thanks again to all who have signed up and feel free to switch with someone else on your (or another) team if the Sunday scheduled doesn't work for you. And, if you'd like to be part of one of our teams, please just jot your name and contact info on the sheet.

← Learn to Knit or Crochet →

We're thinking about starting an informal daytime group to make items for church and personal projects

Speak to Suzanne Sherman or Dorcas Rose, if interested.



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

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

The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus