



970 State St.
12307

The Christ Life

The Newsletter of Christ Church, Schenectady
Summer 2020

ccoffice@christchurchschenectady.org
www.christchurchschenectady.org

Ph (518) 374-3064
Fax (518) 374-3071

Transformed lives, transforming our community.

A CALL TO FAITH AND ACTION IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Summer 2020

*"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."
(Hebrews 11:1)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I don't think any of you will question that we are living in the midst of one of the most unsettling times in recent history. Covid 19 still lingers and haunts us with its deadly potential. George Floyd's horrendous and unjust death has exposed the raw nerves of people throughout the world. The political and philosophical debates of our day are causing ever-increasing division throughout the land. Where are we heading and how will our future and our children's future be impacted by the events of the year 2020?

*By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.*

In the words of the above hymn by Keith & Krystin Getty and Stuart Townend, we're reminded that we never know what the future holds as we daily witness the unfolding of the consequences of our fallen world in the larger context of God's grand design. The pride and prejudice that infects every human being has been a result of the pandemic of sin conceived in the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

Deadly diseases of all kind are the result of living in a fallen world. Racism in all of its ugly manifestations is a result of living in a fallen world. The Church torn apart by heresy and schism is ever under attack in the context of a fallen world. Is there any hope to be found in these days of trouble? Beloved, YES and again I say, YES!

That is where faith enters the scene. Faith is not based on the certainty that all of our current troubles will just go away. Faith is not based on our understanding of how to fix our own problems. It is not based upon any political, economic, or sociological theories or solutions. Our faith is built upon the sure foundation of Jesus Christ, by whom and with whom and through whom all things were made. Our faith is based upon the revealed will and purpose of God as manifested through Jesus Christ. When everything looks impossible, we remember that in Christ, all things are possible. When the mountains of today's troubles block our view of tomorrow's potential, we remember that Jesus spoke of a mustard seed of faith which would move mountains.

*By faith the mountain shall be moved and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail.
For we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name.*

But faith is not just a mental exercise. It is not simply an emotional stimulant. Faith prompts action. Faith produces good works for the kingdom of God. Faith causes us to move out of our comfort zones to advance the gospel of Jesus.

When the coronavirus first intruded our offices and living rooms, we had to move into action and make adjustments to our daily routines. It was no longer feasible to simply breathe in the air around us as if we couldn't be infected.

It is not sufficient to simply tell ourselves that we are not racist and ignore the plight of our friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters who suffer directly from the poisoned attitudes of those who are. It is not enough to wag our fingers at the people on our screens who promote violence and anarchy for their cause, when we don't bother to demonstrate a better way by word and deed. We are marked and sealed as Christ's own. We have been given the mind and Spirit of God! Not for the purpose of sitting in our lounge chairs or pews to stockpile our own blessings, but to go forth in His name and authority to a world torn apart by the disease of sin.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Ephesians 6:10-18a)

Church, it is time to stand as children of the promise! It is time to join the race set out for us! It is time to do the work God has given us to do! It is time to walk by faith! How we do this may look different for each of us. For some it may mean meeting with people of a different race or skin color to hear their story and to pray for one another. For some it may mean political action by way of voting or contacting some political leaders. For some it may mean stepping out of comfort zones to share the faith that you have with someone who has none. Whatever it means for you and me, it does not look like keeping the status quo and carrying on as usual. These uncertain times demand more.

*We will stand as children of the promise. We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

("By Faith" – Getty & Townend)

Standing and walking by faith with you...

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad" followed by a small cross symbol.

June Birthdays

2 Judy Koch
4 Elijah Smith
5 Chris Hardy
9 Daniel Smith
18 Marilyn Wessels
28 Donna Rost

July Birthdays

11 Myrna Barber
19 Carol Yezzo
22 Chris MacDermot
29 Julie Rickson
30 Nelson Jones

August Birthdays

3 Jeremy Douglas
4 Taiwo Osipitan
13 Peter Langton
16 John Coleman
20 Doris Carlson
20 Joshua Jones
22 Dennis Rudolphsen
26 Matthew Wessels
27 Fernando Gomes
27 Dick Peters
29 Linda Richmond

Anniversaries

Jim & Gloria Ballard - 6/18
Don & Candace Foust - 7/8
Dave & Chris Dussault - 7/19
Gil & Debbie Bisner - 8/26

June Ministry Schedules

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Ministry Head: The Rev. Howard Smith

6/7 Sheila Smith 6/14 David Carlson
6/21 Dave Dussault 6/28 Ryan Dussaultt

ALTAR GUILD

Ministry Head: Michelle Diaz

Sunday Assistants 8:00 am Gloria Ballard

Pre-Sunday Setup

6/7 Doris Carlson 6/21 Michelle Diaz
6/14 Marilyn Wessels 6/28 Jeannette Ballard

WELCOMER'S MINISTRY

Ministry Head: Dan Popa

6/7 Bisner 6/21 Carlson
6/14 Bisner 6/28 Carlson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ministry Head: The Rev. Peter Schofield

6/7 Fr. Brad 6/21 Deb Bisner
6/14 Mary Jones 6/28 Corrie Paeglow

POWER POINT CONTROL

Ministry Head: Dave Hart

6/7 Elijah Smith 6/21 Daniel Smith
6/14 Joshua Jones 6/28 Elijah Smith

READERS' SCHEDULE (10:30 am Service)

Ministry Head: Donna Rost

6/7 **Trinity Sunday**

Gen. 1:1-2:3 David Carlson
II Corinthians 13:5-14 David Carlson

6/14 **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 19:2-8a Debbie Bisner
Romans 5:1-11 Debbie Bisner

6/21 **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 20:7-13 Dave Hart
Romans 5:15b-19 Dave Hart

6/28 **4th Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 2:10-17 Corrie Paeglo
Romans 6:1-14 Corrie Paeglo



Christ Church Episcopal
970 State Street
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The Rev. N. Bradley Jones, Rector
The Rev. Peter Schofield, Priest Associate
The Rev. Howard Smith, Deacon
The Rev. Larry Hubert, Deacon
The Rev. Margaret Teetz, Deacon
Mr. Richard Peters, Treasurer
Mrs. Louise Popa, Banner (Worship leader)
Mrs. Hilda Hardy, Organist
Mrs. Patricia McCrossan, Organist
Mr. David Carlson, Parish Administrator
Mr. Stephen Evans, Sexton

Vestry:

Deb Bisner, Senior Warden
Michelle Diaz, Junior Warden
Doris Carlson
Jeremy Douglas
Don Foust
Chris Hardy
Dan Popa
Vivette Ram