

**Christ Church is Making Connections
& Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love & Service**

Weekly Update - April 18

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads
Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

Too often we leave our faith at Easter. We stand outside the tomb and celebrate God's incredible act of love which forgives and the moments of grace where Christ is visible before us. But whether intentional or not, we fail to allow the gift of the Holy Spirit to fill us, move us, and lead us from there. We are frozen from moving beyond what is to what should be and what can be by God's grace (perhaps feeling a little more frozen this year!).

Maybe like the disciples, who overcome by fear were held up and held back in Jerusalem after the resurrection, it is a fear that paralyzes us from moving beyond. To live by this faith, proclaiming this reality, would undoubtedly mean changed lives as it did in theirs. It upsets the status quo and calls into question many of the prevailing policies and practices. But through the time leading up to Pentecost, the disciples continued to gather for worship, to pray seeking out guidance, and to synthesize the teachings of Christ. Then, despite their fear, filled with the breath of God they began to proclaim God's love and forgiveness. It is the language of resurrection they speak – the language of Truth and the victory of love and goodness. And such language as that is, indeed, universal. Speaking out against evil and injustice and oppression and speaking for what is right and good and just and loving is something all can hear and understand. Yes, this will mean change in and to our lives. Yes, it will mean speaking out against what is and working actively towards what can be. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a gift of action and reaction to injustice in our churches, in our schools, in our governments, in our policies, in our nations, in our world. It is a commitment to work to create equity through policies and practices that are fair for all. It is the willingness not only to say and personally show, but to actively engage and do.

We all know that the world does not reflect the God of love which we celebrate in Jesus Christ and are led by in the Holy Spirit. But just because that is the way things are does not mean that it is the way it should be, has to be, or always will be. We are gifted and graced with the Holy Spirit to speak up and speak out. Through Christ we are gifted and graced to institute such winds of change that earth may more truly come to reflect heaven.

-Pastor Daven

New Members

Are you interested in membership? Pastor Daven is looking to connect with those interested in church membership in the next couple of weeks between services. Even if you are exploring, but not yet sure, this is a great opportunity to learn more about membership and the ways to make connections and opportunities available at Christ Church. Please make sure to let him know by expressing interest on your Connection Card on Sunday or emailing the church office: cumc350@gmail.com.

Daily Bible Reading – 2018 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.

April 18: 1 Samuel 25-26; Luke 16:19-31

April 19: 1 Samuel 27-29; Luke 17:1-19

April 20: 1 Samuel 30-31; Luke 17:20-37

April 21: 2 Samuel 1-3; Luke 18:1-17

April 22: 2 Samuel 4-6; Luke 18:18-43

April 23: 2 Samuel 7-9; Luke 19:1-28

April 24: 2 Samuel 10-12; Luke 19:29-48

In Our Prayers

We express our sympathy and offer prayers for the **Oskvig Family**. Lianne Oskvig's aunt died on Tuesday, April 17, and the family will be traveling to Rhode Island for a memorial service this weekend.

In Our Healing Prayers

Greg Mailken

Ed & Cindy Fisher

Bob & Marcia Snyder

Dennis Scaringi, Sue Estee, Lois Lewis, Janet Hill, Lisa Lawson, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola,

Sissie Mooney, Peter Shanley

*Those who are **care partners** with others

*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

Wednesday, April 18 - 10am - Morning Prayer

2pm - Social Security Benefits Workshop

7pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 19 - 7pm - Staff-Parish Relations Team

Saturday, April 21- 10am - Crafting for a Cause

Sunday, April 22 -

EARTH DAY

9 am - Casual Praise Service

10 am - FaithXpress for Children

10 am - a.o.l. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

11 am - Traditional Worship Service

Supervised Child Care, Sky Box and Family Worship Space available

*Visit the **Café Connection** each Sunday morning and enjoy delicious, fair trade, **New Day Coffee**, morning treats and friendly conversation.*

Do you want to
make a
difference?

Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families

In addition to the food that goes to local food pantries, Christ Church serves local families in need. The following items are needed:

Paper towels, toilet paper, dish detergent, deodorant, heart-healthy cereals (look for a heart on the box!), pasta, and sauces.

Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.

Help Needed

Barbara Jo Hard is looking for someone to assist her 2 mornings or afternoons a week to help with laundry and meal prep. Call the church office for contact information.

Save the Date!

Make A Difference Day will take place on **Sunday, May 20!** Project sign-ups have begun - check out the bulletin board in the back of the worship space for a listing of projects and serving opportunities on that day!

A.O.L. @ CUMC (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

10 a.m. - Wesley Room - Sunday Mornings

How do we live as Christians in a time of polarization in our culture? "Seeing Gray in a World of Black & White" is a book and video resource by United Methodist Pastor Adam Hamilton. We will explore scripture, the traditions of the United Methodist Church, and experience as people of faith to think about important issues of our time. Facilitated by David Pliss. Books now available.
(donation toward \$13 cost of book if possible)

Exploring Sunday Scriptures

Every **Tuesday at Noon, beginning April 24**, Pastor Daven will lead a time exploring the upcoming Sunday's Scripture. This will provide context to the Scripture(s) being explored and ultimately enrich the experience of worship itself. All are welcome anytime!

Wednesday Morning Prayer

This Lenten discipline will be continued weekly every **Wednesday at 10 a.m.** Pastor Daven will lead a brief time of morning prayer, which employs a ritual of plain chant, Scripture readings, and prayers specific to the day. All are welcome anytime!

Youth Opportunity

Calling all young people – would you like to learn how to use a sewing machine or crochet? You are invited to join the Crafting for a Cause group on **Saturday, April 21** at 10 a.m. Our first project will be making potholders for Mother's Day gifts. Please contact Diane Klenk (651-0236) or Lee Watson (837-0589) if you're able to join in!

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22!

This **Sunday, April 22nd**, Christ Church will observe Earth Day. We will consider the question, "Is Christianity Good News for the Environment?" during worship at 9am and 11am, and Education Hour at 10a.m.

Circle of Joy, Community Youth Group, and our friends at Millersport Day Habilitation Services have created 6"X6" artwork to raise funds for Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen. On Earth Day, Sunday, April 22nd, for a minimum donation of \$5.00, you may select a piece and support the efforts of Farm Sanctuary to care for creation and end abuse of farm animals. These would make great Mother's Day gifts!

Consider, if you are able, walking, biking, carpooling or using alternative transportation on April 22nd. Also, our friends at Congregation Shir Shalom ([4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville](#)) are hosting an earth day event "Protecting God's Creation: Divesting Ourselves of Fossil Fuels" beginning at 4:30pm on the 22nd.

Be on the lookout for a surprise from the Stewardship Team on Earth Day!

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Fashions

On **Saturday, May 5**, from Noon – 2p.m., United Methodist Women of Christ Church will host a fashion show by TJ Maxx and a taco bar luncheon to raise funds for UMW missions. All are welcome! This would make a great Mother's Day gift! Cost is \$15. Tickets will be on sale in the Café after both services on Sunday. Help is needed to make this event a success! Look for sign-up sheets in the Café. Thank you!

Choral Concert - May 7

The Bethel College Choir from Mishawaka, Indiana will perform a concert of choral music, under the direction of Dr. Jeshua Franklin, at Christ Church on **Monday, May 7, at 7pm** as part of their 2018 concert tour. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to host this fine collegiate choral institution of 40 voices! We need to provide a potluck supper at the church on the 7th, and also offer housing for the students on that Monday night. ***If you are willing to contribute to the supper or host two or more students for the night, please contact Paul Staley or sign-up on the Connection Card.***

Wednesday Workshops at Christ Church

“Sound Strategies for Your Future”

Join us on Wednesdays as we partner with Allaire Financial Strategies for free community workshops. Use the Connection Card on Sunday or contact the church office to register for each workshop: 839-2460 -or- cumc350@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 18 – 2 p.m.

“Social Security Basics – 7 Keys to Enhancing Benefits”

Wednesday, April 25 – 7 p.m.

“Managing Life’s Transitions – College Planning Essentials”

Wednesday, May 2 – 7 p.m.

“Identity Theft & Data Security”

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Wednesday, May 9

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Keith O’Neil



“Under My Helmet”- Tackling Mental Health Issues
*Former NFL Player and Mental Health Advocate
speaks about his journey with bipolar*

Wednesdays, May 16 & 23

5:30 – 7:00 pm

“Bridges of Hope”

A soup & bread supper will be served. Chaplain Daryl Bennett offers information & resources to faith groups about mental illness & the role of faith communities.

**Assistance is needed with set-up, clean-up, providing soups, and donating bread. Please call Daryl (380-6706) or sign up to help on your Connection Card.*

Church Office Hours:

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Casual Praise Worship at 9 am

Traditional Worship at 11 am

Education Hour at 10 am