



Weekly Update: December 1, 2015

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem at Saratoga Rd.
Amherst, NY 14226

"Living Christ's ways and Exploding With Love and Service."

Church office hours - Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Praise Worship at 9am Traditional Worship at 11 am

10 am: FaithXpress - Children

Apprentice - Youth

A.O.L.-Adult Opportunities for Learning –

“Advent - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Advent & Christmas with Charles Wesley - based on his hymns

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A word from Pastor Darryl

This past Sunday – the First Sunday of Advent, I shared that Advent is a holy adventure – Adventurers setting time aside for scripture readings, reflection and prayer, and singing the Advent and Christmas hymns of our faith. All aimed toward awakening ourselves to the meaning of that birth and, thereby, to living our own lives more fully. Advent is a time of longing for life to be different, says Marilyn Oden. It is a time of waiting in hopeful anticipation. As Adventurers, we will seek to recover the simplicity of the stable, rekindle the sacredness of the Advent season, remember the Song of Mary, reclaim and follow the star, recall our own story of adventure with God and restore our call – our call to live our lives in awareness of God’s presence and in responsiveness to God’s love. Our Advent adventure invites us to unwrap the gift of full life, boldly receiving it and boldly giving it away.

Our thanks to Ron Corsaro and the Jazz Trio for a rich and meaningful sharing of jazz music and its fusion with an Advent liturgy for our Jazz Vespers this past Sunday evening. We were all treated to a delightful evening of music and message; food and fellowship. Our thanks also to Sally Pollard, Pauline & Emily Williams and Guy Gaetano as worship leaders, Janelle Martin for taking care of all the printed materials, etc. and all others who participated in hosting Jazz Vespers. To all our members, friends and visitors who attended, a big thanks to you for your presence and support of Jazz Vespers. We plan to continue with Jazz Vespers on the fourth Sunday in January and in the future. A note about Jazz Vespers: Jazz vespers is a concept worship service and as an outreach ministry, began in New York City in the 1960s by Pastor John Garcia Gensel of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York City. The time came when people began to recognize that jazz has some pretty deep roots in the church and that to find ways to honor that connection might be a good thing for both the church and for jazz.

It's a laid-back and interactive environment; the service is an eclectic mix of candle lighting, corporate prayer, spoken verse, ambient art and live jazz. Through these elements, we walk through an ancient service of prayer (vespers) in a creative, informal, and multi-sensory way. There are many people who have found a spiritual connection with music – jazz music in particular. As Alice Coltrane, creative musician in her own right and wife of John Coltrane, is reported to have said, "to play jazz is to worship – to be in church." For us it is here "where Jazz meets the Spirit!" As always, I am praying for you and with you daily. May God's love and blessings be always with you, and my love to all of you. Invite someone to join us for worship!

[Happening at church...](#)

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PAUL STALEY
As Minister of Music at Christ Church**

On behalf of the Interviewing Team and our Choir, Julie Wrisley announced the following--
It is my pleasure to welcome and announce the hiring of Paul Staley as our new Music Minister and Organist Christ Church.

Paul studied at Oberlin College of Conservatory of Music in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting. He also studied piano, music history and theory. He received his Masters Degree in Organ Performance from SUNY Fredonia which included additional studies in composition. Paul is a highly experienced and accomplished musician with extensive skills as an organist, pianist, accompanist and choral conductor. He has held and performed in multiple concerts and pre-show performances at Shea's Performing Arts Center and many other venues nationally and abroad.

As an organ builder/owner/operator, Paul Staley (along with Niagara Organ Works partner, David Bond) built the Arrison pipe organ at Christ church and played the dedicatory concert. Paul Staley is a highly skilled and respected musician. We look forward to getting to know Paul and his family and welcome them into the community of Christ Church!

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Thank you to the **Worship & Altar Guild Team** for preparing our worship space for the Season of Advent and the coming of Christmas.

Guy Castellino, daughter, **Ariana** and son, **Gio** lit the first candle on our Advent wreath on Sunday morning.

The Giving Tree

The tree in Crafts Hall has many tags representing gifts for children at Gateway-Longview, women at Haven House, Habitat for Humanity families, Veterans, Family Justice Center and Primera Iglesias UMC (3 Kings celebration). Take a tag(s) from the tree, purchase gifts for the person on the tag and return them unwrapped to the tree.

Gateway-Longview and Haven House gifts should be returned by this Sunday, Dec 6.

Other gifts should be placed by the tree by **Sunday, Dec. 13.**

For information contact Diane Klenk 651-0236.

MYM Christmas Dinner

Tickets are now available on Sunday mornings at church for the Christmas Dinner at Sean Patrick's Restaurant on Sunday, December 13 at 1 pm.

Contact Bob and Marcia Snyder for details.

Cookie Baking for ANS - We failed to include **Marshall Rhinehart** as one of our baking assistants for this project. *Thank you, Marshall!!!*

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Food Pantry

The Outreach Team is collecting the following items for our local food pantries:

December 6 - Pancake Mix & Peanut Butter

December 13 - Soups

Mobility Study- *Still time to sign up!*

Looking for 40 individuals (we have 30 so far) age 65 or older, willing to be interviewed by graduate students in the University of Buffalo, Dept. of Rehabilitation Science. The purpose of the study is to gather information on supports and constraints to mobility in the community. What is learned will go to enlighten policy makers and lead to policy change. Participants will be compensated for their participation and Christ Church will receive recruitment payment for participants successfully recruited. If you think you may be interested please speak to Sally Pollard, 839-2460, sjjoy@christchurchamherst.org, or sjjoy@aol.com as soon as possible. Dr. Laura Lien from UB will contact you. You can express interest with no obligation.

Hearts and Hands

Hearts and Hands is a not-for-profit, neighbor-helping-neighbor organization which pairs volunteers with care receivers for door through door transportation for medical appointments and routine errands. Volunteers also can provide companion visits/caregiver respite, wellness checks/phone pals, and minor home repairs and maintenance. Christ Church is a partner church. **If you or a family member or friend need some help, call 401-8311. If you'd like to become an H & H volunteer call the same number.**

Coming this Sunday, December 6... 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 6 - Cookie & Candy Sale

Are you a baker or candy maker? Your homemade creations are welcome! Please bring them to the church kitchen by Friday, December 5th. All proceeds from the sale will support outreach missions.

Sunday, December 20 - "Christmas Presence"

Children, Youth and Adults are preparing each Sunday morning for the Christmas pageant. Several youth musicians will also be playing on Sunday, December 20th at the 11 am worship service.

Join us for the **Wrap Party** at noon in Crafts Hall!

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In our prayers...

Bob & Betty Kreib moved to **Vinecroft this week** - *contact the church office for their new contact information*

Mary Landel - fell in her home at Vinecroft. Doing well at home

Ian Johnson US Navy - deployed for several months. Keep Ian, his wife Nicole, and their infant son, Hunter in your prayers

Happening this week:

Tuesday, December 1 - 9 am Central City Cafe

12 Noon New Vision Circle -
Christmas Party at Vinecroft

4 pm -UM Women Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 2 - **NO** Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 3 - 10 am Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

Friday, December 4 - 10 am Books We Have Loved

12 Noon - MYM meeting

4:30 - 9:30 pm - Family Promise
at Crossroads Lutheran Church

Saturday, December 5 - 10 am Outreach Team Cookie Sale Set-Up

Coming on Sunday, December 6....

Secular Hype and Holy Silence

Special Notice - Thursday, December 10 7:30 pm

Special Charge Conference

**Purpose: Election of Trustees &
Leadership Development report**

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“Politicians compete for the highest offices. Business tycoons scramble for a bigger and bigger piece of the pie. Armies march and scientists study and philosophers philosophize and preachers preach and labourers sweat.

But in that silent baby, lying in that humble manger, there pulses more potential power and wisdom and grace and aliveness than all the rest of us can imagine.”

— Brian D. McLaren

Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service

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DRB/sjp