

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



**Weekly Update - December 12**

**Christ United Methodist Church**

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

**A Word From Pastor Daven**

At the Finance Meeting last night I kept mixing up the days of this week and completely forgot that I had committed to bring a devotion to the meeting. While I would love to say that this is a problem specifically with those of us employed by churches, the truth is it is more symbolic of this season. Over ... over-busy, over-tired, over-spent, over-committed, over-scheduled! Is it any wonder that some look forward to Christmas being over?

In the familiar story of Christmas we never hear about the people in the full Inn coming out to greet the Christ child. It is, rather, the shepherds in the fields who behold the angels. Maybe to truly have an encounter with God, we need a little quiet time apart. Then we come to recognize how little space we've made for an encounter with God, in essence how full our 'Inns' have become.

So in the midst of everything else, just take some time apart in quiet. You might just hear the voice of angels!

**A Stewardship Update:**

Thank you to all who have prayerfully considered and responded with commitments for 2019 in ministry. Last night the Finance Team met to begin finalizing our financial plan in ministry for 2019. At first look without further pledges, we are over 8% short in projected income vs. expenses. The goal is less than 5%. We know some have yet to respond. Please help to fund our ministries for 2019! Extra pledge cards can be found in the rear of the Sanctuary or call the church office and they can be mailed to you.



## 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.

December 12: Hosea 12-14; Revelation 3

December 13: Joel 1-3; Revelation 4

December 14: Amos 1-3; Revelation 5

December 15: Amos 4-6; Revelation 6

December 16: Amos 7-9; Revelation 7

December 17: Obadiah 1; Revelation 8

December 18: Jonah 1-4; Revelation 9

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### Joys

**Joy! Thank you** to all who participated in this year's Giving Tree! Gifts are on their way to Haven House, the SPCA, Gateway-Longview, and Jehovah Jireh (Primera Iglesia) UMC!

### In Our Healing Prayers

**Sheldon Merritt** - in the hospital

**Barbara Mitchell, Larry Burdette, Mary Parsons, Bruce Burr, Michele Sciolino, Sue Estee, Janet Hill, Woody Rhinehart, Valari Zanghi & father Harold Weaver, Pam Elbersen, Frank Annunziata, Mary Jane Shanley, Lois Lewis, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Sissie Mooney**

\*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, December 12 - 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 13 - 1pm- "Thirstaid Thursday" Study

Friday, December 14- **5:30pm- Music & Meditation**  
7pm- Yoga

Saturday, December 15- 10am- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 16 - **10am - Worship Service**  
**& Christmas Pageant: "Greetings From the Heart"**  
"Party From the Heart" to Follow  
**3pm- Blue Christmas 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.*



## **Music & Meditation**

**Fridays at 5:30p.m.**

**Dec. 14 & 21**

30 minutes of meditative songs, Scripture reading and prayer in a quiet, candlelit setting.

Give yourself the gift of quiet reflection in the midst of the Advent-Christmas season.

## Christmas Pageant

“Greetings From the Heart”

**Sunday, December 16 - 10 a.m.**

11:30 a.m. – Party From the Heart

Share the Story

## Blue Christmas Service

**Sunday, December 16 - 3 p.m.**

Pastor Daven will lead a Blue Christmas service for all those living through dark times, with a reflective setting to acknowledge where we really are while holding out healing and hope.

A time for conversation and reflection will follow, guided by Dr. David Pliss.

## Christmas Eve Service

**Monday, December 24 - 8 p.m.**

Lessons & Carols & Candlelight

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Due to a scheduling conflict, the date of our annual church conference will be Monday, January 14 at 8 p.m. at Christ Church.

All are invited and encouraged to attend.



## 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:

**cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, deodorant, and soap.**

The Tiger's Den is collecting **tuna fish and garbanzo beans** in December.

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



## Exploring Sunday Scriptures

Every **Tuesday at Noon**, Pastor Daven leads 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!

## The Twelve Voices of Christmas

As you experience twelve different perspectives of the story of Christ's coming, your understanding of Christmas will be enriched. See the blessing, wonder, joy and peace in a fresh way as you celebrate the birth of our Savior! This study is led by Paula Kreib and offered on **Thirstaid Thursdays** from **1 - 2:30p.m., through December 20**. Come and quench your thirst!

[a.o.i. @ CUMC](#)

**Sundays at 11 a.m.**

**Through December 23**

## The Redemption of Scrooge

The study will look at Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol", through the lens of faith. Facilitator: Dr. David Pliss

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Off to one side sits a group of shepherds. They sit silently on the floor, perhaps perplexed, perhaps in awe, no doubt in amazement. Their night watch had been interrupted by an explosion of light from heaven and a symphony of angels. God goes to those who have time to hear him-and so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds.

Max Lucado

[WWW.STOREMYPIC.COM](http://WWW.STOREMYPIC.COM)

### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

### **SUNDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH**

Worship at 10 am

Educational Opportunities at 11 am