

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



Weekly Update - December 19

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

Wrapping Presents

My daughter has reached that age where she can help and/or even wrap presents on her own. She believes that Scotch tape is a miraculous fix-all which her wrapping reflects. I was delighted to have the help this year even if the finished product was a less than perfect, though every edge taped down. What the gifts lacked in visual appeal, however, was made up for in effort. And, frankly, I look at them as the most beautiful gifts I have seen beneath a tree given the pride she felt in helping out.

The truth is that we dress Christmas up a whole lot. Like presents, we want everything to be just right and can easily get upset when it is not. It would be good to remember that rags were the first clothes of Jesus and a shed for animals with all its sights, sounds and smells the first residence. How's that for gift wrapping!

God gives us an opportunity as we experience the mystery of Christmas each year to try our best to take part in wrapping up and sharing this grace with others. What matters most is not the packaging, but the giving. God places that gift in our hands each year and asks us to share it with others. Imagine the pride of the Almighty when we make the effort

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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 19: Micah 1-3; Revelation 10

December 20: Micah 4-5; Revelation 11

December 21: Micah 6-7; Revelation 12

December 22: Nahum 1-3; Revelation 13

December 23: Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 14

December 24: Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 15

December 25: Haggai 1-2; Revelation 16

Joys

Joy! We celebrate with **Johnathan Swist** as he earned his child black belt in Tae Kwon Do on December 15, after 4 1/2 years of hard work, perseverance and dedication! Johnathan is continuing his tae kwon do career working towards becoming a Master instructor.

Joy! Thank you to all who participated in making this year's Christmas pageant a success on Sunday! Check out some pictures on [our Facebook page!](#)

In Our Healing Prayers

Sheldon Merritt, Barbara Mitchell, Larry Burdette, Bruce Burr, Michele Sciolino, Sue Estee, Janet Hill, Valari Zanghi & father Harold Weaver, 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 19 - 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 20 - 1pm- "Thirstaid Thursday" Study

Friday, December 21- **5:30pm- Music & Meditation**
7pm- Yoga

Sunday, December 23 - **10am - Worship Service**
Noon- Choir Dress Rehearsal

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

Friday at 5:30p.m.

December 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 Eve Service

Monday, December 24 - 8 p.m.

Lessons & Carols & Candlelight

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.



The Twelve Voices of Christmas

Thirstaid Thursday

1 - 2:30 p.m

Through December 20.

Come and quench your thirst! Facilitator: Paula Kreib

a.o.i. @ CUMC

Sunday 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



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

