

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



Weekly Update - December 5

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

I've been puttering along doing what I call 'maintenance mileage' without a clear race in my running future. With a few little aches and pains, it has been easy to take extra days off. But I realize how quickly the edge is lost in capacity. Quite simply, the time has come to sit-down and work on a clear training schedule for the coming year.

This is an activity that I do at least annually, if not at a few different points in any given year. Yet when it comes to the same spiritually, I cannot recall a single time that I have intentionally laid out on a spread sheet my plan. As we begin Advent, we technically begin a new year by the church calendar. The messages throughout Advent are ones leading not just to Christmas, but ultimately to the consummation of history in Christ's return. This should be plenty of motivation to create a clear spiritual training plan given such a 'finish line'. But whether it be because we don't truly feel this immanence or we don't know how to do it, we fail to create these plans.

I have on my computer this basic guide which comes from our own Methodist heritage. I'm hoping that you might join me in making a clear plan that will help each of us individually, and us collectively as a body of Christ, to grow in our strength in faith. Maybe this little guide can be a start, the things we should include in small ways / short times. Then, as the weeks pass, we might find it easier to go further and further. Finally, no matter the day nor the hour, when that finish line appears we indeed may be judged capable and worthy.



Reminder Wednesday

With Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday all behind us, let this be a gentle reminder to the invitation to participate in our plan for ministry for 2019. We will soon be meeting to use those responses to guide our projections for the work we will undertake in the name of God. **Thank you** to all who have already responded and those who followed through this past week! If you haven't yet had a chance, please get them in soon! If you have misplaced the response card, extras are available in the rear of the Sanctuary or by calling the church office.

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 5: Daniel 5-6; 1 John 4

December 6: Daniel 7-8; 1 John 5

December 7: Daniel 9-10; 2 John 1

December 8: Daniel 11-12; 3 John 1

December 9: Hosea 1-4; Jude 1

December 10: Hosea 5-8; Revelation 1

December 11: Hosea 9-11; Revelation 2

Joys

Joy! Friends from 7 area United Methodist churches came together to bring carols and joy to residents at local senior living centers.

In Our Healing Prayers

Barbara Mitchell, Larry Burdette, Mary Parsons, Bruce Burr, Michele Sciolino, Sue Estee, Janet Hill, Woody Rhinehart, Valari Zanghi & father Harold Weaver, Pam Elberson, 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 5 - 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 6 - 1pm- "Thirstaid Thursday" Study

6:30pm- Circle of Joy

6:30pm- Elizabeth Circle

Friday, December 7- 11am- Books We Have Loved

5:30pm- Music & Meditation

6pm- Feasting on the Word

7pm- Yoga

Saturday, December 8- 10am- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Noon- Christian Ed. Team

Sunday, December 9 - **10am - Worship Service**

11am - FaithXpress, AOL & Fellowship Opportunities

Cookie & Candy Sale (All Morning)

5-7pm- Stop by for Carols By the Fire!

***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. 7, 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.

Feasting on the Word

Friday, December 7 – 6 p.m.

A devotional meal focused on Scripture

Immediately following the 5:30 pm “Music and Meditation” service, you are invited to participate in a simple meal during which a passage of Scripture will be read aloud, with table conversation devoted only to reflection on the Scripture. Not a “study” experience, but a time for focused listening and sharing in conversation with one another of the connection of the Scripture passage with our personal life and faith as we enter the Advent season. All are welcome.

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



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:

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.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up in Crafts Hall! You're invited to take a tag(s) and return your gift(s) (unwrapped, with tag attached) **by December 9**. This year's gift recipients are: Gateway-Longview, the SPCA, Haven House, Primera UMC (Jehovah Jireh). If you have any questions, please contact Diane Klenk at 651-0236. Let us remember those who are less fortunate at this time of the year and make their lives more joyful!

Thank you for your help!

Cookie & Candy Sale

The Outreach Team will host a Candy and Baked Goods fundraiser on **Sunday, December 9**. Donations of baked goods and candy will be much appreciated. Please bring your goodies to church *by THIS Friday, December 7* for plating. All proceeds support the many outreach missions of our church.



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 will be 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

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