



**Weekly Update: December 8, 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*

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!**  
***Change of date***

**Church Conference**  
**Monday, December 21**  
**7:00 pm**

**Purpose: To elect Trustees and receive a leadership development report.**

To be followed by a **church council meeting at 7:30 pm** (changed from Thursday, December 10) for the purpose of approving the church budget.

## **A word from Pastor Darryl**

This past Sunday – the Second Sunday of Advent, we continued our reflections on our holy adventure toward the preparation for the Celebration of the Birth of the Christ Child – the Season of Christmas awaits! Our reflection was on the sermon topic "*Secular Hype and Holy Silence.*" The celebration of Advent doesn't change from place to place or from year to year: hanging the greens and displaying manger scenes, ringing bells and singing carols, lighting the candles and reading the story. All around the world in this season, Christians speak the language of love and hope, and follow the Advent customs that have evolved over time. While the traditions are old, the adventure is new! John Wesley wrote a letter to John Trembath in which he advised him: "Whether you like it or not, read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way...Do justice to your own soul: give it time and means to grow."

Perhaps Mary and Joseph deepened their commitment to practicing that spiritual care, realizing its importance for their spiritual preparation to receive this special baby. We too must join them in that concern during our Advent adventure. Just as a baby requires daily time, if it is to develop, so it is with our own soul. There are no shortcuts to spiritual growth. We can't merely get interested today, apply the practices tomorrow, and the next day it's done! Spirituality is a journey, a process we gradually live into. Almost without our awareness, however, we get caught up in the secular hype and harried haze of these days. Christmas card signing and stamping; sales and shopping; presents and parties; dinners and decorating; cookie baking and candy making can easily fill our days. Food abounds. Glitz surrounds. Daylight shrinks. Lists lengthen. The **secular hype** steals the **holy silence** of the season. I encourage us to not let the hurry of each day deny us time for solitude – for **holy silence**. Perhaps this year we will take that risk and turn our backs on the **secular hype**. Perhaps we will rise in the "wee hours of the morning" and begin "the long drive back home" through the **holy silence** into our empty center, preparing for the baby by tending the void in our own soul. As Patch Adams reminds us in the movie by that name, "All of life is a homecoming!" 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...**

**Order poinsettia plants for Christmas!**

**The Outreach Team** held a successful **Candy & Cookie Sale** resulting in about \$900 that will go to touch people's lives through the mission commitments we have made. Thank you for your support!!

Thank you to **Ron Corsaro** and his trio for their music for the **Jazz**

**Vespers** held last Sunday. They were featured on the front page of the Amherst Bee with the headline - **We Three Musicians!** It was a joy to welcome neighbors from the community and friends from nearby churches

**Katie Emerling & William Worthy lit the candles on the Advent Wreath for the 9am worship service.**

**Marshall, Mary and Jacob Rhinehart** along with **Jan Rhinehart** lit the second candle on our Advent wreath at the 11 am worship service. Jacob is an Apprentice in our Confirmation group.

Our worship was enriched by the music of **Brian Hilton**, our guest organist & choir director.

### **The Giving Tree**

The tree in Crafts Hall still has tags representing gifts for 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. All gifts should be placed by the tree by **Sunday, Dec. 13.**

*For information contact Diane Klenk 651-0236.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Food Pantry**

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

December 13 - Soups

### **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 13...**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

\* \* \*

**UM Women Mission Pin Meeting**  
**Following worship**  
**In the Parlor**

\* \* \*

**MYM Christmas Dinner**  
**at Sean Patrick's Restaurant**

**1:00 pm**

\* \* \*

**Christmas Caroling**

On Monday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. Christ Church will be joining other United Methodist Churches in our community to carol for residents at local facilities in Williamsville & Clarence. Bus transportation and refreshments will be provided. Call Peggy Bermudez for further information.

**Sunday, December 20 - "Christmas Presence"**

Children, Youth and Adults are preparing each Sunday morning for the Christmas pageant. 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!

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Robert Nachbar is looking for assistance with occasional transportation needs. Please contact him (568-9628) if you are available to help.

**In our prayers...**

**Charles Gilbert** was admitted to Suburban Hospital Monday evening with a blood clot in his lungs.

Our sympathy & prayers are with **Katie Emerling**. Katie's grandmother died on Saturday, December 5.

Keep **Nicky Sebastiano** in your prayers.

Keep **Richard Mestler** in your prayers as he has two cataract surgeries- Monday, December 7 and December 14.

Victims and Families affecting by the violence in San Bernadino, California

**Happening this week:**

Tuesday, December 8 - 7 pm Stewardship & Finance Team mtg.

Wednesday, December 9 - 7:30 pm Choir

Rehearsal

Thursday, December 10 - 10 am Life Lessons with

Pastor Darryl

11 am Visitation & Care Team - Library

6:30 pm SPR Team - Wesley Room

\*\*Church Council Meeting has been moved to  
Monday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 12 - 10 am Christmas Pageant rehearsal

10 am Crafting For A Cause

**Coming on Sunday, December 13....**

### **Watching & Waiting**

\* \* \* \* \*



**Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service**

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

DRB/sjp

---