

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

Weekly Update - February 14

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

On this day a holy fast is announced by way of Ash Wednesday. It begins a period of 40 days we call Lent. This was the original time of preparation for baptism by converts to the faith which slowly became a time of penance by all Christians. Traditionally the focus of Lent in Christianity has been prayer (justice to God), fasting (justice to self), and almsgiving (justice to neighbor).

We use the period of forty days to correspond to those aspects of our spiritual past that happened in 40s. In the story of Noah, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights; both Moses and Elijah spend 40 days up on the mountain top; the Israelite people travel for 40 years in the wilderness before they entered the promised land; both Solomon and David were said to have reigned for 40 years; Jonah gave the city of Nineveh 40 days to repent; Jesus spends 40 days in the wilderness following his baptism to prepare for his ministry; and Jesus appeared to his disciples for 40 days following his resurrection. If we leave it in the past, however, we forget that this is our history and we are its present. We are the history of tomorrow. So what will be the result of our 40 days? Will it merely be the absence of certain vices for this period, or will it be a new reality after we have faced the worst of it all, death itself and then found life and devoted ourselves to justice to God, self and neighbor? Will the chapter we write be added to all those of the past, transforming reality and establishing justice in a period of forty?

As we hear from the prophet Joel this night, "Blow the trumpet in Jerusalem! Sound the alarm on my holy mountain! (Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Bring everyone—the elders, the children, and even the babies) . . . Turn to me now, while there is time! Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning . . . Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful." Let us meet together through these 40 days, that God may use us to write the next chapter as we seek to make connections and offer opportunities in faith, love and service.

-Pastor Daven

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.

February 14: Leviticus 18-19; Matthew 27:32-66

February 15: Leviticus 20-21; Matthew 28

February 16: Leviticus 22-23; Mark 1:1-22

February 17: Leviticus 24-25; Mark 1:23-45

February 18: Leviticus 26-27; Mark 2

February 19: Numbers 1-2; Mark 3:1-21

February 20: Numbers 3-4; Mark 3:22-35

In Our Prayers

JOY! Community Youth Group students got creative and made art projects to benefit Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen, which cares for farm animals that have been abused or neglected.



In Our Healing Prayers...

Ed & Cindy Fisher (Ed transferred back home earlier this week)

Dennis Scaringi (expected to return home from rehab later this week)

Bob Snyder, Sue Estee, Mary Ball, Lois Lewis, Janet Hill, The Kreib Family, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Sissie Mooney, Peter Shanley

*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, February 14 - 6:15 pm - Choir Rehearsal

7pm - Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 15 - 10 am - Visitation Team

1 pm - "Women of the Bible" Study

7 pm - Staff-Parish Relations Team

Friday, February 16 - **5:30 pm - Music & Meditation**

Saturday, February 17 - 10 am - Crafting for a Cause

Sunday, February 18 - **9 am - Casual Praise Service**

10 am - a.o.l. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

10 am - FaithXpress

11 am - Traditional Worship 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.*

Opportunities to Make a Difference

Food Pantries

Share food and personal care items through local food pantries - Tiger's Den & the Food Pantry at University Presbyterian Church

**"Healthy" Snacks (granola bars, cereal bars, pretzels, crackers, etc.),
Juice, Toilet Paper.**

A freezer is available for your meat donations.

Please help us fill up our carts!!! Paper goods and personal care items are always needed.

Crafting for a Cause

Crafting for a Cause will be meeting this Saturday, February 17 from 10am-Noon in the Wesley Room. We will be making fleece mittens and scarves for the homeless of Buffalo and Clara's Closet, which helps local refugee families. They will help keep people warm this winter. Please bring scissors, sewing machines, and pins. All are welcome!

Adult Opportunities for Learning: (a.o.l. @ cumc)

Sundays at 10 am in the Wesley Room

Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way

Catch the Spirit Discipleship Gathering

Saturday, February 24

8 am - 3 pm

Clarence UMC ([10205 Greiner Rd. Clarence](https://www.google.com/maps/place/10205+Greiner+Rd,+Clarence,+NY+14035))

Join with others from the Niagara Frontier District for a day of workshops, vendors, fellowship and lunch! A list of workshops being offered and registration forms are available in the Cafe and church office. **Registration is due Friday, February 16!**

LENT

Lent is a season – 40 days, evenings, nights
(February 14 - March 31)

Here are some ways you may respond to Lent's invitation...

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14 - 7 p.m.

Group Study

Tuesdays - 12 Noon at Christ Church

"Give It Up"

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays -10 am at Christ Church

Women's Study

Thursdays 1-2:30 pm at Christ Church

February 15, 22, March 1, 8

"Women of the Bible"

Music & Meditation

Fridays - 5:30 pm at Christ Church

"SUGAR AND SPICE NIGHT"

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2018 6:30 - 9:30 PM

"SING FOR JOY" paint activity with JAVENE McCABE

All ladies are invited to come and bring a friend or two! We have had a wonderful response with many already signed up with room for more! Bring an apron or wear old clothes - all supplies are provided. A \$12 donation, payable to Paula Kreib before the class or that night, will cover supplies and a donation to missions. Come join us for painting and treats with fun for all!

FaithXpress & Community Youth Group
Field Trip to Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 24 - 9:15 a.m. Carpool from Christ Church
Tour the gardens & make a terrarium to take home!

\$4 Children, \$6 Adults

RSVP to Sally Pollard by February 18

sjpjoy@christchurchamherst.org

"You can find love in the cross-shaped ashes that will be smudged Wednesday... They symbolize humans' earthly demise, but they also remind believers that death is not the end thanks to God's ultimate act of love — letting Jesus die on the cross so they can have eternal life."

-Rev. Benjamin Butler

Church Office Hours:

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Casual Praise Worship at 9 am

Traditional Worship at 11 am

Education Hour at 10 am