



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY
"Making Connections & Offering Opportunities
for Faith, Love & Service"

Weekly Update – February 17

Ash Wednesday

What's the Point?

My wife and I were discussing Lent, Ash Wednesday and religious rituals / observances. As I was sharing the challenges of specifically Ash Wednesday in our time of pandemic, she was honest in admitting that having ashes imposed on her in the evening to then come home and more-or-less immediately wash her face and go to bed seemed pointless. While we all know that such traditions are not about having others recognize our faith, she had a point when we don't even have enough time to catch ourselves in the many mirrors of a day to remind ourselves of our faith and particularly our Lenten disciplines.

This year with health and safety being a priority and physical distancing a necessity, ashes will not be traditionally imposed. They will be individually bagged and available for each of us to 'self-impose.' Perhaps in recognition of my wife's reflections, I am taking a slightly different approach in that I will be making the sign of a cross on a small piece of white paper with them to hang on the mirror of my bathroom. In this way throughout the season of Lent I will be reminded multiple times during the day of my faith.

It will serve as a sign calling for repentance reminding me of the many ways I have fallen and continue to fall short of my faith. That sign will also proclaim to me, not condemnation, but the possibility of eternal salvation by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. And that is the point.

"From dust you came, to dust your return. Repent and believe in the Good News!"

-Pastor Daven



*Worship is available on Sunday mornings at 10am,
both in person and online!*

*Live-streamed worship will be available beginning at 10am each Sunday,
with a direct link posted on our website and Facebook page to our
livestream: www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live*

*Recordings of each service will also be available on our YouTube channel for
viewing once the service has ended.*

Please be advised of new guidelines for those wishing to worship together in person at Christ Church:

- All will be required to wear a mask.** We will have a limited supply of masks on hand for those who come without one.
- Enter through one door at the main entrance.**
- Use hand sanitizer** at the provided station before entering the Sanctuary.
- Maintain social distancing** (6 feet apart) from those not within your immediate family.
- Please do not enter the building if you are experiencing any symptoms** (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, chills, diarrhea).

*We will continue to provide online opportunities for worship and
connection. Our [YouTube channel](#) is the best way to find new content and worship services. We encourage you to 'Subscribe' to our channel! You'll be notified each time new content is uploaded, and the more subscribers we have, the less ads will appear!*

[Click here to check out our YouTube channel](#)

[Click here to be connected to our website](#)

[Click here to be directed to our Facebook page](#)

Lent



Ash Wednesday

*Wednesday, February 17
Worship Service at 7 p.m.*

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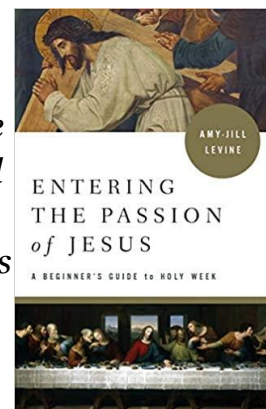
enten Study

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

By: *Amy-Jill Levine*

“Dive deep into the history of the last days before the crucifixion. Jesus’ final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple.”

“In Entering the Passion of Jesus, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.”



Christ Church will offer 2 opportunities to participate in this study via ZOOM:

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
February 24 – March 31
Facilitator: Beth Reilly Brown

Thursdays at 1 p.m.
February 25 – April 1
Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

The book is not required, but if you would like to purchase a copy, paperbacks and digital formats are available through a variety of online vendors including Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, Target, and Amazon.

Music & Meditation

Fridays at 5:30 p.m.
February 19 - April 2

In quiet and candlelight, join in meditative song, prayer, and Scripture reading that penetrates the heart and the whole being.

Available in person and online via the CUMC YouTube channel: www.YouTube.com/CUMCAmherst/live

This Week at Christ Church

Winter Office Hours:
Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday
9a.m. - 2p.m.

At all times, even during office hours, the building will remain locked. Please call for admittance.

Wednesday, February 17
7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

Friday, February 19
5:30 p.m. – Music & Meditation

Sunday, February 14
10 a.m. - Worship In-Person and Live-Stream

Daily Bible Reading – 2021 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 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

February 21: Numbers 5-6; Mark 4:1-20

February 22: Numbers 7; Mark 4:21-41

February 23: Numbers 8-10; Mark 5:1-20

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to **Bob & Anna Lovell**. Anna's mother died on February 11.

Joys

Joy! **Bill Swenson** will be celebrating his 99th birthday on February 22!

In Our Healing Prayers

-**Debbie Laberta** - recovering at Schofield Rehab (Room 218)

-**Dave Wolf** - hoping to go home from rehab tomorrow

Laura June Merrill, Mary Gerhardt (Mother of Lisa Lawson), Lynda Painton, Scott Smith, Sue Estee, Ruth Munson, Dave & Barbara Mitchell, Paul Staley, Jim Pollard, Valari Zanghi, Kevin Cetola, Nancy & Frank Annunziata, Helen Peacock, Joe & Carolyn Day, Dick Ball, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Jean Ericson

*All educators and students dealing with changing school realities

*Those affected with COVID-19, those working on the front lines, and all impacted by the changes of work and activities.

*Those who are **care partners** with others

*Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson, serving in the US Navy

Hearts and Hands

Hearts and Hands Faith in Action, a neighbor helping neighbor community organization, connects frail or vulnerable individuals in underserved areas with needed services.

They are looking for volunteers to assist older adults with tasks such as transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc. All services are provided by volunteers at no cost to the care recipients.

To learn more about Hearts and Hands, watch [this video](#) and visit: www.hnhcares.org

Reopening for Church Groups

Given recent changes in NY State COVID-19 guidelines, beginning March 1st any Christ Church group meetings (i.e. Teams, Circles, Study Groups) will be allowed back in the building! The decision to meet at Christ Church rests solely with each group - if your group feels more comfortable meeting virtually at this time, please continue to do so. Occupancy count of meeting rooms is still restricted, so if your group is interested in meeting in person at church, please contact Janelle in the office (cumc350@gmail.com -or- 839-2460) with your group size and desired meeting date(s) & time. We will do our best to accommodate everyone at their "usual" date and time but may have to move things around a little. Masks and social distancing will still be required of anyone in the building, and other than a personal beverage container brought from home, no food or drinks will be allowed. Let's hope this is a first step back toward "old normal" - WELCOME HOME!

Suspicious Emails

A wave a suspicious emails which have made the rounds specifically 'from' faith leaders, including the Upper New York Bishop, District Superintendents, and Clergy including myself. While these emails claim to be from us using our names in the message and even email addresses which are close, they are not from us or our specific email addresses. We would never ask for a personal favor in this

manner. Furthermore, you will find that salutations, sentence format (or absence of it), and closings are lacking how we would compose a message. If you receive any such message, please ignore it, delete it, and if possible block that email address.

UMCOR Hygiene Kits

The Outreach Team invites you to assemble a Hygiene Kit for UMCOR! These kits will help people who have suffered due to natural disasters. The supplies can be assembled and placed in a large plastic gallon bag and then brought to church. We will collect them until UMCOR Sunday on **March 14, 2021**.

Hygiene Kit Materials

- **One hand towel** (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)
 - *No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels*
 - **One washcloth**
 - *No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels*
 - **One comb**
 - *Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth*
 - *No pocket combs or picks*
 - *Rattail/ combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth*
 - **One toenail or fingernail clipper**
 - *No emery boards or metal nail files*
 - **Bath-size soap** (3 oz. bar or larger)
 - *No Ivory or Jergen's soap*
 - *Do not remove from packaging*
 - **One adult toothbrush**
 - *Do not remove from packaging*
 - *Personal advertising not acceptable*
 - **10 adhesive bandages** (¾ by 3 inches)
 - *Common household bandages acceptable*
 - **One one-gallon size re-sealable bag**
- Hygiene Kit Value: \$12.00 per kit

Assembly Instructions

1. Lay hand towel flat on a table.
2. Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
3. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
4. Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
5. Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
6. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

<https://www.gnjumc.org/resource/umcor-hygiene-kit-assembly-instructions/>
<https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/>