



Weekly Update: February 2, 2016

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Rds
Amherst, NY 14226

"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love & service."

Church Office Hours - Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Praise Worship at 9 am

Traditional Worship at 11 am

10 am FaithXpress for children

February – Joining Jesus on the Journey

10 am Apprentice for Youth

10 am A.O.L. @ CUMC - Adult Opportunities for Learning

5 Marks of a Christian

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A word from Pastor Darryl

Last Sunday we continued our Epiphany sermon series reflecting on Part 2 of the “First Words” Jesus shared in his hometown at his home synagogue – “*First Words at Home Sweet Home, Not So Sweet,*” after all. At first things went well. Everybody whispered about how smoothly and graciously he spoke. But then the bubble burst. He told them the hard, unvarnished truth, and then the homecoming turned into a disaster. So enraged were the people over what he said that they wanted to kill him. Luke’s Gospel tells us that they forced him out of the synagogue to the edge of a cliff, perhaps on the southeastern side of Nazareth. They were about ready to toss him over the cliff. But then mysteriously he turned and walked through them and left Nazareth for good. We

see here in Jesus' encounter with humanity's self-righteousness and preoccupation with the hometown attitude, it is already driving him to the cross. Before the healings and the teaching and the miraculous catch of fish, before Mary and Martha, and the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son and Zacchaeus, before the rich man who was told to sell everything and give it to the poor, and the poor widow who put in everything she had; before all of that, Jesus was on his way to the cross. Before Luke makes it abundantly clear that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would reach into "all the living that you have", Jesus was well on his way to the cross. It's that reach that causes us to squirm, or to keep a safe distance, or to run away. To draw near to Jesus is to encounter the Gospel that confronts and consoles us; convicts and comforts us. The truth be told, each of us finds our place somewhere in Luke's crowd, because if we're honest, the Gospel of Jesus Christ hits too close to home, to the hometown crowd. Jesus brought perception "into the reality of living" as a follower of him. What we need, he told *Nicodemus* is "a new birth": not just a reformation or higher resolves, but an utterly new start. To the *woman of Samaria* (Sammy) he prescribed water which would satisfy the deep, eternal thirst. For *the rich young ruler*, he commanded a whole new set of values, a change which the man, unfortunately, was unwilling to make. But in every case, Jesus went below the surface – down to reality. That reality leads us "to act with justice, to love tenderly, to serve one another, and to walk humbly with God." 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!

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Growing Disciples – Through Bible Study

It's a joy to recognize **Michelle Cordero, Kathy Brunner, Debbie La Berta and Peggy Nye** who recently completed the Disciple 1 Bible Study course over 34 weeks. Certificates were presented to them in worship and to the course leader, Jim Pollard. DISCIPLE draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible. *Thank you for your faithfulness and willingness to go deeper!*

Jazz Vespers

We had a great time at Jazz Vespers on Sunday evening! Thank you to the **Ron Corsaro Trio (Ron Corsaro, Wayne Moose & Dan Hull)** for their inspiring music! We welcomed many new friends to Jazz Vespers and got better acquainted as we shared a meal. Thank you to Peggy Bermudez, Carol Corsaro & Sally Pollard for providing the food, to Pauline & Emily Williams, Guy

Castellino, Rita Arnold, Janelle Martin, and Brad Bermudez for their help, and to Pastor Darryl who invites us to be more than we already are.

Daily Bible Reading – 2016 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 2: Exodus 29-30; Matthew 22:1-22

February 3: Exodus 31-33; Matthew 22:23-46

February 4: Exodus 34-36; Matthew 23:1-22

February 5: Exodus 37-38; Matthew 23:23-39

February 6: Exodus 39-40; Matthew: 24:1-22

Food Pantry - This weeks suggested items:

February 7 – Kid’s Snacks –Pop-top Tuna, 100% Fruit Rolls, Raisins, Graham Crackers, Unsweetened Applesauce, Cheese & Crackers, Fruit Cups, Pretzels, Granola Bars
**NO peanut products please*

In Our Prayers

Diane Klenk – broken leg

Frank Annunciata, Chris Klenk, Lois Lewis - recovering at home

All who are caregivers for others

Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson (deployed) – all serve in the US Navy

This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, February 2 - 7 pm – Altar Guild

7:30 pm – Church Council *

- **Everyone is welcome to attend Church Council meetings. Voting members are the leaders of the church.**

Wednesday, February 3 - 6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

7 pm – Outreach Team

7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 4 - 10 am – Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

7 pm – Circle of Joy

7 pm – Elizabeth Circle

Friday, February 5 - 10 am – Books We Have Loved

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Transportation Assistance

Rita Arnold– who resides on Fontaine Drive in Cheektowaga (off Harlem Rd) is in need of people willing to pick her up for the 11 am worship service and for events such as Jazz Vespers and Lenten Supper & Study. Call Rita at 481-1506.

Dr. Robert Nachbar, who resides at Blocher Home on Evans Street, is looking for people willing to drive him to church once a month and to occasional appointments. If you are willing to help, please call Bob at 568-9628.



Hearts and Hands - Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Links willing volunteers with older or physically challenged adults for basic services such as transportation for medical appointments, errands or social activities, caregiver respite, companion visits, wellness checks, phone pals and minor home maintenance. Call 406-8311 or visit www.hnhcares.org

Call 406-8311 to sign up for a volunteer orientation (about 1 hour).

~ Lent begins on Ash Wednesday ~
February 10

5 pm - Lenten Supper & Study Series begins

7 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Invitation

Wednesdays, February 10, 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16

Explore ways in which Jesus invites us to life at its best. Through experiences with the arts our hearts are touched and we respond. Each week presenters will share photography, poetry, dance, textile creations and other arts—invitations to open, explore and respond.

*Sign up on the clipboard in the Café
or call the church office 839-2460*

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Fresh Start - Lent is time for a fresh start.

Sunday morning worship at 9 am will take place in Crafts Hall beginning **Sunday, February 14.**

The Worship & Praise Team will all be there. We hope you will be too!

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This Sunday at Christ Church –February 7

Beyond The Ordinary: Evangelizing In Deep Water
Luke 5: 1-11

Epiphany Sermon series continues

Holy Communion will be shared

“Jesus-shaped spirituality hears Jesus say “believe and repent,” but the call that resonates most closely in the heart of a disciple is “follow me.”

The command to follow requires that we take a daily journey in the company of other students. It demands that we be lifelong learners and that we commit to constant growth in spiritual maturity. Discipleship is a call to me, but it is a journey of “we.”

– Michael Spencer, *Mere Churchianity: Finding Your Way Back to Jesus-Shaped Spirituality*

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Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service

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