

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

Weekly Update - February 21

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads
Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

As I stepped out into the morning for a run, my ears suddenly caught the sound of hope rising. I heard that suspicious melody of another season still present in the grips of this one, the birds happily regaling their chorus against all the odds of the day. As I had begrudgingly approached the workout ahead, I now found a new lightness in my step as the promise for warmer times dawned.

Doesn't this always seem to be God's mysterious way? As soon as our spirits are lowest, our faith challenged most, a ray of hope pierces the darkness. Of course we experience this in nature like with the birds' chorus in February or the crocus springing out hidden beneath winter's cold grip. But also it exists in so many other ways. Maybe it is the phone call shared just when we need it or the card with well wishes; or maybe it is the kind gesture by a stranger when everything in our day is going horribly wrong. Also, through our worship in Lent, the scriptures we hear all encourage us to see the barely visible light that death shall not have the last word. Even as we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem and through the events that take place there into the cold dark grips of a tomb, we hold onto a sense that God's grace and love is unable to be sealed away, choked off from us. And on Easter morning the light of God's grace dawns against all odds brightening the darkest valleys with the Son's shine.

The truth is that love is all around if we care to open our eyes and open our ears. God provides these glimpses and voices to us that darkness and despair will not overwhelm us, but hope and love will sustain us. And ... we too can embody this hope and love to others as followers of Christ through the words of our mouths and the actions of our hands. After all, we ARE resurrection people ...!

-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 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

February 24: Numbers 11-13; Mark 5:21-43

February 25: Numbers 14-15; Mark 6:1-32

February 26: Numbers 16-17; Mark 6:33-56

February 27: Numbers 18-20; Mark 7:1-13

In Our Healing Prayers

Ed & Cindy Fisher

Dennis Scaringi (back at home following foot surgery and rehab)

Bob & Marcia 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 21 - 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 22 - 1 pm - "Women of the Bible" Study

Friday, February 23 - **5:30 pm - Music & Meditation**
6:30 pm -UMW Sugar & Spice Paint Night

Saturday, February 24 - 9:15 am - FaithXpress & Community Youth Group
Trip to Botanical Gardens

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.*

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.



LENTEN CALENDAR

Lent is a season – 40 days, evenings, nights

(Continues Through March 30)

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

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 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!

“If the lungs of prayer and the Word of God do not nourish the breath of spiritual life, we risk suffocating in the midst of a thousand daily cares. Prayer is the breath of the soul and of life.”
-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

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