

Weekly Update: February 23, 2016

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Rds
Amherst, NY 14226

“Living Christ Ways and Exploding With Love and Service”



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

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A word from Pastor Darryl

Last Sunday we continued our Lenten journey toward the celebration of Easter Day with our theme of *“Loving and Belonging”* – reflections on Luke 13:31-35 where Jesus describes himself and God as a mother hen: *“as a hen gathering her brood.”* We rarely, if ever, hear about God’s femininity, female images for God, or female characteristics of God, and even then, the biblical truth will be hard to believe. If God is mostly assumed to be male, referred to with male pronouns, and described as male, then it will be more difficult, and take more energy to imagine God in female categories – and to believe that women have a place in the kingdom of God. Women need to hear themselves in the Bible, need to see themselves in the Bible. Why? Because, there are only 93 women who speak in the Bible, 49 of whom are named. These women speak a total of 14,056 words collectively – roughly 1.1% of the Bible. Mary, the mother of Jesus, speaks 191 words; Mary Magdalene gets 61; Sarah, 141 (Freeman, *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter*). We encounter an unusual symbol, metaphor that Jesus uses to identify himself – a mild, humble creature – a mother hen. It seems such a passive symbol for the Son of God, until we remember that he is also the One called the Lamb of God. Jesus describes himself as a mother hen, maybe so we don’t expect to see him as an authoritarian power; that belongs in another realm – the other character in the gospel is Herod the fox – that is ‘the power over’ – predatory, sly and conniving is the implication there. But Jesus is portrayed as the mother hen gathering her brood under her wings. This is a power of a different sort, protective, merciful; the comforting, nestling, sheltering mercy of God.

Imagine God

-We have put up a huge picture of a cross in our Connection Cafe for us to put pictures and images around it that help us imagine who God is. We might draw pictures, or cut them from magazines and keep adding them until we have a collection of images that together give witness to how we imagine God at work in our world and lives. The goal isn’t to get it “right,” rather it’s trying to articulate how we imagine God at work in our lives. My hope is that some

of the images might invite conversation, even cause a stir? I hope so. Because that's the point: the images aren't meant to define God – as if we could! Rather they are invitations for us to learn how to articulate our own faith and questions and imagination about 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!

Sunday, February 21 – Marking a milestone!

Thank you for the blessings of your prayers, your presence and your physical reminders (flowers, cards, gifts, kind words-written and spoken, hugs) of 20 years serving on the staff of Christ Church. You made an ordinary day sacred and memorable. My special thanks to Ed Fisher, Peggy Bermudez, Paula Kreib and all who planned and prepared with lots of special touches. I acknowledge and appreciate each of my colleagues and co-workers through the years and especially now—their spirit of love & trust, sense of caring & sharing and much fun make us more together than we are separately. I celebrate all the ways God has been at work in and through you and me, through this community called Christ Church. My heart is filled with joy!

“Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.” (Hymn- Great is Thy Faithfulness)

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 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

February 28: Numbers 21-23; Mark 7:14-8:10

February 29: Catch-Up or **Leap** ahead

March 1: Numbers 24-27; Mark 8:11-38

In Our Prayers

Peter Zaleski – surgery on Thursday

Alica Ticconi – in need of encouragement

Barry Wood – recovering from recent surgery

Diane Klenk – broken leg requires more healing time

Both Chris & Diane were at worship.

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 23 – 9:30 am – “Caller” Collation

Wednesday, February 24 – **Lent Supper & Speaker Series**

5 pm – Lenten Series – “Invitation
Lawrence Kinney, wood sculptor; Mary Kinney - artist

7:30 pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 25 - 10 am – Life Lessons w’ Pastor Darryl

Saturday, February 27 – 10 am -- Crafting for a Cause

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Food Pantry - This weeks suggested items:

February 28 – Rice & Pasta

All food items, paper products and toiletry items are welcome anytime.
Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!

Offer Hospitality -

Sign up on the bulletin board in the café to host some Sunday morning or even a *month of Sundays*! Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you! Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

Ways to save –

The café uses many paper cups each week. – Mugs are available for your use or donate a sleeve of 8 oz cups. Baked goods & cookies are always enjoyed and donations are welcome in the café.

Transportation Assistance

The following friends are in need of transportation occasionally. If you can help with this need please give them a call...

Rita Arnold – resides on Fontaine Drive in Cheektowaga Call 481-1506

Dr. Bob Nachbar - resides at Blocher Home, Williamsville Call 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).

~ Lenten Supper & Speaker Series ~

“Invitation “

Wednesdays, February 24, March 2, 9, 16

February 24 – Lawrence Kinney – Wood Sculptor
Mary Kinney - Artist

March 2 – Paul Staley – Musician

March 9 – Olivia Ebsary – Sacred Dance & Textile Art

March 16 – Tara Scime – Ballroom Dance

Guest presenters will share the in which their particular art invites them to some deeper experience involving their own soul and we'll consider ways in which we who experience works of art respond to this invitation to explore and respond.

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

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Sunday, February 28 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Luke 13:1-9

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10 am - **FaithXpress**- for children

February/March – Join the Journey with Jesus

10 am **Apprentice** – for youth

10 am - [A.O.L.@CUMC](#) – Adult Opportunities for Learning

Encounters With Jesus

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Jazz Vespers

This Sunday, February 28 4:30 pm

Featuring the sacred music of Duke Ellington

With The Ron Corsaro Trio

Meal to follow

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Coming soon.....
EASTER MORNING JAZZ BRUNCH
with
The RON CORSARO JAZZ TRIO
Easter Sunday, March 27 at 9 am-10:30 am



Start your Easter morning celebration with music, readings, hot food and cool jazz! "Where Jazz meets the Spirit!" A Love Offering will be received to help support the Outreach Ministries of Christ Church and to support our monthly *Jazz Vespers*.

Following the Jazz Brunch you are invited to join us for our **Traditional Easter Sunday Worship** with the **Celebration of Holy Communion at 11:00 am**. Invite your family members and friends to join us for this great morning of celebration of the Risen Christ!



"David Brooks, conservative political columnist for the New York Times and the PBS Newshour, laments a lack of optimism in the current primary campaigns. 'To hear Sanders or Trump, Cruz and Ben Carson campaign,' Brooks wrote, 'is to wallow in the pornography of pessimism*', to conclude that this country is on the verge of complete collapse. That's simply not true. We have problems, but they are less serious than those faced by just about any other nation on earth.'

* (Merriam-Webster defines pornography as *the depiction of acts in a sensational manner so as to arouse a quick intense emotional reaction.*)

Along the road of his life, Jesus dispels fear wherever he encounters it, and he challenges our cynicism and despair, urging us to give hatred no room.



Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service

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