

Weekly Update – February 24

Mess

This picture shows the evidence and remnants of creating ashes for Ash Wednesday made by burning the dried, leftover palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The process of making them is far more involved and intense due to the fibrous nature of the palm branches, with a torch proving the best way to burn hotly and sufficiently enough to break them down. These actions are best undertaken outside due to this process and its resulting smoke and ... mess!

I have encountered this scene in the picture every time that I come-and-go from home, reminding me of the work of Lent. While a fresh coating of snow to cover it up would have been nice, it still would have been there beneath to be revealed once again with some melting. Ultimately we can't cover up our mistakes either. What this season calls us to in repentance is to face them, to see them for what they are, and then to seek forgiveness and a commitment not to repeat them. So we begin this season with messy, dusty ash. It is a symbolic reminder of those ways we have fallen short, like the picture — all that is broken, burned up, dried out, used up ash ... what a mess! Honestly, though, we forget too soon that stark reminder of early Lent unless we are intentional in our disciplines facing our sins, like the evidence of making ashes, each day. Disciplines of Lent are intended to hold us in this season, to face those shortfalls, to turn from them in repentance, and to seek the new life offered to us by God in Christ.

And just like that same mess in the picture, those ashes and broken dried bits of palms will eventually mix with the soil beneath providing the nourishment and sustenance of the garden which will grow. In the days and weeks of this season, through the grace and forgiveness of Christ, slowly the remnants of all those dried-out ambitions and burnt up faith commitments will melt away, providing the basis for healthy, new life to grow. For the time being, we are called to look up mess.



-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](#)



In addition to new content added throughout the week on our Facebook page, YouTube Channel, and website (christchurchamherst.org) which includes a gratitude journal every Monday, Exploring Sunday's Scriptures every Tuesday, and Feasting on the Word every Wednesday, we have additional opportunities through the season of Lent.

There will be 3 different times / ways to engage in a 6 week study - Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine. Beth Reilly will lead an interactive session on **Wednesday evenings through Zoom at 7 PM** through the link below. Peggy Bermudez will lead another interactive session on **Thursday as part of Thirstaid through Zoom at 1 PM**. A non-interactive portion will also be available on our YouTube Channel early each week. This study will also form the basis of our worship through this season in sermons and scriptures.

In addition, every **Friday at 5:30 PM** through Lent we will offer Music and Meditation both in person and Live-streamed. It is a 30 minute candlelit contemplative service of song and silence, prayer, and scripture leading participants to contemplate and celebrate their relationship with God and with one another.

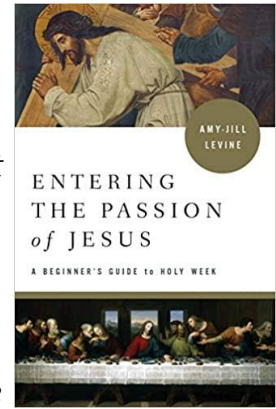
Lenten Study

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

Time: Feb 24, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Every week on Wed, until Mar 31, 2021, 6 occurrence(s)
Feb 24, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Mar 3, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Mar 10, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Mar 17, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Mar 24, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Mar 31, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77694652949?pwd=N2NuR1lmS00va3o1Wk1oMTBSZm1lZz09>

Meeting ID: 776 9465 2949
Passcode: ek58pn

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

Time: Feb 25, 2021 @ 1:00 PM
Every week on Thu, until Apr 1, 2021, 6 occurrence(s)
Feb 25, 2021 @ 1:00 PM
Mar 4, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Mar 11, 2021 @ 1:00 PM
Mar 18, 2021 @ 1:00 PM
Mar 25, 2021 @ 1:00 PM
Apr 1, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84174377283>

Meeting ID: 841 7437 7283

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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 24

7 p.m. - Lenten Study

Thursday, February 25

1 p.m. - Lenten Study

Friday, February 26

5:30 p.m. - Music & Meditation

Sunday, February 28

10 a.m. - Worship Service *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 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

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

March 2: Numbers 28-29; Mark 9:1-29

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to former CUMC pastor **Rev. Dr. B.J. Norrix**. BJ's father Bob Norrix died over the weekend, just 13 days after BJ's mother died.

In Our Healing Prayers

-Helen Peacock -moving this week

-Joe M. (co-worker of Lianne Oskvig)

Scott Smith, Debbie Laberta, Dave Wolf (home from rehab!), Laura June Merrill, Mary Gerhardt (Mother of Lisa Lawson), Lynda Painton, Sue Estee, Ruth Munson, Dave Mitchell, Paul Staley, Jim Pollard, Valari Zanghi, Kevin Cetola, Nancy & Frank Annunziata, 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/>