

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



Weekly Update - February 27, 2019

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

“February winds have a bite, and no doubt about it” Hal Borland writes in Sundial of the Seasons. How true this is with February winds literally heavier, having 25% more weight than the same velocity winds of July. The air is simply more dense, more of it to the square foot.

In these past few days we have experienced this in two ways - our weather and events related to the future of the United Methodist Church. Such winds can frighten us, drive us indoors, and isolate us. They make us question if we and our homes can stand against them, if our power and heat will remain, and the damage we will find come dawn.

I have honestly been struggling ... in more ways than I can begin to express. Where I have come to, whether physically or spiritually, is the resolve that we are called to run the race set before us no matter the conditions, no matter how strong the winds. The air is heavy and dense this February, for sure. But by God’s grace, we will continue to run this race and with the reassurance that there are things, unrevealed until their season, something God alone can see.

Reflection on the Special Session of General Conference

Over the coming days, weeks and months the implications of the decisions made at the adjourned session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in St. Louis will be revealed. What this means for clergy and local congregations will be more clearly understood, in addition to the possibilities for both within or beyond the denomination known as United Methodist. Patience and persistence in prayer can be

difficult through such times, but vital and important. As more is known and understood, opportunities for ongoing conversations and discernment will be made. **-Pastor Daven**

From the Desk of Bishop Webb:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

The Special Session of the General Conference has concluded with the passage of The Traditional Plan. No matter where you stand on the decision and the direction taken by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the reality is that we are a Church in deep pain and great division. I want you to know I see and feel the hurt that many of you are feeling today—a feeling that your Church has let you down. These last few days have been emotional for all and deeply harmful for many. That reality grieves my spirit. I have been in deep prayer for all of you—for all of us.

Yet, in this very present reality is a truth. Christ is with us, amid our pain. In the midst of our brokenness, the resurrected Christ is with us. The One who offers us the promise of abundant life has not forsaken us. We are the body of Christ, called to loving God, loving one another and offering the love of Jesus Christ to the world.

The road ahead will not be an easy one for us as individuals and as a Church. I commit to traveling this road with each of you. Upper New York is a collection of beautiful people with a commitment to Christ and a potential for ministry that is endless. We can travel this road together. We can choose to stand against a culture of division and be a people who pray together, talk with one another, choose to love each other, and most importantly, help one another find the ways in which we live out God's call upon our individual lives and our life together with fruitfulness and faithfulness.

Over the next few weeks and months, our commitment to Christ and one another will be tested and given an opportunity to be lived out in ways that we cannot imagine - ways that can witness to the healing presence of God. We are a people of different opinions and

convictions, but our hope is a common one found in the person of Jesus Christ! May we pursue that hope with one another, in one another, and for one another.

Let us remember that we are the Church and we can choose whether we will perpetuate the pain in one another or surround one another in a spirit of encouragement and love.

I hope that laity and clergy will join me in one of the scheduled regional gatherings as we share a time of being with one another and reminding ourselves that God has called us to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ in the midst of the world.

Know I deeply love you, am grateful for you, while holding you constantly in prayer. Pray for me.

Blessings,

Bishop Mark J. Webb

Upper New York Area

Daily Bible Reading – 2019 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 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

March 3: Numbers 30-31; Mark 9:30-50

March 4: Numbers 32-33; Mark 10:1-31

March 5: Numbers 34-36; Mark 10:32-52

Joys

Joy! On Sunday we celebrated the completion of the various renovations and updates made to the Cafe, Kitchen, and upper level over the past months! Thank you to all who have helped to make the recent improvements possible!

In Our Healing Prayers

Ian Webber, Diane & Chris Klenk, Cindy Fisher, Daryl Bennett, Mary Jane Shanley, Joyce Moser, Bruce Burr, Sue Estee, Janet Hill, Harold Weaver, Frank Annunziata, Lois Lewis, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Sissie Mooney

*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 27 - 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 28 - 1pm- 'Thirstaid' Thursday

7pm- Hospitality Team

Friday, March 1 - 11am- Books We Have Loved

Saturday, March 2 - Catch the Spirit District Workshop Day

Sunday, March 3 - **10am - Worship Service**

11am - Educational Opportunities & Fellowship

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.*

Do you want to
make a
difference?

Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families

In addition to the food that goes to local food pantries, Christ Church serves local families in need. The following items are needed:

cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, deodorant, and soap.

The Tiger's Den is collecting **oatmeal and coffee** in March.

Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.



Exploring Sunday Scriptures

Every **Tuesday at Noon**, Pastor Daven leads a time exploring the upcoming Sunday's Scripture. This will provide context to the Scripture(s) being explored and ultimately enrich the experience of worship itself. All are welcome anytime!

Thirstaid Thursdays

You are invited to join in 'Thirstaid' Thursdays **each Thursday at 1 p.m.** in the Wesley Room! Diane Klenk leads a discussion on "Bad Girls of the Bible".

Starting **March 7**: "Hope When Your Heart Breaks (Navigating Grief and Loss)"

Facilitators: Pastor Daven, Peggy Bermudez, Dr. David Pliss

[a.o.i. @ CUMC](#)

Sundays at 11 a.m. in the Wesley Room

"A Disciple's Path"

Reading and reflection on how we grow in faith

Books available from David Pliss



Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, March 6

7 p.m.

Music and Meditation in the Season of Lent

Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

March 8, 15, 22, 29

April 5, 12

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

Lenten ALL-CHURCH Read

*“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)*

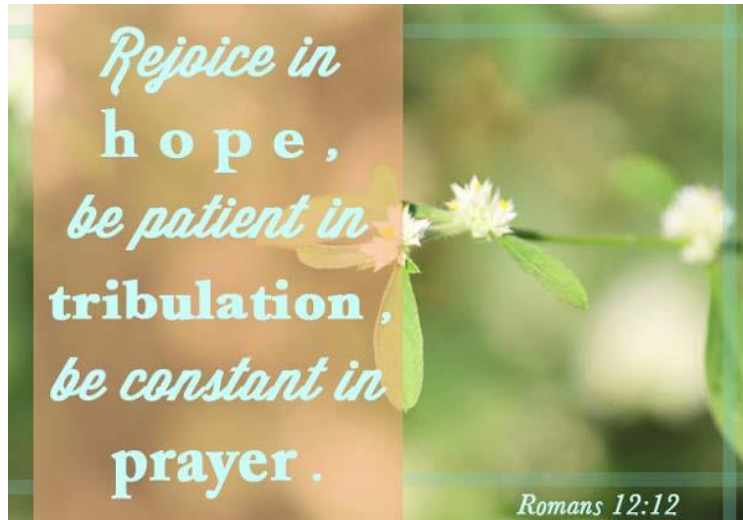
We live in a contentious time. It even has become difficult to discuss challenging issues within families and between close neighbors. How can we live as peacemakers when we can't even talk with one another?

The book, The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict, written by once-bitter enemies, explores how to transform personal, professional, and global conflicts by asking several questions:

- *What if conflicts at home, at work, and conflicts in the world stem from the same root cause?*
 - *What if we systematically misunderstand that cause?*
- *And what if, as a result, we systematically perpetuate the very problems we think we are trying to solve?*

Living with a heart of peace is a spiritual discipline that has practical results. Through the Lenten season, share in reading, reflection and conversation as we seek to be peacemakers in a contentious time.

The book will be available by **March 10, the first Sunday of Lent**. If you would like a book, please indicate it on the yellow Connection Card. A donation of \$10 is requested, but not required, to cover the cost of the book. Payment may be made to Christ United Methodist Church, noted “Lenten study book.”



Church Office Hours:

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

SUNDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Worship at 10 am

Educational Opportunities at 11 am