

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

**Weekly Update - February 28**

**Christ United Methodist Church**

Harlem & Saratoga Roads  
Amherst, NY 14226

**A Word From Pastor Daven**

We will spend March in the darkened season of Lent. During it, our natural surroundings will begin their spring awakening (doesn't it feel like that right now?). Yet we are called spiritually to remain in a subdued penitential spirit. To keep ourselves in Lent is a great challenge as the rhythms of our souls often match these natural cycles. But this challenge lies at the very heart of our decision to take up the cross and follow.

When all is bright and warm, will we still walk this challenging path of discipleship? When the world (both its natural realities and those human-created ones) sings its siren song to walk a different path, will we remain committed? Stories and poems abound concerning divergent paths and the great difference in life that comes by choosing one over another. If we choose nature's model, then it would be the path of least resistance. This is how rain drops and what rivers follow. If we choose the world's path, then it would be the path of self-centered existence. If we choose Jesus' model, then it would be the path of resistance. It would be the path that swims against the current and a life that is led for others. Lent is . . . tough. It begs us through its disciplines to answer what our lives will ultimately look like when all is bright, easy and happy, but even more so when all is dark, difficult and despairing.

Let us remain in this season as we walk the path of the cross together. Let us push back and away those things that seek to allure us away from the light, love and grace of God. Let us finish the journey we have begun, that we may ultimately choose the only way that leads to life eternal.

**-Pastor Daven**

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## 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 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

March 6: Deuteronomy 1-2; Mark 11:1-19

### In Our Prayers

**Joy** - Families of FaithXpress and Community Youth Group took a trip to the Botanical Gardens as we continue to think about ways we can care for creation.



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **George Voskerchian**, who died on February 25. The family will be present to receive friends on Thursday from 2-4 and 7-9 PM at the (Tonawanda Chapel) AMIGONE FUNERAL HOME, INC., [2600 Sheridan Drive](#) (at Parker Blvd.) where Funeral Services will be held on Friday at 11:00 AM.

### In Our Healing Prayers

**Ed & Cindy Fisher**

**Bob & Marcia Snyder**

**Dennis Scaringi, 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

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## This Week at Christ Church

### Church Office:

Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm,

Tues. & Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Wednesday, February 28 - 10 am - Morning Prayer  
7 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 1 - 1 pm - "Women of the Bible" Study  
6:30 pm - Elizabeth Circle at Musical Faire  
7 pm - Circle of Joy

Friday, March 2 - 11 am - Books We Have Loved  
**5:30 pm - Music & Meditation**

Sunday, March 4 - **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.*

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### Food Pantries

Share food and personal care items through local food pantries - Tiger's Den & the Food Pantry at University Presbyterian Church.

**Juice/Juice Boxes, Dish Detergent, Jelly, Cooking Oil.**

**A freezer is available for your meat donations.**

**Please help us fill up our carts!!!** Paper goods and personal care items are always needed.

## **UMCOR Sunday - March 11**

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has been providing compassion and relief services to people and nations in crisis since 1940. They have a presence in over 80 countries and have helped tens of thousands of people receive help after war, disaster, conflict, and other disruptive events that leave communities unable to recover on their own. Donations collected on UMCOR Sunday help cover the annual operational costs for UMCOR. Your gift allows UMCOR to apply 100% of other donations directly to relief efforts as well as long-term education and support. Visit <http://www.umcor.org/> to learn more about UMCOR.

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## **LENT**

Lent is a season – 40 days, evenings, nights  
*(Continues Through March 30)*

Here are some ways you may respond to Lent's invitation...**Morning, Noon & Night.**

### **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**  
**March 1 & 8**  
**"Women of the Bible"**

**Music & Meditation**  
**Fridays - 5:30 pm at Christ Church**

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"No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn."  
-Hal Borland

**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