

## Weekly Update: February 9, 2016

### Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Rds

Amherst, NY 14226

***“Living Christ Ways and Exploding With Love and Service”***

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

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#### A word from Pastor Darryl

Last Sunday we concluded our Epiphany sermon series reflecting on *“seeing the possibilities and paying attention to what lie beneath the things in life that seem ordinary.”* This could be for us the work of Lent this year: *to learn to pay attention.* To pray that the Holy Spirit might open our eyes to the holiness that lies *“behind the ordinary and beyond the ordinary”* around us and in us; to invite the Spirit to show us, as it did to Peter and James and John, and to Peter and the rest of the fishermen, *who Jesus really is and what he means to us.* If we pay attention, we might come to see that *our communities* are holy. We might come to know that our *world* is holy, that God permeates every inch of it. We might come to know that *we* are holy, that God dwells not in a *tabernacle* but in *us.* We might come to know that our *neighbor* is holy, the place where we are most likely to meet and to serve the Mysterious and Holy Incarnate One. What I have found is that *God is in the plain ordinariness of life* as well. Such as driving to work; having breakfast; pouring the Cheerios out of the box; making a cup of coffee; a cheese sandwich; *God is there with you;* listening to the telephone as it rings; talking to a friend; sitting at the kitchen table; reading the newspaper; *God is there with you;* watching television; opening the refrigerator door; feeding the dog; going for a walk. *God is there with you.* You know, life; everyday life. You stand underneath the flowering tree in the spring time and you look up and see a million miracles, a million flower blossoms. You know the ordinariness of life. And God is there with you as well.

Dear God, *grant us eyes to see your holiness all around us, in ourselves, in our communities, in our world, in our neighbors, in our mountaintops, in our valleys, in our deep waters through Christ our Lord.* 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!*

## Let The Children Come

With these words Jesus let everyone know that every person is important and is a partner in God's community. On Sunday the children made their presence known as they brought ribbons with their names on them and laid them on the worship table. They also acted out the story of Jesus inviting the first followers as they were out fishing. They trusted Jesus in the deep waters and were amazed at the results...a great catch of fish! Knowing they could trust him made them choose to leave behind all that was safe & familiar and follow Jesus.

Confirmation Apprentices, **Becca Lopez, Ariana Castellino, Ryan Lopez and Jacob Rhinehart**, assisted in serving Communion and joined members of the Visitation & Care Team, **Sandy Cumming and Peggy Bermudez**, in sharing Communion with church friends in their homes. Thank you to Confirmation mentor, **Marie Miller**, for preparing the Apprentices for this experience.

## 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 9: Leviticus 7-9; Matthew 25:31-46

February 10: Leviticus 10-12; Matthew 26:1-19

February 11: Leviticus 13; Matthew 26:20-54

February 12: Leviticus 14; Matthew 26:55-75

February 13: Leviticus 15; Matthew: 27:1-31

February 14: Leviticus 18-19, Matthew 27:32-66

February 15: Leviticus 20-21, Matthew 28:1-20

February 16: Leviticus 22-23, Mark 1:1-22

## In Our Prayers

**JOY!** February 8 – **Dorothy Brown** celebrating 101 years

**JOY!** February 13 - **Laura Nye Hagley** – qualifying marathon race for the Olympics –  
*Televised at 1 pm on Channel 2*

**Diane Klenk** – broken leg

**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 9** - 7 pm – Christian Education Team

7 pm – Stewardship & Finance Team

**Wednesday, February 10 – Lent begins**

12 Noon -1 pm Ashes & Mediation

5 pm – Lenten Series – “Invitation”

7 pm - **Ash Wednesday Worship**

After worship - Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 11** - 10 am – Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

7 pm – Staff/Parish Relations Team

**Friday, February 12** – Sally Pollard - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the  
staff of Christ Church

**Saturday, February 13** - “Caller” Newsletter deadline

10 am – UMWomen Breakfast – “Wells of Love” –  
presented by Kathy Weaver

## Opportunities to Make A Difference

**Food Pantry** - This weeks suggested items:

### **February 14 – Canned Soups and Stews**

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

### **Sign Up To Host The Café**

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 ministry of hospitality and welcome.

### **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](http://www.hnhcares.org)

**Call 406-8311 to sign up for a volunteer orientation (about 1 hour).**

### **Students: Apply now for 2016 UNY Conference scholarships**

United Methodist high school seniors and college students are invited to apply for two scholarships offered by the Upper New York Conference: Conference Merit Awards and Lottie Brown Grants. Application forms and guidelines are available now. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

~ Lent begins on Ash Wednesday ~

February 10

12 Noon – 1 pm Ashes & Meditation

5 pm – Lenten Series – “Invitation”

7 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship Service

## Invitation

Wednesdays, February 10, 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16

February 10 – Introduction & Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17 – Ian Webber – Photographer  
Hilde Webber – Sharing Poetry

February 24 – Lawrence Kinney – Sculptor

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*

## This Sunday at Christ Church –February 14



**Fresh Start** - Lent is time for a fresh start.

Sunday morning **worship at 9 am** will take place in Crafts Hall beginning this **Sunday, February 14.**

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Sermon: **What Does Love Look Like To You?**

1 Corinthians 13

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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

**5 Marks of a Methodist**

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"The first move in building community then must be to increase our awareness of each other...to *hunt* for each other...start *listening*. Community begins when people seek to know each other. Remember the song, "*Getting to know you, getting to know all about you*"? That's the first step in the **love** that binds us together."

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**Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service**

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