

## Weekly Update: January 12, 2016

### Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Rds  
Amherst, NY 14226

"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love & service."

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

#### SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Praise Worship at 9 am

Traditional Worship at 11 am

10 am FaithXpress for children

### January – Jesus & The Children

10 am Apprentice for Youth

10 am A.O.L. @ CUMC - Adult Opportunities for Learning

### 5 Marks of a Christian

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#### A word from Pastor Darryl

"Remember your Baptism and be thankful," is often used in worship as we did last Sunday to remind us of our baptismal covenant to reach out to the needs of human beings in the depths of God's love. I introduced a book by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, titled "*Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer.*" Jim Pollard used this book last fall in the Sunday morning adult study group.. If you missed this study, you missed a treat! (As a side note, I encourage us to join Jim on Sunday at 10 am for a current conversation on "the Five Marks of a Methodist"). Archbishop Williams says, "...the Church came to view baptism as a kind of restoration of what it is to be truly human. To be baptized is to recover the humanity that God first intended." "What did God intend?" He asked. Williams says, "God intended that human beings should grow

into such love for God and such confidence in God that they could rightly be called God's sons and daughters." But Williams says, "human beings have let go of that identity, abandoned it, forgotten it, or corrupted it. And when Jesus arrives on the scene he restores humanity to where it should be." Then he says this: "but that in itself means that Jesus, as he restores humanity 'from within,' has to come down into the chaos of our human world, Jesus has to come down fully to our level, to where things are shapeless and meaningless, in a state of vulnerability and unprotectedness, if real humanity is to come to birth." He further asked this question: "Where might you expect to find the baptized?" And he says, "one answer is, 'in the neighborhood of chaos,' It means you might expect to find Christian people near to those places where humanity is most at risk, where humanity is most disordered, disfigured, and needy. Christians will be found in the neighborhood of Jesus – but Jesus is found in the neighborhood of human confusion and suffering, defenselessly alongside those in need. If being baptized is being led to where Jesus is, then being baptized is being led towards the chaos and the neediness of a humanity that has forgotten its own destiny." He says, "a baptized Christian ought to be somebody who is not afraid of looking with honesty at the chaos inside, as well as being where humanity is at risk, outside." "So baptism says Archbishop Williams, means being with Jesus 'in the depths': the depths of human need, including the depths of our own selves in their need – but also in the depths of God's love; in the depths where the Spirit is re-creating and refreshing human life as God meant it to be." And so he says, "to be able to say, 'I'm baptized' is not to claim an extra dignity, let alone a sort of privilege that keeps you separate from and superior to the rest of the human race, but to claim a new level of solidarity with other people." Here is my challenge for us: Can we commit to be and to do more of that this year – **to claim a new level of solidarity with other people**? Williams says, "it is to accept that to be a Christian is to be affected – you might even say *contaminated* – by the mess of humanity. To put it another way, you don't go down into the waters of the Jordan without stirring up a great deal of mud! 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!

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## Daily Bible Reading – 2016

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.

January 10: Genesis 25-26; Matthew 9:1-17

January 11: Genesis 27-28; Matthew 9:18-38

January 12: Genesis 29-30; Matthew 10:1-23

January 13: Genesis 31-32; Matthew 10:24-42

January 14: Genesis 33-35; Matthew 11

January 15: Genesis 36-37, Matthew 12:1-21

January 16: Genesis 38-40; Matthew 12:22-50

## Food Pantry

Local food pantries are always in need of canned and packaged food items as well as paper products and toiletries.

This weeks suggested items:

**January 10 – Canned meats**

**January 17 – Baby Items – (boxed food, formula, diapers)**



**Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Friday, January 15 2 – 6 pm**

The goal is 20 units. Please invite your family and friends to donate. Call Geoff Hill (316-1522) with questions or to make an appointment. Give the gift of life! *Sponsored by the Health & Wellness Team*

## In Our Prayers

**Diane Klenk** – broken leg

**Chris Klenk** – upcoming surgery

**Frank Annunciata** –recovering from surgery

### All who are caregivers for others

**Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson (deployed)** – all serve in the US Navy

## This Week at Christ Church

Monday, January 11 – 6 pm – Disciple 1 Bible Study

Tuesday, January 12 - 4 pm UMW Exec Bd meeting

7 pm – Christian Education Team

7 pm – Stewardship & Finance Team

Wednesday, January 13 - “Caller” Deadline for newsletter articles

6:30 pm – Praise Team rehearsal

7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 14 - 10 am – Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

11 am – Visitation & Care Team

Friday, January 15 - 2 – 6 pm - Blood Mobile, Crafts Hall

Saturday, January 16 - 10 am - Crafting for a Cause, Wesley Room

11:45 am Carpool – Tour Flying Bison Brewery  
with Men's Group Lunch follows

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## Men's Group – Saturday, January 16

**Flying Bison Brewery Tour** - 1 pm (carpool at 11:45 am at church)

Samples, including soft drinks, are available for a nominal charge.  
Lunch will follow the tour.

*Contact Richard Mestler 830-1175 or Tom Nye 213-3642*

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### **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)

***Consider becoming a Hearts and Hands volunteer.  
Call 406-8311 to sign up for a volunteer orientation (about 1 hour).***

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## This Sunday at Christ Church – January 17

### **The First Sign: From Water to Wine**

Pastor Darryl continues his Epiphany sermon series

John 2:1-11

**Human Relations Day – Special Offering\***

Celebrated the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, the goal of **Human Relations Day** is to strengthen UM outreach in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. This special offering supports community developers, UM volunteering their service, and youth offender rehabilitation programs.

- *To learn more about the special offerings that illustrate the nature and calling of the church, pick up a current copy of **The Bridge**, the newsletter of the UNYConference. You'll find copies on the reading tables and back ledge in the worship space.*

*“God creates the vine and teaches it to draw up water by its roots and, with the aid of the sun, to turn that water into a juice which will ferment and take on certain qualities. Thus every year, from Noah's time till ours, God turns water into wine.”*

*C.S. Lewis, God In The Dock*

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

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**DRB/sjp**