



Weekly Update: January 19, 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

Like us on Facebook

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A word from Pastor Darryl

Last Sunday we continued our Epiphany sermon series reflecting on the “First Sign” Jesus performed at a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Here are some of the key points for your further reflections. The signs that Jesus performed are evidence that God is still at work in God’s creation and isn’t simply its “Maintenance Engineer.” God is still at work in God’s creation

today; still performing signs that point us to God. God is still changing the water of our lives into wine; and not just any wine but the finest of wines! Let's also turn to the subject of water. Living as we do in the USA, where clean water is abundant and easily accessible, (except perhaps for Flint, Michigan where clearly there is a huge problem with the water), we have a hard time imagining what it must have been like to live in Palestine during the time of Jesus or in developing countries where water is a precious commodity. Bathing was very important to Judaism. One of the ritual requirements for observant Jews was to take a bath in a prescribed manner before coming into the synagogue, or in preparation for any holy day. Palestine is so dry and dusty, and because people mostly walked from place to place, the first thing they would do when they entered into the house was to wash their faces and hands. Then they would remove their sandals and wash their feet. Living in that dry and dusty land, people were glad to take baths and grateful for water. We need not get caught up in the simple miracle of water being changed into wine by Jesus, my dear friends. After all, life itself is a much greater miracle, is it not? The big problem that we have today, with our electric lights and our hot and cold running water, and our bath tubs and hot tubs and showers and flush toilets and automatic clothes washers and dishwashers and central heat and air conditioning and refrigerators and ovens and smart phones and televisions and computers and electronic gadgets and games is that we are so surrounded by all of these modern luxury items that we forget that life itself is nothing less than an absolute miracle spoken by God. Maybe we have become so accustomed to the wonders of the modern world that what God did in Jesus and what God did in Cana of Galilee no longer strikes us with wonder. What we need to do is to learn to be grateful again: grateful to God for life, and grateful to Jesus for teaching us the way to love God, our neighbors, and ourselves. What do we need to do is practice being grateful? How can we do that? What practices can we take on to remind us to be grateful? Can we give thanks for the water each morning when we take a shower? Can we give thanks for the rain that falls down (the snow) to water the earth? Can we give thanks to God for speaking this world into being, and for separating the day from the night and the earth from the sea? Can we give thanks for Jesus for being our ultimate luxury, God's crowning gift, and be filled with gratitude for the miracle of God's saving love in Jesus? Yes, we give thanks in and for all things, because God is still changing the water of our lives into wine. And not just any wine but the finest of wines! 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 17: Genesis 41; Matthew 13:1-32

January 18: Genesis 42-43; Matthew 13:33-58

January 19: Genesis 44-45; Matthew 14:1-21

January 20: Genesis 46-48; Matthew 13:22-36

January 21: Genesis 49-50; Matthew 15:1-20

January 22: Exodus 1-3; Matthew 15:21-39

January 23: Exodus 4-6; Matthew 16

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

January 24 - Toiletries



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to all who donated and

to all who worked at the Bloodmobile!!

Sponsored by the Health & Wellness Team

In Our Prayers

Diane Klenk – broken leg – Was at worship on Sunday

Chris Klenk – upcoming surgery on Thursday, January 21

Lois Lewis – recent hospitalization, now home

Glenn Hurst – recent hospitalization, now home

Jan Beckwith – moving to Syracuse near her son

Frank Annunciata –recovering from surgery 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

Monday, January 18 – 6 pm – Disciple 1 Bible Study

Tuesday, January 19 - 12 noon Rachel Circle

4 pm – UMW Exec. Bd mtg

7:30 pm – Trustees mtg

Wednesday, January 20 - 6:30 pm – Praise Team rehearsal

7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 21 - 9:30 am – “Caller” Newsletter Collation

10 am – Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

Friday, January 22 - 4:30 – 9:30 pm - Family Promise, hosting a family

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Jazz Vespers in the Season of Epiphany

Sunday, January 31

4:30 pm



With



The Ron Corsaro Trio

*All are welcome to join in this time of
music & reflection...*

Where Jazz meets the Spirit!



Transportation Assistance

Dr. Robert Nachbar, who resides at Blocher Home on Evans Street, is looking for people willing to drive him to church once a month and to occasional appointments. If you are willing to help please call Bob at 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

Consider becoming a Hearts and Hands volunteer.

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



This Sunday at Christ Church – January 17

Homecoming; First Words

Pastor Darryl continues his Epiphany sermon series

Luke 4:14-21

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“Power is power only when it sets others free, only when it builds up others, only when used for the betterment of those around you. “

~David Lose

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Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service

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