



Weekly Update: January 26, 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

Last Sunday we continued our Epiphany sermon series reflecting on the “First Words” Jesus shared in his hometown at his home synagogue. Jesus opened the scriptures and read from the book of the prophet Isaiah: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon to set everything on earth right, giving relief to the poor, ending oppression, setting free those who were held captive by systems of injustice, and saving all people from the consequences of their sins. Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”* When Jesus quoted Isaiah he “Moved the Margins.” Jesus didn’t simply repeat the old promise the way Isaiah and Ezekiel had done. Jesus updated the promise, in modern day language “he updated the version, perhaps to Windows 10.” Jesus was saying that it wasn’t just a promise about a particular group of people being set free from the circumstances of their lives. It was a promise from God for All People. Jesus was also saying that the promise was not just

something to be remembered as God's promise. It was a course of action that God was taking place right then and there, and for every generation. Jesus lived on "the margins" in his hometown and "Moved the Margins" to include all people, and hence invited hostile crowds to want to edge him out of existence. Today the church wants to edge Jesus out of our worship anytime the margins are made too wide and include too many who are not like us. That is why he upset people so much in his hometown: in his life he dragged the margin boundaries of race, creed, and color to include all people. He dragged the margin boundaries when he gave a common meal, which we have made a holy meal symbolic of his inclusive love for all people. Jesus is dragged to the edge of a cliff to be put out of the lives of his townspeople because no one wants the margins of daily living to be inclusive of strangers. The amazing good news that Jesus shares is for everyone, from those are fortunate to live privileged lives to those caught on the margins – on the other end of systems of oppression and injustice that humankind has created and we all participate in. Those who live with privilege need to hear it as much as those who live with less, so that we all will be compelled to take our relationship with God seriously. So let us indeed be God's people, repenting of our sins, and "*accepting the year of our Lord's favor*" as Jesus continues to "Move the Margins," the margins of our lives, and asking us to move the margins in Snyder, to streets and avenues outside of the Snyder margins as we explode in love and service. It wasn't easy for Jesus at home and it might not be easy for us. 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 24: Exodus 7-8; Matthew 17

January 25: Exodus 9-10; Matthew 18:1-20

January 26: Exodus 11-12; Matthew 18:21-35

January 27: Exodus 13-15; Matthew 19:1-15

January 28: Exodus 16-18; Matthew 19:16-30

January 29: Exodus 19-21; Matthew 20:1-16

January 30: Exodus 22-24; Matthew 20:17-34

Food Pantry

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

This week's suggested items:

January 24 – Toiletries

January 31 – Household paper products

In Our Prayers

Diane Klenk – broken leg

Chris Klenk – expected home from the hospital today

Lois Lewis – recovering from surgery at home

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

Tuesday, January 26 - 1 pm – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 27 - 3 pm – Health & Wellness Team

6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 28 - 10 am – Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

11:15 am – Make A Difference Day -Planning Team Meeting

7 pm – Staff Parish Relations Team

Friday, January 29 - 7 pm – Game Night

****Church Council will be meeting on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m.**

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Jazz Vespers in the Season of Epiphany

This Sunday, January 31 4:30 pm



With



The Ron Corsaro Tri

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

Where jazz meets the Spirit!

**~ Lent begins on Ash Wednesday ~
February 10**

5 pm - Lenten Supper & Study Series begins

7 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Invitation

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

Explore ways in which Jesus invites us to life at its best. Through experiences with the arts our hearts are touched and we respond. Each week presenters will share photography, poetry, dance and other arts—invitations to open, explore and respond.

Sign up on the clipboard in the Café or call the church office: 839-2460

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Fresh Start - Lent is time for a fresh start.

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

The Worship & Praise Team will all be there. We hope you will be too!

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Transportation Assistance

Rita Arnold— who resides on Fontaine Drive in Cheektowaga (off Harlem Rd) is in need of people willing to pick her up for the 11 am worship service and for events such as Jazz Vespers and Lenten Supper & Study. Call Rita at 481-1506.

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).***

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This Sunday at Christ Church – January 31

Homecoming; First Words Part 2

Pastor Darryl continues his Epiphany sermon series

Luke 4:21-30

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12 Noon – Apprentice

Confirmation Group meets in the Wesley Room with Pastor Darryl

The Bible – words & stories that shape our human
experiences towards faith

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*“Returning home is the most difficult part of long-distance hiking; You
have grown outside the puzzle and your piece no longer fits.”*

— *Cindy Ross*

Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service

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DRB/sjp