

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

Weekly Update - June 19, 2019

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads
Amherst, NY 14226



A Word From Pastor Daven

Staircase to Nowhere?

In a local banquet facility lies a staircase in the grand entry which leads to nowhere. The appearance is confounding and contradictory as it dead ends at wall and ceiling. I am sure it serves the purpose of a backdrop for photos, but when you see it and look upon it feels like an optical illusion.

We can make our journey of discipleship the same. We create different stairs in our minds which we climb to get 'closer' to God — stairs of prayer, service, participation, Bible study, Christian fellowship, etc. All of these are good in themselves and beneficial to our faith. Often our approach to them, however, is as something to be ascended and mastered, climbing and climbing. And then suddenly we can feel as though all we've reached is a wall.

The truth is, there is nothing we "do" that gains us a better place or proximity to God. It's a hard lesson we have to learn time and again as this is beyond our human experience. But by grace alone are we saved. So why bother with all those stairs of Christian discipleship? Like the staircase to nowhere, what all those different stairs of discipleship provide is a backdrop for life which gives it meaning and purpose. And that makes beautiful picture!



Daily Bible Reading – 2019

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.

June 19: Nehemiah 9-11; Acts 4:1-22

June 20: Nehemiah 12-13; Acts 4:23-37

June 21: Esther 1-3; Acts 5:1-16

June 22: Esther 4-6; Acts 5:17-42

June 23: Esther 7-10; Acts 6

June 24: Job 1-3; Acts 7:1-19

June 25: Job 4-6; Acts 7:20-43

Joys

Joy! \$1,060 was raised for missions during the UMW Garage Sale this past weekend!!

In Our Healing Prayers

Don Critoph, Bob Varian, Bruce Burr, Inez Beachley, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Virginia 'Ginny' Molin, Helen Peacock, Joyce Moser, Janet Hill, Sissie Mooney, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola

*Those who are **care partners** with others

*Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson serving in the US Navy

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office:

Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm,

Thurs. – 9am to Noon

*SUMMER Office Hours begin **next week!***

*Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to **3 pm,***

Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Thursday, June 20 - 6pm- Outreach Team
 7pm- Staff-Parish Relations Team

Sunday, June 23 - Graduate Recognition Sunday

10am - Worship Service

11am- Information Session with Brad Loliger

11am- a.o.l. @ CUMC

(Adult Opportunities for Learning)

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.*

Do you want to
make a
difference?

Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families

In addition to the food that goes to local food pantries, Christ Church serves local families in need. The following items are needed:

cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, deodorant, and soap. The Tiger's Den is collecting **condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, syrup)** in June. They also request **paper bags** and **reusable shopping bags (NOT plastic bags)** to pack groceries. Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.

Cafe Volunteers Needed

The Hospitality Team is looking for individuals or groups to host the Sunday morning Cafe during the summer months. If you are interested in hosting, either alone or with a friend, please sign up for the week(s) in which you are interested. Sign-up sheets are located in the Café. If you have never hosted before and would like some training, please contact Michele Sciolino. Please help us to continue to provide a welcoming place to gather with friends, greet visitors, and share refreshments!

Information Sessions

Join Brad Loliger in the Library following worship for the next 3 Sundays (**June 23, June 30, & July 7**). He will be holding listening and information sessions relative to the United Methodist Church and LGBT issues.

Graduate Recognition Sunday – June 23

High school and college graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 23 during the worship service. Please send information about your graduate (school, degree, future plans) to the church office by **TODAY, June 19**.

Vacation Bible School

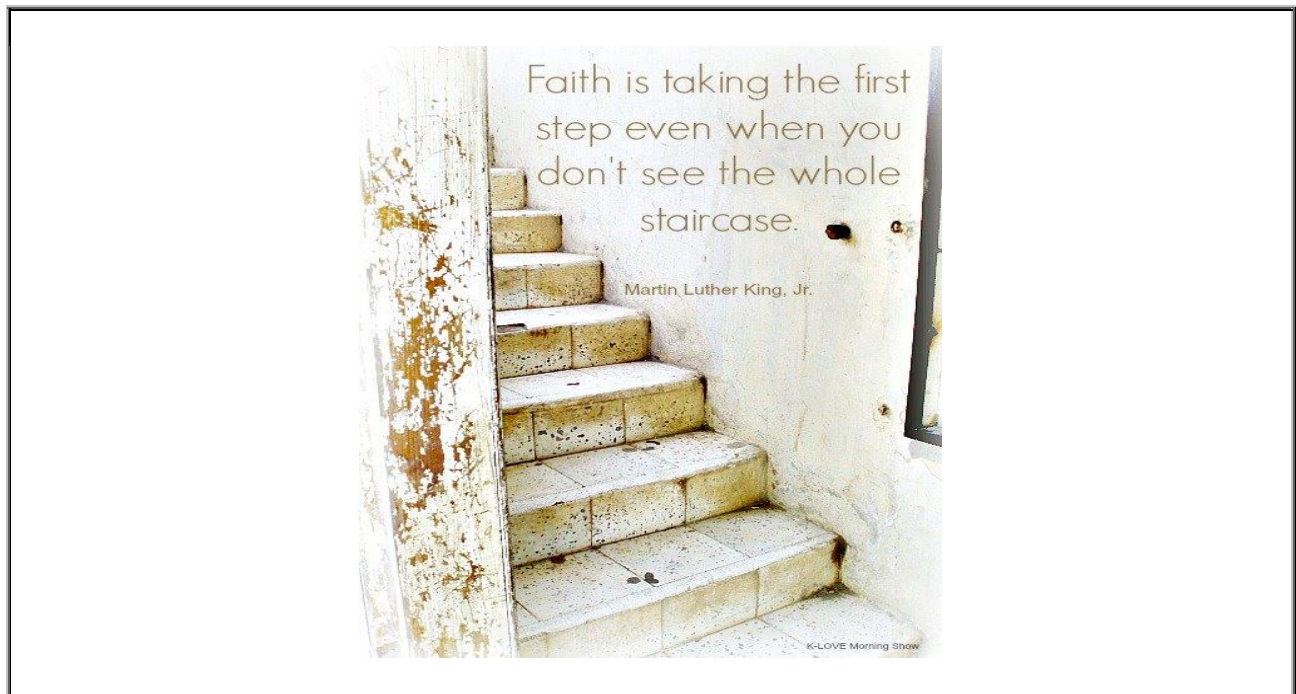
July 8–12 9 a.m. – Noon

We will be blasting off *To Mars and Beyond* this summer! Kids will discover the wonders of God's universe as they journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them! Register online at: <https://tmab.cokesburyvbs.com/christchurchamherst>



Exploring Sunday Scriptures

Every **Tuesday at Noon**, Pastor Daven leads a time exploring the upcoming Sunday's Scripture. This will provide context to the Scripture(s) being explored and ultimately enrich the experience of worship itself. All are welcome anytime!



Church Office Hours:

Monday -Wednesday- Friday: 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday: Closed Thursday: 9 am to Noon

SUMMER Church Office Hours (Starting June 24):

Monday -Wednesday- Friday: 9 am to 3 pm

Tuesday: Closed Thursday: 9 am to Noon

SUNDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Worship at 10 am

a.o.l. (Adult Opportunities for Learning) at 11 a.m.