

Weekly Update: March 1, 2016

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads
Amherst, NY 14226

“Living Christ Ways and Exploding With Love and Service”



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

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

A word from Pastor Darryl

Last Sunday we continued our Lenten journey toward the celebration of Easter Day with our theme of *“God as Gardener of Grace and Forgiveness”* – reflections on Luke 13:1-9. The people are asking Jesus whether tragedy is God’s judgment. Jesus in response tells them a story about who God really is. He tells a story about a vineyard owner, a fig tree, and a gardener. *“See this fig tree, it wasn’t doing what it was supposed to do. Fig trees are supposed to produce figs, but this tree wasn’t. It wasn’t following the rules of a fig tree. And so the vineyard owner comes in, angry at the tree for its lack of production, and calls for it to be completely uprooted, chopped up and used for firewood. It was good for nothing. It did nothing but take up space, take nutrients from the soil and waste them, take up the vineyard owner’s time. It wasn’t doing what it was supposed to do, and the vineyard owner was tired of all the taking. He wanted some making. He needed a fig tree that was a maker, not a taker.”*

The fig tree is saved by an Unconventional Gardener. God is not the vineyard owner. The vineyard owner is the wisdom of the world. It is the wisdom of the world that measures our value in how good we are, if we are following all the rules, if we are doing what we are supposed to do. How much we can put out for families, our churches, or our communities. It is the wisdom of the world that says if you are not a maker, then you are a taker and good for nothing. God is the Gardener who says ‘No’ to the wisdom of the world. God is the Gardener whose love rejects the wisdom of the world; proclaims our value not in terms of whether we are doing what we are supposed to be doing, not in terms of what we produce, or what we make or even what we take. Rather God tells us, *“All that doesn’t matter. What matters is how much I care.”* And God says I care so much that not only am I not going to send punishment down on us for missteps, not only am I not going to uproot us when life seems to have sapped the life from us, but I am also going to get down there with us, in the dirt, in the manure, in the places

where it smells and gets overwhelming. God says, "I care enough to get dirty!" And so as an act of repentance we are encouraged to look at our life and dare to ask the hard questions: Am I stingy with my love for others? Am I withholding forgiveness from old wrongs? Am I so busy making a living that I've forgotten to make a life? Such questions, like the parable of the fig tree, move us towards repentance. So Jesus is the Gardener's passion that is marked for us by great urgency – that says, "don't wait, flourish now!"

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!

Pastoral Appointment Announcement – Darryl R. Barrow

Bishop Mark Webb of the Upper New York Annual Conference intends to appoint Rev. Darryl R. Barrow as pastor of Emmanuel UMC, Lockport, effective July 1, 2016. He will continue to help our church, by God's grace and strength, to make this difficult transition. Darryl asks for your prayers for him and Pauline and their families as they make a new transition in their lives.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for welcoming us and making us feel a part of the Christ Church family during these now 8 months. As a church family you have shown resilience to support each other when crises, challenges, and changes have come upon you – constantly relying on God's promise of grace to be sufficient for the journey as Christ's followers. Thanks for allowing me to be your pastor, your brother and your faith friend. ~ Darryl R. Barrow

It is with sadness that Bob Snyder and I received the news that Bishop Mark Webb has appointed Pastor Darryl to another church. Based on the recently-concluded pledge drive and in consultation with our District Superintendent Wayne Butler, it has been determined that CUMC can no longer afford a pastor with the seniority credentials and pastoral experience to which we have become accustomed. For this reason, the Bishop has made the decision to appoint Pastor Darryl to a church with better financials and to provide us with a pastor at a lower pay level. Bob Snyder and I will meet with the District Superintendent to discuss the process, events and our needs concerning the appointment of our next pastor. At this time, we do not know who our next pastor will be, but we will endeavor to make this process as transparent as possible as we move forward. However, it is with the understanding that some aspects of the appointment of a pastor are confidential to our SPR Team. Darryl has been our pastor for less than a year but during that time he and I have had many frank discussions in his office and he,

Pauline and Emily have been to our home. In short, I and many in this congregation have developed a cordial working and personal relationship and will miss him. We certainly wish Darryl the best as he moves forward and uses his graces and talents for the benefit of another congregation in his continuing service to our Savior. Darryl can be assured that our prayers are with him and also our church as this process evolves during the coming weeks and months.

~ Ed Fisher, Co-Leader Staff –Parish Relations Team

I too will miss Darryl, but I will really miss Pauline and also Emily's cartwheels down the main aisle! I have been raising concerns about our finances for several years. In 2005 we had 186 pledges and we are now at 93. Several years ago, then District Superintendent Natalie Hansen warned us about our payroll getting too big for our budget. Our present payroll is \$200,000. Our pledges equal approximately \$200,000 with a total projected income of \$248,000 for 2016. In conclusion, we have to make adjustments."

~ Robert Snyder, Co-leader, Staff-Parish Relations Team

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.

March 1: Numbers 24-27; Mark 8:11-38

March 2: Numbers 28-29; Mark 9:1-29

March 3: Numbers 30-31; Mark 9:30-50

March 4: Numbers 32-33; Mark 10:1-31

March 5: Numbers 34-36; Mark 10:32-52

March 6: Deuteronomy 1-2; Mark 11:1-19

March 7: Deuteronomy 3-4; Mark 11:20-33

March 8: Deuteronomy 5-7; Mark 12:1-27

March 9: Deuteronomy 8-10; Mark 12:28-44

In Our Prayers

Peter Zaleski and Barry Wood – recovering from recent surgery

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, March 1– 7 pm – Stewardship & Finance Team

Wednesday, February 24 – Lent Supper & Speaker Series

5 pm – Lenten Series – “Invitation”
Speaker: Paul Staley, Organist & Organ Builder

7:30 pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 25 - 10 am – Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

7 pm – Elizabeth Circle at Beechwood

Friday, March 4 - 6 pm – Confirmation Dinner & Rehearsal

Saturday, March 5 - 10:30 am – Carpool to Albright-Knox Art Gallery
w/ Men’s Group. All Welcome!

Sunday, March 6 - 12 Noon – Prayer Chain members meet in Parlor

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Food Pantry - This weeks suggested items:

February 28 – Rice & Pasta

March 6 – Hot & Cold Cereals and Cereal Bars

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

Offer Hospitality -

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 Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

Ways to save –

The Café uses many paper cups each week. – Mugs are available for your use or donate a sleeve of 8 oz cups. Baked goods & cookies are always enjoyed and donations are welcome in the Café.



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

~ Lenten Supper & Speaker Series ~

“Invitation”

Wednesdays March 2, 9, 16

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*

* * * * *

Sunday, March 6 – 4th Sunday in Lent

“If God Were The Prodigal Son?”

Luke 15:1-3, 11b - 32

* * * * *

10 am - **FaithXpress**- for children

March – Join the Journey with Jesus

10 am **Apprentice** – for youth

10 am - [A.O.L.@CUMC](#) – Adult Opportunities for Learning

Encounters With Jesus

* * * * *



Confirmation Sunday – March 13

Come, worship and celebrate with Apprentices

Ariana Castellino - Marie Miller, mentor
Becca Lopez – Peggy Bermudez, mentor
Ryan Lopez – Brad Loliger, mentor
Jacob Rhinehart – David Lawson, mentor

And their families as they are **Confirmed in Faith** and become full members of the church.

Holy Week Observances

Sunday, March 20 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Worship at 9 am & 11 am

Thursday, March 24 – Maundy Thursday

Worship at 7 pm – Stripping of Sanctuary

Meditation Stations available

Friday, March 25 – Good Friday

12 Noon – observance in Crafts Hall

7 pm – observance in sanctuary

Meditation Stations available

* * * * *

Coming soon.....

EASTER MORNING JAZZ BRUNCH

with

The RON CORSARO JAZZ TRIO

Easter Sunday, March 27 at 9 am-10:30 am



Start your Easter morning celebration with music, readings, hot food and cool jazz! "Where Jazz meets the Spirit!" A Love Offering will be received to help support the Outreach Ministries of Christ Church and to support our monthly *Jazz Vespers*.

Following the Jazz Brunch you are invited to join us for our **Traditional Easter Sunday Worship** with the **Celebration of Holy Communion at 11:00 am**. Invite your family members and friends to join us for this great morning of celebration of the Risen Christ!

* * * * *



Spring Ahead 1 hour! Saturday, March 12

* * * * *

"As a way of life, an act of love, an expression of faith, our hospitality reflects and anticipates God's welcome. Simultaneously costly and wonderfully rewarding, hospitality often involves small deaths and little resurrections. By God's grace we can grow more willing, more eager, to open the door to a needy neighbor, a weary sister or brother, a stranger in distress. Perhaps as we open that door more regularly, we will grow increasingly sensitive to the quiet knock of angels. In the midst of a life-giving practice, we too might catch glimpses of Jesus who asks for our welcome and welcomes us home." – Christine Pohl

* * * * *

Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

DRB/sjp