



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY  
"Making Connections & Offering Opportunities  
for Faith, Love & Service"

## **Weekly Update – March 10**

### ***Seasonal Shifts***

I've always found Lent a little hard to maintain in the sense of its dark, introspective, contemplative reality. Advent, the other penitential season, seems easier if only because it is a time of decreasing natural light and temperature vs. Lent with its increasing daylight hours, warmth, and sun. Remaining steadfast in our seasonal disciplines is not challenging or even the progression of the season toward the cross, but this battle against our natural surroundings.

I'm certainly not advocating for an extension of winter, but perhaps this very tension is a key facet in understanding the challenge of the cross. To walk the path of discipleship, to bear the cross and follow is not easy. Changes in the weather are far from the greatest challenges we will face in following Jesus. Perhaps, though, this tension within this season is a small way that we experience that greater tension of a life of discipleship through the inclination to revel in this weather, self-indulgent as it is or the move to lay aside what we should be doing in place of what we want to do simply because the mercury achieves a particular mark.

Yet our natural world also provides the first hints of the glory of the resurrection for us as it awakens from its cold tomb of winter. It encourages us to recognize that the dark grip of death is not the last word, but the warmth of Son-light will prevail! May this help fuel our standing and remaining in this season. May it provide the encouragement to continue our disciplines and focus on the cross. And may it give us the courage and the hope to face the future unafraid.

-Pastor Daven

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Visitation to elder residential communities, long term care centers, and nursing home recently was expanded. We recognize, however, that each person's comfort level regarding visits differs. At this time we would ask that if you are interested in a pastoral and / or visits from members of the Visitation Team, please contact the church office.

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### **In-person activities and options expanding!**

In addition to encouraging and welcoming all back to worship, other church related activities will begin resuming with an in-person option this month. We remain committed to the best possible practices to insure people's health and safety, seeing in Jesus the deep care and concern for the health and wholeness of all people. To that end, we continue to follow the guidance in regards to the health and safety of all with mandated face coverings and physical distancing while in the building. In addition, if your church group is planning to return in person in March, we are asking that you call the church office with the number of people in your group, and your preferred date and time so that we can safely accommodate all who utilize this building in appropriate spaces for the given day.

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*Worship is available on Sunday mornings at 10am,  
both in person and online!*

*Live-streamed worship will be available beginning at 10am each Sunday,*

*with a direct link posted on our website and Facebook page to our  
livestream: [www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live](http://www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live)*

***Recordings of each service will also be available on our YouTube channel for  
viewing once the service has ended.***

Please be advised of new guidelines for those wishing to worship together in person at Christ Church:

- All will be required to wear a mask. We will have a limited supply of masks on hand for those who come without one.
- Enter through one door at the main entrance.
- Use hand sanitizer at the provided station before entering the Sanctuary.
- Maintain social distancing (6 feet apart) from those not within your immediate family.
- Please do not enter the building if you are experiencing any symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, chills, diarrhea).

*We will continue to provide online opportunities for worship and  
connection. Our [YouTube channel](#) is the best way to find new content and worship services. We encourage you to 'Subscribe' to our channel! You'll be notified each time new content is uploaded, and the more subscribers we have, the less ads will appear!*

[Click here to check out our YouTube channel](#)

[Click here to be connected to our website](#)

[Click here to be directed to our Facebook page](#)



In addition to new content added throughout the week on our Facebook page, YouTube Channel, and website ([christchurchamherst.org](http://christchurchamherst.org)) which includes a gratitude journal every

Monday, Exploring Sunday's Scriptures every Tuesday, and Feasting on the Word every Wednesday, we have additional opportunities through the season of Lent.

There are 3 different times / ways to engage in a 6 week study - Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine. Beth Reilly is leading an interactive session on **Wednesday evenings through Zoom at 7 PM** through the link below. Peggy Bermudez leads another interactive session on **Thursday as part of Thirstaid through Zoom at 1 PM**. A non-interactive portion will also be available on our YouTube Channel early each week. This study will also form the basis of our worship through this season in sermons and scriptures.

In addition, every **Friday at 5:30 PM** through Lent we offer Music and Meditation both in person and Live-streamed. It is a 30 minute candlelit contemplative service of song and silence, prayer, and scripture leading participants to contemplate and celebrate their relationship with God and with one another.

*Check out [our website](#) for fun Lenten faith-based activities for children!*

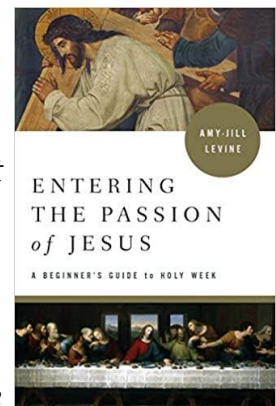
## *Lenten Study*

### *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*

By: *Amy-Jill Levine*

*“Dive deep into the history of the last days before the crucifixion. Jesus’ final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple.”*

*“In Entering the Passion of Jesus, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.”*



*Christ Church will offer 2 opportunities to participate in this study via ZOOM:*

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***Wednesdays at 7 p.m.***  
***February 24 – March 31***  
*Facilitator: Beth Reilly Brown*

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***\*Please Note New Link and Meeting ID/Password  
for Wednesday Evening Zoom\****

Topic: Entering the Passion of Jesus  
Time: Mar 10, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84622390845?pwd=c1SYitDVldMd29PeEpCVGIvVXduZz09>

**Meeting ID: 846 2239 0845**

**Passcode: 440832**

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84622390845#,,,,\*440832# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keFIYt2ivp>

***Thursdays at 1 p.m.***  
***Through– April 1***  
*Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez*

Mar 11, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Mar 18, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Mar 25, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Apr 1, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84174377283>

**Meeting ID: 841 7437 7283**

Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

*The book is not required, but if you would like to purchase a copy, paperbacks and digital formats are available through a variety of online vendors including Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, Target, and Amazon.*

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## **Music & Meditation**

**Fridays at 5:30 p.m.**  
**February 19 - April 2**

*In quiet and candlelight, join in meditative song, prayer, and Scripture reading that penetrates the heart and the whole being.*

*Available in person and online via the CUMC YouTube channel: [www.YouTube.com/CUMCAmherst/live](http://www.YouTube.com/CUMCAmherst/live)*

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### *This Week at Christ Church*

#### Winter Office Hours:

*Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday*

*9a.m. - 2p.m.*

*At all times, even during office hours, the building will remain locked. Please call for admittance.*

#### **Wednesday, March 10**

**7 p.m.** - Lenten Study

#### **Thursday, March 11**

**1 p.m.** - Lenten Study

#### **Friday, March 12**

**5:30 p.m.** - Music & Meditation     *In-Person and Live-Stream*

#### **Saturday, March 13**

*Caller Deadline for April/May Newsletter*

#### **Sunday, March 14**

**10 a.m.** - Worship Service     *In-Person and Live-Stream*

**Daylight Saving Time begins!!**

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#### *Daily Bible Reading – 2021    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 10: Deuteronomy 11-13; Mark 13:1-13  
March 11: Deuteronomy 14-16; Mark 13:14-37  
March 12: Deuteronomy 17-19; Mark 14:1-25  
March 13: Deuteronomy 20-22; Mark 14:26-50  
March 14: Deuteronomy 23-25; Mark 14:51-72  
March 15: Deuteronomy 26-27; Mark 15:1-26  
March 16: Deuteronomy 28; Mark 15:27-47

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## ***In Our Healing Prayers***

-**Scott Smith** - now home where he continues his healing!

**Debbie Laberta, Dave Wolf, Laura June Merrill, Helen Peacock, Mary Gerhardt** (Mother of Lisa Lawson), **Joe M.** (co-worker of Lianne Oskvig), **Lynda Painton, Sue Estee, Ruth Munson, Dave Mitchell, Paul Staley, Valari Zanghi, Kevin Cetola, Nancy & Frank Annunziata, Joe & Carolyn Day, Dick Ball, Barbara Weaver, Inez Beachley, Bob Varian, John Ladowski, Janet Hill, Mary Jane Shanley, Jean Ericson**

\*All educators and students dealing with changing school realities

\*Those affected with COVID-19, those working on the front lines, and all impacted by the changes of work and activities.

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

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

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## ***Hearts and Hands***

Hearts and Hands Faith in Action, a neighbor helping neighbor community organization, connects frail or vulnerable individuals in underserved areas with needed services.

They are looking for volunteers to assist older adults with tasks such as transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc. All services are provided by volunteers at no cost to the care recipients.

To learn more about Hearts and Hands, watch [this video](#) and visit: [www.hnhcares.org](http://www.hnhcares.org)

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***The flowers on the Lord's Table for Sunday, March 7 are given by Char Davis in memory of her husband Jack.***

## ***Reopening for Church Groups***

Given recent changes in NY State COVID-19 guidelines, beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> any Christ Church group meetings (i.e. Teams, Circles, Study Groups) will be allowed back in the building! The decision to meet at Christ Church rests solely with each group - if your group feels more comfortable meeting virtually at this time, please continue to do so. Occupancy count of meeting rooms is still restricted, so if your group is interested in meeting in person at church, please contact Janelle in the office ([cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:cumc350@gmail.com) -or- 839-2460) with your group size and desired meeting date(s) & time. We will do our best to accommodate everyone at their "usual" date and time but may have to move things around a little. Masks and social distancing will still be required of anyone in the building, and other than a personal beverage container brought from home, no food or drinks will be allowed. Let's hope this is a first step back toward "old normal" - WELCOME HOME!

## **UMCOR Hygiene Kits**

The Outreach Team invites you to assemble a Hygiene Kit for UMCOR! These kits will help people who have suffered due to natural disasters. The supplies can be assembled and placed in a large plastic gallon bag and then brought to church. We will collect them until UMCOR Sunday on **March 14, 2021**.

### **Hygiene Kit Materials**

- **One hand towel** (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)
  - *No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels*
- **One washcloth**
  - *No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels*
- **One comb**
  - *Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth*
  - *No pocket combs or picks*
  - *Rattail/ combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth*
- **One toenail or fingernail clipper**
  - *No emery boards or metal nail files*
- **Bath-size soap** (3 oz. bar or larger)
  - *No Ivory or Jergen's soap*
  - *Do not remove from packaging*
- **One adult toothbrush**
  - *Do not remove from packaging*
  - *Personal advertising not acceptable*
- **10 adhesive bandages** (¾ by 3 inches)
  - *Common household bandages acceptable*
- **One one-gallon size re-sealable bag**

Hygiene Kit Value: \$12.00 per kit



## **Assembly Instructions**

1. Lay hand towel flat on a table.
2. Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
3. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
4. Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
5. Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
6. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

<https://www.gnjumc.org/resource/umcor-hygiene-kit-assembly-instructions/>  
<https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/>



Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing, **UMCOR Sunday** provides support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which assists people affected by crisis or chronic need with programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more. Contributions made on **Sunday, March 14** will cover the UMCOR administrative costs, making it possible for 100% of all other contributions to go directly to specified projects. Thanks for giving!

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**Don't forget - Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend!  
Turn your clocks AHEAD one hour before bed on Saturday night!**