

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



Weekly Update - March 13, 2019

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

I heard them before I saw the V cutting its way through the sky heading north. Fighting the cold and wind for what felt like an endless series of below freezing and blustery mornings, this promise for what lie ahead provided hope just as an overwhelming feeling of despair set in.

St. Francis had a sense that all nature was in praise of God. We all can certainly feel that in the splendor of fall color or the miraculous rebirth of spring. But here when winter is prolonged and gray days hold on it can be hard to maintain that hope. I don't typically think of geese as having a pleasant call, but their noise in the sky was a sweet melody to my ears. Whether it is the honking of the horns of the oncoming traffic of spring, or the triumphant trumpets that cold, death and despair will not be the last word, it is a joyful sound!

We've just begun the wilderness journey of Lent. I pray that as we continue through a season of darkness and cold journeying alongside Jesus toward Jerusalem, we may listen carefully for those words and melodies of hope when despair is setting in. For light comes with the dawn and God's Son-shine will chase away the cold grip of death's tomb.

Would you be interested in participating in worship through reading Scripture, leading the Call to Worship & Prayer for Illumination? Pastor Daven is compiling a list and schedule of those who have already done so and looking for all who are interested. The commitment would be 2-3x/year. Let Pastor Daven know if you are interested.

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.

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

March 17: Deuteronomy 29-30; Mark 16

March 18: Deuteronomy 31-32; Luke 1:1-23

March 19: Deuteronomy 33-34; Luke 1:24-56

Joy

Joy! Sunday's 2nd Helping Offering was \$290 to support community service provided on Make a Difference Day on May 19. A shredding truck for safe disposal of documents will be provided on-site, as well as a Blood Mobile from the American Red Cross. All are welcome to contribute financially to help with Make a Difference Day.

In Our Healing Prayers

Gay Scaringi (Dennis Scaringi's brother) - recovering from cancer surgery (Tuesday, March 12)

Ian Webber, Diane & Chris Klenk, Janet Hill, Joyce Moser, Cindy Fisher (out-patient rehab in Colorado), **Daryl Bennett, Mary Jane Shanley, Bruce Burr, Sue Estee, Harold Weaver, Frank Annunziata, Lois Lewis, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Sissie Mooney**

*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,

Tues. & Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Wednesday, March 13 - 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

April Caller Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, March 14 - 1pm- 'Thirstaid' Thursday

Friday, March 15 - **5:30pm- Music & Meditation**

Sunday, March 17 - **10am - Worship Service**

11am - Educational Opportunities & Fellowship

4pm - Gathering at Clarence UMC

to discuss recent Special Session of General Conference

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.*



Music and Meditation in the Season of Lent

Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

March 15, 22, 29

April 5, 12

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

Lenten ALL-CHURCH Read

ARE YOU READING "THE ANATOMY OF PEACE" ?

Pick up a copy of the book during the week or on Sunday, and read it as a Lenten opportunity to reflect on the way to transform personal, professional, and global conflicts. Join in discussion of the book on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. in the Wesley room, or invite friends to discuss the book in a coffee-shop setting, over lunch, or in your home. A study guide is available. A \$10 donation for the book is requested, but not required. Payment may be made to Christ United Methodist Church, designated Lenten study book, and placed in the Sunday offering, or sent to the church office.

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 **oatmeal and coffee** in March.

Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.



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!

Thirstaid Thursdays

You are invited to join in 'Thirstaid' Thursdays
each Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Wesley Room!

"Hope When Your Heart Breaks (Navigating Grief and Loss)"

Facilitators: Pastor Daven, Peggy Bermudez, Dr. David Pliss

We'll look at how life experiences challenge us and how God powerfully uses the gifts of prayer, presence, and witness to move us and others through these times to thrive again.

[a.o.I. @ CUMC](#)

Sundays at 11 a.m. in the Wesley Room

"The Anatomy of Peace"

Lenten reading and reflection on how we deal with conflicts

Feasting On The Word

Sunday, March 31 at Noon

Here's a way to explore Scripture as a church family, gathered for a simple meal. As we receive physical nourishment, we will also share in spiritual nourishment as a passage of Scripture is read, and then discussed at table as a Christian community. The meal will be soup, bread and salad. The Scripture passage will be Genesis 32:22-32. Leading questions will invite us relate our lives to this important event in Jacob's life and its meaning for us and for our faith. *If you want to participate, please notify the church office or note your intention on the yellow "Connection Card" on Sunday. You will be invited to make a free-will contribution for the cost of the meal.*

United Methodist Women Breakfast Gathering

Our next UMW Breakfast Gathering will be **Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m.** in the Cafe. Jean Bennett and Valerie Day will share the story of Restoration Society, a peer operated agency that offers recovery-based, person-centered services for Western New York adults 18 years and older. Hosts are Elizabeth Circle and cost is \$5. To make a reservation, please contact Paula Kreib at 725-6067 or snowflake.paula@gmail.com.

Pictorial Directories

Our new Christ Church pictorial directories are ready! They are available to be picked up from the church office during the week and following worship on Sunday.



Church Office Hours:

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm
Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

SUNDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Worship at 10 am
Educational Opportunities at 11 am