

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

Weekly Update - March 14
Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads
Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

In the midst of the prayer for Wednesday morning it reads, “Especially we thank you for the warmth of sunlight, the wetness of rain and snow, and all that nourishes the earth ...”. In the background the hum of the snow blower echoed, joined by the scraping of the plow truck passing by on the road. I’m not sure either of us gathered or any of the rest of us are feeling particularly thankful for the wetness, let alone the presence, of the snow.

I’ve written a lot these past weeks about remaining committed to this season as well as the great natural rebirth that fights against such realities like we are enduring today. While I am certainly not praying for snow right now, I wonder if this doesn’t give us a chance to revisit our disciplines and our Lenten efforts as we look toward its conclusion, bound as we are to the indoors. Certainly in our spiritual journey there is a need to endure the entire season of Lent to appreciate the miracle of resurrection. Perhaps that is true environmentally as well, to truly appreciate spring and summer, we have to endure the days like today.

At this point the long-term forecast doesn’t have much of a reprieve. Like most of you, I have become weary and worn-out. But maybe this order of things is correct for our spiritual journey. Just as surely as He will rise, so spring will come. In the meantime, we are called to do the work which prepares us. Only then can we appreciate what God did and continues to do for us. So, though I am reluctant to utter it, perhaps you might join me in saying it - “Especially we thank you for the warmth of sunlight, the wetness of rain and snow, and all that nourishes the earth ...”

-Pastor Daven

Daily Bible Reading – 2018

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 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

March 20: Joshua 1-3; Luke 1:57-80

In Our Prayers

JOY! **Julie Sciolino** is on a spring break trip to Alabama, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity!

JOY! **Chris & Olivia Smith** participated in the Fight for Air Climb this past weekend, benefiting the American Lung Association.

JOY! **Pam Elberson** participated in a Special Olympics swim meet.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Ruth Luss**, who died on March 7.

In Our Healing Prayers

Ed & Cindy Fisher

Bob & Marcia Snyder

Dennis Scaringi, Sue Estee, Lois Lewis, Janet Hill, The Kreib Family, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Sissie Mooney, Peter Shanley

*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 14 - 10 am - Morning Prayer

7 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 16 - **5:30 pm - Music & Meditation**

4:30-9 pm - Hosting Family Promise at St. Stephen's-Bethlehem UCC

Sunday, March 18 - **9 am - Casual Praise Service**

10 am - a.o.l. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

10 am - FaithXpress

11 am - Traditional Worship Service

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 Pantries

Share food and personal care items through local food pantries - Tiger's Den & the Food Pantry at University Presbyterian Church.

Juice/Juice Boxes, Dish Detergent, Jelly, Cooking Oil.

A freezer is available for your meat donations.

Please help us fill up our carts!!! Tiger's Den is always in need of: pasta (not spaghetti), cereal (not Cheerios), box meals (not mac & cheese), rice, and toilet paper.

Wanted: Gently-Used Long-Sleeved Shirts

WHY LONG-SLEEVE SHIRTS? Our nation's 2.5 million farmworkers face long hours of arduous work putting their health and safety at risk due to exposure to dangerous pesticides and heat stress. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicates that over 20,000 cases of doctor-diagnosed pesticide poisoning are reported yearly. A gently used long-sleeve shirt can help prevent exposure to pesticides by covering the skin, which is the most common route of pesticide poisoning due to its exposure.

Shirts collected during this annual drive will be distributed to farmworkers in New York State and New England to help protect them from the hazards of pesticide exposure and heat stress through PathStone, a multi-state organization serving farmworkers and the poor through ministries of outreach and housing,

Bring shirts to the church by March 25, 2018 and leave them in the collection area in Crafts Hall.

UMCOR Sunday - March 18

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has been providing compassion and relief services to people and nations in crisis since 1940. They have a presence in over 80 countries and have helped tens of thousands of people receive help after war, disaster, conflict, and other disruptive events that leave communities unable to recover on their own. Donations collected on UMCOR Sunday help cover the annual operational costs for UMCOR. Your gift allows UMCOR to apply 100% of other donations directly to relief efforts as well as long-term education and support. Visit <http://www.umcor.org/> to learn more about UMCOR.

LENT

Lent is a season – 40 days, evenings, nights *(Continues Through March 30)*

Here are some ways you may respond to Lent's invitation...

Group Study - "Give It Up"

Tuesdays - 12 Noon at Christ Church

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays - 10 am at Christ Church

Music & Meditation

Fridays - 5:30 pm at Christ Church

Stop by the Library (located by the church offices) and sign out an Easter book! There are many children's books available to borrow.

Pancake Breakfast & FREE Community Health Fair

Saturday, March 24

The Amherst Lions Club will be hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast on **Saturday, March 24** at Christ Church from 8am- 1pm. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, applesauce, and beverages. Adults - \$7, kids 12 and under -\$4. A bake sale and silent auction will take place to raise funds for the Lion's Club. A FREE Community Wellness Health Fair will also be held from 9am - 12pm. Blood sugar, cholesterol, and glaucoma testing, blood pressure checks, and weigh-ins will be available. Puppy guide dogs in-training will be present throughout the morning as well!

"Life"

We see the seasons come and go
From winter's wrath to April's snow
And lovely spring's potential buns
Then humid days of sandy mud.

The flowers wilt and leaves once green
Are gaily colored to be seen
And then are rashly blown astray
Until they're finally gone away.

And so through life the changes come
Affecting almost everyone
But do not weep -be of good cheer-
There'll be another time next year.

-Gloria J. Varian (Mother of Bob Varian)

Church Office Hours:

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Casual Praise Worship at 9 am

Traditional Worship at 11 am

Education Hour at 10 am