

Weekly Update: March 15, 2016

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Rds

Amherst, NY 14226

“Living Christ Ways and Exploding With Love and Service”



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

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

A word from Pastor Darryl

Last Sunday was the 5th Sunday in Lent and we celebrated Confirmation Sunday on the theme *“Pressing Forward”* for our four young faith-friends – Ariana, Ryan, Rebecca and Jacob. We reminded them and ourselves that we as United Methodists understand that one of the first purposes of our church is *to make disciples* and bring people into membership. But, we don’t stop there, because the Christian life is about formation. It is about becoming new people by the power of God. The first purpose of our church is *to proclaim* Christ and membership in God’s family. But the second purpose of our church is, *“to enjoy growing in God’s Word.”* The emphasis here is on the word *“growing”* – changing, developing, becoming. We are about *“growing”* more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ. However, we know it does not happen all at once. Nobody gets zapped into Christ-likeness, not even the Apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul wrote a striking letter from prison to the church at Philippi. We know he had an impressive Resume – his Report Card had an A+ grading, yet he writes to the church saying: *“...Not that I have already arrived, not that I have already obtained it, not that I have already reached the goal...[but] forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil.3:12-13). In other words, *“I have not arrived!” I’m nothing!* That is to say, I don’t have this Christian faith all put together, all lined up, all squared away! I still have to go further, still crossing *the waters of reluctance* to change and to grow, and to take risks. As Christians we realize that growing, and changing and pressing forward is a lifelong process, and therefore church membership in itself would not help us attend to this process of spiritual growth in our faith journey. We press forward through a process of sustained devotion, what Eugene Peterson calls, *“a long obedience in the same direction.”* We need the daily habits and spiritual practices of discipleship. We need to cultivate these practices of discipleship – Prayer, Small-group Study, Consistent

Giving, Spiritual Journaling, and attending to Worship and Witnessing to God's love and justice in our community and the world. We will discover *benchmarks* by which we can measure our progress for "*our clay*" is still wet, and God's mighty hand will descend upon us and begin to shape us into the image and the likeness of Jesus Christ. 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 as we begin Holy Week!

Confirmation Cake and banner reflected the growing theme.



Flowers on the banner also had roots honoring the people, events and experiences that helped bring Ari, Becca, Ryan and Jacob to Christ in the past. On the leaves they wrote some of their meaningful Confirmation experiences and names of their mentors. We celebrate this milestone in their life of faith.



Thank you to our Confirmation mentors!

Marie Miller, Peggy Bermudez, Brad Loliger, David Lawson



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 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

March 21: Joshua 4-6; Luke 2:1-24

March 22: Joshua 7-8; Luke 2:25-5

In Our Prayers

Elvira Gonzalez – rehab at Buffalo General Hospital, making progress

Diane Klenk – broken leg, making progress

Nancy Annunciata – broken wrist **Frank Annunciata** - recovering at home

Lois Lewis – in church on Sunday **Joy!**

Patty Keller – Health concerns

All who are caregivers for others

Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson (deployed) – all serve in the US Navy

Births - We celebrate the birth of **Emma Grace Heimer on March 9**. Emma is the daughter of **Emily (Nye) and Brandon Heimer** and the grand daughter of **Tom & Peggy Nye**.

We celebrate with **Jan & Woody Rhinehart** on the birth of their great-grand daughter, **Aubree Ray**.

Other Good News!

Sam Suggs – bassist and Doctor of Music Arts Candidate at Yale School of Music is in town today Amherst High School as guest artist for the district-wide Orchestra Festival. Sam and the students will perform in concert tonight at 7 pm in the ACHS auditorium.

Jonathan Miller- Volleyball Team earned a spot in the Boys Jr. National Championship in Dallas in July.

Pam Elbersen – earned ribbons at her recent basketball tournament.

Ryan Lopez – was captain of the Clearence Team that recently won its regional competition in the National Science Bowl. They will compete in Washington DC in April.

Becca Lopez – participated in All-County Middle School Band (oboe),

Jacob Rhinehart –participated in All-County Middle School Orchestra (tuba)

Ashley Miller- participated in All County Elementary Chorus.

This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, **March 15** - 12 noon – Rachel Circle

Wednesday, **March 16** - 5 pm – “**Invitation**”

Lenten Supper & Speaker Series

Speaker: Tara Scime – Dance Instructor –
How music & movement connect with people
living with dementia & their caregivers

7:30 pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, **March 17** - 10 am – Life Lessons w’ Pastor Darryl

11 am Visitation & Care Team

11:30 am MAD planning team

Saturday, **March 19** - 8 am – 1 pm Pancake Breakfast & Health Fair

Sponsored by the Lion’s Club

10 am – Crafting For A Cause – Wesley Room

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Food Pantry - This weeks suggested items

March 20 – Baby items- boxed food, formula & diapers

March 27 – Spices, Condiments, mayo & socks
(yes, an odd combination!)

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

Your Help Is Needed -

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.

Happening At Christ Church

Encore Experience will be hosting spring and summer ARTS day camps at Christ Church! For more information and to register, visit www.encoreexperience.com.

Sleepover!! Children and Youth! – Saturday, May 14 - 4 pm

We'll be filled with the Spirit for this sleepover – preparing the church for Pentecost Sunday – May 15. Projects include tie dying, banner & pin wheel making, cupcake baking & more! Join us and celebrate the birthday of the church!
Sign up on the bulletin board located at the bottom of the stairs.

Make A Difference Day – Sunday, May 15

You make a difference. On Sunday, May 15 there will be many opportunities to serve the needs of others. Look for sign up clipboards beginning Easter Sunday.



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 16

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

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Sunday, March 13 – 5th Sunday in Lent

“Pressing Forward”

Isaiah 43: 16 -19, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Philippians 3:4b-14

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Sundays at Christ Church

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

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

The Caller

The “Caller” monthly newsletter will now be made available electronically right to your email address. Print copies will be available to pick up at the church on the first Sunday of each month. Mailed paper copies will be made available by contacting the church office. As always, the “Caller” will be available on the church website at www.christchurchamherst.org. **Please notify the church office with the method of delivery (email, church pick-up, or mail) you prefer by March 20.**

Coming

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!

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"I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security... The church either engages with "culture" and "the world" or withdraws from them... I dream of a merciful church with the courage to be eccentric...to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the "peripheries" in need of the light of the Gospel." ~Pope Francis,

Book - *Field Hospital: The Churches Engagement with a Wounded World*

Christ Church is a Community Center for Faith & Service

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DRB/sjp