



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

Weekly Update – March 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Under a Bush

As we came out of church we found Mongo curled up beneath this bush. Actually I didn't even spot him, but Amelia saw him straight away. Honestly, the personality of this cat is unparalleled!

As we laughed about it, we then reflected a bit more on his curious choice of location. At first we were just confused and amused about him being under a bush out there in the cold. Then we saw that there he was finding a bit of protection from the wind, a safe place to catch a moment of respite, and a break from cold. An insightful use of a simple landscape bush for comfort and rest.



There is a similarity for all of us who participate in a life of faith. Others may think it is amusing or even confusing heading off in-person or virtually for worship. Together, however, we find as the space where we meet is named - sanctuary. We discover a safe place to catch a moment of rest and reprieve. Among all the headlines and hardships, we are offered somewhere to be inspired and reenergized. It also gives us a place, time and people with whom the warmth of the Holy Spirit pushes away the cold grip of death's tomb.

One of these Sundays when Mongo follows me in pacing behind me through the building and up to the chancel, I may just wait and see if he has a sermon to preach!

-Pastor Daven



*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*

*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) 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.

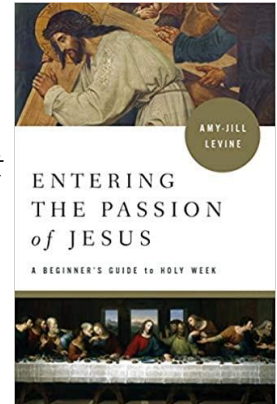
Check out [our website](#) for fun Lenten faith-based activities for children!

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.”



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

***Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Through March 31
Facilitator: Beth Reilly Brown***

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

Topic: Entering the Passion of Jesus
Time: Mar 17, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84622390845?pwd=c1lSYitDVldMd29PeEpCVGlvVXduZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 2239 0845

Passcode: 440832

One tap mobile

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

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84622390845?pwd=c1lSYitDVldMd29PeEpCVGlvVXduZz09>

Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Through April 1
Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

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.

Music & Meditation

Fridays at 5:30 p.m.
Through 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

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 17

7 p.m. - Lenten Study

Thursday, March 18

1 p.m. - Lenten Study

7 p.m. - SPR Team

Friday, March 19

5:30 p.m. - Music & Meditation

In-Person and Live-Stream

Saturday, March 20

10 a.m. - UM Women Zoom Morning Coffee Gathering

Sunday, March 21

10 a.m. - Worship Service

In-Person and Live-Stream

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 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 2:25-52

March 23: Joshua 9-10; Luke 3

In Our Healing Prayers

- **Paul Staley** - procedure today

- **Viki Smith** - in the hospital

Scott Smith, Debbie Laberta, Dave Wolf, Laura June Merrill, Helen Peacock, Mary Gerhardt (Mother of Lisa Lawson), Lynda Pinton, Sue Estee, Ruth Munson, Dave Mitchell, 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

The flowers on the Lord's Table for Sunday, March 21 are given by Dick Radel in honor of great friends, especially his friend Jean Peterson.

Visitation



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.

Reopening for Church Groups

Given recent changes in NY State COVID-19 guidelines, beginning March 1st 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 - 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 **Sunday, March 28, 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/>



Holy Week

March 29 - April 3

Friday, April 1

Maundy Thursday Worship Service
with Communion
7 p.m.

Friday, April 2

Good Friday

Music & Meditation
5:30 p.m.

**Both services will be available both in-person and via live-stream*

Morning Coffee Gathering

On **Saturday, March 20th, at 10 am**, Christ Church United Methodist Women will host a Morning Coffee Gathering on Zoom. The Zoom link is below. Our guest speaker for the morning will be Rev. Melody Rutherford, **Staff Chaplain and Interim Director, Department of Spiritual Care at Roswell Park**. Family and friends are welcome to join and learn about the compassionate spiritual care that is extended to patients and families at Roswell Park. Please forward this information to them.



After the program, we'll take some time to chat and catch up with each other.

Remember that you can join a Zoom call from a desktop, laptop, tablet, smart phone, or landline!

Topic: Christ Church UMW Morning Coffee Gathering
Time: Mar 20, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87818756229>

Meeting ID: 878 1875 6229

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,87818756229# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 878 1875 6229

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdibkSr3QQ>

Custodian Position

We are hiring! A job description and online employment form are available on our website for those interested in applying. You can find both under the "Staff" menu heading on [the Custodian page](#).



CUMC Identity - Questions to Ponder

A small team has been meeting over the past few months to discuss the identity of our Church, so we better understand ourselves, tell our story to the community, and invite others into our community. Over the next few weeks, we invite you to ponder the following questions:

- **Why does Christ Church exist?**
- ***Other than the people, why do you come to Christ Church?***
- **What would you nurture in our Church to see it through to the future?**

A fillable Google Docs form is available on our website under the "News" section, or [click this link](#). Team chairs will also be discussing these questions with their groups. We look forward to your response as we take stock of where we've been, where we are, and as we imagine what the future will hold!