

Weekly Update: March 22, 2016

A word from Pastor Darryl

Last Sunday was the 6th Sunday in Lent – Palm/Passion Sunday, the last Sunday in Lent in our Christian year. At Christ church some of our members were invited to read the very powerful “*Story of the Passion According to the Gospel of Mark.*” My thanks to all of them who allowed us to experience in an inspiring way the *Passion* of Christ – the story of Jesus Christ's arrest, trial and suffering. It ends with his execution by crucifixion. The Passion is an episode in a longer story and cannot be properly understood without the story of the Resurrection. The word *Passion* comes from the Latin word for *suffering*. The crucifixion of Jesus is accepted by many scholars as an actual historical event. It is recorded in the writings of Paul, the Gospels, Josephus, and the Roman historian Tacitus. Scholars differ about the historical accuracy of the details, the context and the meaning of the event. Most versions of the Passion begin with the events in the Garden of Gethsemane. Some also include the Last Supper, while some writers begin the story as early as Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem to the applause of the crowds. The Passion is a story about injustice, doubt, fear, pain and, ultimately, degrading death. It tells how God experienced these things in the same way as ordinary human beings. The most iconic image of the Passion is the crucifix – Christ in his last agony on the cross – found in statues and paintings, in glass, stone and wooden images in churches, and in jewellery. The Passion appears in many forms of art. It is set to music, used as a drama and is the subject of innumerable paintings. Spiritually, the Passion is the perfect example of suffering, which is one of the pervasive themes of the Christian religion. Suffering is not the only theme of the Passion, although some Christians believe that Christ's suffering and the wounds that he suffered play a great part in redeeming humanity from sin. Another theme is incarnation – the death of Jesus shows humanity that God had become truly human and that he was willing to undergo every human suffering, right up to the final agony of death. Another is obedience – despite initial, and very human, reluctance and fear, Jesus demonstrates his total acquiescence to God's wishes. But the final theme is victory - the victory of Christ over death - and this is why the Passion story is inseparable from the story of the Resurrection. 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 on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday!

PASTORAL APPOINTMENT UPDATE—March 20, 2016

On February 28, it was announced that Pastor Darryl has been appointed as pastor of Emmanuel UMC in Lockport because, based on anticipated income for the coming year, we require a pastor at a lower salary level. Since that time, the Staff Parish Relations Team (SPRT) has been involved in the process to appoint a new pastor for CUMC. We have met with the District Superintendent, Rev. Wayne Butler, several times to convey to him the needs of our congregation and our financial status, which has taken time to evolve. We believe that our

congregation will be best served by a trained interim pastor who can help us work through the issues we are facing, reset our vision for the future and smooth the troubled waters in which we find ourselves. The search for a candidate with the gifts, graces and training that we can afford is ongoing and we are waiting for the cabinet to make its choice. We all need to keep this appointment process in our prayers that the person we need will become available. In the meantime, we all need to pray for and support our current ministry to the best of our ability.

Ed Fisher, Co-Chair, CUMC SPRT

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

March 22: Joshua 7-8; Luke 2:25-52

March 23: Joshua 9-10, Luke 3

March 24: Joshua 11-13, Luke 4:1-32

March 25: Joshua 14-15; Luke 4: 33-44

March 26: Joshua 16-18, Luke 5:1-16

March 27: Joshua 19-20; Luke 5:17-39

March 28: Joshua 21-22; Luke 6:1-26

March 29: Joshua 23-24; Luke 6:27-49

In Our Prayers

Elvira Gonzalez – rehab at Buffalo General Hospital, still making progress

Guy Castellino's father – ICU at St. Joseph's Hospital

Patty Keller – upcoming surgery

Diane Klenk – broken leg, **Nancy Annunciata** – broken wrist

Frank Annunciata - recovering at home

All who are caregivers for others

New pastor appointment process

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

Deaths

We offer our sympathy and prayers for the family of **Bill Wise** who died on March 11.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of **Tom Davis** who died on March 20. A memorial service celebrating Tom's life will be held at Christ Church on Friday, April 1st.

Making A Difference!

Kathy Weaver was recently selected as Volunteer of the Month by the Family Justice Center where Kathy makes a difference in the lives of people who have experienced abuse.

This Week at Christ Church

Wednesday, **March 23** - 7:30 pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, **March 24** - 9:30 am – Newsletter collating team
10 am – Life Lessons w' Pastor Darryl
7 pm - Maundy Thursday Worship with
"Love Feast"

Friday, **March 25** - Good Friday Observances - 12 Noon & 7 pm

Sunday, **March 27** -
BRUNCH

EASTER MORNING JAZZ



featuring the
The RON CORSARO JAZZ TRIO

Easter Sunday 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!

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Donate to the Church through your IRA

There is a provision allowed the taxpayer age 70½ or older to make direct distributions from an IRA account for a contribution to a qualified church or charity, bypassing recognition of the distribution as income. For more information see the [original article about charitable distributions from your IRA](#).

Food Pantry - This weeks suggested items

March 27 – Spices, Condiments, mayo & socks

*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 – Hosting the Cafe

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.

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).

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Holy Week Observances

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 – available through Thursday & Friday**

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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.**

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“WHAT YOU ARE GOING to do,” Jesus says, “do quickly.” What Judas is going to do, he does in a garden, but though he goes about it as quickly as he can, there is a little time to wait before he gets there. It is night, and they are all tired. Jesus tells them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death,” and then asks the disciples to stay and watch for him while he goes off to pray. Maybe it is because it is to the ones who are most fully alive that death comes most unbearably. His [Jesus’] prayer is, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will but what thou wilt,” this tormented muddle of a prayer which Luke says made him sweat until it “became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.” He went back to find some solace in the company of his friends then, but he found them all asleep when he got there. “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak,” he said, and you feel that it was to himself that he was saying it as well as to them.”

~Fredrick Buechner-Originally published in *The Faces of Jesus*

DRB/sjp