

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

Weekly Update - March 27, 2019

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226



A Word From Pastor Daven

The mood of all has been lifted by the pleasure of sunshine and warming temperatures. Our mornings have become filled with birdsong, with the early bulbs that are pushing up to show spring is on the way. While the weather predictors have said we can change the winter tires off and put away the parka, we know that ice still clings to the lake and river, night time lows plunge down, daytime highs are tempered, and snow shall yet appear in the sky.

That's a truth of Lent as well. The song of new life is reaching our ears and is growing within our hearts, minds and lives. Yet while we are getting closer and closer to the celebration of Resurrection, we still lie within this penitential season. The cold of the tomb, the darkness of night, and the ice of abandonment and loneliness still lie ahead. We face the questions of the strength of our resolve in the depth of our faith at the foot of the cross.

But we already know it and feel it - this time is giving way reluctantly. The pattern is set. Change is creeping in. It is a change that comes not overnight, nor in a day or two, but inevitably ... God's Son is writing tomorrow's message on the earth!

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 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

March 30: Judges 1-2; Luke 7:1-30

March 31: Judges 3-5; Luke 7:31-50

April 1: Judges 6-7; Luke 8:1-21

April 2: Judges 8-9; Luke 8:22-56

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bill Swenson and the Swenson Family.

Ruth Swenson died on Monday, March 25. The family will be having a private burial.

In Our Healing Prayers

The Swenson Family, The Webber Family, Bob Varian, Jan Rhinehart, Harold Weaver, Lynne Beller, Janet Hill, Joyce Moser, Cindy Fisher, Sissie Mooney, Mary Jane Shanley, Bruce Burr, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Lois Lewis, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola

*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 27 - 7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 28 - 1pm- 'Thirstaid' Thursday
7pm- Hospitality Team

Friday, March 29 - **5:30pm- Music & Meditation**
7pm- Game Night

Saturday, March 30 - 10am- UMW Breakfast Gathering
1pm- Memorial Service: Ian Webber

Sunday, March 31 - **10am - Worship Service**
11am - Educational Opportunities & Fellowship
Noon- Feasting on the Word
UMCOR Sunday

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 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.

FaithXpress

The children of FaithXpress are journeying through Lent and recently learned about Jesus' entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. [Take a look at our video!](#)

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.

UMCOR Sunday – March 31

UMCOR Sunday provides support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which assists people affected by crisis or chronic need with programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

Contributions made this Sunday will cover the UMCOR administrative costs, making it possible for 100% of all other contributions to go directly to specified projects.

Harris Hill UMC will be hosting an UMCOR Kits workday on **Tuesday, May 7 at 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.** Volunteers are welcome at either time to help verify and assemble UMCOR Health Kits & Cleaning Kits. If you would like to help, please contact Erin Swiatowy (Office Manager, Harris Hill UMC) at 716-632-4688.



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

THIS 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. 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.

How To Organize Before It's Too Late

Making Decisions and Celebrating Lives

Tuesday, April 9

1:30 pm -or- 7:00 pm

Participants in this seminar will be equipped with documents and necessary steps for making decisions and plans for their future.

Seminar presenters include:

Bradley (Brad) Loliger, JD, MSW

Staff Attorney in the Guardianship Unit
at the Center for Elder Law & Justice

Charles Durante, Licensed Funeral Director

Roberts & Wedekindt Funeral Home

Jeffrey Reed, President

Mt. Calvary Cemetery Group

Keith Schottman, Vice-President

Allaire Financial Strategies

Rev. Daven Oskvig, Pastor

Christ Church Amherst

Seminar is free and open to the public.

Reserve your spot by calling **839-2460** or email cumc350@gmail.com

Free Tickets

We have 4 complimentary tickets to the Red Blazers Men's Chorus concert this weekend, available in the church office on a first-come, first-served basis. The concert will be held at Sweet Home Middle School on Friday, March 29 at 7:30pm, and Saturday, March 30 at 2pm. The Red Blazers rehearse at Christ Church every Thursday evening from September through May.



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