

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



**Weekly Update - March 6, 2019**

**Christ United Methodist Church**

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

**A Word From Pastor Daven**

There was a pastor who, as he led the congregation he served into Lent, during children's time during the first Sunday of Lent, he began a dialogue with them. His primary question to the children was if any of them could tell him what Lent is. An eight-year-old raised his hand and said, "yes, it's what we get out of our pockets."

In a sense, it is that stuff that we get out of our lives—the dust, the crud. We dig it out and throw it out. For us to get anything out of Lent, however, requires us to take it seriously. We take on fasts not just as a dietary measure, but in order to explore life, since food is means of life. The intent of Lent is to make us ask- what does life mean? On what does my life depend? As we hunger physically from our Lenten fasts, only then can we begin to come to a place of spiritual hunger for the source of real sustenance.

**Lent Opens**

and we're off again  
with forehead freshly smeared  
and spirits seared anew by  
memories of dust, rumors of all  
or nothing up ahead.  
These frigid days and weeks lean  
inward, huddling for warmth, and disciplines attempt in vain  
to shape them toward value, meaning, promise. Warmth will, of course,  
return bearing its customary,  
temporary, blossoming.  
But all remains a stay of execution  
till the stone is rolled, those sentries flee, and startled women run with aching news.

-J. Barrie Shepherd

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## 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 6: Deuteronomy 1-2; Mark 11:1-19

March 7: Deuteronomy 3-4; Mark 11:20-33

March 8: Deuteronomy 5-7; Mark 12:1-27

March 9: Deuteronomy 8-10; Mark 12:28-44

March 10: Deuteronomy 11-13; Mark 13:1-13

March 11: Deuteronomy 14-16; Mark 13:14-37

March 12: Deuteronomy 17-19; Mark 14:1-25

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### In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy and prayers to **Diane Klenk** and her family. Diane's sister, Geraldine Barnett, died on February 28.

### In Our Healing Prayers

**Ian Webber, Diane & Chris Klenk, Janet Hill, Joyce Moser, Cindy Fisher, Daryl Bennett, Mary Jane Shanley, Bruce Burr, Sue Estee, Harold Weaver, Frank Annunziata, Lois Lewis, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Sissie Mooney**

\*Those who are **care partners** with others

\*Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson serving in the US Navy

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## This Week at Christ Church

**Church Office:**

**Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm,**

**Tues. & Thurs. – 9am to Noon**

Wednesday, March 6 - 6pm- Choir Rehearsal

**7pm- Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

Thursday, March 7 - 1pm- 'Thirstaid' Thursday

7pm- Elizabeth Circle

Friday, March 8 - **5:30pm- Music & Meditation**

*Daylight Saving Time Begins!!!*

Sunday, March 10 - **10am - Worship Service**

**11am - Educational Opportunities & Fellowship**

1-3pm - Community Youth Group: 5 Wits (Galleria Mall)

*This Sunday's 2nd Helping Offering will help offset the cost of the Shredding Truck for our annual Make a Difference Day in May!*

**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.



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## Ash Wednesday Worship Service

**TODAY!**

**Wednesday, March 6**

**7 p.m.**

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## Music and Meditation in the Season of Lent

**Fridays at 5:30 p.m.**

March 8, 15, 22, 29

April 5, 12

In quiet and candlelight, join in meditative song, prayer, and Scripture reading that penetrates the heart and the whole being.

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## Lenten ALL-CHURCH Read

*“Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)*

We live in a contentious time. It even has become difficult to discuss challenging issues within families and between close neighbors. How can we live as peacemakers when we can't even talk with one another?

The book, [The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict](#), written by once-bitter enemies, explores how to transform personal, professional, and global conflicts by asking several questions:

- *What if conflicts at home, at work, and conflicts in the world stem from the same root cause?*
  - *What if we systematically misunderstand that cause?*
- *And what if, as a result, we systematically perpetuate the very problems we think we are trying to solve?*

Living with a heart of peace is a spiritual discipline that has practical results. Through the

Lenten season, share in reading, reflection and conversation as we seek to be peacemakers in a contentious time.

**The book is now available!** If you would like a book, please stop by the church office during office hours or pick up a copy on Sunday following worship. A donation of \$10 is requested, but not required, to cover the cost of the book. Payment may be made to Christ United Methodist Church, noted "Lenten study book."

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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.

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### **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!

Starting **March 7:** "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**

**"A Disciple's Path"**

Reading and reflection on how we grow in faith

Books available from David Pliss

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## **Pictorial Directories**

Our new Christ Church pictorial directories are ready! We have some available to be picked up from the church office this week and following worship this Sunday. More will be created and distributed in the following weeks.

## **Reminder!**

Daylight Saving Time happens this weekend! Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead an hour before going to bed Saturday night!

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Merciful God,  
look upon us as we enter these Forty Days,  
bearing the mark of ashes,  
and bless our journey through the desert of Lent.  
May our fasting be hunger for justice;  
our alms, a making of peace;  
our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.  
All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus,  
for in his cross you proclaim your love  
for ever and ever. Amen.

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**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