

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

**Weekly Update - May 16**  
**Christ United Methodist Church**

Harlem & Saratoga Roads  
Amherst, NY 14226

**A Word From Pastor Daven–**

We have a number of words that get tossed around in pulpit and pews, words like faith, grace, sin, peace and hope. We use them as we worship together and numerous sermons have been proclaimed concerning them. Yet perhaps by that very frequency, their power and meaning continue to elude us.

I came across a quote the other day as I read from one of my favorite theologians, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German imprisoned in a concentration camp during World War II and eventually put to death. In his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, he writes concerning hope: “(hope is) living every day as if it were our last, and yet living in faith and responsibility as though there were to be a great future . . . thinking and acting for the sake of the coming generation, but being ready to go any day without fear or anxiety.” What is being said concerning hope is that it is neither abiding by a bucket list with our lives nor being consumed for storing up realities for those who will follow us. Rather it is a combination of these two in a way that puts faith central to both. In other words, it is to live our lives using each day as quite possibly the last prior to meeting God, employing each moment as an opportunity to seize and express our discipleship, to allow our lives to reflect God’s glory, and to share God’s love. By virtue of welcoming each day as our last and undertaking such work, we will also be creating a better reality for the future. To this end, it is living/acting/being today in our hope of what the world will look like tomorrow.

Christian life is largely lived in such paradoxes. We, as disciples, are to use our lives to make visible things that are largely unseen (love, peace,

grace, hope). So let us hope for the future by living it this day. Let us leave it not on the horizon or for those who come later to undertake, but to use every day as our final opportunity to make good on the prayer which we lift together “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as in heaven.”

**-Pastor Daven**

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## **Daily Bible Reading – 2018      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.

May 16: 2 Kings 15-17; John 6:1-21

May 17: 2 Kings 18-19; John 6:22-44

May 18: 2 Kings 20-22; John 6:45-71

May 19: 2 Kings 23-25; John 7:1-31

May 20: 1 Chronicles 1-2; John 7:32-53

May 21: 1 Chronicles 3-5; John 8:1-20

May 22: 1 Chronicles 6-7; John 8:21-36

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### **In Our Prayers**

**JOY!** The 2nd Sunday, 2nd Helping, 2nd Chance offering on Sunday raised **\$288** to help paint and redecorate the youth room downstairs for our Community Youth Group!

### **In Our Healing Prayers**

#### **The Shanley Family**

A memorial service celebrating **Peter Shanley's** life will take place at Christ Church on **Monday, May 21 at 10 a.m.**

**The Snyder Family, The Fisher Family, Dr. Robert Nachbar, Fred Painton, Bob Varian, Greg Mailken, Dennis Scaringi, Sue Estee, Lois Lewis, Janet Hill, 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, May 16 - **5:30pm - "Bridges of Hope"**  
**Supper & Conversation**  
7pm- Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 17 - 6:45 pm - Finance Team  
7:30pm - Staff-Parish Relations Team

Sunday, May 20 - **Make a Difference Day!**  
**9:18 am - ONE Worship Service**  
**10 am - 1 pm - Service Projects**  
**1 pm - Lunch for Everyone**

**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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**Wednesdays, May 16 & 23**

**5:30 – 7:00 pm**

“Bridges of Hope”

A soup & bread supper will be served. Chaplain Daryl Bennett offers information & resources to faith groups about mental illness & the role of faith communities.



### **Graduate Recognition Sunday**

**Sunday, June 3rd** is Graduate Recognition Sunday. If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please contact the church office by Wednesday, May 30. Please include their name, relationship to you, degree(s), and future plans.

### **Rev. Wayne Butler Retiring in June**

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Wayne Butler, is retiring on June 30. All are welcome to attend a celebration of worship and fellowship on **Friday, June 8 at 7PM** at Harris Hill UMC (8495 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221) to thank Wayne and wish him well in his retirement! A monetary gift will be presented to Rev. Butler and Molly to use toward setting up their very first home! If you would like to contribute to that gift, please send a check payable to PCUMC to Pendleton Center UMC, [6864 Campbell Boulevard, North Tonawanda, NY 14120](https://www.google.com/maps/place/6864+Campbell+Boulevard,+North+Tonawanda,+NY+14120) and mark WAYNE in the note portion of your check.

Any questions or concerns may be addressed to [debbieparise@pendletonchurch.org](mailto:debbieparise@pendletonchurch.org) or (716) 344-8165.

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### **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:

**Paper towels, toilet paper, dish detergent, deodorant, heart-healthy cereals (look for a heart on the box!), pasta, and sauces.**

Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.

## **Yardwork Help**

Rita Arnold is looking for someone to help with yard work/trimming in her small yard off of Harlem Road (not far from the church!). If you are willing to help, please call the church office for contact information or use the yellow Connection Card on Sunday.



**Make A Difference Day** will take place **THIS Sunday, May 20!**

There's still room for you! Sign-up this Sunday to join a team project at Christ Church or in our community. ***Reminder- there will only be ONE worship service at 9:18a.m. on May 20!***

***There will be a potluck lunch at 1p.m. on Make a Difference Day for everyone.***

We could still use a few donations of desserts to serve at the lunch. Contact Donna Hammond (844-8091 -or- [hammond4970@roadrunner.com](mailto:hammond4970@roadrunner.com)) if you are able to help.

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## **A.O.L. @ CUMC (Adult Opportunities for Learning)**

**10 a.m. - Wesley Room - Sunday Mornings**

How do we live as Christians in a time of polarization in our culture? "Seeing Gray in a World of Black & White" is a book and video resource by United Methodist Pastor Adam Hamilton. We will explore scripture, the traditions of the United Methodist Church, and experience as people of faith to think about important issues of our time. Facilitated by David Pliss. Books now available. (donation toward \$13 cost of book if possible)

## **Exploring Sunday Scriptures**

Every **Tuesday at Noon**, Pastor Daven will lead 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!

## **Wednesday Morning Prayer**

This Lenten discipline will be continued weekly every **Wednesday at 10 a.m.** Pastor Daven will lead a brief time of morning prayer, which employs a ritual of plain chant, Scripture readings, and prayers specific to the day. All are welcome anytime!

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*Hope*

IS THE ABILITY TO HEAR  
THE MELODY OF THE FUTURE.

*Faith*

IS THE COURAGE  
TO DANCE TO IT TODAY.

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday -Wednesday- Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

**SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH**

Casual Praise Worship at 9 am

Traditional Worship at 11 am

Education Hour at 10 am