

Weekly Update - November 22

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem & Saratoga Roads

Amherst, NY 14226

A Word From Pastor Daven

Several years ago, in order for my brother to qualify to run a specific half marathon, he had to run a qualifying race of 5 miles in a specified time. With his in-laws at the time residing in Buffalo, I convinced him to use our own beloved Thanksgiving foot race (the oldest foot race in America, I might add) as his qualifier.

For several years in succession as plans were discussed, this became something for my brother that he wished to maintain—running the Turkey Trot. Long past the need for a qualifying time, he had no driving purpose for the maintenance of the tradition. I have run the race numerous times, including all the times that he ran as well. Those times I ran it with him, I finished nearly a half hour prior to him crossing the line. It baffled me that he longed to continue with this as a tradition when we didn't even run the race together. Yet the conclusion I reached was that among all of the costumed runners gathered together for this jogging spectacle, he found something that made him want to establish this as his holiday habit. While unspoken, I believe what he found, and what I find in many running races, is an experience of community and camaraderie that restored his hope in humanity. It is that meeting of individuals with the same goal working together to achieve it. Is that not the very reality of the church? Is it not a common goal that gathers us together so that we may aid one another to work and achieve it?

I know this lacks biblical illustrations and theological depth, but the truth is that sometimes we rediscover the value of the church in places we would never envision. My prayer is that as we 'toe the line' every Sunday when we gather for worship we all can

see the opportunity to grow together and have our hope restored as we work for a common goal. Let this not only be a holiday habit, but our weekly and daily tradition as we 'Make Connections and Offer Opportunities in Faith, Love and Service.'

God bless you all,

Pastor Daven

Daily Bible Reading – 2017 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.

November 22 - Ezekiel 27- 28, James 4

November 23 - Ezekiel 29 - 31, James 5

November 24 - Ezekiel 32 - 33, 1 Peter 1

November 25 - Ezekiel 24-35, 1 Peter 2

November 26 - Ezekiel 36-37, 1 Peter 3

November 27 - Ezekiel 38-39, 1 Peter 4

November 28 - Ezekiel 40, 1 Peter 5

In Our Prayers

Joy ! – *It was a joy to hear the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra in concert on Sunday at Christ Church with organist, Paul Staley. It's a joy to provide regular rehearsal space for this fine orchestra.*

*People recovering after recent violence and recent storms and those who come to bring relief and help rebuild.

In Our Healing Prayers...

* Janet Hill - Wesley rehab, Janelle Martin, Sheldon Merritt, The Kreib Family, Woody Rhinehart, Grace & Ross Markello, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola, Ed Fisher, Bob Snyder, Sissie Mooney, Peter Shanley

*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, November 22 - 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 23 - **Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed**

Friday, November 24 - **Church Office Closed**

7 pm - Game Night

Saturday, November 25 - **12:30 pm - Funeral Service for June Wieland, Debbie Laberta's mother** Reception to follow

Sunday, November 26- 9 am – Casual Praise

10 am – FaithXpress – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

11 am – Traditional Style Worship

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.

UMC #GivingTuesday

On November 28, United Methodists will once again come together to support the work of Advance missionaries and projects on #GivingTuesday. Visit: www.umcmmission.org/give

Opportunities to Spread Christmas Cheer!

Children's Christmas Shoppe -

Seneca Street United Methodist Church has invited us to participate in their Children's Christmas Shoppe this year. They are seeking donations of the following items:

Mothers - toiletries, picture frames, kitchen goods, candles, candy

Pets - dog or cat food, treats, toys, leashes, collars, food bowls

Others- tape, gift tags, tissue paper, gift bags

If you would like to participate, please put your items in the box for Seneca Street UMC located in Crafts Hall. The deadline is Sunday, November 26.

Giving Tree -

On Sunday, November 26 **The Giving Tree** will be in the Family Room (Parlor). If you wish to participate, please take a tag and return your gift unwrapped. Please attach your tag to your gift.

This years opportunities are Gateway, Family Justice Center, Haven House, Primera UMC and Erie County SPCA. The deadlines are the following:

Gateway - Sunday, Dec. 3

FJC - Sunday, Dec. 10

SPCA - Sunday, Dec. 10

Haven House - Sunday, Dec. 10th

Primera - Sunday, Dec. 17th

If you have any questions, contact Diane Klenk (651-0236). Thank you in advance for your participation in this great opportunity to make a difference and serve others!

Food Pantries

Share food and personal care items through the local food pantries –
Tiger's Den and Food Pantry at University Presbyterian Church

Canned fruit, dish detergent, paper towels. A freezer is available for your meat donations.

Please help us fill up our carts!!! Paper goods and personal care items are always needed.

Committed to Stewardship - An Opportunity

Thank you to all who have responded to the invitation to participate in our stewardship emphasis, "Uphold the Promise". There's still time to make your commitment to partner with God's purpose that all life should flourish together. If you have not responded yet, please consider a commitment. Pastor Daven will soon begin calls to those who have not responded to ensure that they have received the invitation and answer any questions or relieve any hesitations. If you have misplaced the commitment card, there are more at the back of the worship space or call the church office and one will be sent to you. Take the time to consider all

the aspects of the promise and write in your hopes in each of them - prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Stewardship is much more than just our financial giving. It is the way our lives themselves become a witness, expressing our faith and upholding the promises of that faith.

Time Out For God - Workshop at Christ Church

Come and quench your thirst and drink in the fruits of the Spirit

December 2nd 9 am - 12:30 pm

8:30 am - Registration

Cost - \$15 - includes coffee, refreshments, & supplies

Register by November 25

Make checks payable to The Joshua Connection and mail to Christ Church Attn: Julane Beck

[350 Saratoga Rd. Amherst, NY 14226](mailto:jbeck@joshuaconnection.org)

A.O.L. @ CUMC - Adult Opportunities for Learning--

Sunday mornings at 10 am

"All Earth Is Waiting" - Discover Good News for God's creation this Advent Season.

Music, Meditation & Candlelight

Give yourself the gift of peace during the Advent Season.

Fridays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 5:30 pm

Music, Meditation, Prayer & Candlelight

Coming Soon--

"Meet Your Neighbor" Open House

Sunday, December 3 4-6 pm

Come and meet our neighbors, share some food, enjoy some music, make an ornament or create a card to wish someone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season!

Gingerbread Nativity Creations

Sunday, December 10

In the Cafe after worship

Pastor Daven & Lianne Oskvig will lead you in creating something special for the Christmas season.

Mature Years Ministry (MYM)

Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 10, 1pm

Sean Patrick's Restaurant

Millersport Highway, Getzville, NY

Tickets on sale this Sunday, November 26.

Christmas Is Cancelled! – Christmas Pageant

A behind the scenes peek at our chaotic Christmas pageant preparations

Sunday, December 17 10 am Worship Service

"Back To Bethlehem Brunch" follows

People are ambiguous; saints can be sinful and the wicked can be redeemed. We see only a small snippet of each other's stories. Even after spending a lifetime with someone, at the end we will have only understood a fragment of who they are in the eyes of God. It is God who alone sees us in our entirety and decides where we ultimately belong.

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