

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
January 10, 2012

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.
10:00 – FaithXpress, Soul Strength, youth Sunday school and AOL
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!

www.Christchurchamherst.org

716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.'s blog is www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

When I was in Seattle, Washington a few years back I noticed that the weather was bright sunshine and 75 degrees – near perfect weather – and very unlike what my conception and popular conception of Seattle weather was supposed to be like. When I mentioned this to a waitress at a restaurant I was dining at she replied “we say the weather is worse than it is to keep the people from Los Angeles from moving here.” I’m beginning to think Buffalo residents have this same strategy. I’m walking around Amherst without a winter coat again today. Perhaps the bad Buffalo winter weather is a public relations ploy to keep the down state New Yorkers from moving up here. I overheard someone at Wegman’s saying to a friend the other day: “If this is the result of global warming – bring it on!”. Well maybe not, but each one of these days is one fewer snowy day before Spring! I will put off dusting off my golf clubs for now.

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 172 (45 and 127). We appreciated our Choir at 11:00 (since it was Choir appreciation Sunday!). We are blessed with a great and deeply committed group of singers, under the excellent leadership of Elizabeth Holt Curtis.

THANK YOU – to the nearly 50 of you who stayed to see my photos and stories of my October Uganda journey. Thank you for your great questions and interest. Thank you to the Outreach Team who provided excellent soup, chili and chapatti for all of us to enjoy. And, THANK YOU for your lunch contributions and buying the DVD’s – we raised enough to sponsor two more children at the Blessed Primary School in Kirimandagi. Send an Orphan to school for \$100 a year. There is a bulletin board in the Café or contact Rachel in the church office for more information.

2. This Sunday I am preaching about the basics of leadership. This will be based on two passages from this week’s “through the New Testament” schedule. From Mark 9:33 (“Who is the greatest?”) and Mark 10:35 (who will be at Jesus left and right in the kingdom). What does it mean to be a Christian leader?

What does the example of Jesus tell us about the function of leadership within the Christian community? What does it mean to be a “servant leader?”

At 10:00 a.m. – the A.O.L. Class (Adult Opportunities for Learning) is studying Adam Hamilton’s book “Christianity’s Family Tree” This week the class is looking at Catholicism.

3. Through the New Testament – One chapter a day on week days takes us through the entire New Testament in 2012. This week’s reading schedule: January 10 – Mark 7; January 11 – Mark 8; January 12 – Mark 9; January 13 – Mark 10; January 16 – Mark 11; January 17 – Mark 12. Join the conversation on my blog: www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com. I will be taking questions and observations before and after any and all groups as we work our way forward. Nearly 70 of you are in covenant with me to do these readings and I am praying for you all.

4. In our Prayers: Don Parsons (Suburban Hospital); Louise Barber (Suburban Hospital); Ed Fisher; Carmen Ticconi (continued treatments); Barbara McCray (continued treatments); Ed Maker (continued treatments); Nicky Sebastiano, Mary Emens, Erik Schmitz; those who are in harm’s way, those looking for work; families in crisis.

5. Church Meetings this week:

UMW Executive Meeting – Tuesday, January 10 at 4:00
Memorials Team – Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00

6. The February Caller Deadline is this Friday, January 13.

7. January 11, 18, 23, 25, 29 and 30 – **FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOPS**

Jan 11 – What is Financial Planning

January 18 – Basic Budgeting – Cash Flow Strategies

January 23 – Accumulation Strategies

January 25 – Distribution Strategies (how not to run out of money before you run out of life in retirement)

January 29 – Charitable Gifting

January 30 – Retirement Planning

It is not too late to sign up and walk ins are welcome. Each workshop is offered at 3:00 and again at 7:00 p.m. Workshops are led by Patrick and Keith, local businessmen in the Harlem-Kensington-Cleveland Community. They are partnering with us to make these workshops possible. To reserve a spot call the church – 839-2460.

8. Pastor BJ’s two new Bible Studies: Every Wednesday at 11:00 (group is looking at the feeding of the 5000 from Mark 6 this week).

Sunday evening at 6:00 – new group is forming. Join me this week for prayer, conversation and bible study.

9. UMM (United Methodist Men) meets January 14 at 10:00. Bill Bauza will present a narrated slideshow of a recent visit to Honduras, Jamaica, and the Cayman Islands.

10. BLOODMOBILE is coming January 20 from 1 – 6 – sign up with Geoff Hill. Give a Pint and get a pound of Dunkin’ Doughnuts coffee.

11. HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week:

January 10 – Lindsey Darling

January 15 – Laura Walfrand

January 17 – Kimberly Gabel; Joel Jackson; Bob Snyder; Carol Teresi

12 We have no January anniversaries listed.

13. HANDS FOR NEW YORK: We are collecting **Powdered Milk** this week. HANDS4NY has a goal of feeding 1 million people in one year. Thank you for your continued and most excellent support of these feeding projects. It makes a huge difference.

14. OUTREACH NEWS

A. The next meeting for the Habitat Women Build Project is Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. at North Presbyterian Church. March 23 is the Women Build Roof Raiser at the Main Ballroom at Statler City. Tickets are \$30 – see Peggy Bermudez or Marg Bauza for tickets.

B. Christ Church is helping Crossroads Lutheran Church to host families on Friday, January 27. People are needed to help prepare and serve dinner from 4:30 to 7:30 or to be at the church from 7 to 10 in the evening. See Lee Watson or Peggy Bermudez to volunteer.

C. Don't forget your **powdered milk** for the food pantries this Sunday!

15. Uganda projects update:

1. We have now sponsored 9 of the 14 orphans at the Blessed Primary school in Kirimandagi (THANK YOU EVERYONE) see above for details.

2. Dr BJ will be travelling to Uganda to continue his work with the Nexus Seminary this fall (tentatively September 23-October 9). Is God calling you to journey with us? See me asap for more information.

3. I have three DVD's from last year's Uganda journey. I would be glad to lend them to you.
- is me teaching a series of lectures on Palestine of Jesus time
 - is Kikyusa graduation
 - is the well project at Kirimandagi

16. The Christ Church Youth Group is offering its services for house cleaning or other 3 hour projects – 3 youth one adult for 3 hours for \$100. Need the basement or garage cleaned? Funds are being raised for future youth projects and journeys. See Tim Reed for details.

17. I am planning a “Newcomer Orientation” gathering for the near future. Are you new to Christ Church? Would you like to know more about who we are, what we believe God is calling us to be about and how to become a member and/or to become more involved? Let Rachel or I know and watch for announcement information.

Communication is vital in the leading, building and strengthening the ministry of any church. It is my policy to go where I am invited (sometimes I barge in uninvited but that is the exception to the rule). I am available for conversation, prayer, consultation, etc. Call Rachel at the church office 839-2460 to schedule an appointment.

In emergencies the best way to reach me is **to call** the old parsonage phone **number 839-3260**. That number is now my cell phone number and will reach me wherever I am. If I am not available it takes messages and I will get back to you as soon as I can. I love visiting in homes, am not afraid of hospitals or other institutions and enjoy providing support and encouragement wherever I can.

Communication is vital: if you know of others who would like to receive this weekly update please forward this to them or have them send me their e-mail and I will add them to the list. I am currently send this update to nearly 175 addresses.

Communication is vital: As the church grows deeper in faith it also grows broader in influence. I have learned that there are very few critical questions for a vital ministry. There are three that I always come back to: 1) Where have you seen God working lately? 2) What is God calling you to be? 3) What is God calling you to do? I believe that every follower of Jesus Christ has been called and gifted for some form of mission/ministry. Ministry is what we do for ourselves – the building of our community, the care for our members and friends. Mission is what we do for others, those outside our church walls (and the guests within).

It is a joy to serve with you all,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, coach

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this communication please reply: remove.

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