

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
November 14, 2011

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!

Christchurchamherst.org
716-839-2460

Hi Everyone:

HOPE FOR AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR – Christ Church, Snyder Wednesday November 16 at 7:00!!

I Had a great time talking about Stewardship on Sunday and learning to live our life with open hands (that is to be generous people). Christ church demonstrated some of that generosity by having 9 families pledge \$11,480 to replace the church's boilers. The Boilers are 50 and nearly 60 years old and replacing them at this time would have a cost savings, allow us to take advantage of an incentive (that could total \$7500) and make our church home tighter and warmer (and greener). The overall cost of the project is \$80,000 we have a matching gift of \$40,000 in hand (and in the bank) and pledges that total about ½ of the balance (as of Sunday). Your pledge/gift for this project is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU to all who have responded and to all of you who took your 2 year pledge cards home for prayer and consideration. Cards are available at the church and should be returned by the end of November.

Stewardship is recognizing that as a Christ follower, all that I have all that I am and all that I dream of being is a gift from God. How I manage that gift is a spiritual matter and a matter of faithfulness. We call this management Stewardship. It applies to all areas of life. If my life is not my own, neither is my time, my talent, my resources, my relationships, my testimony – for that matter this is not our church but God's church we are merely being faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

We will have a full "Pledge Campaign" in late February early March 2012. We are asking everyone to continue their regular giving (**new envelopes for the first part of 2012 are now available**).

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 131 (a lot of you taking advantage of the long weekend). We welcomed many guests.

The "media sale" by the Outreach Team totaled nearly \$500 by day's end.

Special appreciation to Kathy Weaver who was our worship leader and to our chancel choir and the 9:00 praise team!

Thank you to Diane Klenk and Peggy Bermudez who reported for the Outreach Team

2. This Sunday, November 20 is THANKSGIVING SUNDAY – we will be taking time to thank God for the beauty and bounty provided for us. I am preaching from Luke 17:11-19 about 10 lepers that Jesus heals and only one of them returns to say “thank you”. The sermon is titled “An Attitude of Gratitude”.

We will be receiving new members into our congregation this week: if you are not a member of Christ Church and would like to be please contact me (Pastor BJ) at your earliest convenience.

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3. This Week at Christ Church:

Monday – Pastor’s Bible Conversations at 7:00

Tuesday – November 15 – Christian Education team meets at 7:00

Wednesday – November 16 – Hope for Africa Children’s Choir – there will be no Praise Team nor Choir rehearsal this Wednesday

Thursday – November 17 – Gifts and Graces Team at 6:00

Trustees at 7:30

4. We are 7 weeks from the end of 2011. I am challenging every Christ Church member and friend to join me in **reading the New Testament** one chapter a day in 2012. Schedule will be printed in the Caller and will be available for your use. I will be posting daily comments on our readings through my blog (www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com) and there will be times to discuss what we are reading through the week. I am also planning to preach from the readings. My hope is that this will help us journey together as Christ followers.

5. In our Prayers: Jane Darling; Barbara McCray, Mary Emens, Carol Teresi, Barbara Burr; Erik Schmitz; Nicky Sebastiano, Mitch Mooney, Sandy Cumming and Drew Heitzenrater. Please pray for the members and friends of the St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Ithaca, their Pastor, Rev. Margery Mason died suddenly late last week while visiting her daughter in Oregon. Remember to pray for those who will be travelling for the Thanksgiving holiday. Remember those who are separated from loved ones. Pray for Laura Smith who is in China for work this week. Pray for families in crisis, those looking for work.

MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS AND NOTES:

A. Habitat for Humanity Women Build is meeting November 17 (this Thursday) at North Presbyterian Church on N. Forest in Williamsville at 7:00.

B. Operation Christmas Child: We are partnering with Samaritan’s Purse to help make Christmas special for children all around the world. Christ Church is collecting small items such as toys, school supplies, hygiene items and other miscellaneous items. Please contact the church office (839-2460) for a more detailed list of items. Please place items in the green bins located in the café and at the front entrance. We need these by **NOVEMBER 20**.

C. . The Giving Tree – coming November 20 – the tree will be in Crafts Hall next to the café’. Please take as many tags as you wish from the tree, fulfill the wish (es) and return your unwrapped gift(s) to the tree by December 11 to insure delivery for Christmas

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6. **Happy Birthday** this week:

November 15 – Leah Groh

November 16 – Lynn Ramsey

November 19 – Ashley George
November 20 – Jim Beller
November 21 – Evelyn Cole
November 22 – Reid Lesswing; Andrea Kearney

7. Happy Anniversary this week:

November 21 – Geoff and Janet Hill
November 22 – Jim and Laurie Hannon

8. HOPE FOR AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR – On **November 15 and 16** we are hosting the Hope for Africa Children's Choir from the HUMBLE School in the Mukono District in Uganda (east of the capital of Kampala). They are singing two concerts in our area

Tuesday, November 15 – St. James UMC in Niagara Falls at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16 – Christ UMC Snyder (that's us!) at 7:00

The Concert is free – a "Love Offering" will be taken for the Choir.

The children are between ages 8 and 14 and come from around Uganda.

9. Annual Church Conference: November 28 at 8:30 p.m.

This is Christ Church's Annual Meeting. All members of Christ Church have voice and vote. Our new District Superintendent Rev. K. Wayne Butler will be presiding. We will elect officers, approve the pastoral support line in the church budget, receive a bequest and other business that the Superintendent brings to us. Watch for more information. The SPRC will be meeting with Rev. Butler at 8:00.

10. December Special Events on the Calendar

Sunday **December 4 at 4:00: Valerian Ruminski** will be performing Opera, Jazz and Broadway music for the Christmas season. Tickets are \$10 and are available through Carol Teresi on Sunday morning or through the Church Office. Proceeds benefit the Nickel City Opera and Christ Church Outreach.

Friday, December 9 – "**Christmas Dinner at Mount Vernon and Traditional Carol Sing**" at 5:30. Dinner (Virginia Baked Ham and Roast Turkey; baked sweet potatoes; spiced cranberries, plantation green beans, plum pudding, cherry pie and coffee and tea) and an evening of music from the Amherst High school "the Sweet Sixteens and the Varsity Singers. Tickets are \$18 and proceeds will benefit the CUMC Youth Group.

Saturday, December 10 – "**Angels Aware!**" and "Carols, Cookies and Cocoa!" will be presented by the Amherst Players at Christ Church. Tickets are available through the Amherst Players web site www.amherstplayers.org or calling 791-7529. All are invited to bring canned goods or other nonperishable items for the Youth Group's food drive.

Sunday December 18 – "**If It Happened Today**" a Christmas Pageant. We will share the story of Christmas with humor and song. Rehearsals are underway – there is a part just for you. See Sally or Lynn Ramsey for more information. Performance will be at 11:00 Sunday morning.

11. Christmas Eve/Day schedule determined

Saturday, December 24 – Traditional Celebration at 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24 – Celebration of Communion at 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day – ONE Worship at 10:30 a.m. (carols, stories, worship!)

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Here is a picture of the children at Erwin First UMC last Saturday evening



Photo by Joe Stoll

12. More on the Uganda Trip:

A. I am posting Uganda Journal on my Blog – go to www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com and read of our mission and experiences.

B. I have small drum key chains that I picked up in Kampala, Uganda as a small thank you to all who made donations or agreed to be prayer partners for me on this journey. If I did not catch you Sunday morning, please see me. I am deeply grateful to all who helped to make this mission possible. (If you gave anonymously, I won't tell but come and get a drum too!). :)

C. I am scheduling a time to show pictures and tell stories of this mission trip. Watch for more information. I am leaning toward a Sunday afternoon so that our members who don't drive at night will be able to participate.

D. I have begun to make arrangements for next October's mission. Is God calling you to join me? See me for more information.

We are 10 days to Thanksgiving. All too often, like any long standing traditional celebration, the reason for the day gets lost in the feasting and the drinking and football and the distractions of just having a house full (or going over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house). But giving thanks shouldn't be a once a year response. Being thankful should be cultivated, encouraged and lived out. Too often, in our land of plenty, where we are surrounded by plenty and very few of us ever know want or need, we take the bounty and blessings of our lives for granted and don't appreciate what is right in front of us. When I am visiting Africa, or in Buffalo's poorer neighborhoods, I encounter a different kind of attitude. When I am with people who have nothing I find an "Attitude of Gratitude" that is often overwhelming. I was spending the night in a place called Buyana in the Gombe District of Uganda (I am sleeping within 10 miles of the Equator). The home has no electricity and I am up early and wanted to do some reading. So I took a chair outside in the early morning light and sat and read my Bible readings for the day. As I read I heard some noise to my right and realized that there were a dozen children standing

there staring at me. I had just been told by the Village elders that I was the first Mzumgu (white person) who had ever stayed the night in their village. So I knew that the children were staring because I was different and they were curious. I had my back pack by my chair and I reached in and pulled out a bag of balloons. Not that big a deal to you and I or our children but when I inflated half a dozen and popped them into the air I released a celebration of joy and play that was just amazing. Every one of those children came to me that morning stopped in front of me and said webele (some added webele nho) which, in Lugandan means “thank you” and when you add the nho it means thank you very much. A small thing, received with joy and reflecting an “attitude of gratitude” that deeply touched my heart. This Thanksgiving, amid our abundance and plenty, remember to thank God for all that you have, remember to thank those who are gathered around the table, remember to thank whoever prepared that amazing feast . . . and try to learn (as I am trying to learn) to live life with an Attitude of Gratitude – one of regular and frequent thanksgivings to God!

See you when the Church gathers,

B.J. Norrix, missionary, lead servant, thanks giver

(oh, yeah, did I mention: **HOPE FOR AFRICA CHILDREN’S CHOIR – Christ Church, Snyder Wednesday November 16 at 7:00!!**)

(this e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, 350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please reply: remove).