

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
February 1, 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

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

Hi Everyone:

I'm back from a week with my folks in Lakeland, Florida. These occasional breaks from the normal routine are enormously helpful in providing balance and focus for the rest of my life. I got to play some golf with my dad, walk some beaches with my wife, and generally hang out with my brother and sister, mom and dad. Weather was perfect and I am back refreshed, a bit more relaxed, and ready for the next round. Thank you to the UMW for leading worship this past Sunday (and Elizabeth Holt Curtis who did double duty leading music at both worship celebrations). Thank you to Rachel and Sally who not only held down the fort in my absence but also fed our cats. Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday is a mystery (rumored to be 100+). Again, thank you to the UMW for a celebration of the women of Christ UMC, Snyder.
2. This Sunday I am preaching from Romans 5 and 8 with a sermon titled "Therefore!". The praise team will be back to work at 9:00 and the choir will be singing at 11:00. This is a Communion Sunday.
3. I have posted thoughts regarding Romans 1-4, Romans 5, and Romans 6 on my blog (www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com). This week's reading:
February 1 – Romans 6; February 2 – Romans 7; February 3 – Romans 8; February 6 – Romans 9
– February 7 – Romans 10
4. Christ Church is now on Facebook: go to Facebook, search for: Christ United Methodist Church, Amherst and "Like" us!
5. Boiler Project Update: The Trustees are examining bids and will be awarding the bid to replace the oldest of the boilers soon. The work has been delayed until March due to weather. The heating system will be off for 3 or 4 days while the work is done and it was thought prudent to not do this when it could be below zero outside (grin). Thank you for your contributions, prayers and support of this project.

6. NEWCOMER ORIENTATION: is coming Monday, February 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. Are you new to the ministry of Christ Church? Would you like to know more about us? **This is for you!** We will have a light dinner, and a chance to meet some of the staff, other new comers and learn more about Christ Church and our ministries. This is open to all who are interested: contact Rachel: 839-2460 for more information.

7. In our Prayers: Nicky Sebastiano, Sandy Cumming, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Erik Schmitz, Carmen Ticconi, Wendy Johnston, Drew Heitzenrater, Ed Maker and the family and friends of Marg Warful.

8. Marge Warful funeral arrangements: As most of you know Marge Warful, a member of Christ Church since September of 1951 died late last week. Calling hours are this Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Dietrich funeral home. A Celebration of Marge's life will be held at Christ Church on Monday, February 6 at 11:00 a.m. with light refreshments to follow.

9. UMM is meeting this Saturday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. The men will be traveling to Chris Klenk's home to view the movie "Courageous." Questions: see Tom Nye or Chris.

10. Mid Years and Ministry group is having a Luncheon in Sunday, February 12, 2012 at Noon. We will be visited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton (performance artist Denise Reichard). Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an American abolitionist and leading figure in the early Women's Movement. Sign up this Sunday – cost is \$7 (10 and under are free).

11. Happy Birthday this week:

February 3 – Barbara Burr; Marion Rowlands

February 4 – Kelsey Reed

February 7 – Ellen Parker Lines; Emily Mugel; Kristen Scaringi

12. COMING WEDNESDAYS IN LENT: Lenten Supper, Study and Reflection from 5:30 to 7:00

February 22 – ASH WEDNESDAY – light supper and Ash Wednesday observance

February 29 – March 28 – THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

13. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, February 1 – Financial Planning Workshop at 7:00

Friday, February 3 – Books Loved at 10:00 a.m.

MYM Executive Board at Noon

Saturday February 4 – UMM Group at 10:00

14. . Mission News:

1. We have sponsored **12 of the 14 orphans** at Pastor Grace's school in Kirimandagi. \$100-110 sends a child to school for the year. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these children contact Rachel in the church office.

2. DVD's of the Hope for Africa Children's choir are available in the café on Sunday mornings. You may have one of the DVDs for a free will offering (you decide how much to give). Proceeds will be used for scholarships for our African friends.

3. Hands for New York – this week's collection: any and all non perishable food items are appreciated.

4. UGANDA PROJECTS UPDATE:

A. 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 for more information.

B. I have three DVD's from last year's Uganda journey. I would be glad to lend them to you.

a. is me teaching a series of lectures on Palestine of Jesus time

b. is Kikyusa graduation

c. is the well project at Kirimandagi

C. An UNUSUAL opportunity: as many of you may know I have written a book for my Ugandan friends. It is a biblical and theological primer that will be translated into Lugandan and will be published in English and Lugandan. My friend, Rev Davis Matovu has written an excellent commentary on the book of Revelation. It is my hope to be able to publish and distribute these books to our Nexus Seminary students for free. However, to publish and print 2000 copies of both volumes is going to cost between \$5000 and \$6000. I am looking for partners. . . . see me if you'd like to help.

15. Sunday is the Super Bowl . . . anyone looking for an additional guest to have watch the big game with them . . .

16. Parking spots on Sunday morning at filling up. If you are here both morning celebrations feel free to park in the parsonage driveway (we can probably fit 5 or 6 more cars over there!).

Some Random Thoughts:

. . . I remember reading a few years ago that the lowest attended Sunday worship services were: the 4th of July weekend and the first Sunday in February. I read that and wracked my brains trying to figure out why the first Sunday in February (it used to be the last Sunday in January) kept everyone away from worship. I thought it was the colder weather weekends but that wasn't the explanation given either. The first Sunday in February is "Super Bowl Sunday". Apparently, even though the game doesn't start until 6:30 p.m. it has become a national holiday, of sorts, and Americans have celebrated by not going to Church. I suggest we break that tradition . . .

. . . hard to imagine I have only been here for 7 months. . .

. . . my blog is getting over 60 hits a day – which means many of you are checking out the commentary and joining in the New Testament discussion . . .

. . . Christ Church is on FACEBOOK – a year ago we didn't even have a web site (I call that progress!).

Have a great week, everyone,

BJ Norrix, missionary, coach, occasional random thinker

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