

**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**Snyder, New York**  
*“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”*  
**UPDATE**  
**March 27, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is [www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com)

Hi Everyone:

First of all thank you to all who have responded on Consecration Sunday. We received 74 pledges for \$170,489 in total commitments. This means that we are about 2/3 of the way. I encourage those of you who have yet to respond to do so at your earliest convenience. **Pledge cards are available at the back of the Sanctuary or through the church office.** It was a great blessing to speak to Christ Church about extravagant generosity and to speak of the biblical teaching on tithing. I was greatly encouraged by your responses and know that God is making a way for us to do great and amazing things together.

Congratulations to Pam Elberson who won 3 ribbons in swimming in the recent Special Olympics (2 firsts and a third!).

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Again, thank you to the Stewardship and Finance team for an excellent Stewardship emphasis month. Special appreciation to Dennis Scaringi (and Elizabeth Holt Curtis) for their gift of music in last Sunday’s postlude. Thank you to Brad Loliger for his Stewardship moment on vision (and to all our presenters). We were 150 in worship Sunday – just about average for the first quarter of the year (an increase of over 15% from last year). Remember to bring your friends and neighbors and whoever else you find to join you in worship this week!

2. This Sunday April 1 is PALM SUNDAY: note changes in the morning worship.

**We will gather in CRAFTS HALL at 9:00 and at 11:00** for the distribution of the Palms and Process into the Sanctuary

This week’s worship will have other special features as well. Come and join us as we walk with Jesus through Holy Week.

3. HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES:

Thursday, April 5 is HOLY THURSDAY – we will gather at 7:00 p.m. to practice servanthood and to observe the Last Supper

Friday, April 6 is GOOD FRIDAY – we will observe the Biblical Stations of the Cross at Noon and again at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 8 is EASTER – festival celebrations of the Resurrection at 9:00 and 11:00

4. At Christ Church this week:

March 27 – Noon the Deborah Circle meets

March 28 – Pastor's Bible Study at 11:00 a.m.

March 30 – "Dance for Memory" Alzheimer's Association Ballroom Dance Performance at Lesson 6:30 to 7:30 Crafts Hall

March 30 – Game Night at 7:30

April 2 – SPRC at 7:00

5. **ISRAEL 2013**: a meeting will be held **this Sunday, April 1, at 12:15 in the Wesley Room** for all who are interested in learning more about touring the Holy Land in 2013. Pastor BJ has brochures available as well. Departure date is January 28, 2013.

6. Christ Church is the host for Family Promise this Friday, March 30. If you can help to prepare and/or serve dinner from 4:30 to 7:00 (or host from 7:00 to 10:00) at the Crossroads Lutheran Church please contact Lee Watson (837-0589) or Peggy Bermudez (626-4897).

7. RED BLAZER VARIETIES of 2012: the Amherst Male Glee Club presents Red Blazer Varieties on Friday and Saturday (March 30 and 31) at 7:30 p.m. and a Saturday matinee at 2:00 in the Amherst Central Theater Auditorium. Tickets are available by calling 875-2958. We have two free tickets left in the church office. See Rachel if interested. The Amherst Male Glee Club frequently rehearses at Christ Church.

8. Eighth Annual Laity Banquet: April 29, 2012 at Samuel's Grande Manor in Williamsville. We will be honoring Richard Mestler, Caller newsletter editor and Christ Church photographer. Cost is \$25 per person. Reserve through the office and make checks payable to UNY Annual Conference. Reservations need to be in by April 10.

9. In our prayers: Carol Gundlach (recovering from surgery); Helen Peacock (surgery Friday); Nicky Sebastiano, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Barbara Carier, Carmen and Alicia Ticconi, Mary Parsons and Ed Maker. Remember also the family and friends of Donald Coovert who died last week.

10. Happy Birthday this week:

March 27 – Matthew Webb

March 28 – Donald Munson

March 29 – Jordan Maliken

March 31 – Jan Rhinehart

11. MAY 20 – ***Make a Difference – Be the Church*** Imagine, every Christ Church member being on mission for God all at the same time! Watch for details.

12. **Talk to the Expert – workshop series returns April 24**

These workshops will feature “end of life issues” and will have experts from Finance, Funeral Homes, Medicaid, Values and thinking about how to honor and remember those who have departed. 5 Tuesdays beginning April 24.

13. THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR: We are currently reading through the Gospel according to John. Read one chapter a day on week days read the whole New Testament in a year. To view Pastor BJ’s comments on today’s chapter visit his blog at <http://www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com>. This week’s readings: March 27 – John 11; March 28 – John 12; March 29 – John 13; March 30 – John 14; April 2 – John 15; April 3 – John 16; April 4 – John 17.

14. The Billy Graham Crusade is coming to Buffalo. Preacher Franklin Graham will be the visiting Evangelist. The event will be September 22 and 23, 2012.

In preparation there are several things Christ Church can connect to:

1. Christian Life and Witness Course: May 7 through 26, 2012. One class per week for three weeks. Watch for registration and location information.

2. A Concert of Prayer with Jim Cymbala will be held March 27 at 7:00 p.m at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church.

Watch for more information . . .

15. MISSION NEWS AND NOTES:

1. Hands for New York – this week’s collection: **April 1 – bring it all!**

**We have provided nearly 5000 meals since July 1!!!!**

The goal is to feed 1million people in 1 year (July to June). If each congregation in Upper New York Conference fed 1050 people we would reach our goal. Christ church will well exceed that goal knowing that some congregations will not be able to feed 1050!

2. UGANDA PROJECTS UPDATE:

A. Dr BJ will be travelling to Uganda to continue his work with the Nexus Seminary this fall (October 1-October 17). The 2012 Uganda team: Rev. B.J. Norrix, Rev. William Mudge (Adirondack District Superintendent), Kathy Weaver (Christ Church), Esther Keeney (of Pulaski) and Rev. Clair Mosher (Erieville and Ononativia United Methodist Churches in Onondaga County) and John Miller of Christ Church. **PLEASE KEEP us all in your prayers.**

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 graduation in the village of Kikyusa.

c. is of the well project at Kirimandagi

3. **Habitat for Humanity:** Christ Church was one of the original Habitat Sponsors in Erie County. We continue our participation in several ways:

a. We contribute \$1000 annually to Habitat

b. We have several women who participate in the WOMEN BUILD

16. ***A Biblical and Theological Primer***, written by Dr. B.J. Norrix is in the translation phase of its publication. This book was written for the Nexus Seminary students in Uganda and will be printed in English and Lugandan. ***I have just learned that I may have a sponsor who will underwrite the entire cost of this project. Watch for more information. AND PRAY! In the mean time . . . there are other projects to sponsor and support!.*** The total cost to publish the first 2000 copies of this book will be around 5-6,000 US dollars. Rev. Davis Matovu has also written a commentary on the Book of Revelation that we will be publishing as well. Total Cost of both projects is 8-10,000.

Biblical Resources in Lugandan are nonexistent. There is a Lugandan translation of the Bible that we provide for our graduates but actual Bible study materials do not exist. This produced the need for more materials. Rev. Matovu and Dr. BJ wrote their documents to respond to this need. We are hoping that these will be the first of many resources developed for the rural pastor in Uganda.

I want to extend an invitation to the Christ Church family to close the season of Lent with focus and energy. The 8 days of Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter) represent the pivotal events in the life of our faith. Jesus' betrayal, crucifixion, death and resurrection are the central elements of the Christian story. Without these 8 days nothing else matters. The great thing, for me, about Holy Week is that the events described happened in a real place with real people in real time. This is not a fantasy or mythical story that may have happened a long time ago in a land far away. This is an historic event that happened in a place you can still visit to people whose historic existence can be documented and it took 8 real earth days to complete. Walking through Holy Week is about walking with Jesus through the valley of his offering so that we can truly appreciate the glory of his victory. Make the time starting Sunday to read the accounts of Holy Week (Mark 14-16; Matthew 26-28; Luke 22-24; John 13-22). Make space this coming week to worship, to listen, to strive to understand the depth and breadth of this core story of our faith. At Christ Church we will hear, experience, taste and see elements of the story as we journey through. This is my first Holy Week and Easter at Christ Church and I am excited about our journey together.

Have a great week,

See you when the Church gathers,

Bjnorrix, pilgrim, coach, missionary