

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”**

**UPDATE
April 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.drjbthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

We had an outstanding Holy Week and Easter. I am deeply grateful to Tammy Mugel and her team for the arrangements for Holy Week (Palms, water, communion, cross, flowers!). I am also deeply grateful to Sally Pollard who walked with me, side by side, through the week. I am profoundly grateful to all of you who gave of their time and energy to participate in this week’s observances and celebrations. Thank you to Elizabeth Holt Curtis, our brass players and the Christ Church Choir! The choir was outstanding. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our songs together on Easter Sunday! Christ is Risen, Indeed (and so is Christ Church!!).

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance for Easter was just short of 250 (45 at 9:00 and 203 at 11:00). We also saw nearly 40 on Holy Thursday and nearly 60 on Good Friday: we put the Holy Thursday/Good Friday observances on the front sign and had many new faces for the Noon gathering on Good Friday (investing in that new sign is drawing folks in!).

The Special Easter Offering for Africa University was: \$1390 (with more coming in).

2. This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Easter (Easter Season is 50 days long). We will be looking at some letters to some churches in Revelation (we begin reading the book of Revelation on Wednesday this week) and will be looking to renew our faith.

3. **KROLICK’s Fish Fry** is Friday, April 13 from 4 to 7 to support the YOUTH MISSION TRIP: Come and enjoy!

4. **THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT:** follow my comments on www.drjbthoughts.blogspot.com. **This week’s readings:** April 10 – John 21; April 11 – Revelation 1; April 12 – Revelation 2; April 13 – Revelation 3; April 16 – Revelation 4; April 17 – Revelation 5; April 18 – Revelation 6.

I will post an “Introduction to Revelation” on the blog later today or early tomorrow.

5. In our Prayers: The Coovert family, Carol Gundlach, Nicky Sebastiano, Tammy Mugal (surgery yesterday), Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Carmen Ticconi, Alicia Ticconi, Helen Peacock, Ed Maker, Jayne Kremzier's mother (in hospice care), Marg Flacklam (at Presbyterian Home in Lockport) remember Sally and Jim Pollard as they travel to Scotland today; pray for families in crisis, those looking for work, and all those who are in harm's way.

Please begin to pray for the United Methodist General Conference which begins meeting in Tampa, Florida later this month. General Conference is the ultimate decision making body of the United Methodist Church. It meets once every 4 years. There are many proposals about reorganization and other structural matters that could impact local churches, there are decisions about mission and direction and there is the quadrennial debate over homosexuality. Pray for the Holy Spirit (and not politics) to prevail. Pray for wisdom and guidance for all delegates and representatives.

6. PLEDGE REPORT: as of Sunday we have received 103 pledges for a total of 207,201 in pledges. **If you have not returned your pledge card please do so at your earliest convenience.** Thank you for your faithfulness and extravagant generosity.

Offering Envelops are now available in the parlor before and after worship on Sunday!

7. Happy Birthday this week:

April 10 – Larry Burdette, Don Critoph
April 11 – Julie Jackson Janecek, Alexia Malpica
April 12 – Mary Jayne Nehrboss
April 13 – Erich Beyer
April 14 – Wendy Johnston
April 15 – Linda Rekate
April 17 – James Luss

8. Happy Anniversary this week:

April 13 – Thomas and Martha Shields

9. The United Methodist MEN'S group will be meeting this Saturday at 10:00 am. At the Church. Bill Bauza will be speaking on "ROCK THE LAKES" a Billy Graham Association Event that will feature Franklin Graham as the principal speaker. All men are welcome: call Chris Klenk for details.

10. Deadline to register for the Niagara Frontier District's Eighth Annual Laity Banquet which is held on April 29 is TODAY:

We will be honoring Richard Mestler – the man behind the camera at Christ Church!
Cost is \$25 per person: checks payable to UNY Annual conference.

11. HAVE YOU NOTICED? We have new kneeling pads in the Sanctuary. These new pads were provided by Memorial Funds in memory of Lucille Cook, Verna (Mickey) Duke and Paul Nachbar – a special dedication will be held on April 22 during the 11 a.m. worship celebration.

12. At Christ Church this week:

TODAY – UMW Board Meeting in Wesley Room at 4:00
Wednesday, April 11 – Pastor's Daytime Bible study at 11:00 (open to all)
Thursday, April 12 – Stewardship and Finance Team at 7:00
Friday, April 13 – KROLICK's Fish Fry to support the Youth mission trip: 4 to 7

Saturday: UMM Meeting at 10:00 – it is also a Habitat Work Day

13. COMING IN MAY (May 20 to be exact) **“Make a Difference – be the Church!”**

We have a dozen projects for Christ Church folks (and friends) to sign up for. Everything from cleaning streets and planting flowers to sewing dresses and serving food and repair jobs. Christ Church will be a collection point for Habitat for Humanity, Shred it, Asbury Shalom Zone and Recycle-A-bicycle. Watch for more information: **Sign up for one of the teams on the clip boards in the parlor at church.**

14. HOLY LAND TOUR 2013: There will be a group going from Christ Church. The tour is 10 days: we spend 3 days in the Galilee in and around the sea; we spend four days in and around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, etc. We will visit Jericho and the Dead Sea and walk the via Dolorosa. We depart on January 28, 2013. If you would like to join us see the Church office or Pastor BJ for brochure and more information. All Inclusive cost is \$2598 (transportation from New York; deluxe hotel accommodations; breakfast and dinner ground transportation, guide, deluxe motor coach and all entrance fees).

15. **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.

April 24 – Financial Legacy Planning with Patrick Allaire

May 1 – Planning Ahead for all the Right Reasons – with Michael Pignatora, Manager of Dengler Roberts Perna Funeral Home

And Jeff Reed, VP, Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

May 8 – Honoring Memories, Celebrating Lives – with Rev. Dr. B.J. Norrix, Christ UMC

May 15 – Overcoming Medicaid Myths with Patrick Allaire and Keith Schottman

May 22 – Values Workshop with a Financial Twist with Patrick Allaire and Keith Schottman

Each workshop will begin at 3:00 p.m. – contact the Church office to register.

16. MISSION NEWS AND NOTES:

1. Hands for New York – this week’s collection: **April 15 – tuna/canned meats.**

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 and John Miller of Christ Church, Esther Keeney (of Pulaski) and Rev. Clair Mosher (Erieville and Ononativia United Methodist Churches in Onondaga County) **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

c. We will be helping with the Restore on “Make a Difference – Be the Church Sunday” on May 20.

17. . ***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. We are planning to distribute the first copies of this book in October 2012. 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. There is a deep need for more and better materials in the native language (Lugandan). 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.

Resurrection Day was glorious in a “Rock-splitting, Stone-rolling” kind of way. It was great to meet so many extended family and friends and to see so many new faces in worship with us at Christ Church. I have felt for many weeks a fresh wind of the Spirit blowing through our ministry and it is truly a blessing to watch, pray and to be a part of it. The heart of the Christian Community is Sunday morning. The heart of the Community cannot stay on Sunday morning but if our worship does not connect people to God and to each other then we are just doing another civic exercise and not fulfilling our primary purpose. Let me put it another way: the goal of any Christian community is to make disciples. Disciples are devoted followers of Jesus Christ who know their gifts and are using them in mission and ministry. In order for us to live out our devotion to Jesus Christ we need to gather in dynamic corporate worship. This corporate worship draws us to God and draws us to each other and then sends us out as Christ followers to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. I was deeply blessed this week – all week, with the focus and intensity of our worship together. I was profoundly blessed to see people simply come in off the street to join us on Good Friday as we walked the stations of the cross. I was excited (to say the least) to see that we topped 200 for the first time in my 9 months at Christ Church. It was a great day: but it cannot stop with an event. Bring your friends and neighbors, bring your family and total strangers, as our community grows the energy in worship and the ability to impact a hurting world increases all the more. I am deeply blessed to be your pastor.

See you when the community gathers,

BJ Norrix, Christ followers, missionary, lead servant for Christ Church