

**Christ United Methodist Church**

**April 21, 2015**

**UPDATE**

**Harlem Road at Saratoga Road  
Amherst, New York**

***“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”***

**EVERYONE is WELCOME**

**SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship**

**10:00 FaithXpress, Soul Strength and Adult Opportunities for Learning**

**11:00 – Traditional Style Worship**

***Why not bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God?***

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: [www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

**Or call us at: 716-839-2460**

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

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Hi Everyone:

I still seem to be in the crazy time between knowing I’m moving, announcing I’m moving, announcing who is replacing me and actually “getting on with it.” You’d think with a job that by definition is itinerant that this moving thing would be routine, but I just don’t seem to get used to it. I know some of you have lived in the same place for 4 or 5 decades and some of you (Roger) moved more in some years than I have in my entire life, so I suspect that my moving adventures are in the middle somewhere. I lived in the same house for my first 18 years. Had the same dorm room for 3 years, moved every year for the next two, lived in the same apartment for 3 years, my first parsonage for 2 years, my second for 4 years, my third for 12 years before we bought our own home and lived there 11 years before coming to Amherst for the last 4 years and now back to that home. So that makes 11 moves in my lifetime (so far). I’m beginning to think the Old Testament statement “my father was a wandering Aramean. . .(Deuteronomy 26:5)” may have applied to United Methodist Clergy – “my pastor is a

wandering Methodist . . .". No matter how many times I move certain things are unchanged. My life revolves around the fixed point of my relationship with Jesus Christ which only grows and deepens over the years. And, quite frankly, home is wherever Karen happens to be.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was just over 100 as we considered what it means to have Jesus as the Gate. He is the way in to comfort and safety. He is also the way out to mission and ministry. The rhythm of coming and going is an essential spiritual rhythm.

2. This Sunday we are in John 8:28. Jesus says "I am the Light of the World." Of course, in other places he tells us "You are the Light of the World." I suspect our light is more like moon light. The moon does not produce light, it only reflects the sun.

3. Wednesday, April 22. Rev. Darryl Barrow (Christ Church's incoming Pastor) will be around for the afternoon and evening for some work in transition. We have scheduled a meet and greet with Church leaders at 6:00p.m. in the Parlor. Feel free to come by and meet Rev. Barrow and begin to get acquainted. Darryl will be meeting with the church staff in the afternoon, getting a tour of the area, and working on transition matters with Pastor BJ.

4. **Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Toronto, Ontario** – Concert is at 7:00 p.m. at CHRIST UMC. They are award-winning and nationally competitive.

This is a FREE Concert (a Free-Will offering will be taken to support the group)

The Choir will also be singing on Sunday at 11:00a.m. at Christ Church.

5. In our Prayers: **Barb Carier** is now home and making progress; **Dave Lawson** following eye surgery; **Sue Estee** is now HOME following her surgery; **Ruth Swenson** (broken shoulder after a fall); Pray for **Todd and Mary Jo Evans** – Todd is now at Beechwood. **Mary Jo is at Blocher Homes**; **Mitch Mooney**, following a recent hospital stay is now at Wesley Rehab; **Glenn Hurst** following a recent hospital stay is due home this week; **Tom Davis** has been at Suburban Hospital; **Laney Fuller** has returned to Asbury Pointe; **Jan Rhinehart** undergoing tests; **Sharon Ferrelli continues** cancer treatments; **Dr. Robert Nachbar** has moved to Blocher Homes; **Dorothy Brown**; **Dona Dalton**; **Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Edmond Wrycza** (Julianna Sabol's father in nursing home in Fort Erie); **Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Fred and Linda Painton, Guy Castellino** (and Guy's mother and father who are both dealing with major health matters); **Bim Rowlands, Nicky Sebastiano, Ruth Kitson, Ruth Luss, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy**. Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign) especially: **Alex Dunbar, Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling** (all serving in the US Navy). Pray for **Christ UMC** in this time of transition. Pray for Pastor BJ and Rev. Darryl Barrow (and all UMC pastors and congregations) in this season of transition. Pray for renewal and a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit!

6. MAY 5 – **Spaghetti Dinner** (spaghetti, meat balls, sauce, garlic bread, salad) for \$10. Serving 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Silent Auction:** 15 baskets to bid on. A woman's fur coat (valued at \$200). A handmade quilt (valued at \$250 - \$300) – all up for bid. Can be viewed in the Church Office. All proceeds benefit the 2015 Uganda Mission Team. Thank you for your support!

7. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IS just 4 weeks from Sunday (**May 17**). **Sign-up Sheets are now posted in the back of the Sanctuary.** There is opportunity for helping with collections, cooking, gardening, cleaning, visiting and many others. It is time to join a team and get ready to go to work. Take time to check out the video from last year's event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8yiUQxxgNc>. **We will gather at 9:00a.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May for a brief worship, commissioning and sending out!**

8. **UGANDA TEAM NOTES:** John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Janelle Martin, Erisawe Briere, Kathryn Weaver and B.J. Norrix will depart for Uganda on Sunday June 28 and will return on Tuesday, July 14.

**FOCUS of Mission:** We will be working with two clinics (at Lusanja and Nabukondo) we will be leading two Nexus graduations (at Rakai and Nakasangola) we will be working on a church building at a school and holding at least one youth rally. We will be dedicating a new well (at Gombe) and a new church at Seeta. There will be time taken to visit the source of the Nile river in Jinja and a Game Preserve near Rakai.

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP: A. – PRAY FOR US** as we prepare, as we travel, as we work and as we return!

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP: B.** Help out at and/or bring friends to the two remaining fund raisers: 1) spaghetti dinner on May 2nd; 2) there is another Ron Corsaro Trio in June.

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP: C.** Collect supplies for us to take with us: 1. **school supplies (pencils, colored pencils, erasers (NO CRAYONS OR PAPER))**; 2. Basic medical supplies (gloves, bandages, etc.); 3. toothbrushes; 4. toys (stickers, small items); 5. Bibles, Bible resources (ask BJ if in doubt); 6. Silent Auction Basket items for May 2.

**We can also use “reader” glasses (1.5 or 2.0 magnification) -frame styles do not matter.**

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP: D.** I am about \$500 short on funds needed to help Rev. Davis Matovu publish his most recent book [A Hermeneutical Bridgeway](#). This book will be of great assistance to our Ugandan Pastors in their interpretative work with the Bible. We have \$2600 in hand for the publication but are in need of about \$500 more. If you can help with any part of this see me (BJ) for more information!

#### 9. THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

Tuesday April 21 2:00p.m. – Pastor BJ at Asbury Pointe

7:30p.m. – Trustees

Wednesday April 22 – 3:00p.m. Staff Meet with new Senior Pastor

6:00p.m. Open reception for Senior Pastor with Church leaders

7:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 23 – 10:00a.m. Bible Study

11:00a.m. Visitation Team

Noon to 4:00p.m. – Dress our People

Friday, April 24 - 7:00p.m. – Game Night

Saturday, April 25 – 7:00p.m.- Bach Youth Chorus Concert

10. Happy Birthday this week:

April 21 – Drew Smith; Courtney Hannon  
April 22 – Chris Klenk  
April 23 – Pamela Gibson  
April 26 – Doris Schanzlin  
April 30 – Karen Bellimer; Benjamin Weaver

11. Happy Anniversary this week

Andrew and Jamie Rapini

12. Through the Bible this year:

April 21 – 1 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 8; Psalm 57; Psalm 48 and Matthew 8  
April 22 – 1 Samuel 25-26; Psalm 63 and Matthew 9  
April 23 – 1 Samuel 27; 1 Chronicles 9; Psalm 141 and Matthew 10  
April 24 – 1 Samuel 28-29; Psalm 109 and Matthew 11  
April 25 – 1 Samuel 30-31; 1 Chronicles 10 and Matthew 12  
April 26 – 2 Samuel 1; Psalm 140 and Matthew 13  
April 27 – 2 Samuel 2; 1 Chronicles 11; Psalm 142 and Matthew 14  
April 28 – 2 Samuel 3; 1 Chronicles 12 and Matthew 15  
April 29 – 2 Samuel 4-5; Psalm 139; Matthew 16  
April 30 – 2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13; Psalm 68 and Matthew 17

HERE'S A WAY TO ENHANCE YOUR BIBLE READING: Try keeping a Journal. Sometimes, when you are reading, something in the reading will speak to you or stand out to you. Take a moment and write down the SCRIPTURE. Then make an OBSERVATION (what spoke to me??). Thirdly, ask "How would I APPLY this to my life. Finally, make what you learned into a PRAYER. This method of Bible reading is called the S.O.A.P. method and allows us to ask "how will I be different because of what I just read?"

**On the First of June**, I will make available copies of our Bible Reading Plan for the rest of the year. You may contact Janelle in the church office or copies will be on the ledge in the back of the Sanctuary

13. Diane Klenk is working with our local Veterans Hospital regarding supplies for the in patient, day programs and homeless. Below are needed items. If you can help see Diane or bring these items to the church and leave them in the container provided in Crafts Hall. Needed items: Socks, underwear, T-shirts (White, L to XXXL, V-neck), towels, Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, disposable razors, mouthwash, nail clippers, body wash, combs, shaving cream, pocket mirrors, chap stick – be sure mouth wash and other items are "Alcohol free"; Gift cards (McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Tops); Patriotic throws or lap blankets, books and audio books, DVDs.

#### 14. COMING SOON

April 25 – The Bach Children’s Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada – in Concert (see more on #23 below)

May 2 – Uganda Team Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction 4-7p.m., cost is \$10

May 17 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!! 9:00a.m. Gathering, out to work and lunch 1-ish.

May 31 – First Responder’s Celebration and Appreciation Day

June ?? – Ron Corsaro Trio at 7:00p.m.

June 14 – Pastor BJ’s last Sunday

June 28 – Uganda Mission Team leaves for Uganda and returns July 14.

July 5 – Rev. Barrow’s first Sunday

15. **ONE FINAL THING:** with my departure in mid June, the 9:00a.m. worship team is without a music leader. The team can provide worship leadership but will need a lead **guitar** or **piano** or **drummer** to hold the music together and to keep the team in focus. I know that many of you play or can play . . . we are praying for you to step up and join us. See BJ for more information.

16. Did I mention: **Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Toronto, Ontario** – Concert is at 7:00 p.m. at CHRIST UMC. They are award winning and nationally competitive.

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#### **Parting Thought**

We are half way through the Easter Season (50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost). We have been looking at how Jesus self-defines in the Gospel. Who do people say Jesus is matters; who do his followers say Jesus is also matters; but what really matters is who Jesus says he is. I find that when we focus on his self-defining statements, we lose a lot of the ambiguity. Jesus is very clear about who he claims to be. He claims to be the Son of God. He claims to be “sent from God”. He claims to be Resurrection, Life, the Way, the Truth and the Life, The Gate, The Bread of Life, the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep, etc. These are profoundly significant claims. Jesus leaves us with some fairly limited choices. He either is all of these things or he is not. We can speculate and we can probably dance around a few of these claims but the bottom line is sharply defined. If Jesus is NOT the Way or the Resurrection or the Bread of Life or the Gate or, for that matter, the Son of God, then we would be best served walking away and finding something else to do with our time. If, however, Jesus is who he claims to be, then our response to that claim is the most important response we will make to anything in our entire lives.

I’ll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, apprentice to Jesus, coach, missionary