

UPDATE

Christ United Methodist Church

April 28, 2015

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

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@CUMCamherst

Hi Everyone:

I don't know about the rest of you but I had a GREAT time with the Bach Chorus from Toronto who spent the weekend with us. The concert on Saturday evening was wonderful, musical, playful and entertaining. Having these wonderful young women with us on Sunday was an added treat as they enhanced our time of worship with several musical selections. Deepest appreciation to Sally Pollard who coordinated, and all of you who housed, fed and transported these young women over the weekend.

They enjoyed their time with us (so they said to me) and, perhaps, in the future will be able to make a return engagement. What a blessing to have young voices enhancing worship with music!

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Worship attendance this past weekend was nearly 150 (it, no doubt, helped to have 30 guests among us from Toronto). Have you thanked an usher lately? Ted Beachley and his team do a great ministry for us every Sunday morning!

2. This Sunday we continue our series on “Who is Jesus (in his own words)?” In John 6 Jesus says “I am the Bread of Life.” What does it mean for Jesus to be identified as the staple of our existence – our very sustenance?

3. **Spaghetti and meatballs and Silent Auction** – to support the UGANDA MISSION TEAM is This Saturday. \$10 gets you food. There will be 15 or more baskets in the auction along with a fur coat (valued at \$200), and a beautiful handmade quilt (valued at \$250 to \$350). Come and enjoy good food and support the team!!

4. In our Prayers: **Ann Burdett** fell and broke a femur requiring surgery on 4/27, she will be moving to rehab later this week; **Sue Estee** is now HOME (and back in worship) 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 home; **Glenn Hurst** following a recent hospital stay is due home this week; **Tom Davis** is now at Elderwood, Room 312-A, 200 Bassett Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221, (and is not doing well); **Laney Fuller** will be staying at Blocher and not returning 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**. Pray also for: **Marion Wenner, Cindy Fisher, and Debbie Suggs**. 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 our time of transition. Pray for Pastor BJ

and Rev. Darryl Barrow (and all UM pastors and congregations) in this season of pastoral transition. Pray for renewal and a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit!

5. 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: PRAY FOR US as we prepare, as we travel, as we work and as we return!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: 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 concert **now scheduled for May 29 here at Christ Church!**

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: 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!

6. A word about giving from our Stewardship and Finance Chair, Brad Loliger: Now you can make ONLINE contributions to Christ Church! You can make a one-time donation, or schedule a recurring electronic contribution. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness, or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an interrupted basis.

Get Started Today!

1. Visit ChristChurchAmherst.org
2. Click on the Donate tab at the top
3. Click on Donate Now button to create an online profile and schedule your recurring contributions.

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7. We are all moved by the recent earthquake in Nepal. Here is a message from our Bishop with instructions on giving through UMCOR. If you wish to make your contribution through Christ Church, just mark the check “Nepal Relief UMCOR” in the memo line and every dollar will go to support the relief efforts.

“Please keep the people in Nepal in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with the aftermath of the earthquake that occurred on April 25. More than 4,000 are dead, more than 6,500 people are injured, and thousands are living in tents as their homes have been destroyed. May the peace and hope of Jesus comfort and protect in these tragic days. We are grateful for the safety of Mark, Deirdre, Zachary and Benjamin Zimmerman. The Zimmermans are connected with the State Street United Methodist Church in Fulton, New York and serve as missionaries in Nepal. We pray for the safety of all of our missionaries serving in this part of the world and the ministries of recovery and relief they now find themselves participating in. [Click here](#) to read a letter from Mark Zimmerman on the General Board of Global Ministries' website.

I invite individuals and congregations of the Upper New York Conference to consider taking a special offering for Nepal earthquake relief. Those funds can be sent to the Upper New York Conference Office, 324 University Ave., 3rd Floor, Syracuse, NY 13210. Envelopes/checks can be marked with "Nepal earthquake relief" and "649."

To make an immediate donation, [click here](#) to give to UMCOR's International Disaster Relief Fund Advance #982450.”

- Bishop Mark J. Webb

8. We have also been deeply concerned about recent events and the rioting in the city of Baltimore, Maryland. Here is a message from our Bishop on that matter:

From the desk of Bishop Mark J. Webb:

Once again, we are witnesses of violent protests in one of America's cities. As followers of Christ, we must stand on the side of justice and continue to offer a voice and solutions that address racism, discrimination and broken systems. We must also offer a voice of peace and a way that seeks the welfare of all, without violence and other behavior that harms, physically, emotionally or spiritually. I urge all United Methodists in Upper New York to join in fervent prayer for the city of Baltimore and the many events that have and are unfolding there.

Let us pray for Baltimore city and Maryland state officials, residents of Baltimore, the family and friends of Freddie Gray, law enforcement officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel. May we pray for the Christian community in Baltimore, including our United Methodist sisters and brothers, who seek to offer the light of Jesus in the midst of chaos and darkness to demonstrate a different way.

As we pray, may we also be a voice in the conversation that does not fuel anger or divide, but offers the clear prophetic promise of hope in Jesus. May we live in such a way and proclaim in such a way that through Jesus our lives and our communities will be transformed and truly become places of God's shalom.

- Bishop Mark J. Webb

9. This Week at Christ Church

Wednesday, April 29 – 11:30a.m. – 1:30p.m. – Northtowns Christian Women's Connection Luncheon

7:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 30 – 10:00a.m. Bible Study

Noon to 4p.m. – Dress our People (Youth Hall)

Friday, May 1 – 10:00a.m. Books We Have Loved

Saturday, May 2 – Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction (Uganda Fundraiser)

4-7p.m. \$10

Monday, May 4 – Sugar and Spice Evening, 7-9 p.m.

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10. Happy Birthday this week:

April 30 – Benjamin Weaver; Karen Bellimer

May 1 – Tom McCray

May 2 – Roger Johnson; Ruth Kitson

May 3 – Margaret Mugal

May 4 – Ruth Swenson

11. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 4 – Greg and Lynn Ramsey

12. SUGAR AND SPICE EVENING

All women are invited to fun and fellowship on Monday, May 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Christ Church. Just in time for Mother's Day, Susan Schauer will be teaching the art of scrapbooking. Create memory pages for special people in your life! If you plan to attend, please call Peggy Bermudez (626-4897).

13. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IS only **3 weeks away!!**

Sign up sheets are in the back of the Sanctuary. Take a look at the projects we have lined up this year and sign up for a team that meets your interests and abilities. Project clipboards are hung on a bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary. Join us as we make a difference together in our community!

14. Through the Bible this year:

April 28 – 2 Samuel 3; 1 Chronicles 12 and Matthew 15

April 29 – 2 Samuel 4-5; Psalm 139 and Matthew 16

April 30 – 2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13; Psalm 68 and Matthew 17

May 1 – 1 Chronicles 14-15; Psalm 132 and Matthew 18

May 2 – 1 Chronicles 16; Psalm 106 and Matthew 19

May 3 – 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17; Psalm 2 and Matthew 20

May 4 – 2 Samuel 8-9; 1 Chronicles 18-19 and Matthew 21

May 5 – 2 Samuel 10; 1 Chronicles 20; Psalm 20 and Matthew 22

May 6 – 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51 and Matthew 23

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

15. 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.

16. COMING SOON

May 2 – Uganda Team Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction: 4-7pm

Cost is \$10

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

May 29 -- Ron Corsaro Trio at 7:00p.m.

May 31 – First Responder’s Celebration and Appreciation Day

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

17. **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.

And, in case I forgot to mention it: **Spaghetti and meatballs and Silent Auction** – to support the UGANDA MISSION TEAM is This Saturday. \$10 gets you food. There will be 15 or more baskets in the auction along with a fur coat (valued at \$200), and a beautiful handmade quilt (valued at \$250 to \$350). Come and enjoy good food and support the team!!

Parting Thought

How quickly things can change. I was reading Dr. Mark Zimmerman's account of being in Kathmandu when the earthquakes hit Nepal. He was in church with his family when the quake hit (his family is fine and the hospital suffered only marginal damage in the quake). I wondered how I would respond to all of the shaking and quaking. I was reading about the "peaceful protest" that was going to be held in Baltimore following the funeral of an African American man who died in police custody and saw how quickly a peaceful protest can become an angry mob (and I wondered about how close to the surface rage lives in me). These rapid changes are not new. Remember the very crowd what was calling out "Hosanna!" on Palm Sunday as Jesus arrives in Jerusalem is calling out "Crucify Him!" just 5 days later. Life can be unpredictable and life has frequent sudden changes. I was meeting with a congregation in Syracuse last night . . . they were quite subdued because a 62 year old member of the church had died quite suddenly earlier in the afternoon. Life has a way of suddenly intervening in our routines and our expectations. A life of faith in Jesus Christ does not protect us from the sudden changes and impact from the world around us. Jesus does not promise us a "safe" life. Jesus does not promise us a "comfortable" life. Preachers who say such things are not telling the truth. Jesus **does** promise us a life with meaning – in all of its phases. We find meaning in rushing to help earthquake victims. We find meaning in working to end systemic racism AND the violent responses. We find meaning in trusting in a God who never leaves nor abandons us regardless of the sudden changes that impact and surround us. One hymn says it best, "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand." Even if the solid bed rock of earth is shaking, even if the solid bed rock of a stable society is being shaken, I stand firm in who I am called to be and from that firm and solid place I work for peace and understanding and justice and mercy and grace.

I'll see you when the Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, coach