

# **UPDATE**

**April 7, 2015**

## **Christ United Methodist Church**

**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**

***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:

We had a great Holy Week and Easter at Christ Church. Deepest appreciation to all who made the week so meaningful. Thank you to Sally Pollard who walked with me each step of the week and put together the prayer stations. Thank you to Janelle Martin for all the extra Holy Week bulletins and arrangements. Thank you Beth Reilly Brown and the Altar Guild for the altar colors and flowers. Thank you

Kevin Durkin and the Choir and the 9:00a.m. worship team for all the great music. Thank you Marg Bauza and her song at 9:00a.m. on Easter. Thank you Sandy Cumming and her Introit Solo. Thank you Julianna Sabol and “I Know that My Redeemer Liveth” at 11:00a.m. Thank you to the Communion stewards and helpers and to Rev. Jim Pollard for serving with me at 11:00a.m. We observed Jesus’ last days and we celebrated the GREAT News of Resurrection Day. Thank you all for making it a most blessed celebration.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. We were about 180 Easter Sunday (plus 32 on Good Friday and 40-something on Holy Thursday). See above for acknowledgements but thank you, everyone, for making it a great time of worship and remembrance together.

2. This Sunday I am beginning a series about who Jesus said he was. Several times in the Gospel he uses the phrase “I am . . .” to help us understand who he is. In the Lazarus story in John 11, Jesus says to Lazarus’ sister Martha, “I am the Resurrection and the Life . . .”

Also this Sunday: **Presentation of Bibles** - This Sunday, April 12, at the 11 am worship celebration, Bibles will be presented to Alex Juergens and Ashley Miller and to the Apprentices - Jamie Bonar, Emily Bonar, Zoe Bonar, Ariana Castellino, Becca Lopez, Ryan Lopez, Jacob Rhinehart.

A “Special Staff Announcement” is scheduled for this Sunday . . .

**\*\*\*\*\* Krolic’s Fish Fry this Friday April 10 at Christ Church to support the Uganda Mission Team. \$12 – from 4 to 7. Take outs available! Bring your friends!**

3. **WE NEED MORE HOST FAMILIES** for The BACH Children’s Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada that is coming to Christ Church. There is a concert Saturday evening, April 25. The concert features singers ages 6 through university age who are divided into three choirs. These award-winning choirs compete internationally; have released 6 CD’s and recorded a song for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics! Mark your calendars – you won’t want to miss this. For more information, **or to host children/adults from the group in your home**, contact Sally Pollard (839-2460).

**4. A request from the family of Dr. Bob Nachbar:** Bob & I have to clear out Dr Nachbar's house next week, from the Wednesday after Easter (Apr 7 to no later than Monday April 13. We have just learned this today. Some of the furniture will be going to a rental unit in Cheektowaga, some things will be picked up by Habitat for Humanity on Thursday....but there are some large heavy things that we really could use some help with. **Would you or the pastor know of any sturdy young fellows home from college next week, who might be willing to pick up a bit of a job helping us move furniture into a truck & then into the storage unit?** Thank you very much if you folks can help out! Sincerely, Elly Finnerty-Nachbar

If you can help with this please call the church office: 839-2460 and we'll put you in touch with Bob's family

5. In our Prayers: **Barb Carier** has been in Suburban Hospital and may have surgery this week; **Dave Lawson** following eye surgery and recovering at home; **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 and will be consulting at Roswell in early April; **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 at Elderwood; **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; **Chuck Gilbert**, following a recent hospital stay; **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 our new Pastor to be named later in this season of transition. Pray for renewal and a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit!

6. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IS just 5 weeks from Sunday (**May 17**). Sign-up sheets are now posted in the back of the Sanctuary. 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 are still looking for a “construction” type project (any ideas???).

**7. We have a donor for the new Snow Blower and the Snow Blower has been ordered and will delivered soon (just in time for a late Spring blizzard??). THANK YOU!!!!**

8. AARP Driver Safety Class: Christ Church will host an AARP Driver Safety Class on Friday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members (paid by cash or check on the day of the training). Lunch will be available for \$5. Register by contacting Janelle at 839-2460 or [cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:cumc350@gmail.com).

9. **Uganda Team Fund Raisers and events** (come and help us out and be part of our Mission!

**We Covet Your Prayers – Become a Uganda Team Prayer Partner as we prepare for our journey, which is 11 weeks away!!**

A. We are selling handmade Ugandan bead necklaces for \$5 each. Contact Janelle (839-2460) for more information. Proceeds support two ministries in Uganda.

**B. Krolic’s Fish Fry – is scheduled for April 10 here at Christ Church –**  
Tickets are \$12 and will be available in advance at the Church

C. We are planning a chicken barbecue/silent auction in early May (watch for more details as the date approaches).

10. Happy Birthday this week:

April 7 – Tom Brunner

April 10 – Larry Burdette; Don Critoph

April 11 – Julie Janecek; Alexia Malpica

April 12 – Mary Jayne Nehrboss

April 14 – Michelle Cordero; Wendy Johnston;

11. No Anniversaries this week.

**\*\*\*\*\* Krolic’s Fish Fry this Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April at Christ Church to support the Uganda Mission Team. \$12 – from 4 to 7. Take outs available! Bring your friends!**

12. Through the Bible in a year; this week's reading. . .

April 7 – 1 Samuel 1-2; Psalm 66 and 2 Corinthians 7

April 8 – 1 Samuel 3-5; Psalm 77 and 2 Corinthians 8

April 9 – 1 Samuel 6-7; Psalm 72 and 2 Corinthians 9

April 10 – 1 Samuel 8-10 and 2 Corinthians 10

April 11 – 1 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 1 and 2 Corinthians 11

April 12 – 1 Samuel 13; 1 Chronicles 2-3 and 2 Corinthians 12

April 13 – 1 Samuel 14; 1 Chronicles 4; 2 Corinthians 13

April 14 – 1 Samuel 15-16; 1 Chronicles 5 and Matthew 1

April 15 – 1 Samuel 17; Psalm 9 and Matthew 2

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. **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:** 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 Seta. 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 three remaining fund raisers: 1) the Krolic's Fish Fry on April 10; 2) a chicken Barbecue on May 2nd; 3) a Ron Corsaro Trio concert in early June.

**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.

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#### 14. MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

**HOUSING FOR THE BACH CHILDREN'S CHOIR WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL – See Sally Pollard for sign up.**

**A. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY** we are beginning to set up projects and mission opportunities for our annual Make a Difference Day the third Sunday of May. Have an idea or a project? Let Janelle know at your earliest convenience. : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8yiUQxxgNc>.

**B. Uganda Bibles:** THANK YOU for some special friends who wrote a check for the Bibles this past week. May God deeply bless your generosity.

#### 15. Coming Soon:

April 10 -- Uganda Team Fish Fry

April 18 – UMW and UMM Meetings

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 Chicken BBQ

May 17 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!!

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.

16. Christ Church's Mission footprint (AKA our "Salt Map"): Peggy Bermudez (and friends) has put together a couple of maps. One is Erie County and the other is the rest of the world. On the map is a representation of the agencies and ministries that the Christ Church community is engaged with around town and around the world. The display is in the Parlor. Take a look and see that Christ Church people are in ministry in a multitude of places and ways!

17. BACH Children's Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada. There is a concert Saturday evening, April 25. The concert features singers ages 6 through university age are divided into three choirs. These award-winning choirs compete nationally; have released 6 CD's and recorded a song for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics! Mark your calendars – you won't want to miss this. For more information, **or to host children/adults from the group in your home**, contact Sally Pollard (839-2460).

18. 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.

19. **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.

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### **Parting Thought**

I love it that Easter is not just a day but a season. Easter Season stretches from Easter Sunday for 50 days (to Pentecost). The amazing power of the resurrection is too important and too central to our faith to only celebrate one Sunday a year. In fact it is too big to limit it to 50 days. An Avery and Marsh song says "every morning is Easter morning from now on!" Which I certainly agree with. As Easter people, as people of the resurrection, we become people of deeply held and amazingly awesome HOPE. At the heart of the Easter message is a message of

salvation, grace and freedom. There is also a message of resurrection power arriving to give us the power to overcome the things that try to hold us down and keep us back. It is the heart and soul of Christianity. The message of Christmas is that God became a human being and lived among us. The Message of the Gospel is that this God Incarnate, Jesus Christ, walked among us, healed the sick, ate with sinners, challenged the religious energy and apathy of his time. The message of Good Friday is that Jesus made his life an offering for the world. The message of Easter gives everything I just wrote substance and meaning. There is no direct power in another dead martyr. There is no direct power in the words of one more itinerant preacher. But there is power, amazing, wonderful, life changing power, in the message of Christ Risen, indeed! I pray and every one of us, young, old and everywhere in between, will embrace this amazing power and live into a whole new reality!

Have a great week,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, Resurrection person!

**Did I mention the fish fry for this Friday at Christ Church? \$12, Krolic's Fish dinner, support Uganda Mission team!!!!**