

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Snyder, New York**

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

**UPDATE April 9, 2013**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship**

**10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL**

**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)  
716-839-2460 | Dr. B.J.’s blog is [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)

Hi Everyone:

I’m getting ready for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand2Plow laity gathering. It is being held on Saturday this week at Camp Asbury. Several of us have been reading a book titled “Experiential Worship” by Bob Rognlien in preparation for this gathering. Bob suggests that worship is a full self experience – that is to say worship is an offering of our heart, soul, mind and strength. Worship should engage our heart our will our bodies our intelligence, in short, our entire selves. This can be difficult. Congregations exist in sub cultures. The small country church may focus on the language of the heart. The urban church may focus more on the body and will. The highly educated suburban congregation may find, over history, that it has a primary focus in matters of the mind – an appeal to intelligence. Rev. Rognlien suggests that these major foci are not the problem. The problem is that we need to offer all of our selves. The emotional worship experience needs to think more. The thinking worship experience needs to feel more. The activist congregation might need to discover a life of prayer. The book has been very helpful. Some of what the author is talking about we are already working on. Other aspects of his book are quite challenging. The bottom line for us to develop authentic worship of God that encourages us to engage at all levels of our being. We have a few extra copies of the book if anyone is interested in taking a look. See me.

Here is what is happening at church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 140. The 9:00 worship team has reconfigured itself (thank you Scott Smith and others) and, we believe, sounds much better with its new arrangement. Thank you, also, to Raphaella who spoke to us about her “African Angels” – Raphaella and her husband are adopting 3 Ugandan orphan siblings. See below for information on the Spaghetti Dinner Christ church is hosting.

2. this Sunday we have two very special treats:

9:00 – Courtney Cataudella will be our guest speaker. Courtney is a student at SUNY Geneseo, a member of Christ Church and a member of a mission team to Nicaragua. She will be telling us about her upcoming mission trip.

A pancake breakfast is being offered to raise support for Courtney following both morning celebrations!

11:00 – Dr. Marvin McMickle, President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York. Dr. McMickle is a nationally known educator and preacher. Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School boasts many distinguished alumni – including Dr. Martin Luther King, two of my covenant brothers (Aaron Bouwens and Bill Mudge) and my wife, Karen Bellimer. Our own Jim Pollard serves on their Board of Trustees.

I was privileged to hear Dr. McMickle preach at Upper New York Annual Conference this past June. He gave the finest ordination sermon I have ever heard. Bring your friends and family and neighbors, etc.

This Sunday **FaithXpress** and Soul Strength – will continue “Easter People” – how the lives of Jesus friends were changed on the day of resurrection and how our lives are changed as well.

The “Going Deeper” group **will not meet** this Sunday evening due to Rock and Roll concert. Group will resume on April 21 at 6:30. We are currently reading and discussing C.S. Lewis’ The Great Divorce.

3. In our Prayers: Doris Schanzlin is now out of ICU and in a regular room at Sisters Hospital on Main Street; Art Gundlach, after a brief hospital stay has been moved to Weinberg Campus room 318 – this is expected to be a permanent placement; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckweth, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Chris Klenk, Rosalie Johnson (Roger Johnson’s mother on hospice care in Atlanta, Georgia); Mark Fisher (son of Ed and Cindy) was diagnosed with a form of throat cancer – prognosis is good but please pray. Pray for those in harm’s way. Pray for families in crisis. Pray for those looking for work.

Say a prayer for Beth Sweet who will be making a “Walk to Emmaus” Weekend at Hamburg UMC this Thursday through Sunday. Walk to Emmaus is a 72 hour spiritual retreat. It is a “short course in Christian living” designed to deepen the spiritual walk and leadership understanding of participants. I made a Walk to Emmaus weekend in 1989 in Canandaigua, New York and highly recommend the experience.

4. AFRICAN ANGELS – Spaghetti Dinner (\$20) fund raiser is at Christ Church on Saturday, April 13 from 4 to 7. Tickets are available at the door. The Lim Marcantonio family asked for our help in raising funds for them to adopt three Ugandan siblings. Total cost of the adoption is close to \$70,000 (they actually have to be in residence in Uganda for an extended time to qualify for the adoption – figure plane tickets, living expenses, legal fees, etc. plus flying the three children back to the US). **To be clear:** the Lim Marcantonio family is also hosting a “wine” sale (\$75 per bottle) each bottle carries a chance to win a 1 carat diamond – the wine/diamond raffle **is not being held on our property** they have made arrangements with the Spa on the corner of Saratoga and Harlem to set up a tent in their parking lot. Alcohol and gambling of any form are not permitted on United Methodist church property. Thank you to all of you who have supported the Lim Marcantonio family in this adventure.

5. **Memorial Service for Betty Penhall** has been scheduled for April 25. There will be calling hours at Amigone Funeral Home (on Kensington) from 4-6 and a memorial service will be held at 6:00 at the funeral home.

6. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday April 9 – 4:00 UMW Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 10 – 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 11 – 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

7:00 – Stewardship and Finance

Saturday, April 13 – 9 to 4 – Hand2Plow training at Camp Asbury

4 to 7 – African Angels Spaghetti Dinner

7. Did you know ***Make a Difference Day is May 19 (only 6 weeks away) – see Sunday bulletin for teams and projects.***

8. This Month's Mission Focus is Journey's End:

**Join us for "A Refugee's Journey"** The Courage of Buffalo's Newest Families on **Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 12:30 pm in Crafts Hall** Journey's End Refugee Services will present a one-hour interactive tour. Learn how Buffalo's emerging refugee communities are rescued, nurtured and empowered and their impact on our city. ***A light lunch will be served.***

9. April 21 at 2:30 there is a Choir/Music Festival at Trinity UMC (on Niagara Falls Blvd.) in support of the Niagara Frontier City Ministries. The Christ Church praise team will be participating. Come and hear choral and contemporary music and support our urban ministries.

10. **Quilting for a Cause**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Sunday is right around the corner! May 19<sup>th</sup> to be exact. Marcia Snyder will be leading a team with the goal of making a quilt for the American Cancer Society (ACS). Do you have any experience quilting or sewing? Then Marcia would love for you to join her team! Recently Christ Church has developed a close relationship with the local office of the ACS, and we are supporting them in their efforts to fight cancer. Marcia will be hosting a special meeting at noon on Sunday, April 7, to go over details regarding this quilting opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia at 741-6901 or [marcia\\_snyder@roadrunner.com](mailto:marcia_snyder@roadrunner.com)

11. Happy Birthday this week

Some how we missed Juliana Sabol on last week's list (Happy Birthday)

April 10 – Larry Burdett; Don Critoph

April 11 – Julie Jackson Janecek; Alexia Malpica;

April 12 -- Mary Jane Nehrboss

April 14 – Wendy Johnston

April 15 – Linda Rekate

April 17 – Jim Luss

12. Through the Bible in a year – this week's readings

April 9 – 1 Samuel 6-7; Psalm 73 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 and 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  
April 16 – 1 Samuel 18; 1 Chronicles 6; Psalm 11 and Matthew 3  
April 17 – 1 Samuel 19; 1 Chronicles 7, Psalm 59 and Matthew 4

### 13. MISSION UPDATES

A. Hands4NY – – People need toiletries and hygiene products – pick some up and bring them in!

B. DRESS OUR PEOPLE -- Dress Our People is currently working on completing 2 projects- cancer caps for Roswell and the American Cancer Society plus pillowcases for the local Ronald McDonald house. Dress Our People has a mailbox outside Sally's office- on the bottom right. If you have completed projects, please place them in the mailbox. There are also some packages of cut out projects in the mailbox- please feel free to take them home to complete! All completed projects should be returned by April 28th. UPDATE: so far we have completed- 32cancer caps and 36 pillow cases- we are well on our way to our goal of 50 each! If you have any questions, please call Molly Butler ([716-204-8993](tel:716-204-8993)) or send an e-mail ([kwmgbutler@gmail.com](mailto:kwmgbutler@gmail.com)).

#### C. CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE MISSIONARIES

1. Courtney Cataudella is returning to project Chacocente in Nicaragua May 17-28 if you would like to support Courtney please mark your gift for her.

**Pancake Brunch to support Courtney is April 14 – Courtney will also be our 9:00 speaker on April 14.**

2. Jessica Lawson is traveling to India to work with children among the “untouchables”. If you would like to support Jessica mark your gift for her.

D. Kathryn Weaver **announced this past week that a single giver has given the funds to cover the balance we will need to dig** a proper bore hole well in NABUKONDO, GOMBA DISTRICT. The name of the overseeing bishop is BISHOP MATTHEW KYAMBADDE. Lack of clean drinking water is one the greatest obstacles to health and wellness in the developing world. The village in question collects rain water in a hole in the ground at the bottom of a hill for its drinking water. Water borne illnesses are nearly universal in the people of this village. Clean drinking water for this village would radically improve the health and well being of the village. Contact Kathy for more information: [kdweaver23@verizon.net](mailto:kdweaver23@verizon.net) or 839- 5918. There are other villages that need wells – watch for further opportunities as we move forward with Nabukondo!

E. Did you know **Make a Difference Day** is only 6 weeks away? Sunday May 19 we will go, gather and do our best to make a difference.

Sign up sheets are now posted in the back of the sanctuary – sign up now!

14. Trustees wish list: Here are some things the Christ Church Board of Trustees is wishing for in 2013. If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

3. Gas Powered Edge Trimmer (**now cared for THANK YOU**)
5. Parking Lot Repaving
6. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank
7. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range

2. Back Yard Deck
4. Lawn mower (so Pastor can mow the lawn)

Again, contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

#### 15. Uganda Mission Team 2013 – coming together

The Uganda Mission team is officially 4 – BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort and Rev. Clair Mosher. There are two others who are contemplating joining us. We are planning to depart November 3/4 and will return November 20/21. Is God calling you to join us? I need to know within the next 3 weeks as travel arrangements are being made.

#### 16. In the Community this month:

A. Amherst Male Glee Club (which rehearses at Christ Church) presents their annual Varieties show on **April 12** at 7:30 and **April 13** at 2:00 and 7:30 at the Amherst Central High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$18 – seniors, students and groups are \$16. Call 875-298 for tickets.

B. April 13: African Angels Event – the Lim-Marcantonio family is trying raise \$35,000 to adopt a family of three Ugandan infants. We can help by attending a spaghetti dinner and basket auction on Saturday, April 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Christ Church. Tickets are \$20 – call 873-8700 to preorder Gluten Free or to go meals. The family will join us this Sunday, April 7, to share a portion of their story.

C. Harlem Kensington Cleveland Community Association meets on Monday April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Harlem Road Community Center.

D. Niagara Frontier City Ministries Benefit Concert – Sunday April 21 at 2:30 at Trinity UMC on the Boulevard

Featuring choirs, and the Christ UMC praise team – offering to benefit City Ministries in the Buffalo area.

#### 17. Coming Soon:

1. Africa Orphans Event on April 13
2. Dr. Marvin McMickle guest preacher on April 14
3. Niagara Frontier City Ministries benefit concert – April 21 at 2:30
4. Women's Spring Weekend Retreat– deadline for registration was April 7 – Cost is \$150. Event is at Camp Asbury. Discover yourself, community and friendship through music, scripture, reflection, games, movies, and more!
5. BE THE CHURCH SUNDAY Let's ***Make a Difference!*** – May 19, 2013
6. Upper New York Annual Conference – May 30 through June 1 in Syracuse
7. Confirmation Sunday is June 9

### Parting Thought

The Going Deeper group is currently reading The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis. This book is not about ending a marriage. The title comes from the older language in the Biblical story of the Rich man and Lazarus (see Luke 16:19ff) that describes an “uncross able gulf” (divorce) between heaven and hell. In this little book we read a parable of group of people from the “grey towns” (aka hell) who take a bus ride to heaven. Everyone on the bus is given the opportunity to stay in heaven and be transformed all they need to do is to let go of the thing or idea or attitude that is keeping them in hell. The issues

range from self righteousness (no need for God's grace I only want what I've earned) to thinking that somehow heaven is a prize to be attained rather than the consequence of a life lived in relationship with God. The premise that Lewis is working with is that the gates of Hell are "locked from the inside." It is the investable conclusion of a lifetime of choices. I have often wondered what are the ideas, concepts, presuppositions, etc. that are keeping me from seeing a new reality? What are the things I desperately cling to that are keeping me from a deeper transformational relationship with my creator through Jesus Christ? If God were to say to me, like he says to the Rich Young Ruler in Luke 18:18ff, you only lack one thing . . . Would I be able to let go of the one thing, the one idea, the one bigotry or world view or material possession that is keeping me from living fully into the Kingdom of God? The book presents such an intriguing challenge along these lines. We meet on Sundays at 6:30 at the Church (resuming April 21) and the group is open to any and all. Not to ruin the end of the story but most of the people get back on the bus and return to hell – the challenge is understanding why.

Be blessed this week!

B.J. Norrix, missionary, bus driver, lead servant

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church. If you do wish to receive this communication please let us know.