

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

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

**UPDATE April 23, 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 had a wild and wonderful Sunday this past week. After two great worship gatherings I got to hear most of the “Journey’s End” presentation then went over to Trinity UMC on the Boulevard for the first half of the District Choir festival (and battle of the bands) then back home for a quick nap and on to the “Going Deeper” group at church. It was a long day but it was also wonderfully uplifting. I am blessed to hear the stories of newly arrived Americans. I am blessed to hear the voices of children and adults lifted up in song. I am blessed to discuss the life we live in the Kingdom of God as we all seek to go deeper in our journey with Christ. I was reminded (for the umpteenth time) that the spiritual journey is directly impacted by where and with whom we spend our time. How are the days of your life being invested?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 130. We heard from two more of our “Make a Difference” groups. The choir was spot on with its tribute to the grieving in Boston and then lifted our hearts with a rousing “Elijah Rock!”
2. This Sunday I am preaching from 1 Kings 19 – after the contest on mount Carmel, Elijah has to flee for his life. He goes from the penthouse of victory to the basement of despair in a few short verses. He moves from hearing the crowds shout “The LORD is God! The LORD is God!” to whining to God about how he was the only one left and everyone was out to take his life as well. Elijah, in this fit of despair, is led to an amazing encounter with God on the same mountain and, perhaps, the same cleft of rock where Moses once hid as God passed by.

23 of our women are on retreat this weekend at Camp Asbury – remember to hold them in your prayers.

3. In our prayers: Mildred Newbold (Sally Pollard’s aunt) died this week with a Saturday funeral in Springville; Art Gundlach broke his leg but is back at the Weinberg campus; Nicky Sebastiano (good to see her in church this past week); Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Chris Klenk, Doris Schanzlin (making progress!); Rosalie Johnson (Roger’s mother in hospice care in Atlanta); Carl Ericson, Gena Magoon; those

looking for work, families in crisis – remember to Pray for Jessica Lawson (heading to India in May) and Courtney Cataudella (heading to Nicaragua in May).

4. **Caroline Hess** is need of some help – she was given a rug (with mat) and needs help getting it installed in her living room. If you can help – see me.

5. **We “knead” your help** – May 5 from 8:30 to Noon our confirmation class – Julie Sciolino and Hannah Smith, will be having a bake and craft sale to provide additional support for Kathy Weaver’s Uganda Water Well Project. The girls and their mentors – Kathy Weaver and Mary Ball – will be making and selling baked goods and homemade coaster sets. The girls will have tables in Crafts Hall and in the front entrance of the church. Please help support their efforts -- \*Gluten free options will be available.

6. **THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER** (Northtowns edition) is underway. Here is a report from the Christ Church representatives: Dede Johnson, Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez – if you wish to help with any of the items below see Dede, Kathy or Peggy!

1) The loose change collection that was suggested we do on Make a difference Sunday. We would like to call it "change" a life and let people know that it would benefit the FJC. We would like to give people time and reminders so they bring their donation on that day. We will also have donation jars at the drop off trucks in the parking lot.

2) The FJC Northtowns group is looking for names of people/companies that we can ask for help with the building project. We need tons of things. For instance, furniture, lamps, carpeting, paint, art work. Also people who can help with carpentry, putting in a new concrete walkway, building the handicap ramp to the back door, making or donating window treatments. If we have anyone in our congregation that can help with or provide possible contacts it would be very helpful.

3) **Volunteer skills forms are available in the Church office.** We need to have interested people fill it out asap and return it so the group knows what kind of volunteer work we can do verses paid contractors and vendors.

4) The FJC is having a fundraising breakfast June 7th 8:00 am to 9:00 am. They will take a free will offering. If we have enough people interested we can arrange for our own sponsorship table.

7. Happy Birthday this week:

April 23 – Pamela Gibson

April 26 – Doris Schanzlin

April 30 – Benjamin Weaver; Karen Bellimer

8. Happy Anniversary this week:

April 26 – Andrew and Jamie Rapini

9. MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 18 from Noon to 2:00 p.m. in Crafts “Fashions in Bloom”. Hosted by Christ Church UMW with narration by Linda Ladowski of T.J. Maxx Tickets are \$15 – all proceeds to go UMW Missions and Ministries. There will be door prizes and drawings.

10. Through the Bible in a Year: check out introductions on [www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com)

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 20-31, 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 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

#### 11. This Week at Christ Church

Wednesday April 24 – Choir rehearsal at 7:30

Thursday April 25 – 10:00 Bible Study

12:15 Mid Years Ministry Board Meeting

6:00 Betty Penhall Funeral at Amigone on Kensington

Friday April 26 through Sunday April 28 – Women's Retreat at Camp Asbury

Friday April 26 – 7:30 Game Night

12. **Make A Difference Day is less than four weeks** (May 19) We will gather at 9:30 for a brief worship time and then disperse to multiple projects around town and Buffalo. Sign Up sheets are in the back of the Sanctuary (or you can call the church office to sign up). At 1:00 we will conclude with a light lunch together.

#### 13. 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)

#### 14. MISSION UPDATES

A. Hands4NY – THIS WEEK – shampoo and conditioner

**B. DRESS OUR PEOPLE** – this just in from Molly Butler -- Please have all completed hats and pillowcases turned in to church by Wednesday, May 1st. On Sunday, May 5th, all the completed projects will be on display and then will be delivered to the programs. Our current counts are: 74 completed pillowcases and 80 completed hats. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project. Once again your generosity of time and talent and other resources helped us exceed our original goal.

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.

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 4 weeks away? Sunday May 19 we will go, gather and do our best to make a difference.

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

15. 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.

### **The new Lawn Tractor was delivered this weekend!**

16. Uganda Mission Team 2013 – coming together

The Uganda Mission team is officially 4 – BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort and Rev. Clair Mosher. There is one other who is 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 2 weeks as travel arrangements are being made and it will cost more later!

17. Coming Soon:

1. 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!

2. **May 11 – United Methodist Men** (men and women) are invited to tour the North Tonawanda History Museum. Admission is \$5 (\$3 for Seniors and Veterans) and the group will walk to a local restaurant for lunch. Contact Bill Bauza for more information at 837-2421.

3. Fashion Show – May 18 from Noon to 2:00 p.m. \$15 admission

4. BE THE CHURCH SUNDAY Let's **Make a Difference!** – May 19, 2013

5. Upper New York Annual Conference – May 30 through June 1 in Syracuse

6. Confirmation Sunday is June 9.

18. AARP Driver Safety Class taught by Jim Pollard is Friday May 10 from 9 to 4 at Christ Church. Cost is \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for non members. Lunch is available for an additional \$5. Call the church office at 839-2460 to register.

### ***Parting Thought:***

I spent all day yesterday at Camp Asbury with a cohort of United Methodist Pastors who are taking the Hand2Plow training. My role in the training is to facilitate the discussion and to help the pastors engage the material. This session was about vision. People use words differently but here is what we understand. The Mission of the Church is unchanged (Make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world). The Vision for a particular congregation is a picture of a preferred future that is born out of the spiritual life of that congregation and lived out in the worshipping, disciple making and missionary work of that congregation. At Christ Church we define our vision as "Living Christ Ways and Exploding in Love and Service!" We make disciples by teaching Christ followers how to live the way of Christ – this is learned through practicing spiritual disciplines – including Bible Study, worship, celebration, prayer, fasting, meditation, etc. When we live this out

in the real world we explode in love and service. I believe the life of the Disciple of Jesus Christ is the ongoing point of contact where heaven and earth collide. Heaven and Earth collided in the person of Jesus Christ. Heaven and Earth continue to collide when Christ' followers live the life he called us to and engage in the mission of transforming the world. That "collision" is see in an explosion of love and service. Our Faith is not complicated: Love God; Love people. Live the way of Christ and get out there and make a difference in the world!

Here's to living the collision of heaven and earth!

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, collision coordinator

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please tell us.

One final note: Thanks to Pastor Nate Lange: there are 10 kinds of people in this world. Those who speak binary and those who don't.