

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

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

UPDATE August 13, 2013

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

FaithXPress/Soul Strength and AOL will resume in September

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

716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

Sally, Rachel and I just returned from the Global Leadership Summit. This annual event is led by the Willow Creek Community Church in the Chicago area and is broadcast live to several dozen locations around the country. There were over 75,000 leaders participating in this event and there will be twice that many more participating around the world in the next few months. Leadership is vital and essential for the health and growth of any human gathering. Leadership is what makes business effective, government efficient and the Church of Jesus Christ the difference maker it needs to be. The better the leader the better the organization can be. I have made it a life goal to strive to become a better leader. To this end I attend the summit and strive to put what I learn into practice; I read and participate in leading the Hand2Plow training; I watch videos and spend time with other leadership practitioners – all with the goal of becoming better and more effective in my own leadership. I’ve learned over the years that to get good at something (at anything) requires intentionality, time, practice and sweat equity. This discipline can be applied to any and every aspect of our lives. Want to be better parents? Want to be better at your work? Want to be better at your golf game? What will you do to intentionally get better, what disciplines do you need to practice and, finally, will you put in the work to get it done. What if we applied the same understanding to our spiritual lives and journey? What if I choose to grow deeper in my faith (intentionality)? What if I invested time, every day, to grow deeper in my relationship with God? What if I applied the spiritual disciplines to my life and myself to making a difference in the world, wherever I happened to be? Wouldn’t that make an enormous difference in our lives, individually, and our lives as a community of Christ?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the low 90’s. Special appreciation to Bill and Marg Bauza for their gift of music and for Marg’s presentation on Habitat for Humanity – “we can be handy or we can buy candy!”

Do you appreciate the projection screens that enhance our worship experience every Sunday? Thank you Keith Suffoletto for your help!

Have you appreciated Joanne Gilbert and Julie Wrisley and their hard work in getting everyone signed up for the new Photo director? THANKS!!

Did you know Jessica Lawson and Courtney Cataudella have been working at Camp Asbury this summer? (yea!!)

2. This Sunday we are at commandment #7. You will not commit adultery. Now we get to some of the fun commandments – murder last week, adultery this week, theft next week. The Old Testament code was simple “do not have sexual relations with someone to whom you are not married”. Jesus challenges us, much as he did last week, to never objectify others and simply see them as the object to feed our desire.

We are celebrating the baptism of **Kara Ashley Panasiewicz** at 11:00

We will also be receiving Kara’s parents: Michelle and Kent Panasiewicz as members of the Christ Church family!

If you are not a member of Christ Church and would like to be please let me know!

3. 4040 Harlem Road property (borders the church to the North) update: The Trustees had an information meeting this past Sunday and here are the updates:

- the sale of the property is going to move fast and the executor is working with us, exclusively, on the purchase

- there will be a Church Conference in September (watch for announcements this will be after worship on a Sunday and there will be at least 2 weeks’ notice)

Purpose of the church conference will be three things: 1) do we make the purchase? 2) if yes to 1) will we assign the Trustees as our “building team”? And 3) if yes to 1) and 2) will we approve the necessary financing to see it through. All Christ Church members will have voice and vote at this meeting.

- short term financing – a member of the congregation has agreed to provide a “Bridge Loan” until a conventional mortgage can be obtained. This loan will allow us to purchase the property in the window available to us.

- The short term plan: is to rent the house until we can finish a capital campaign to pay for the installation of a new parking lot

- The long term plan is to tear the buildings down and put in a new parking lot with sufficient green space.

4. **Office Manager/Ministerial Assistant** position is being posted in local newspapers on THURSDAY. If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying for this position please let me know and send your resume’ to the church office. We are looking for someone who is personable, has excellent administrative skills, has excellent computer skills and is familiar with Word; Excel; Word Press; Quick Books and Microsoft Publisher.

5. In our Prayers: family and friends of David Elberson whose memorial service was celebrated at Christ Church on Monday (August 12); Jim Luss will be home today following the installation of three stents (pray for continued healing); we heard from Shirley Downey’s family this week: Shirley is at the long term care facility at ECMC; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve,, Ruth Kitson, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy; remember those who are looking for work, those who are in crisis and families who are struggling. As always, remember those who may be in harm’s way.

6. UGANDA TEAM FUNDRAISER COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Spaghetti dinner and Silent Auction **Friday September 27th 5-7 pm**

Cost \$10 for adults \$8 for students and seniors Children 5 and under free

Proceeds support our Uganda Mission Team

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Silent auction items are needed! See Kathryn or BJ
Watch for other opportunities to volunteer.

7. **Amherst Cooperative Nursery School:** did you know this is their 75th year? Did you know they have been housed at Christ Church for 50 years this year?

Registration is now fully underway they are registering 2, 3 and 4 year old students for this Fall – they are especially in need of 4 year olds. Call 839-0298 to learn more about ANS or to register a child.

8. **Have you signed up for the 65th anniversary photo directory?** There are still spaces available on August 20 and 21 and September 27 and 28 but they are going fast. We may need to add a 5th photo day to the schedule. Contact the church office 839-3260 or through the web site Christchurchamherst.org to register.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

August 14 – Ronald Corsaro
August 15 – Molly Butler
August 18 – Beverley Hurst
August 20 – Art Gundlach; Gene Kremzier

10. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 15 – Robert and Patricia Loesch (51); Ross and Grace Markello (60!!); Bim and Marion Rowlands (51)
August 16 – Larry and Ann Burdett (55)
August 17 – Ron and Carol Corsaro (54)

11. Through the Bible in a year (the Life Journal schedule)

August 13 – Jeremiah 13-15 and John 15
August 14 – Jeremiah 16-17; Psalm 96 and John 16
August 15 – Jeremiah 18-20; Psalm 93 and John 17
August 16 – 2 Kings 24; Jeremiah 22; Psalm 112 and John 18
August 17 – Jeremiah 23-25 and John 19
August 18 – Jeremiah 26, 35, 36 and John 20
August 19 – Jeremiah 45-47, Psalm 105 and John 21
August 20 – Jeremiah 48-49, Psalm 67 and 1 John 1
August 21 – Jeremiah 21, 24, 27; Psalm 118 and 1 John 2

12. Have you “liked” us on Face book? Christ United Methodist Church Amherst. Or “followed” us on Twitter? @CUMCAMherst.

Pastor BJ’s Facebook page is BJNorrix and his twitter account is @bjnorrix.

13. DRESS OUR PEOPLE (update from Molly Butler): We are all set with fabric and t-shirts for now. Purchased t-shirts need to be turned in by August 15th. We DESPERATELY need people to sew- there are many packages of cut dresses and shorts in the Dress Our People mailbox. Completed items need to be turned in by the end of September.

14. THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (Northtowns) 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) Our "change a life" program continues. Donation jars are located at the back of the sanctuary, in the cafe and in the office. You can help change the life for victims of domestic violence by donating your spare change.

2) The FJC Northtowns group is looking for names of people/companies that can donate new items to help with the building project. 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.

15. Trustee's Wish List – **How do you like the new shutters on the parsonage??**

If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

1. Parking Lot Repaving
2. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank
3. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

Back Yard Deck

Contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

16. CHRIST CHURCH THIS WEEK

Tuesday, August 13 **September Caller Deadline**

UMW Board Meeting at 4:00

Thursday, August 15 – 10:00 Bible Study, Wesley Room

17. COMING SOON

September 8 – Celebration of Children and the Amherst Nursery School's 60th anniversary and 50th anniversary in our Church Building (watch for more)

October 4-6 – MYM annual gathering at Chautauqua

November 3 – Uganda team leaves (returns on the 22nd)

Parting Thought:

One of the Leadership Summit presenters, Dr. Brene' Brown, spoke of the three needs of every human. She said 1) that we all need to be loved. We are hard wired for emotional connection and the affirmation of another. We know that God loves us (and thus everyone is loved) but the reality is that we also need "God with skin on" that human connection is vital for survival, health and growth. She said 2) that we all need to belong. Humans were made to live life in community. As much as we admire the lone and completely self sufficient person the reality is that these individuals are not the norm. We need to belong. Human beings join with others in groups – sometimes not so healthy like gangs – but we all find places to belong. She concluded 3) that we need to be courageous. In order to live life to the fullest and in order to make a difference in the world we need to step out courageously. Courage is not about lacking fear (everyone experiences fear) courage is facing that fear and doing what is right anyway. Dr. Brown's talk touched me on a deep level. I was reminded that I am good at the first two – loving and being loved, joining and making space for others to belong. I am not so good at the third. I know that there are times in my journey when I am a coward, emotionally, relationally, and with my leadership. The key for me, and I should have learned this years and years ago, is that courage grows from my awareness of being loved and from my connections. I lean on the family to which I belong, I lean on my covenant brothers (the famous ABBA), I lean on my co workers in Christ. When I live out of knowing I am loved and knowing I am rooted in deepest belonging, then I can live with courage.

Blessings,

BJ Norrix, pastor, coach, missionary