

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

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

**UPDATE August 20, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

**716-839-2460**

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

Hi Everyone:

There is something about late August that makes we want to go out and buy a new pair of shoes. It may be related to back to school; after all I was 13 years (K-12) in school, four years in college, and three more years in seminary – 20 years of my life “going back” every September. Perhaps it is related to preparations for the changing season – the Erie County Fair is over, Labor Day is upon us – it must be time to prepare for the coming colder seasons. Whatever it is that drives this I succumbed to the desire and went out and bought a new pair of dress shoes yesterday. They are nothing spectacular – no bedazzling, no spangles, no bells or whistles -- just another pair of comfortable black dress shoes. Psychologically, I feel like I have taken an essential next step to being ready for the coming autumn. Emotionally, I feel like I have crossed the border from summer relaxation to “back to school, to work, to whatever.”

I wonder what signals we might need to get back to church. I saw on line that September 15 is national “Back to Church” Sunday – declared, no doubt, by someone who wants to sell us some marketing to promote this concept. I don’t intend to buy the marketing but I do intend to suggest we use the date to encourage folks to come home to Christ Church. Here’s my plan: September 15 is not only “Back to Church” Sunday I also am declaring a “general amnesty” for all wanderers. On September 15 everyone is welcome home and NO ONE will ask “where have you been” and NO ONE will be allowed to say “it is about time”. What we will say is “welcome home.” We are blessed to have you with us. I promise no roofs or walls will collapse when you pass through the doors (grin). My message that morning will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment – “To Tell the Truth”

Here is what is happening in the Church family:

1. Attendance this past Sunday was just over 100. We celebrated the baptism of Kara Ashley Panasiewicz and welcomed Kara’s parents, Michele and Kent Panasiewicz into the membership of our church community: WELCOME!! Thank you Peter Curtis for your gift of music!

Special Kudos to Dave Wolf this week: Between funerals the last three Mondays and the Wedding on Saturday, Dave has been putting in some extra time around here and I wanted to publically express my appreciation to him for all his great set up and cleanup work at Christ Church!

2. Celebrating Weddings this past weekend:

Susan Joyce Schauer and Timothy Charles Hamilton on Friday, August 16.

Christine Lynn Morgante and Eric Paul Dokken on Saturday, August 17.

3. We celebrated the life of Eileen Clift here at Christ Church on Monday morning, August 19. Eileen was 91.

4. This Sunday we are up to Commandment 8 – No Stealing. The Bible teaches that holding property is a good thing. In Ancient Israel the land was divided among the tribes and within the tribes among the families. Markers were set up to indicate the family property borders and it was strictly forbidden to move these marker stones. Ownership was a sign of belonging and having possession of God's gift. In this context stealing or theft was forbidden because it was taking from another something that God had given them. We may need to expand the definition in the modern world.

5. 4040 Harlem Road property (borders the church to the North) update: The Trustees are working to get an independent appraisal:

- 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.

6. Office Manager Office Manager/Ministry Assistant ad is in the 'Bee' last week and this week it reads:

A position is open for a qualified candidate at Christ United Methodist Church in Amherst.

\*The successful candidate must be trustworthy and personable with excellent administrative skills, and able to receive and direct visitors within the church and elsewhere.

\*The job entails answering the phones, providing administrative support for the church staff, coordinating the church's calendar, working closely with the church Treasurer, and digital communications including the website (powered by WordPress), Facebook page, etc.

\*Experience with Word, Excel, QuickBooks, and Publisher is preferred. Interested candidates should send resume' to the church at [cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:cumc350@gmail.com). Questions? Contact 839-2460.

**Do you or someone you know qualify? Please let us know and send in a resume'. We will be scheduling interviews for the week of Labor Day.**

7. In our Prayers this week: Family and friends of David Elberson; family and friends of Eileen Clift; Jim Luss (in church Sunday and doing better); Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy; pray a blessing for Susan and Timothy and for Eric and Christine as they begin married life together; pray for our new Office Manager (and transition); pray for the 4040 property and God's favor on our project; pray for those looking for work; for the Uganda mission team (leaving in 10 weeks); pray for families in crisis; pray for all who are in harm's way.

## 8. 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.

9. **Amherst Cooperative Nursery School:** did you know this is their 75<sup>th</sup> 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.

10. Happy Birthday this week:

August 20—Gene Kremzier

August 21 – Kathy Webb

August 23 – Nancy Hess; Robert Nachbar; Clarence Spitzer

August 24 – Megan Weaver

August 25 – Chris Johnson

August 26 – Jeffrey Gelormini; Marcia Miller

August 27 – Sandy Cumming; Chris Pollard

August 28 – Shaun Carier

August 29 – Heather Loliger

August 30 – John Yungbluth

11. Happy Anniversary this week

August 22 – Brad and Peggy Bermudez (32)

August 23 –Mac and Juliana Sabol (29)

August 24 – Glenn and Beverley Hurst (50!!)

August 26 – Bill and Andrea Kearney (52!)

12. September “Launches”

September 8 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength launch into the fall – consecration of teachers and workers

Celebration of the 50 connection between Christ Church and the Amherst Nursery School

September 9 – “Sugar and Spice” group meets at 7:00 – “Bangles, Baubles and Beads” open for all Women and hosted by the “Circle of Joy!”

September 11 – Choir Rehearsals resume at 7:00

September 15 – Going Deeper resumes on Sunday’s at 6:00

13. Pictorial Directory – first sittings are August 20 and 21 this week. If you have not yet signed up there are September dates available.

14. Through the Bible in a year: This week’s readings – remember to check out

[www.Drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.Drbjthoughts.blogspot.com) for introductions to each book.

August 20 – Jeremiah 48-49; Psalm 67 and 1 John 1

August 21 – Jeremiah 21, 24, 27; Psalm 118 and 1 John 2

August 22 – Jeremiah 28-30 and 1 John 3

August 23 – Jeremiah 31, 32 and 1 John 4

August 24 – Jeremiah 33-34; Psalm 74 and 1 John 5  
August 25 – Jeremiah 37-39; Psalm 79 and 2 John  
August 26 – Jeremiah 50-51 and 3 John  
August 27 – Jeremiah 52; Psalm 143 and 144 and Revelation 1  
August 28 – Ezekiel 1-3 and Revelation 2  
August 29 – Ezekiel 4-7 and Revelation 3  
August 30 – Ezekiel 8-11 and Revelation 4  
August 31 – Ezekiel 12-14 and Revelation 5  
September 1 – Ezekiel 15-16; Psalm 70 and Revelation 6  
September 2 – Ezekiel 17-19 and Revelation 7

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (Northtowns) is underway. Here is a report from the Christ Church representatives: Dede Johnson, Kathy Weaver, and 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.

18. COMING SOON

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

October 4-6 – MYM annual gathering at Chautauqua

November 3 – Uganda team leaves (returns on the 22<sup>nd</sup>)

### ***Parting Thought***

We are sending our young people off to college this week. I know that Drew is off to Ithaca College this week; Hannah Dauria is off to SUNY Cortland; Alicia Bermudez is off to SUNY Stony Brook; Amy Johnston is off to Niagara County; Richard Nicholson is off to University of Dayton; Frank Willhauck is off to D’Youville College and that does not even count the returning college students. This is also the week that new students are arriving from around the State, the Country and the world to UB and Buff State and the myriad of other institutions of higher learning in the greater Buffalo area. For our incoming freshmen this is a monumental transition. It is a quantum change from Senior in High School to freshmen in College. Pray for our young people as they begin this transition.

The reality, of course, is that all of life is in transition. We mark these new beginnings in the lives of our young adults but the reality is that we are all progressing and changing and transitioning all the time. I have come to realize (not too profound here) that there are two constants in the Universe: 1) God never changes – even if our perceptions of God may shift from time to time; and, 2) everything else in the universe is in the state of constant change. Change is inevitable. However, change can mean growth or grief. We choose, like our incoming freshmen, whether to face the new challenges and to grow with and through them or to invest our time mourning what has passed. As a community of Christ followers, the world around us is in a state of constant change. We can mourn the passing of the halcyon days of yore (and some expressed grief is inevitable) or we can look at the world around us and figure out how to best live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus to today's generation.

We wish our young adults well and pray that they find a church home away from home in their time away.

Have a great week,

B.J. Norrix, traveler in time, coach, missionary

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