

**Christ Church Amherst  
Snyder, NY**

*Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service.*

Update - August 27, 2013

Visit our church website at [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org)

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship**

**FaithXPress/SoulStrength and A.O.L. will resume in September**

**11:00am - Traditional Style Worship Celebration**

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

I'm thinking of new beginnings today. It's my son's birthday. Twenty-seven years of having this magnificent human being in my life. Christopher is a math teacher, so I'm also thinking of the beginning of a new school year. In the life of our church there seems to be a constant flow of new beginnings. We celebrate the milestones in people's lives, those mile markers that remind us how God has touched and blessed our lives here...and here...and here...something worth marking, remembering and telling about to others through the years.

Soon we'll celebrate the 65th anniversary of this church, we're celebrating a 50 year partnership with the Amherst Nursery School who is also celebrating 75 years of helping children grow and flourish. This is a goal we have in common, making it appropriate that we share this building space and resources.

Before us is a new opportunity for growth in ministry and outreach to the community as property becomes available next door. Take a moment to pause here and let your mind wander as you consider what might be possible with added space.....

Now let's see what's happening right now.

\*On Sunday 96 people worshiped with us. At the 9am worship celebration The Praise Team brought us into God's presence with singing and playing of instruments and Pastor BJ continued his sermon series on the 10 Commandments, expanding our thinking on ways we may steal that we hadn't considered before. At the 11am worship celebration, Dennis Scaringi offered his gift of a beautiful song called "All That I Am." If you missed this or any of these sermons you can hear them again or for the first time by visiting the church website.

\*BJ is away this week, meeting with his covenant brothers for a couple days, then some vacation time with his family. Don't forget he has a birthday coming up on September 5th...*just sayin'*

\*4040 Harlem Road property (borders the church to the North) update: The Trustees are working to get an independent appraisal. There will be a Church Conference in September, watch for announcements. It will take place after worship on a Sunday and there will be at least 2 weeks' notice. The 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.

In the short term, 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.

\* **Office Manager, Rachel Vaughan will be leaving Christ Church at the end on September. More new beginnings for her and for us!! Interviews will take place next week and we hope to have our new office manager ready to begin at the end of September.**

**You are invited to a party on Sunday, September 29 at 12:30 pm celebrating Rachel's time with us and her upcoming marriage to Stephen Adam. You'll be hearing more about this very soon. Please save the date!**

\* In our prayers this week: Family and friends of David Elberson; family and friends of Eileen Clift; Jim Luss recovering from surgery, Alice Schmidt hospitalized in Florida; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Diane Lovejoy; college students away from home for the first time and those returning, children and teachers returning to school and going for the first time, pray for our new Office Manager (and transition); pray for God's leading in the opportunity before us with the 4040 Harlem Rd. property, pray for those looking for work; for the Uganda mission team (leaving in 9 weeks); pray for families in crisis; pray for all who are in harm's way.

\* UGANDA MISSION 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 Weaver or BJ  
Watch for other opportunities to volunteer.

\* **Amherst Cooperative Nursery School is celebrating 75 years!** Did you know they have been housed at Christ Church for 50 years? *Of course you do! I just told you in paragraph 2!!*

**Join us in worship and celebration on Sunday, September 8 for a "Celebration of Children"**

**Worship at 9 am and 11 am** - including a blessing of children, and at 11 am a renewal of our covenant partnership with ANS.

**At 10 am - Sunday Fun** for children in Crafts Hall; including games, activities and a photo booth!

**At Noon following worship - Sunday Sundaes** - Every celebration needs ice cream!!

\* Happy Birthday this week to:

August 25 – Chris Johnson

August 26 – Jeffrey Gelormini; Marcia Miller

August 27 – Sandy Cumming; Christopher Pollard

August 28 – Shaun Carier

August 29 – Heather Loliger

August 30 – John Yungbluth

\* September 8 – [A.O.L.@CUMC](mailto:A.O.L.@CUMC) - **Adult Opportunities for Learning at Christ Church**

10am - **Exploring the 10 Commandments** - Adults are invited to explore each of the ten commandments further (in addition to Pastor BJ's sermons) in a time of reflection and discussion. Whether you heard the sermons or not, you will be able to enter into the conversation. See Jim Pollard for more information.

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

September 9 – **Safety Policy meeting** for representatives from all groups using the building. 6:00pm

“Sugar and Spice” group meets at 7:00pm – **“Bangles, Baubles and Beads”** led by Marg Bauza. All women are invited, hosted by the “Circle of Joy!”

September 11 – **Choir** Rehearsals resume at 7:00pm

September 15 – **FaithXpress** begins at 10am - For Pre-School through Elementary grades  
**Into The Promised Land**  
**SoulStrength** - begins at 10am - For Middle and High School youth  
**Going Deeper** -evening group for adults - Sunday's at 6:00pm

\* **Pictorial Directory** – If you have not yet signed up to have your photo taken please visit the church website to make an appointment or call the church office. September dates available.

\* 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 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

\* 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.

\* **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.

\* 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.

#### 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)

September 22 - Youth Mission Team report in worship at 9am & 11 am

October 4-6 – MYM annual gathering at Chautauqua

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

There's so much happening in and through Christ Church. I know you'll find a place to connect and to offer your unique gifts to make a difference for others and find meaning for your life. I look forward to seeing you when the church gathers.

With Joy,

Sally

*This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please let us know.*