

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

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

UPDATE August 6, 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:

I just opened a Twitter Account -- @bjnorrix and have been on Facebook for several years. I realize this is not a difficult or monumental achievement but it represents an effort to communicate in the media of the times. I remember writing letters (I had several pen pals when I was an adolescent). I remember the first e-mail offices (I worked at MIT in 1981 and 1982 before serving churches). I had an early cell phone (it was called the brick phone and the company was Cellular One). Each new innovation in communication was another way to be connected, to build connections and, ultimately, to spread the good news of Jesus. Adaptation to changing media has always been a part of the Christian movement. The Church had its story in written form in books. These books and scrolls needed to be copied and the church adapted through monasteries to provide copies in volume. The advent of the Guttenberg’s moveable type printing press found the church leading in the publishing business. When radio was invented the Church sought to use this new media to share the good news. Television saw many early teachers and preachers “on the air.” The internet, Facebook, Twitter and other digital media are no different. When dealing with a new media there is always a dark side. A lot of trash (and pornography) was run on early printing presses. Radio and Television are not exactly lighthouses or moral compasses. The internet can be a very scary place, indeed. In our current world, however, it is where people are, where they connect, where relationships are formed. The church in this environment has to have an “ancient/future” approach. We need to use the new new media to tell an old old story. We need to communicate through whatever forms we can . . . but remember that the heart of the Christian movement is a new community of Christ followers who are learning to live life in grace **together** and living out that life by changing the world. The higher tech the world gets the higher touch the church needs to be.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the low 90’s. Special thanks to Elizabeth Curtis’ friend Bonnie Zimmerman for her gift of song. We say “Thank you” Lisa Lawson for giving a most excellent Children’s moment. We learned what it means to honor our father and mother . . . even if they have been dishonorable. A recording of each Sunday’s sermon is posted on the church’s web site: www.Christchurchamherst.org in case you miss one.
2. This Sunday we are on Commandment #6. The old King James says “Thou Shalt Not Kill.” A more correct translation of the Hebrew would be “You Shall Not Murder.” The bible gives guidelines for taking another

human life in war time and, in the Old Testament, requires capital punishment for certain cases. What is murder? If my desire to save a few dollars causes the working to death of children in an another country . . . is that murder? What about state sponsored murder – is capital punishment in the modern world still allowed? What about abortion? Or killing abortion doctors? Or . . . you get the idea. This is a complex commandment. It was not so in the ancient world and Jesus taught us to not dismiss others or objectify them and to get our anger under control as a way to avoid murder.

Sally Pollard will be back from vacation – it will be good to have her home.

3. **Office Manager/Ministerial Assistant** position is being posted in local newspapers this week. 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.

4. In our prayers: the family and friends of Donald Charvat whose funeral was held on Monday of this week; David Elberson in hospice on Como Park road; Jim Luss is having his heart procedure on August 12; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art (and Carol) Gundlach, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy, and the Maliken family (Gregg's father's memorial service was last Saturday). Pray for those looking for work; for families in crisis and for all who are in harm's way!

5. The Church Office will be closed Thursday and Friday of this week as Sally, Rachel and Pastor BJ attend the Leadership Summit. The Global Leadership Summit is a gathering of 75,000 leaders from around the country (and twice that around the globe) to hear from leadership practitioners from a variety of disciplines. In case of emergency Pastor BJ can be reached at 839-3260.

6. *I sent this last week but wanted us to see it again:* UPDATE ON UGANDA WELL – As I reported earlier the bore hole well in Nabukondo, Gomba District came up dry. Our Uganda partners, knowing the need for clean water in this village, did not allow a dry bore hole to stop the goal of getting clean water to this village. The short form on the project is that our partner, Davis Matovu, working with the drillers and water experts, found a spring near the village, they captured the spring and built a stone barrier around it installed a filtering system and channeled the water through the filtering system into a covered underground tank which will fill over night and will be available to be pumped out every day using a standard hand pump – thus providing the village with filtered and clean water. It didn't work the way we planned. But it worked out in the end. Thank you, all of you, who have been asking about this and for your generous support of these projects. The "Plan 'B'" did not cost anything additional and the labor needed was volunteered from our partners, the drillers and residents of the village. The long term benefit is that our partners in Uganda now are aware of other clean water options beyond the need to dig a bore hole, and, though the bore hole well is still the best long term solution, it is good to know there are other options. We will continue to help where we can.

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. Continue to pray about the 4040 property (to our north on Harlem) as the Trustees explore purchase options on the property. If you are in Real Estate and are willing to prove some informational assistance to our trustees contact Tom Weaver (trweaver23@verizon.net)

9. **THIS SATURDAY:** The United Methodist Men (and women who would like to join them) will be taking a tour of the Graycliff Estate in Derby. Carpool leaves the church at 10:00 and the tour (costs \$15) will begin at 11:30. The group will lunch at Pasquales in Derby after the tour.

10. **No Bible Study** this Thursday as Pastor BJ will be in Syracuse.

11. **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.

12. Happy Birthday this week:

August 5 (we missed this one) – Phyllis Maliken; Erin Johnson

August 6 – James Juergens; Helen Peacock

August 7 – Steven Kraatz

August 10 – Rubin Malpica

August 11 – Jamie Hannon Rapini

August 12 – Susan Terranova

August 14 – Ronald Corsaro

13. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 6 – Jim and Lynne Beller (51)

August 9 – Warren and Donna Hammond (44)

August 11 – Bob and Lorna Norrix (61)

14. Through the Bible in a year reading plan: this week's reading

August 6 – Habakkuk 1-3 and John 8

August 7 – Zephaniah 1-3 and John 9

August 8 – Jeremiah 1, 2 and John 10

August 9 – Jeremiah 3-4 and John 11

August 10 – Jeremiah 5-6 and John 12

August 11 – Jeremiah 7-9 and John 13

August 12 – Jeremiah 10-12 and John 14

August 13 – Jeremiah 13-15 and John 15

August 14 – Jeremiah 16-17; Psalm 96 and John 16

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. 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.

Parting Thought:

I was reminded as I drove home from the gym this morning that today is the 68th anniversary of the dropping of the Atom Bomb on Hiroshima (August 6, 1945). I think I understand the military reasons for doing what we did but there is no doubt that after this date (and 3 days later with the bombing of Nagasaki) the world changed forever. I know from my history lessons that Genghis Kahn, Alexander the Great, even the Babylonians were profoundly destructive forces in the world. These leaders and their armies could absolutely level a city in a matter of days leaving no survivors behind. After August 6, 1945 the leveling and killing of an entire city now can be done in a matter of seconds. It is a scary thought, indeed. But there is a story in Hiroshima that is not often told. We remember the devastation. I remember seeing pictures and hearing stories in grade school. I remember hearing pundits and "experts" speaking of a city that would never rise again. We saw the iconic photographs of the aftermath and the many thousands of people who died from radiation poisoning in the weeks and months that followed. My hope is that you actually caught some of the news footage of the commemoration in Hiroshima today. My hope is that you caught glimpses of modern Hiroshima. The city has been rebuilt; it is, once again, a thriving city with a vibrant and modern population. It is a peculiar "resurrection" story and serves, at least in my thinking, as a constant reminder of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of horror and destruction. I am reminded, as a Christ follower, that we can and do rise above devastation. When we fail, Jesus Christ is there to help us rise again. When we are knocked down, Jesus Christ is there to help us back up again. When we lose, when we fail, and, dare I say it, even when we die – it is never the end of the story. Christ followers are people of unspeakable hope.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, hope extender, missionary