

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”
UPDATE
September 27, 2011

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.
10:00 – FaithXpress, and youth Sunday school and AOL
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!

Hi Everyone:

I caught myself saying the other day that my life “was a bit insane”. Insane? Really? Just because I put 800 miles on my car last weekend, will put another 400+ on my car this next weekend and then October 9 will be adding to my frequent flier miles (several thousand of those) on my way to Uganda, does not mean that my life is insane. A little busy, perhaps, but not insane. Honestly, it is better described as full. What could be a better way to invest one’s self in ministry than celebrating the installation of my best friend as District Superintendent in the Adirondacks (the 800 miles)? What could be finer than teaching new pastors about preaching and leadership and the work of ministry (that is this weekend’s 400 miles as I teach Local Pastor’s Licensing School near Moravia, NY)? And there is nothing better than giving my life in ministry and service to the Ugandan pastors it has been my privilege and joy to work with these past five years. And, in between, I am meeting and greeting and getting to know the community at Christ Church, Snyder. So, it has been a wee bit busy lately, it always settles down and in the quieter times what do we talk about, what do we remember: we remember those wild stretches where God was using, sending, and working through us in powerful ways.

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance this past week was 156 (35 at 9:00 and 121 at 11:00). We were blessed by the choir, by Sally’s leadership, by the praise band, and the marvelous joy of being in community together. I am blessed to report that the Uganda offering is just short of \$4500 (blessed indeed!). Thank you, everyone! I have been deeply touched and blessed by your generosity.

It was nice to greet and welcome Rachel Vaughan as our guest in worship this week. Rachel is our new Office Manager/Ministry Assistant.

2. This Sunday is WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – I am preaching “on the road to Macedonia” from Acts 16:6-15 and we will be celebrating Holy Communion at both morning celebrations, along with some special music. World Communion Sunday came out of the Mission Culture of the 50’s as a way to remember all of our churches and missions around the world as we celebrated Communion together on the same Sunday.

FaithXpress is learning about Jewish Feasts and Festivals – the events Jesus would have participated in with his family. This week is Hanukkah: the festival of lights! Come and see what we are remembering and observing this week!

3. The Final Two “Small Group Meetings with Pastor BJ) are this week. Tuesday with the Markello’s and Thursday with the Bermudez family. The participation and conversations at these gatherings has been exceptional. I am getting to know the Christ Church congregation and I believe you are getting to know me better as well. Thank you to all who hosted, all who attended and special thanks to Peggy Bermudez who organized and coordinated these events.

4. I am very excited to announce that The Children’s Choir from the Humble School in Uganda, East Africa will be performing at Christ Church on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:00. We are going to need drivers (3 minivans); families to host these children and their adult leaders; and a big crowd to support them.

5. For those who haven’t heard, our variance with the town of Amherst regarding our new sign was adjourned this past Tuesday. We will continue the conversation and hope to have the approval by the October meeting. Continue to keep this in your prayers. The new sign will greatly enhance our visibility and help us to more effectively reach out to our neighbors.

6. Bible Study (The book of Acts) resumes this Thursday morning at 10:00 in the Wesley Room. Diane Klenk is home and will resume leading this class.

7. Friday, September 30 – GAME NIGHT! At 7:30 (come join the fun).

8. Saturday, October 1 – Valerian Ruminski Sings Opera, Jazz and Broadway at Christ Church from 7 to 9 p.m. Concert and light refreshments \$15 per person (tickets available at the door). Benefits Christ Church and the Nickel City Opera.

9. Youth Group is serving at Seneca Street UMC from 2 to 5 p.m.

We are collecting coats, boots, hats, mittens for adults and children for the Seneca-Babcock neighborhood. We are gathering through October 30 – see the bins in the front lobby and the café’.

10. In our Prayers: Nicky Sebastiano, Diane Lovejoy, Judy Radel, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray (following surgery), Mary Jane Shanley, Pete Shanley, Rosemary Kochan and family, Erick Schmidt; remember those serving our country, remember families in crisis, remember those who are battling addictions.

Mission Prayers: remember our friends at Seneca Street, Central City and Asbury Shalom Zone
Remember those who are digging out from recent flooding along the US east coast
Pray for Pastor BJ Norrix and his team: Rev. Linda Prell, Rev. Clair Mosher, Ms. Barbara Walter and Ms. Kathy Walter as they prepare to leave October 9 for 2+ weeks in Uganda.

11. AMHERST PLAYERS: are holding auditions for their children’s December Christmas Pageant on Wednesday, October 5 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday October 8 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Christ Church. Children ages 6 and up may audition. For more information contact Valerie at 791-7529. (There will be a performance of this production at Christ Church in December.

12. ZUMBA CLASSES: led by Toni on Monday and Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Hall, downstairs beginning Monday, October 17. Opening Night (October 17) will be free for all who attend! Men, women, bring sneakers, comfortable cloths and water. Limited space, so first come first served.

13. HEALTH AND WELLNESS: **FLU SHOT** clinic on Sunday October 30. See bulletin for more information or contact Goeff Hill at 316-1522.

14. Happy Birthday this week:

October 2 – Carolyn Day, Bradley Loliger, Elleigha Nye

October 4 – Nicholas Darling

15. – There were no Anniversaries on my liste for this coming week.

16. COMING TO CHRIST CHURCH:

HARVEST DINNER – Friday, October 21, 2011 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. – Tickets are \$10 (adults) \$5 (under 10) and under 4 are free.

Watch for sign ups to help. Proceeds benefit United Methodist Women mission projects.

OUTREACH MEDIA SALE – November 2 – bring in books movies, music and electronic games (FAMILY FRIENDLY variety) for this sale.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 – **African Children's Choir from the United Methodist HUMBLE SCHOOL in Uganda**

Will be at Christ Church for an evening Concert beginning at 7:00 p.m.

We will need some drivers, some host families and other assistance. Watch for more information.

The concert will be free (with an offering taken for the choir).

17. MEN: Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference – October 29. Contact Bill Bauza (837-2421) or Tom Nye (648-1850) for more information (or consult your Sunday bulletin).

18. Hands 4 New York – we are collecting non perishable food items all month in October.

Boxes or bags of stuffing mix

Canned cranberry sauce

Canned vegetables (corn, peas or green beans)

Canned fruit

Boxes of brownie mix (no cake mixes please).

19. **UMCOR Hurricane Relief** – this is going to be an ongoing need for a while. Advance #901670 – Hurricanes 2011 is how to label your checks payable to CUMC or go to UMCOR.ORG to contribute directly. I am hearing reports of churches and communities JUST NOW getting back to their facilities and homes to begin the process of digging through the mud and rubble and repairing their lives. Work teams will be needed in the rebuilding phase – watch for more information.

20. We are in need of **Greeters** – visiting a church for the first time can be a very intimidating experience (like walking into someone else's family reunion). The ministry of greeting is an essential "hospitality" ministry. It is not difficult to smile, shake a hand, say welcome and give simple directions. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Pam Lopez at 741-3592 or pamwlopez@hotmail.com.

I am enjoying the variety of worship expressions here at Christ Church. I am deeply in need of having my heart fully engaged in the worship of my Lord (and I get this banging on my guitar and leading worship

with the 9:00 team). I am also deeply in need of engaging my mind in the love of God and find the art of our 11:00 choir and the more cerebral approach of the 11:00 celebration a blessing. This should not be an either or in our lives. The first commandment (as Jesus identifies it) is to love God with our heart, our soul, our mind and our strength. Loving God with our heart could well be a profoundly emotional experience. Loving God with my soul may well touch me at an inexplicable mystical level that leaves me in awe. Loving God with my mind is a challenge to use the good brains he gave me and to work to understand, to develop and to grow in my understanding. Loving God with my strength is showing that love to the "least of these my brothers and sisters (see Matthew 25)". God does not want a part of us, God wants all of us. John Eldredge, in his excellent book Walking With God put it this way: "We see God as a means to an end rather than the end itself – God as an assistant to our life versus God as our life. We don't see the process of our life as coming to the place where we are fully his and he is our all. " I want to see this process. I want to come to the place where heart, soul, mind and strength are united in the love of God for in that place I will not carry God in my pocket for my benefit. Rather, I'll be his and will live for Him.

Have a great week!

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, Amadeus