

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE February 28, 2013

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL

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.drjithoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

Every church has as its core purpose to grow disciples for Jesus Christ. I’ve been having fun with the Hand2Plow training gatherings asking people to define what a disciple is. Generally we get stuck on what disciples do or on some nebulous attitude or belief. But Jesus defined his followers by the fruit they bore in their lives. That is to say the evidence of their discipleship was the natural outgrowth of how they lived. Fruit is not produced by the effort of a plant it comes from the plant staying connected to its source of nutrition, the sunlight, etc. It is another way the Bible reminds us that life is lived from the inside out. As our hearts and minds are transformed by the love and grace of Jesus Christ; as one’s soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit through direct contact and exposure, the values, attitudes, behaviors and produce of one’s life comes in alignment with the values of the reign of God that Jesus so frequently spoke about. I am changed from the inside out. Bearing fruit is not a mechanical process it is an organic process. This stage of lent if find it helpful to ask myself, am I connected, am I being nourished. What kind of fruit am I producing is a direct result of the kind of tree I am becoming.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance was in the 120’s Sunday – not too bad for a cold snowy Sunday at the end of Winter break from school. I wanted to give special appreciation to the 9:00 praise team who

has worked so faithfully and well with me in Bill and Marg's absence. It is a great challenge when the rhythm guitar player is somewhat rhythmically challenged (grin).

2. This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday in Lent. We have part four of the "Committed to Christ" series. It is about telling our story. Every Christ follower has a story to tell. It is the story found at the intersection of our story with the story of the Christ. It is the story that comes as the answer to the question: "why are you a Christian?" or "Why are you a Christ follower?"

This Sunday is a Communion Sunday. The Israel travelers will present a gift to the Christ Church community.

This is also "One Great Hour of Sharing" which supports the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Our offering this week pays for UMCOR's overhead so that all emergency disaster relief funds can go directly to their designated cause.

This Sunday at 11:15 (following the children's moment in worship) the new children's choir will begin with Valerie Suffoletto in the Music Room

FaithXpress is "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus". Children and youth will be exploring the stories of Jesus, learning about the places where Jesus' ministry took place, experiencing some of the culture of Bible times, and discovering the meaning Jesus' earthly life has for our lives.

AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning) is exploring the same themes on Sunday morning in the Wesley room and on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 in the Lenten supper and study series. Come for all or any portion of the study.

3. This Monday begins the "Women, Money, & Power" Workshops. March 4, 11,18 and 25 at 6:50 p.m. in the Café. 90% of ALL women will be solely responsible for their finances at some point in their lives. This event is co sponsored by Christ Church and Allaire Financial Strategies to help YOU understand who you are financially, take control of your financial future, achieve financial goals, and BE PROACTIVE. Call the Church office 839-2460 to register. There is a recommended \$10 registration fee. If you have questions contact Sally at sipjoy@aol.com or call the church office. Advance registration is strongly recommended.

4. Friday, March 1, is WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – the Amherst Community Church is hosting this year's gathering. The service was written by the women of France. Contact Peggy Bermudez for more information.

5. Friday, March 1 is BOOKS LOVED – book group at 10:00 a.m. in the Wesley Room.

6. This Sunday evening at 6:00 the "Going Deeper" Group would like to invite any and all to join us. We will have a light supper, view a video, discussion and explore options for future "in depth" opportunities. Contact Pastor BJ for more information.

7. In our prayers: Shirley Downey has been moved to rehab at ECMC; Jean DiDomenico is now in a hospice room at Kenmore Mercy; Tom Brunner continues to recover at home following surgery; Nicky Sebastiano, Jim Luss, Barbara Carier, Bim Rowlands, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckwith, Mitch Mooney, Diane Lovejoy – remember those looking for work, those who are in harm's way and families (and individuals) in crisis.

8. Through the Bible in a Year: This week's readings:

February 28 – Numbers 24-27 and 1 Corinthians 13

March 1 – Numbers 28-29 and Mark 8

March 2 – Numbers 30-31 and Mark 9

March 3 – Numbers 32-33 and Mark 10

March 4 – Numbers 34-36 and Mark 11

March 5 – Deuteronomy 1-2 and Mark 12

March 6 – Deuteronomy 3-4, Psalm 36 and Mark 13

March 7 – Deuteronomy 5-6, Psalm 43 and Mark 14

March 8 – Deuteronomy 7-9 and Mark 15

March 9 – Deuteronomy 10-12 and Mark 16

I will be posting some updates on my blog (www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com) later today on the introductions to Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

February 28 – Ashton Hannon

March 1 – Marcia Snyder

March 2 – Gregory Yungbluth

March 5 – Clem Arrison

March 6 – Elizabeth Holt Curtis

March 7 – Gregory Watson

10. MARY TRAVERS MURPHY – Executive Director of the Family Justice Center will be meeting with our United Methodist Women on Saturday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served for \$5.00. Everyone is welcome – call Nancy Hess at 633-3546 to reserve a place.

11. Also on March 9 – the United Methodist Men will be visiting the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. Carpool meets at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Admission is \$12 (\$8 for seniors) and they will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant following the gallery.

12. MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

1. Courtney Cataudella sent me this note this week: "I am planning another trip to Nicaragua for fellow Christian college students through Project Chacocente. We leave on May 17th and will be there until May 28th." Courtney has made this journey before and is seeking help from her home congregation (that would be us). We are planning a "fund raiser" event

for late April (watch for details) to support Courtney. If you wish to directly support her send your checks to Christ Church Marked "Courtney/Nicaragua".

2. Hands4NY – March 3 – canned fruit and vegetables; March 10 – canned/boxed meals; March 17 – Peanut butter and jelly

3. Kathryn Weaver is raising support to have a proper bore hole well dug in a village in the Gombe district of Uganda. . . lack clean drinking water is one the greatest obstacles to health and wellness in the developing world. The village in question collects rain water in a hole in the ground at the bottom of a hill for its drinking water. Water borne illnesses are nearly universal in the people of this village. Clean drinking water for this village would radically improve the health and well being of the village. Contact Kathy for more information: kdweaver23@verizon.net or 839- 5918.

4. Dress our People "Sewing Bee" drew a good crowd on February 3 – see Molly Butler (kwmgbutler@gmail.com) or 531-4209 for how you can help

5. THANK YOU to all who are supporting our Ugandan Orphans through the Blessed Junior School in Kirimandagi. The funds for this project will be sent to Pastors Grace and Owar Naphtal very soon.

13. Coming in March

March 4 (11, 18, 25) – Women, Money and Power Workshops at 6:50

March 16 – Lions Club Pancake Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 1:00

March 17 – Consecration SUNDAY – what will you do to support the work of Christ through Christ Church?

March 22 – Krolick's Fish Fry 4 to 7 (support our Youth Missions)

14. **HOLY WEEK Services and Observances** – Holy Week is the central pivot of the Christian Story. Make space to remember!

Sunday March 24 – PALM SUNDAY – procession and Passion week observance at 9:00 and 11:00

Thursday March 28 – HOLY THURSDAY – worship with Holy Communion at 7:00

Friday March 29 – GOOD FRIDAY – Noon and 7:00 observances

Sunday March 31 – EASTER/RESURRECTION DAY celebrations at 9:00 and 11:00

15. Trustees wish list: Here are some things the Christ Church Board of Trustees is wishing for in 2013. If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

3. Gas Powered Edge Trimmer

4. Multi-Ladder (currently borrowing Dave Wolf's ladder) **cared for (thank you)**

5. Parking Lot Repaving

6. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank

7. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range

2. Back Yard Deck

4. Lawn mower (so Pastor can mow the lawn)

Again, contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

Parting Thought

As I am preparing for this Sunday's message about "Telling your Story" I am reminded that everyone has a faith story to tell. At some point on this journey of faith we made a choice. For some of us this choice was made calmly and quietly and for others it was more dramatic and noisy. The intensity of the experience is not relevant. What is relevant is the difference Jesus has made in our lives. What difference has that made for you? I would like to know. For some of my friends the answer to that question is about radical change: Jesus helped me kick drugs or alcohol; Jesus helped save my marriage; without Jesus I would not be here today. For other of my friends the answer has to do with hope and direction: Jesus is the reason I try to make a difference in the world; Jesus is the center of my being; Jesus is my core philosophy and my reason for living. Regardless of the tag line every one of us who claim to be Christ followers (Christian) have a story to tell. It probably doesn't help that some people feel a need to condemn others with their version of the story; and it probably doesn't help that some people seem compelled to think that everyone should have the exact same experience in the exact same way. In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells his followers on Ascension Day that they are to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Notice we are told to be witnesses, not, as one friend of my likes to put it, prosecuting attorneys. The role of the witness is simply to tell the story – what did you see and hear, what was your experience. In that sense all of us can witness to our faith. When asked we tell why we are who we are and why we live the lives we live.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, Christ's witness

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