

Christ United Methodist Church

UPDATE

February 10, 2015

Harlem Road at Saratoga Road

Amherst, New York

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

EVERYONE is WELCOME

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 FaithXpress, Soul Strength and Adult Opportunities for Learning

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

Or call us at: [716-839-2460](tel:716-839-2460)

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

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Hi Everyone:

It was a great blessing to celebrate Dorothy Hanson Brown's 100th birthday this past Sunday at Church. Dorothy is a poet, a singer, a church leader (and so much more) and has touched the lives of many throughout her journey. She has been and will be a great blessing to the Christ Church family. Saying, "Happy Birthday" seems pretty paltry a greeting to such a great friend and servant of Christ but "Happy Birthday" it is. Happy Birthday, Dorothy, we thank God for the gift of you.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the 115 range – will it EVER stop snowing?? Thank you to Sally Pollard and friends for setting up Dorothy's post-worship gathering.

2. This Sunday is part 7 of my series through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). This week we look at the second half of Chapter 6. The first half is a discussion of the spiritual life, the second half a description of the consequences of that life. When we draw near to God and learn to trust God we leave the fears and worries of this life behind.

DID YOU KNOW? That every Sunday sermon is recorded and is available for listening or down load through the Church's web site: www.christchurchamherst.org. Click on worship then sermons. They are listed in chronological order and by title.

3. THANK YOU from the Uganda Team. Thank you to all of you who helped, who ate, and who gave to support our upcoming mission journey to Uganda, East Africa. We made over \$900 at the event! Watch for more information on a possible Fish Fry in late March and a Chicken BBQ for early May – details pending! THANK YOU.

4. WEDNESDAY – February 18 is ASH WEDNESDAY

We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00p.m. (with the imposition of ashes). The symbol of using ashes (or dust) as a symbol of repentance dates back to Old Testament times. The ashes are used to call us to begin again and to take a

deep look at our spiritual lives and the consequences of our lives as we enter the season of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY also marks the beginning of:

Lenten Supper & Study - 5:30 to 7 pm - Dinner in the Café followed by discussion in the Parlor using the book, **Mosaic: When God Uses All The Pieces**. David Pliss, DMin, is the facilitator. Books are now available from Sally Pollard.

5. In our Prayers: Pray for spiritual renewal in our midst that would draw people to Jesus; Pray for Sue and Harley Estee undergoing radiation treatments; Jan Rhinehart undergoing tests; Sharon Ferrelli cancer surgery on February 13; Dr. Robert Nachbar is now at Wesley Rehab. Mail can be sent to: Room 710, Wesley Rehab at Beechwood Homes, 2235 Millersport Highway, Getzville, 14068; Mac Sabol is making progress and is now back to work; Dorothy Brown; Dona Dalton; Brian Martin - recently lost his job (He has passed 100 days since his transplant – continued prayers for healthy markers); Glenn Hurst, Edmond Wrycza (Julianna Sabol's father in nursing home in Fort Erie); Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Tom Davis, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino (and Guy's mother and father who are both dealing with major health matters); Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Nicky Sebastiano, Marion Steve, Ruth Kitson, Ruth Luss, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy; and all those who are dealing with colds, flu and bronchitis. Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign) especially: Alex Dunbar, Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling (all serving in the US Navy). Pray for the members of our congregation who are headed south for some winter reprieve.

Please keep the Rhinehart family in your prayers following the death of Woody's brother a few weeks back.

Please keep our friends and missionaries Mark and Diane Abbott in your prayers. Diane's mother died a few weeks ago. Here is the current info for the Abbotts if anyone would like to send a card or give them a call:

Mark & Diane Abbott
7549 Roselake Drive
Dayton, OH 45414

Cell: [937.479.9395](tel:937.479.9395) (Mark)
[937.479.9372](tel:937.479.9372) (Diane)

6. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, February 10 – Stewardship and Finance at 7:00p.m.

Wednesday, February 11 – Church Choir Rehearsal at 7:30p.m.

Thursday, February 12 – 10:00a.m. Bible Study

7:00p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee

NOTE NEW MEETING TIME

Friday, February 13 – Caller Deadline

Monday, February 16 – President's Day (Office Closed)

Tuesday, February 17 – 2:00p.m. – Pastor BJ at Asbury Pointe

7:30p.m. Trustees meet

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday

5:30p.m. – Study Gathers

7:00p.m. – Service

7:30p.m. – Choir rehearsal

7. This Sunday is BLANKET SUNDAY – Contributions to Church World Service Blankets means we will be ready to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement, and to build viable and sustainable lives and communities. Plan to make a contribution this Sunday using the envelopes provided.

8. Sunday February 22 – Blood Pressure Screening – Nurses will be available in the Library and Wesley Room to check your blood pressure.

9. DIANE LOVEJOY – Diane is having her 62nd birthday on Friday, February 13. She is hoping to receive 62 birthday cards. Send Cards to Diane Lovejoy c/o Turtle Creek Apartments, 2370 N. Forest road. Apt. #217, Getzville, NY 14068. She has some items for sale and will be holding an open house in the 13th from 1-3 p.m. if you'd like to stop by.

10. FOOD PANTRY – This week we are collecting: Baby Items, Food (boxed), Formula and Diapers

11. Happy Birthday this week:

February 11 – Jayne Kremzier

February 12 – Beth Sweet

February 13 – Diane Lovejoy

February 14 – Peter Shanley, Olivia Smith

February 15 – Marilyn Welker

12. There are no anniversaries listed for this week.

13. Through the Bible this week's readings:

February 10 – Leviticus 13-14 and Acts 17

February 11 – Leviticus 15-17 and Acts 18

February 12 – Leviticus 18-19; Psalm 13 and Acts 19

February 13 – Leviticus 20-22 and Acts 20

February 14 – Leviticus 23-24; Psalm 24 and Acts 21

February 15 – Leviticus 25; Psalm 25-26 and Acts 22

February 16 – Leviticus 26-27 and Acts 23

February 17 – Numbers 1-2 and Acts 24

February 18 – Numbers 3-4 and Acts 25

HERE'S A WAY TO ENHANCE YOUR BIBLE READING; Try keeping a Journal.

Sometimes when you are reading something in the reading will speak to you or stand out to you. Take a moment and write it down the SCRIPTURE. Then make an OBSERVATION (what spoke to me??). Thirdly, ask "How would I APPLY this to my life. Finally, make what you learned into a PRAYER. This method of bible reading is called the S.O.A.P. method and allows us to ask "how will I be different because of what I just read?"

14. MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Uganda 2015 – The team is set. Dr. BJ Norrix will be leading a team of 8: John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Kathryn Weaver, Janelle Martin, and Erisawe Briere. We will be travelling to Uganda for 2 weeks the end of June/July 2015. Your prayers are desired and appreciated. They will be visiting schools, presiding at Nexus graduations, dedicating water projects and a church, visiting an animal preserve, working in a health clinic and on a school and much, much more.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY - We are beginning to set up projects and mission opportunities for our annual Make a Difference Day the third Sunday of May. Have an idea or a project? Let us know.

Anderson's Coupon Books – Uganda team is selling these books for \$4. They contain over \$60 worth of coupons and all proceeds benefit the Uganda 2015 trip. They are also selling handmade Ugandan bead necklaces for \$5 each. Contact Janelle (839-2460) for more information.

15. A new **prayer group** is forming. The group will come together to learn to pray and to specifically pray for the ministry of Christ Church and where God is calling us to be in the future. Is God calling you to be a part of this? Contact Pastor BJ.

16. COMING SOON

February 18 – Ash Wednesday – 5:30p.m. Lenten Group with Dr. Pliss followed by 7:00 worship

February 26 – Discussion/Action Group at 7:00p.m.

March 13 – Ron Corsaro and friends in concert, Crafts Hall Coffee House (bistro?) watch for more information

March 27 – Uganda Team Fish Fry

March 29 – Palm Sunday

April 2 – Holy Thursday

April 3 – Good Friday

April 5 – EASTER – RESURRECTION DAY!!!

May 2 – Uganda Chicken BBQ

May 17 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!!

17. Christ Church's Mission footprint (AKA our "Salt Map"): Peggy Bermudez (and friends) has put together a couple of maps. One is Erie County and the other is the rest of the world. On the map is a representation of the agencies and ministries that the Christ Church community is engaged with around town and around the world. The display is in the Parlor. Take a look and see that Christ Church people are in ministry in a multitude of places and ways!

18. THAT DISCIPLE I Class – will officially begin meeting on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 at 7:00. This is still an open group. Disciple is an in depth Bible survey course. Haven't you always wanted to learn your way around the Bible, understand its central themes, and, thereby deepen your relationship with God? Here is your chance. Contact Jim Pollard, Pastor BJ or Sally Pollard for more information.

Parting Thought

“Christ-centered piety must always be from the heart and unto the Lord. It is not for the benefit of appearance. It is not to impress people. It is not to impress even God. It is a matter of an honest and transparent heart standing before God and simply calling out, ‘Just as I am without one plea.’ . . . piety, broadly conceived, one lives as a disciple of Jesus and discipleship is, of course, a process of learning and growth. . . . To be a disciple is to be an apprentice or student of Jesus in Kingdom living.” (Dallas Willard, The Great Omission, page 165,166).

I’ve always been puzzled that the season of Lent, a season set aside to practice piety and to go deeper in our relationship with God, always begins, on Ash Wednesday, with a warning about practicing piety (see Matthew 6). Now, to be sure, pious acts: prayer, fasting, solitude, meditation, worship, confession, etc. are necessary tools to help us become more open to the presence of God; so why begin with a warning? The warning gets at the question of why practice piety. Why indeed. If we do what we do so that others will think highly of us (or think of us at all) then we end up with the rather base and transient prize of being seen. Instead, the spiritual disciplines (aka pious acts), are intended to help us sharpen our focus and awareness and to create space in our lives, our hearts, our minds for the presence of God. To that end, engaging in pious activity leads us to an entirely new way of living, loving and being. Or, as Dr. Willard says above, we become apprentices or students of Jesus in Kingdom living.

I’ll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, piety practitioner.