

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

UPDATE February 19, 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.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

Beginning the season of Lent is always something of an adventure. I am reminded that it is a time of self denial and renewed spiritual focus. In our profoundly self indulgent culture, Lent feels counter cultural to me. To be honest, I believe the whole message of the Gospel to be counter cultural. The world teaches us that the key to self fulfillment is to grab more than everyone else and always get your way. The Gospel reminds us that the key to self fulfillment is self denial and faithful service. This is a season to say “no” to otherwise permitted things so that we can more easily say “yes” to God. When I deny myself some indulgence I am reminded that the point of the denial is not random but is intended to remind me of the sacrifice Jesus made for me and to help me focus on my relationship with Jesus, others and myself. Make this a good Lent. Step away. Try fasting. One can fast from all kinds of permitted behaviors. One can give up favorite foods or beverages. One could fast from the media (turn the TV off for a day or two or a week) or from the internet or from movies. But denying myself is only part of the Gospel’s road to self fulfillment. I also need to serve. Here are the critical service questions: What can I do to help someone else today? What can I do to encourage someone? What can I do to give someone a hand up? What can I do to reconcile with someone with whom I am broken. This is the Lenten adventure.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 125. Special appreciation to our snow removers, our musicians, our ushers and greeters and to all who make Sunday’s at Christ Church so meaningful!

I had a great time showing pictures other and artifacts to the children this past Sunday in FaithXpress.

2. **DONALD MUNSON's** Memorial Service will be the **Thursday, February 21 at 1:00 p.m.** at Christ Church. Don's obituary is in today's newspaper. Don died Monday morning (the 18th).

We need cookies and other goodies for the post funeral gathering. If you can help see **Sally** or call the church at 839-2460.

Please keep Ruth and their family in your prayers.

3. This Sunday is part three of "Committed to Christ". I will be talking about Worship. See Isaiah 6 and Ephesians 5:15-20.

FaithXpress and AOL continue their series: "In the footsteps of Jesus"

4. The Sunday evening "Going Deeper" group invites everyone to a gathering on **Sunday March 3 at 6:00**. We will enjoy a light supper watch and discuss a video and explore options for future gatherings. All are welcome! See BJ for details.

5. WEDNESDAY, February 20 – the Lenten Supper and Discussion begins at 5:00. The discussion centers around "In the Footsteps of Jesus" by Adam Hamilton. There is a video presentation and then discussion led by our recent travelers to the Holy Land. All are welcome.

6. In our Prayers: Family and Friends of Donald Munson; Jean DeDomenico is back at Kenmore Mercy Hospital; Shirley Downey is at ECMC following a fall that broke both her hips; Barb Carier continues to recover at home from viral meningitis; Tom Brunner is now home following his surgery; Jim Luss is home following heart catheterization last Thursday morning; Diane Lovejoy is recovering from rotator cuff surgery; Our prayers are also requested for Nicky Sebastiano, Bim Rowlands, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckwith, Mitch Mooney, Bill Bauza has concluded his treatments (and is now off to Florida with Marg for a break) – remember those looking for work, families in crisis, and all in harm's way.

7. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, February 19 – Christian Education Team at 7:00

Wednesday, February 20 – Lenten Supper and Study at 5:00

Choir Rehearsal at 7:30

Thursday, February 21 – Bible Study at 10:00

Donald Munson Memorial Service at 1:00

Outreach Team meets at 7:00

Friday, February 22 – Game Night at 7:30 in Wesley Room

Youth Group begins 30 hour famine

8. Through the Bible in a Year: see occasional comments on my blog:

www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

This week's readings:

February 19 – Numbers 5,6; Psalm 22; Acts 26

February 20 – Numbers 7; Psalm 23; Acts 27

February 21 – Numbers 8, 9; Acts 28

February 22 – Numbers 10, 11; Psalm 27 and Mark 1

February 23 – Numbers 12, 13; Psalm 90 and Mark 2

February 24 – Numbers 14 – 16; and Mark 3

February 25 – Numbers 17, 18; Psalm 29 and Mark 4

February 26 – Numbers 19, 20; Psalm 28 and Mark 5

February 27 – Numbers 21-23; Mark 6-7

February 28 – Numbers 24-27; 1 Corinthians 13

9. Happy Birthday this week:

February 20: Ben Bermudez

February 21: Matthew Ronan

February 23: Abigail Johnson

February 25: Viki Smith

February 26: Caroline Hess

February 27: Jan Beckwith; Michele Sciolino

February 28: Ashton Hannon

10. 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 – This week's food collection is beans and rice.

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.

11. **Women, Money and Power begins March 4, 2013**

Four workshops – March 4, 11, 18, 25 at Christ Church: Do you feel certain about your financial future? Wondering where to start or where to go from here? 90% of ALL women will be solely responsible for their finances at some point in their lives.

Call the Church at 839-2460 to register. \$10 per class (scholarships are available).

Sponsored by Christ Church and Allaire Financial Strategies

12. 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:

1. New Lawn Tractor – Commercial Grade with bagger **cared for**
2. New Flowering Trees for the Celebration Garden **cared for**
3. Gas Powered Edge Trimmer
4. Multi-Ladder (currently borrowing Dave Wolf's ladder)
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
3. Re-Wallpaper Guest Bedroom (now a TV room) **cared for**
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.

13. Coming soon to Christ Church:

March 4, 11, 18, 25 – Women, Money, and Power Workshops – see Sally for more information

March 9 – UMW General Meeting with Mary Travers Murphy

March 17 – is Consecration Sunday

March 22 – Krolic's Fish fry (benefit for the Youth Group)

March 24 – is Palm Sunday

March 28 – is Holy Thursday

March 29 – is Good Friday

March 31 – is Easter

14. **Meet Valerie Suffoletto**

The Christian Education Team is happy to welcome Valerie Suffoletto to our team in ministry with children & youth. A group for young musicians from our church and community began recently under Valerie's leadership. Now the singers get their chance! Valerie, ARTS Educator

and owner of the performing arts organization Encore Experience, will become Music Director for the Children's Choir starting this March. A graduate of SUNY Fredonia, she has taught singing, instrumental, and theatrical lessons in schools and privately for years. Valerie and her husband Keith create the PowerPoint for Sunday services and volunteer for events and educational activities throughout the year at Christ Church. She enjoys helping children and adults use their God-given gifts and talents and finds that the phrase "When you sing, you pray twice" holds a lot of truth!

Be sure to welcome Valerie and introduce yourself!

15. Children's Choir

Christ Church is forming a Children's Choir starting Sunday, March 3 at 11:15 am (following the Children's Moment) until noon. Children will meet under the direction of Valerie Suffoletto to sing worship songs each week in the Music Room. Teen musicians are encouraged to participate, especially those who play instruments. The choir will join in enhancing the occasional worship service. All are welcome!

Parting Thought:

Someone once suggested that we who live in Western New York don't have four seasons we have six seasons. There is Summer (July and August), then Fall (September and October), then the "locking Season" (November and December), then Winter (January and February), then the "unlocking season" (March and April) and finally Spring (May and June). Each of these seasons reflects stages of life and the stages of our spiritual journey as well. Like the world around us there are fertile and growing seasons and there are seasons where we are locked down and fallow. Each season has its own benefits and hall marks (and, dare I say it, struggles). But, in the grand scheme of our growth and life, each season is essential. We are nearing the end of February and soon the world will start unlocking around us. I can already see signs and indicators that this is in process. The daffodils and other bulb flowers against the south wall of the parsonage are peaking their noses through the dirt and snow – they are a long way from growth or blooming but they are preparing to be the harbinger of a more fertile season to come. What season are you in on your spiritual journey? What season are you preparing for? Is it a time of high summer and joy? Or is it a fallow season of waiting? Be patient, grow through the seasons, and see where God is intending to lead you.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, chief meteorologist, missionary, lead servant

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