

# **Christ United Methodist Church**

## **UPDATE**

**January 19, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

Or call us at: 716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)

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Hi Everyone:

Karen and I are off tomorrow for 8 days away in, hopefully, sunny central Florida. We plan to hang out with my folks, visit a few friends, play some golf (well, at least I plan to play some golf) and spend at least one day at our favorite beach. With the exception of a few days here and there, Karen and I have not had time away since last summer. Janelle Martin is also on vacation this week (she went to Disney World). This leaves Sally Pollard holding the fort (or minding the store or . . .). If you need pastoral care call Sally and she will be able to reach me. Rev. Jim Pollard is preaching in my absence on January 25 he will be preaching from John 1 about “darkness not overcoming the Light.”

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance this past Sunday was about 115. We heard about being ‘Salt and Light’. I suggested that we all think of three people who don’t know Christ or who are disconnected from a Christian community. I then suggested that we choose to pray for those three and to look for opportunities to be salt and light for them.

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

Sunday Morning at 10:00 AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning) is in a study called "Six Ways We Encounter God". Led by Rev. Jim Pollard it is an open gathering.

2. This Sunday Rev. Jim Pollard is our guest preacher.

3. Disciple I class is forming and will be meeting on Monday nights. There are 7 who have expressed interest in the class. Jim Pollard will be leading this group. If you are interested please let Sally or Jim know as soon as possible. NOTE: The Disciple II class held its first official session on Sunday January 18.

4. In our prayers: Pray a spiritual renewal in our midst that would draw people to Jesus; Pray for Sue and Harley Estee undergoing radiation treatments; 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 Beachwood Homes, 2235 Millersport Highway, Getzville, 14068; Mac Sabol is making progress and is now back to work; Dorothy Brown; Dona Dalton; Barb Critoph; Brian Martin (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. 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.

5. This week at Christ Church:

Monday, January 19 the church office is closed

Tuesday, January 20 – 7:00 Christian Education Team (office)

Outreach Team (Library)

7:30 Trustees (Café)

Wednesday, January 21 – 7:30 Choir

Thursday, January 22 – 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Caller Collation

1-5 p.m. Dress our People (cutting)

Sunday, January 25 Noon – Prayer Team Meeting

6. The Blood Drive was a success!! Thank you Geoff Hill and team.

7. DRESS OUR PEOPLE – will be cutting fabric into patterns to be sewn into clothing for children in Uganda. We will be meeting on Thursday, January 22 from 1-5 in the Youth Hall. Come at any time. Please bring cutting shears and pins.

8. **PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Saturday February 7 from 9 to 1.** Pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit, juice and hot beverages will be served for a donation to support the Uganda Mission Team that departs on June 28, 2015.

9. **FOOD PANTRY THIS WEEK: Pure Fruit and Vegetable Juices**

10. Happy Birthday this week:

January 20 – Nicole Sciolino, Jasen Wilson

January 22 – Marian Steve

January 24 – Jamie Jackson, Mac Sabol

January 25 – Elvira Gonzalez

January 26 – Barbara McCray

11. No Anniversaries this week.

12. Through the Bible in 2015

January 19 – Genesis 47-48, Psalm 10 and Luke 19

January 20 – Genesis 49-50, Psalm 8 and Luke 20

January 21 – Exodus 1-2; Psalm 88 and Luke 21

January 22 – Exodus 3-5 and Luke 22

January 23 – Exodus 6-8 and Luke 23

January 24 – Exodus 9-11 and Luke 24

January 25 – Exodus 12-13, Psalm 21 and Acts 1

January 26 – Exodus 14-16 and Acts 2

January 27 – Exodus 17-20 and Acts 3

January 28 – Exodus 21-22; Psalm 12 and Acts 4

January 29 – Exodus 23-24; Psalm 14 and Acts 5

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?"

### 13. **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

**Uganda 2015** – Our 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. We 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.

**Food Pantry Collections:** fruit and vegetable juices

**Uganda Orphan sponsorships** – Thank you for your continued support of the Blessed Junior School in Kirimandagi.

**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. We are also selling handmade Ugandan bead necklaces for \$5 each. Contact Janelle (839-2460) for more information.

14. Coming Soon to a Church near you . . . (ok, coming to Christ Church)

January 29 – Men's pre work breakfast at Sheridan Family Diner on Sheridan at 7:00 a.m.

January 29 – Visitation Team Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

January 30 – Game Night at 7 pm

February 7 – Uganda 2015 Pancake Breakfast from 9:00am to 1:00pm

February 18 – Ash Wednesday – 7:00pm worship

February 26 – Discussion/Action Group at 7:00pm

15. Christ Church's Mission footprint: 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!

16. I would like to start a new prayer group. The group would 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? Please let me know.

### **Parting Thought**

I have come to see that the Bible is not a record of fully qualified people following God's call on their lives. Instead, what I see is that the Bible records stories of broken and imperfect human beings who hear the call of God on their lives and live out that call as best they can. All too often we look at Moses and David and Paul and other biblical "heroes" as if there was something inherently special in them. I think the same applies to our modern heroes as well. The current movie "Selma" is a telling of the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his role in the civil rights movement. The movie portrays Dr. King as a human being choosing to respond faithfully to the needs and injustices of his time. It makes him appear very human. That is a good thing. Someone once said that God does not call the qualified – we are all flawed, broken and human. However, God does qualify the called. That is to say God gives us the grace and strength to do what God has called us to do. When we think about what God is calling us to be a part of and when we consider the difficulty of being faithful to that call, we should fall to our knees and trust ourselves to God's strength and grace and mercy. Having surrendered to God we get off of our knees and proceed to do the very best we can while allowing God to work through us. We ought to work as if it all depends on us while believing that only God can make it happen.

I'll see you when I return,  
BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, coach