

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE

January 21, 2014

EVERYONE is WELCOME

EVERY SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress/soul Strength/AOL (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
716-839-2460

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

Hi Everyone:

In preparing my current series of sermons on the “fruit of the spirit” I have been struck with the power and impact of choice. It is the critical component of all of life’s transformation and change. What will I choose. Being a disciple of John Wesley I believe we are endowed by God with the power to choose. I am never forced to follow Jesus, I am never forced to do one thing or another. God invites me (granted God can be very persuasive) and I choose. Will I choose to grow deeper in my relationship with God? Will I choose to live the way Christ has showed me? Or will I choose any one of an infinite number of alternatives. What will I choose? Part of the struggle of breaking routines and moving in new directions is that the current routine and the current direction are the direct consequence of choice I made. I often find myself lamenting particularly busy stretches in my schedule until I realize that most of the busyness is the direct result

of choices I have made. In our discussion on the fruit of the spirit the heart of the matter is what will I choose? Will I choose to abide and grow in my relationship with God through Jesus Christ or will I just continue to do what I've always done and gradually flow in the direction I am going. Going with the flow makes sense unless you've ever been in a canoe in fast water. If I just flow at the pace of the water I have no control and am at the mercy of the river. In order to steer clear of the rocks and other dangers I have to make the choice (and the effort) to go faster (or slower) than the flow. Then I can steer the canoe and have a better chance of going where I am trying to go. What about your spiritual life? Do you need to speed up? Or slow down? Do you need to pull out of the river all together for a time or a season? What do we need to do to abide and stay connected to Christ?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was nearly 130 – not too bad for a snowy Sunday morning.

2. **This Sunday** is part four of “Fruit that is never out of Season”. This week is patience (can hardly wait!). The old English for patience was “long suffering.” Patience is often paired with the word “endurance”.

We will be celebrating the baptism of Brennan Murray Johnson (son of Erin and Chris) at 11:00 this Sunday.

Following Worship the **2013 Uganda Mission Team** will be presenting stories from their November mission experiences. A light soup and bread lunch will be served.

3. **Families in grief:** We are keeping the Barber family in our prayers on the death of Louise Barber on Sunday morning. Calling hours for Louise will be Friday, January 24 from 2-4 and 7-9 at the Dietrich Funeral Home on Kensington in Snyder. A memorial service in celebration of Louise's life will be held at Christ Church on Saturday, January 25 at 11:00 will a light reception to follow. Remember also Norman Weiler and family in our prayers on the death of Norm's wife, Jean. Memorial service for Jean was held on Monday (Jan 20) morning in Williamsville.

Remember also, Jane Kremzier and family. Jane's father, Robert Smith died last week and his funeral was held Sunday (Jan 19) in Nunda, New York.

4. **2013 Uganda Mission Team** – light lunch and presentation. Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort and Pastor BJ will be sharing stories of their November 2013 Mission trip

to Uganda. Soup and bread will be served immediately following the 11:00 worship celebration. Everyone is welcome!

5. **MEN** – interested in a pre work conversation, Bible study? John Miller and I are inviting interested folks to a gathering at the Wehrle Diner at 7:00 a.m. on January 29. Come and have breakfast and explore with us ways to encourage and challenge one another on our journey with Christ. Questions? See John or BJ.

6. How will we move Christ Church forward? Beginning Monday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m., Pastor BJ is inviting everyone interested to join in a monthly dialogue/action group. He will present material for discussion and together we will begin to live into the future. All are welcome.

7. In our Prayers: The Barber, Weiler, Wenner and Kremzier families; Fred Painton, Sandy Cumming, Guy Castellino, Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl Ericson (at Suburban); Jean Ericson, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy. Remember those who are looking for work, for all who are serving overseas and in the military, for families in crisis.

8. There is a special appeal from **UMCOR** to help those impacted by the chemical spill in West Virginia. Information is available through unyumc.org or you can give you check through Christ Church: marked “WV chemical spill”.

9. **FOOD COLLECTION THIS WEEK:** Rice and Beans (any and all non perishable food items are welcome!)

10. At Christ Church this week:

Tuesday the 21st at Noon – Rachel Circle with Kathy Weaver

Wednesday the 22nd at 7:30 – Choir Practice

Thursday the 23rd at 9:30 – caller team collation

10:00 (Library) Bible Study

Sunday the 26th at Noon – Uganda Mission Team Presentation

Sunday the 26th at 6:00 – Disciple Bible Study

11. Caller deadline for March and April editions is the 11th of the month (instead of the 13th).

12. Happy Birthday this week:

January 22 – Marian Steve

January 24 – Mac Sabol, Jamie Jackson
January 25 – Elvira Gonzalez
January 26 – Barbara McCray

13. Through the Bible: this week's readings

January 21 – Isaiah 1-2
January 22 – Isaiah 3-4; Mark 1
January 23 – Isaiah 5-6; Mark 2
January 24 – Isaiah 7-8; Mark 3
January 25 – Isaiah 9-10
January 26 – Isaiah 11-13; Mark 4
January 27 – Isaiah 14-16
January 28 – Isaiah 17-19; Mark 5
January 29 – Isaiah 20-22
January 30 – Isaiah 23-25

14. Geoff Hill reports that the Bloodmobile on Friday was a great success! Thanks to all who gave and all who helped make this happen.

15. Confirmation class was launched this past Sunday with 3 Confirmands and their mentors beginning work together. Please keep Jonathan Miller, Robert Paddock and Paige Shupe and their mentors in your prayers as they begin their journey together.

16. Coming Soon:

February 8 – United Methodist Men are attending the “Buffalo Auto Show” Contact Tom Nye for tickets prior to February 2. Lunch follows at local restaurant.

February 9 – at 12:15 – MYM Soup and Sandwich Event with special guest Denise Reichard as Susanna Wesley (mother of John and Charles). Sign up after church.

17. MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity 1: We need people to sign up to host morning coffee hour – sign up is outside the Kitchen.

Opportunity 2: A chart has been posted in Crafts Hall for those wishing to sign up to donate flowers for worship in 2014.

Opportunity 3: We are putting together a worship “creative” team. Want to be a part of this group? Let BJ know.

18. Mission Opportunities:

Opportunity 1: A team is being formed to help the families in West Seneca whose homes were damaged by the flooding a few weeks ago – let BJ know if you are interested in being a part of a clean-up or rebuild team and we'll get you connected.

Opportunity 2: **UGANDA 2014**. I am planning to travel in early October this Fall to continue our work in Uganda. Is God Calling you to join me? This journey is 9 months away so I will need to know soon – Tickets will likely be purchased in March/April.

19. New Church Directories are in! (and you look mahvelous!). If you had your photo taken there is a directory with your name on it in the parlor. If you didn't get your photo taken you can still have a copy – just stop by the Church office and pick one up.

Parting Thought:

We are “enjoying” another week of subfreezing temperatures. According to the forecast on my phone we won't see freezing again until next week (feel free to say brrrrrr at any time). The weather of the past 2 months is what my family used to call “hunker down” weather. Too cold, too snowy, too (fill in the blank) to want to do too much of anything. I am sure there are some people somewhere who actually do hunker down and wait for the snow to go away and the temperature to rise. Wherever these people are they do not live in upper or western New York state. This is winter. We dress warmer. We let our cars warm up a bit. We ride out the more treacherous days but for the most part we just keep moving, just keep doing what we do, we just battle through to do what we do. That attitude is described biblically as perseverance. Perseverance is listed as a Christian virtue. It is the ability to take some of life's body blows and keep moving forward. It is the ability to embrace the occasional failure, disaster, disappointment and keep moving forward. We are hearty spirits and are not deterred by silly little things like cold and snow. I remember a sign I saw hanging in a shop on the Island of Iona in Scotland. It simply read: “There is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing!” As Christians we also dress for success. We put on Christ every day. We embrace the fruit of the spirit. We adorn ourselves with the whole armor of God. We put on the appropriate clothing to be who we are called to be and then we brave the elements to live out our calling. Keep warm, keep moving and I'll

See you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, northern bred to the bone, missionary, lead servant

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