

Christ United Methodist Church

UPDATE

January 27, 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.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com


Like us on Facebook

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

Follow us on Twitter

@CUMCamherst

Pastor BJ and Karen are winging their way back to Western New York today. They will feel the cold more acutely now that they have been basking in the Florida sunshine. I'm sure BJ will be happy to get back to the warmth of his Christ Church community. Janelle Martin , our office manager, also returned from Florida this week, so they can spin wondrous stories for us about warmth and sunshine and make us all

feel like we've been there!! (It's worth a try anyway!) 

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance this past Sunday was about 105. Rev. Jim Pollard offered the morning message, "In The Darkness--Light!" He shared words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man who, along with others, shined light into the dark places of injustice. We also learned from three of our middle school young people that they will be participating in a walk to raise funds to provide water tanks that will hold clean water for people in Uganda. Ryan Lopez, Becca Lopez and Oscar Jones will carry water jugs as they walk, thinking of the distance others walk each day for their water which, as Ryan reminded us, isn't even clean. The walk takes place this Friday at Clarence Middle School and I'm sure you can still call the Lopez and Jones families (or Marcia Snyder) to add your financial support for this project. These students are surely bringing light into a dark place. I also give thanks for the wonderful teachers who are bringing light into the lives of these young people, expanding their world view and compassion.

And--as if that weren't enough--the children of FaithXpress with the help of youth helpers and adults, presented to everyone at church a Proverb Cookie as part of their learning about honesty, truthfulness and forgiveness. They also made cookies, which they sprinkled with love and forgiveness, to share in the Café.

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.

2. Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am, A.O.L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning) is in a study called "Six Ways We Encounter God". All adults are welcome. Rev. Jim Pollard; coordinator

3. A Disciple I class is forming and will begin meeting on Monday, February 2. Jim Pollard will be leading this group and there is still time to join them. Contact Jim (361-6222) to get a book.

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; 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.

5. Please offer your prayers for **Woody and Jan Rhinehart** and their family. Woody's brother, Wilbert, was killed in an auto accident on Saturday. Calling hours will take place this Thursday (evening) and Friday (afternoon & evening) at the Prudden & Kant funeral Home in Lockport. A service celebrating his life will take place at Emmanuel UMC, Lockport at 2 pm on Saturday, January 31st.

6. This week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, January 27 – 4 pm UM Women - board meeting

Wednesday, January 28 – 7:30pm Choir

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

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

1 pm - Visitation Ministry Team meeting

Friday, January 30 - 7 pm - Game Night

Saturday, January 31 - 2 pm - Funeral service for Wilbert Rhinehart at Emmanuel UMC, Lockport

*Case of the missing bench...The bench seat at the top of the stairs has gone missing. The seat cushions remain, but the bench disappeared sometime between Sunday and Monday morning. If you have a clue, please contact the church office.

7. **PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Saturday February 7 from 9am to 1pm.** 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.

8. **Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday**

Lenten Supper & Study - 5:30 to 7 pm Dinner in the cafe 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.

Ash Wednesday Observance - 7 pm in the worship space

9. FOOD PANTRY THIS WEEK: Cereal: hot , cold, and cereal bars

10. Happy Birthday this week:

January 25 – Elvira Gonzalez

January 26 – Barbara McCray

January 31 - Sara Thomas

11. Through the Bible in 2015

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

BJ will update you on the rest when he returns!

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?"

12. 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.

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.

13. 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.

As we live through this week with awareness that we *are* light--in our very being--bringing light to places and circumstances in need of a a word of grace, I offer this--

God, If bad guys wore black hats and the good guys wore white, things would be so much easier. But each one of us has a collection of hats...white, black and every shade of grey. Help us to be truthful and dependable; patient and understanding with ourselves and with others. Amen.

Make a difference this week!

With Joy,

Sally