

**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**Snyder, New York**  
**[716-839-2460](tel:716-839-2460)**

***"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"***

**UPDATE: July 1, 2013**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**  
**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship**  
**11:00 – Traditional Style Worship**

FaithXPress/Soul Strength and A.O.L. will resume in September

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: [www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

Hi Everyone:

Today is Canada Day, the national day of Canada. Similarly, Independence Day is a federal holiday in the US commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from Great Britain. It is the national day of the United States. The Fourth of July, as it's commonly known, is associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family gatherings, and political speeches and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

What does independence mean for you? For youngsters, independence may mean the right to ride your bike around the block by yourself or spending your birthday money. For older teens it may be living away from parents for the first time or getting your first job. Through the years independence means many different things, but one thing remains the same. There is one God who connects us all, who loves and trusts us to carry out God's dream for creation. This partnership of divinity and humanity is God's way of working in the world. As independent as we may think of ourselves, we're always in connection with God, humanity and all living things. Were it not for this dependence we could not survive. As you celebrate these holidays this week take some time to reflect on the gifts of independence AND dependence with gratitude for both.

**Here is what is happening at church:**

1. Summer hours for the church office: 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday now through mid-August.
2. Attendance at worship on Sunday was 91. The Praise Team for 9 am worship has added Keith Suffoletto on bass guitar. With Keith on bass and Nate on drums, team leader, Bill Bauza, is able to kick up his expertise on the keys!! Guitarist, Marg Bauza and singers Beth Sweet and Sandy Cumming add their gifts to the mix and create an atmosphere of praise and worship that lead us to the heart of God. Likewise, at the 11 am worship service we were led into God's presence with music by Dennis Scaringi and singer, Patty Sandle sharing their gifts. Christ Church is blessed by these talented musicians and their offerings of time and talent. Missionaries to Spain, The Rev. Dr. Mark and Diane Abbott along with two of their adult children, Andy and Caroline, were our guests on Sunday. Mark is a seminary Dean in Madrid, Spain and Diane works as an Administrative Assistant, and shares her gifts for music and singing at the seminary and at the English speaking school. In his message, "The Human Face of God," Mark shared his thoughts on the divine human connection

at work in the world and gave an update on the work of the seminary which is expanding even in the face of difficult economic times.

Pastors BJ and Karen continue their vacation time this week. BJ will be with us in worship on Sunday, July 7, and will begin a sermon series on the 10 Commandments for today.

3. For those of you who are reading through the Bible in a year, the reading schedule may be found on the church website, [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org) by hovering over the news tab and clicking on Bible-Reading plan. Give it a try! You'll find the plan for all the coming months.

**July 1 - Isaiah 1, 2, 3 Titus 3**

**July 2 - Isaiah 4,5 Psalm 115,116 Jude**

**July 3 - Isaiah 6,7 2 Chr 26,27 Philemon**

**July 4 - 2 Kings 15,16 Hosea 1 Hebrews**

**July 5 - Hosea 2,3,4,5 Hebrews 2**

**July 6 - Hosea 6,7,8,9 Hebrews 3**

**4. In our prayers:** Greg Yungbluth-recovering from surgery, Dennis Scaringi-fractured ankle, Alex Dunbar - deployment to Afghanistan and wife Kim expecting a baby this week, Glenn Munson (son of Don Munson) – pneumonia, Roger Johnson and Family – Roger’s younger brother died on Tuesday, June 25, those who are traveling over the holiday.

**5. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** takes place August 8 and 9 in Syracuse, New York. This Annual Leadership gathering is put on by the Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, ILL. It is challenging, it is inspirational and it is highly educational. Go to <http://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/speakers.asp> for a list of speakers at the event. Last year BJ, Rachel and I attended from Christ Church and will be participants again this year. We'd like some of you to join us. Registration is \$199 before June 25 (plus housing – though some can stay at my house or share a hotel room). Please contact Rachel at 839-2460 if you are interested.

**6. This week at church:**

Tuesday, July 2 - VBS decorating

Thursday & Friday - July 4 & 5 - **Church Office Closed**

**7. Journey’s End Family is scheduled to arrive on July 16<sup>th</sup>**

In the next few weeks, Christ Church will be preparing to welcome a family of 8 from Burma (Myanmar).

Here is what we know about the family so far:

Keh Blut, the father.

The family is Karen and coming in from Thailand.

There are **two parents**

**4 daughters** aged 12, 14, 16, and 18

**2 sons** aged 9, and 1 yr old.

Karen people are an ethnic minority in Myanmar (Burma). Many have fled to refugee camps in Thailand to escape violence including killings, torture, land mines, rape, forced labor, and enslavement.

This is our opportunity to welcome this family and help them to find safety, opportunity, and a future with hope.

The apartment should be available by Saturday, July 13th.

We will be getting the apartment ready on:

**Saturday, July 13 – morning and afternoon**

**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – afternoon**

**Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> – morning and afternoon**

People are needed to help clean, move furniture & boxes, set up, organize

**Happy Birthday this week:**

July 3 - Leanne Paddock

July 4 - Ann Burdette, Sharon Ferrelli

July 5 - Katy Cady

July 6 - Robert Munley

July 7 - Jim Hannon

**Happy Anniversary this week:**

July 1 - Chuck & Sue Terranova

July 3 - David & Barbara Mitchell

**8. THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (Northtowns)** is underway. Here is a report from the Christ Church representatives: Dede Johnson, Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez – if you wish to help with any of the items below see Dede, Kathy or Peggy!

1) Our "change a life" program continues. Donation jars are located at the back of the sanctuary, in the cafe and in the office. You can help change the life for victims of domestic violence by donating your spare change.

2) The FJC Northtowns group is looking for names of people/companies that can donate new items to help with the building project. Also people who can help with carpentry, putting in a new concrete walkway, building the handicap ramp to the back door, making or donating window treatments. If we have anyone in our congregation that can help with or provide possible contacts it would be very helpful.

3) Volunteer skills forms are available in the Church office. We need to have interested people fill it out asap and return it so the group knows what kind of volunteer work we can do verses paid contractors and vendors.

**8.Trustee's Wish List –**

If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

1. Parking Lot Repaving
2. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank
3. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range rumor has it this is ready to go!! (thank you)
2. Back Yard Deck

Contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

**MISSION UPDATES:**

1. Amy Johnston returns today from the Dominican Republic where she has been on a mission trip.
2. Members of our Youth Group and their leaders are preparing for the Confrontation Point, TN Mission trip. They will leave on Sunday morning, July 14. You can support them financially by enjoying the M&Ms they have available for the taking in the worship area. Then fill the plastic container with quarters and return to the church office. Direct contributions are also welcome. We have families with more than one youth participating on the mission trip which makes it more expensive. We hope to lower their cost through donations.

3. The Uganda Mission team Pastor BJ, Pastor Clair Mosher, Kathryn Weaver, and Joe Fort are seeking your prayers as they prepare for the Uganda Mission trip in November. We will have a big fund raising event in late September (20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>) here at Christ church.

4. Dress Our People – Throughout the summer we will be making clothing to send to Uganda with this year's Uganda Mission Team. We currently need fabric for the larger size girl's dresses. On the Outreach bulletin board in Craft's Hall are tags with different needs listed that should be taken if you are planning to fill that need Fabric should be turned in by June 15; then we will begin cutting out dresses. T-shirts should be turned in by August 15.

There are packets of dresses in the Dress Our People mailbox outside the church office. Instructions included.

**\*Don't forget Everywhere Fun Fair-Vacation Bible School - July 15-19!**

**M- F 9 am - noon**

**Pre K- Grade 6 To register call 839-2460 Cost \$15 per child (max \$30 per family)**

**Community Fun Fair on Saturday, July 20 10 am to noon**

**Here's some ways you might help... We need**

\*maps -*any kind that you won't want returned to you*

\*decorating items- *we can borrow related to Mexico, Japan, Zimbabwe, UK and Australia*

\*\$\$ donations - *to support our community fun fair.*

*We hope to rent a popcorn machine*

\*Juice - 100% orange, apple , lemonade

\*stickers - that relate to the world and neighbors

\* band aids, small hand lotion, small hand sanitizer, small combs, small size shampoo, new toothbrushes singularly wrapped, small size toothpaste, bars of soap. (for care kits)

\*bean bags

We're also looking for people who like to tell stories. Stories will be provided, takes about 30 minutes of your time (plus preparation time) on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of VBS week. Call Sally at 839-2460.

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**Transform gospel words into action this week!**

With Joy,

Sally

Visit Dr. B.J.'s blog is [www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com)

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