

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Snyder, New York**

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

**UPDATE July 16, 2013**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship**

**FaithXPress/Soul Strength and AOL will resume in September**

**11:00 – Traditional Style Worship**

**REMEMBER: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS THIS WEEK – July 15 through 19 (see details below!)**

***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)

**716-839-2460**

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

Hi Everyone:

Near record setting heat must mean it is Vacation Bible School week at Christ Church. We are having an “Everywhere Fun Fair” with over 40 children and a host of story tellers, game teachers, crafts directors, music leaders and guides. Sally Pollard and her team are doing a great job and the kids seem to be having a great time (in spite of the heat!). This year’s VBS has been done in conjunction with our neighbors at the Amherst Community Church and we will have a joint “Everywhere Fun Fair” here at Christ church this Saturday morning from 10:00 to Noon. Come and join the fun! VBS, using the same decorations and materials, will be at the Amherst Community Church next week. The children are learning about neighbors around the world (Japan, Zimbabwe, The United Kingdom, Australia and Mexico) and how God calls us to live with our neighbors near and far.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance Sunday was in the mid 80’s – special appreciation to David and Lisa Lawson who provided our special music.
2. This Sunday is part 3 of my series through the 10 Commandments. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment is a prohibition against using the “name of God in Vain”. This has less to do with cuss words (though that would certainly apply) and more to do with treating God as a means to an end – another “magical” incantation – rather than to live into the relationship we are called to live.
3. In our prayers: Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Doris Schanzlin, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Mitch Mooney, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy, Greg Yungbluth, those looking for work, racial tension in our country, global unrest, families in crisis . . .
4. – **Refugee family arrives early Wednesday night.** The family will arrive in the U.S. on Tuesday, July 16th, but will not arrive in Buffalo until 11:50 pm on Wednesday, July 17th. **Join us at the airport at 11:50 to welcome the Keh Blut family to their new home**

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. Historically the Karen people were the first to embrace Christianity in what was then known as Burma. Many of them are Baptist because the first missionaries to arrive there in the 1880's were Baptists. The Kareni translation of the Bible was done by a Bible Translator who was sponsored by a Baptist Church in Utica, New York.

Thank you to Peggy Bermudez and Lee Watson and their team (and all of you who volunteered many hours to help!!!). I am excited that Christ Church will be the first to welcome these newest Americans!

**5. Flood Response:** I am looking to see if there is anyone who would be willing to join me in giving a few days to help the people in the Mohawk Valley with the clean up following the serious flooding there over the past few weeks. I have a list of 5 of us who have said they would be willing to go . . . if you would like to join us let me know. Once I have some numbers I will get some dates and we will move forward.

6. Church Office Summer Hours began on June 17. The Office will be open from 9-3 until mid August.

7. Thursday Morning Bible Study **WILL** meet this week to explore continuing our discussions over the summer. Come and join us Thursday morning at 10:00 in the Wesley Room.

8. NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY – is in process. Sign up this Sunday following both morning worship. See Julie Wisley to schedule an appointment or go to the church's web site [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org)

9. Happy Birthday this week!

July 16 – Hannah Smith

July 17 – Lynne Beller

July 21 – Kay Barber

July 24 – Laura Johnston

10. Happy Anniversary this week!

July 16 -- Rubin and Lisa Malpica (25); John and Marie Miller (19)

July 17 – Richard and Mary Ball (20);

July 20 -- Tom and Peggy Nye (39); Darren and Sandra Paddock (17)

July 24 – Chris and Michele Sciolino (20)

11. MISSION UPDATES

1. **JULY 28** – following worship, **Courtney Cataudella** and **Jessica Lawson** will be telling about their recent mission trips to Nicaragua and India. We will have a light lunch and a chance to hear about their work and experiences.

2. **I just heard from Rev. Davis** Matovu the drilling team came up dry in their efforts – we are exploring other options for clean and safe drinking water for our friends in Gomba – please keep Davis in your prayers as we explore multiple options.

3. The Uganda Mission team Pastor BJ, Pastor Clair Mosher, Kathryn Weaver, and Joe Forte are seeking your prayers as we prepare. 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.

5. Members of our Youth Group and their leaders left for their trip on Sunday morning and are in Tennessee this week working on building houses for needy residents there. There are photos posted on our Facebook page.

12. Through the Bible in 2013 – this week's readings

July 16 – Isaiah 25-28 and Hebrews 13

July 17 – Isaiah 29-31 and James 1

July 18 – Isaiah 32-35 and James 2

July 19 – 2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 28; Psalm 46 and James 3

July 20 – 2 Chronicles 29-31 and James 4

July 21 – 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32 and James 5

July 22 – Isaiah 36-37; Psalm 76 and 1 Peter 1

July 23 – 2 Kings 20; Isaiah 38-39; Psalm 27 and 2 Peter 2

July 24 – Isaiah 40-42 and 1 Peter 3

July 25 – Isaiah 43-45 and 1 Peter 4

13. This Week at Christ church:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Monday (July 15) through Friday (July 19)

Saturday, July 20 – Community Fun Fair from 10 to Noon – celebration of VBS and our Neighbors (come and join us!!)

14. Have you signed up for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Directory? You can do so on line

([www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org)) or by calling Rachel at 839-2460 or by seeing Julie Wrisley in the parlor this Sunday.

15. Our Friends at Amherst Nursery School are celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> year – they are registering 2, 3 and 4 year old students for this Fall – they are especially in need of 4 year olds. Call 839-0298 to learn more about ANS or to register a child.

16. Coming Soon:

Sunday July 21 – Choir Picnic at David and Barb Mitchells (1:00 ish).

Saturday, August 10 – United Methodist Men are touring Graycliff Estate in Derby

17. 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 Sally attended from Christ Church and will be participants again this year. We'd like some of you to join us. Registration is \$209 (plus housing – though some can stay at BJ's house or share a hotel room). Please contact Rachel at 839-2460 if you are interested.

18. 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.

#### 19. 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 – has been installed!!! (THANK YOU!)
2. Back Yard Deck

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

20. Celebration Walkway – In honor of the life of Don Jurewicz and the contribution he made to the life of Christ Church, a brick will be added to the walkway in the Celebration Garden. If you would like to contribute to this memorial gift, please make check payable to Christ church with "Don J. Brick" in the memo line. To learn more about the Celebration Garden walkway see information outside the Church Office.

#### ***Parting Thought . . .***

I learned a long time ago that what is "legal" is not necessarily "moral" and what is considered "according to the law" does not necessarily fulfill the requirements of justice. I can see that the jury in the Zimmerman case made their decision according to the directions they were given and according to the laws of the state of Florida. I am appalled that what happened in this case could have been allowed under the laws of any civilized state. I am a person of privilege (white, male, university product) and, sometimes, have a difficult time understanding the role of race and poverty and societal constraints in these kinds of legal cases. Having said that, I am pretty certain that had the races been different (had young Mr. Martin been a white teen ager in a hoodie eating skittles and drinking mountain dew) things would have transpired differently. We live in a hurting and broken world. The Bible (Old and New) calls us to seek justice, fairness, mercy, grace, etc. We don't wait to seek these values in the 'afterlife'. We are called to live by these values and seek and work for them every moment of every day. Our call is to build the Kingdom of God on Earth. . . and so I find myself asking myself that same horrendously difficult question: what have I done today to make our world and our society kinder and more just for everyone.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, beneficiary of a biased system

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this please tell us. Feel free to share with family and friends.