

UPDATE - July 2, 2014

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem at Saratoga

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

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](tel:716-839-2460)

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

Like us on Facebook!

As we gear up for Vacation Bible School at Christ Church, I'm thinking more and more about the ways God turns the ordinary into the extraordinary. Looking at things as they are is important. But it's also important to look with eyes and imaginations that see things as they may become. God's creative nature is in each one of us, expressed in differing ways, but creative none the less. This month our church leaders will have a retreat day to do just that, let our thoughts, imaginations and prayers take us to pathways that will lead the people of Christ Church, and all who connect here, closer to God. We are ordinary people made

extraordinary as we open our lives to God's grace, Jesus' presence and the inspiration of God's Spirit. Together we can make a difference for God in our time and place. I can't wait to see what happens next!

Here are some things happening at Christ Church:

1. On Sunday 85 worshipers came to Christ Church on a hot, steamy summer Sunday. *The rest were home in their air conditioning!* Peggy Bermudez, Christ Church's Lay Leader and a Certified Lay Speaker in our Conference, shared her story which she titled, "All Tied Up In Knots." All present were moved and inspired as we witnessed God's power working in a human life, Peggy's life. She urged us all to think about our own story and how God has been working in our lives, and then to pass it on. It was a joy to welcome guests in worship, celebrate with our Praise team leaders, Marg & Bill Bauza, on their 46th wedding anniversary, to have Donna Hammond join us in worship after her recent shoulder surgery, and to give our thanks to Nicole Sciolino on her last Sunday as one of our Child Care providers. It was the day of Nicole's high school graduation.

2. Pastors BJ and Karen continue their time away on vacation. This coming Sunday, Jim Pollard, retired pastor, will be preaching at both worship celebrations on the "Rhythms of God's Grace" and offering the sacrament of Holy Communion. Pianist, Ron Corsaro, will play a special medley of songs in memory of a friend and fellow musician and Kevin Durkin will enrich and enliven our worship with his musical offerings on the Arrison Pipe Organ.

It was a joy to have Jim and Candy Weisz stop by [the church](#) today. Jim formerly coordinated Pastoral Care at Beechwood Continuing Care and Jim and Candy and their family worshiped at Christ Church. They now live in Florida and are in town visiting their son, Ryan and his family. They hope to join us in worship this Sunday!

Diane Lovejoy says "Thank you" to all who offered their help with moving her boxes. There were more willing workers than [were](#) needed. Thanks to those who gave of their time and effort lending a hand...or two! You are appreciated!

3. **Summer hours** are in effect at the church office. During the summer the church office will be open from 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday. After 3 pm please use the answering machine to leave messages.

4. This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, July 2 - VBS Staff meets at 10 am

Christian Ed team - VBS prep and set up

Friday, July 4 - Independence Day - Church Office **closed**

5. **In our Prayers this week:** Kevin Johnston in MF Suburban Hospital; Donna Hammond, recovering from shoulder surgery, beginning rehab, Ross Markello, Lois Lewis, Sue Cataudella, Brian Martin (Janelle's brother) at Roswell; Tom Davis; Caroline Hess, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino, Sissie & Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy.

6. **Opportunities to Make A Difference -**

Platelet Donation - Please consider becoming a platelet donor! Brian Martin, brother of Janelle, our office manager, is currently in Roswell receiving treatment for Leukemia. He receives platelets daily, and there is an ongoing need for donors at Roswell. The process is similar to giving blood, and takes approximately 2 hours. If you or someone you know would be able to donate platelets, please call Roswell Park at 845-8275 or visit www.roswellpark.org/donorcenter to schedule an appointment. Thank you!

CHANGE... TO CHANGE THE WORLD: Save up your loose change for the Family Justice Center! We will be collecting change every day to make a positive transformation in the lives of those affected by domestic violence.

Food Collection - Support area food pantries by bringing canned and packaged non-perishable food items. Hunger doesn't take a vacation.

7. Stop Stress and See - An Introduction to Living Well

Monday, July 21, 1 - 3:30 pm

Presenter: Tom DeLoughry, Second Half of Life Ministries; UNY Conference of the UMC

Participants will learn strategies to reduce stress and reduce "stress blindness". You'll review and consider topics that include prayer, finding more love, coaching conversations, healing, hope and hospitals, end of life, the law, new beginnings, and more. You'll also learn about opportunities to **help yourself, your loved ones, and your community** through a Living Well ministry. Join us and bring your friends of all ages and life stages.

8. Happy Birthday this week:

July 3 - Leanne Paddock

July 4 - Ann Burdette, Sharon Ferrelli

July 5 - Katy Cady

July 6 - Robert Munley

9. Happy Anniversary this week:

July 1 - Chuck & Sue Terranova **Celebrating 30 years today!!**

July 3 - Barbara & Dave Mitchell **Celebrating 50 years!**

10. Sign up to **host the Cafe** this summer! Sign up on the bulletin board in the Cafe or call the church office at 839-2460.

Bible readings for this week:

July 1 - Deuteronomy 13-15, Acts 4

July 2 - Deuteronomy 16-18

July 3 - Deuteronomy 19-21, Acts 5

July 4 - Deuteronomy 22-24,

July 5 - Deuteronomy 25-27, Acts 6

July 6 - Deuteronomy 28-30

July 7 - Deuteronomy 31, Acts 7

July 8 - Deuteronomy 32-34

Continue to pray for our church, that together we'll discern the ways in which God is calling us to be a community center for faith, where people of all faiths and no faith can come together! Come and share the blessing you are.

Enjoy the holiday weekend!

With JOY,

Sally