

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

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

UPDATE July 23, 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

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:

We finished a great week of Vacation Bible School on Saturday with our “Everywhere Fun Fair”. Thank you to everyone who made this week such a great week for the kids. We averaged over 40 kids a day for the week which is nearly double what we saw last year. This event was different in that we partnered with our friends at the Amherst Community Church – the two education teams built the sets and decorations and did all the planning together; we also co-sponsored the Saturday fair and then moved all of the decorations and sets and equipment down to ACC where they are enjoying Vacation Bible School this week. All of this allowed the two churches to share expenses, personnel and creative ideas. It is another way that Christ Church is seeking to be a blessing for our wider community and neighborhood. Well done everyone!!

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Worship attendance last Sunday was 102. Thank you to Suzanne Estee for your gift of music.

There were 24 of us who worked on VBS last week (and probably a few others whose photos don’t appear on the official photo sheet). Thank you Sally Pollard and the Education Team for your exceptional work in rather sweltering conditions!

There were about a dozen folks who worked last week on getting the home ready for our newest refugee family and 10 of us were at the airport (at 12:50 a.m.) to greet our new family as they arrived (well done Peggy Bermudez, Lee Watson and team for this hard work – and to all of you who donated, cleaned, set up and did so much to help the Keh Blut family feel welcomed into the Buffalo area! Christ Church is striving to make a difference for Christ in our neighborhood and across the world.

There were about a dozen youth and advisors who traveled to Confrontation point last week!

Where have you seen God at work lately? Where have you engaged to help build the Kingdom of God?

2. This Sunday I am on part 4 of my series through the 10 Commandments. The fourth commandment is the Sabbath principle. When we were slaves in Egypt we were not allowed to rest. People were literally worked to death. God commands that we enjoy the fruit of our labor and to rest one day in seven.

Following worship: Jessica Lawson and Courtney Cataudella will be showing photos and telling stories of their recent mission experiences.

Courtney traveled back to Nicaragua to work with project an ongoing project there.

Jessica travelled to India to work with the “untouchables” there.

A salad lunch will be provided immediately following the 11:00 worship service. Come and hear from our young missionaries. If you can help contact Peggy Bermudez or Lee Watson.

3. In our Prayers: please pray for my cousin Tamara Norrix who was just diagnosed with lymphoma; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Doris Schanzlin, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Mitch Mooney, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy, and Greg Yungbluth, remember those looking for work, families in crisis, those in harm’s way. Remember those who are still digging out from recent flooding.

4. **Christ Church Youth Group** returned from their mission trip to Confrontation Point. They report a great experience. Watch for an opportunity to hear from them on their recent journey and hard work!

5. **Amherst Cooperative Nursery School:** did you know this is their 75th year? Did you know they have been housed at Christ Church for 50 years this year?

Registration is now fully underway 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.

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 for our 65th anniversary. Sign up this Sunday following both morning worships or go to the church’s web site www.christchurchamherst.org or call the Church office 839-2460.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

July 24 – Laura Johnston

July 26 – Shirley Downey, Dede Johnson

July 27 – Greg Ramsey

July 28 – Ryan Carier; John Miller

July 29 – Brandon Miller

July 30 – Cindy Fisher, Bill Kearney, Alex Ladowski, Linda Ladowski, Ruth Luss

10. Happy Anniversary this week:

July 24 – Chris and Michele Sciolino (20 years!)

11. **DRESS OUR PEOPLE** (update from Molly Butler): We are all set with fabric and t-shirts for now. Purchased t-shirts need to be turned in by August 15th.

We **DESPERATELY** need people to sew- there are many packages of cut dresses and shorts in the Dress Our People mailbox. Completed items need to be turned in by the end of September.

12. This Week at Christ Church:

Thursday, July 25 – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 27 – Encore Experience Open House 10:00 to Noon in Youth Hall

Sunday, July 28 – Mission Presentation following worship – Jessica Lawson and Courtney Cataudella will present

Salad lunch (can you help? – contact Peggy Bermudez)

13. UNITED METHODIST MEN – August 10

The CUMC Men (with women) will be touring the genius of Frank Lloyd Wright at the Graycliff Estate in Derby on August 10. Tickets are \$15 for the basic tour – we will have lunch at Pasquales in Derby following the tour. Carpool will meet at the Church at 10:00 a.m. and the tour begins at 11:00 a.m. For questions please contact Tom Nye at 213-3642.

14. Through the Bible in 2013: This week's readings

July 23 – 2 Kings 20; Isaiah 38-39; Psalm 75 and 1 Peter 2

July 24 – Isaiah 40-42 and 1 Peter 3

July 25 – Isaiah 43-45 and 1 Peter 4

July 26 – Isaiah 46-49 and 1 Peter 5

July 27 – Isaiah 50-52 and 2 Peter 1

July 28 – Isaiah 53-56 and 2 Peter 2

July 29 – Isaiah 57-59; Psalm 103 and 2 Peter 3

July 30 – Isaiah 60-62 and John 1 (Gospel)

July 31 – Isaiah 63-64; Psalm 107 and John 2

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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:

Back Yard Deck

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

Parting Thought:

I was talking with one of my Ugandan friends in Kikyusa a few years back. We were talking about small talk – the conversation we use to fill the empty spaces in social gatherings. I had commented that where I come from that space is often filled with talking about the weather. I then had to explain that the weather where we live is constantly changing – temperatures up and down, rain, snow, sleet, storms, humid, dry, sun, clouds, etc. My friend lives in a place where the weather, for all intents and purposes, never changes. Each day is 12 hours long. The forecast is sun and clouds, 80+ degrees and it might rain. The only variation is that it is more likely to rain in some months than others. He said “in Uganda when you are reduced to talking about the weather you have nothing left to talk about.” I love living in a place that has variety and variations. I love knowing that we can have a week with temperatures in the 90’s and that there will come a time when those temperatures will be in single digits as well. I believe this helps me appreciate the good stretches. I believe this teaches me to appreciate summer. Some wise sage once said that you don’t appreciate something you cannot lose. Here in western New York we deeply appreciate the warm summer weather because we lose it every single winter. We appreciate the cold and the snow because we know it won’t last either. We appreciate bursting growth of spring because we know it follows a fallow season and precedes a fertile season. We appreciate the bursting colors of autumn because it also won’t last for long and it is glorious while it is here. I have been pondering other things I should appreciate more knowing that they are temporary: like my life, key relationships, family, abilities, etc. I am striving to live each day with open eyed wonder and joy and to see (to really see) and appreciate (with deep appreciation) the wonders that God surrounds me with each and every day.

See you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, appreciator of God’s gifts

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