

**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**Harlem at Saratoga**  
**Amherst, New York**

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

**EVERYONE is WELCOME**

**June 10, 2014**

**UPDATE**

**EVERY 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)  
**716-839-2460**

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

Hi Everyone:

I am still celebrating our Confirmation Class and the celebration of their first profession of faith this past Sunday morning. Robert, Jonathan and Paige did an outstanding job and I was deeply blessed to watch and encourage their choices. Deep appreciation to their mentors, Lynn Ramsey, Bradley Loliger and Laura Smith, for their hours of hard work, prayer, encouragement and conversation. Thank you, also to Sally Pollard, who coordinates this part of our ministry with excellence and grace. Life is about choices. Our gifts and talents do not define who we are going to be. Our choices define us and form us into the people we are becoming. Although those choices are significant when we are young the truth is the need to make the right choices never go away. Every encounter, every conversation, every moment of every day we must choose to be faithful to our

Lord Jesus Christ or choose some lesser path. It is great to see these three make the good choice and we will continue to pray for the strength and grace Robert, Jonathan and Paige will need for their life-long journey of faith. My prayer is that they will thrive and not settle for ordinary lives!

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 148. Thank you to all who made it a great day. THANK YOU Dave Mitchell who assisted with the Pentecost display (and, of course, to Sally who dreamed and implemented it).
2. This Sunday is Father's Day (and Trinity Sunday). Jessica Lawson and I will be sharing the morning message. I have asked Jessica to tell us about her recent mission to India. This is also our choir's last appearance until September (THANK YOU CHOIR and Minister of Music, Kevin Durkin).
3. The discussion/action group scheduled for June 12 has been postponed until July 10.
4. HELP! As a fund raiser for Mission Youth we are putting on the Dinner portion of a Dinner Theater this Friday and Saturday at Christ Church. Chef Guy Castellino will be preparing a spaghetti dinner. Here's the problem: **we need helpers!!** We have a small crew for Friday and a smaller crew for Saturday and could use some extra helping hands with set up and clean up, etc. Unfortunately, most of our youth are away this weekend. If you can help us out please let me or Sally know ASAP.
5. "Sunday at Christ Church" is a music and image presentation based on photographs taken by Ian Webber and Ross Markello and arranged by Janelle Martin. The show can be accessed through our web site: [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org) (just click on the "Sunday at Christ Church" button on the home page). Or you can go direct to the YouTube link by clicking here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pwlk9G1g7M>.
6. In our prayers: are with Debbie Fiebelkorn on the passing of her step-father William Erick (his memorial service was last Saturday); Sue Cataudella is recovering from a fall; Jan Rhinehart is also recovering from a fall; Brian Martin (Janelle's brother) has begun treatments for Leukemia at Roswell; Dave Mitchell; Tom Davis; Janet Hill; Caroline Hess, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino, Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth

Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy. Remember those serving overseas, remember families in crisis and all who are looking for work. Pray for our students and their teachers as the school year begins to wind down.

7. UMW Conversation: Monday, June 16 at 7:00 – United Methodist Women are hosting an evening gathering on Immigration and Radical Welcome. All are welcome to view the film *The Stranger* and join the conversation. Questions? Contact Peggy Bermudez (626-4897)

8. The BLOOD MOBILE will be at Christ church **Friday, June 20**. Everyone 18 and over is encouraged to donate. Free hot dogs to all who donate.

9. Beth Sweet is looking for two car seats that could be bought or borrowed for the week of September 1-8. Contact Beth: 210-8966 or [bthswt@gmail.com](mailto:bthswt@gmail.com) if you can help.

10. About 2 dozen of us went to “Star Wars Night” at Coca Cola Field to watch the Buffalo Bisons play the Syracuse Chiefs. We had a good time!

11. FOOD PANTRY – this week: Boxed Dinners (THANK YOU!)

12. Happy Birthday this week:

June 10 – Samantha Willhauck

June 12 – Patricia Zaleski

June 13 – Samuel Suggs

June 14 – Richard Mestler

June 17 – Laura Smith

June 18 – Vincent Malpica; Andrew Rapini

13. Happy Anniversary this week:

June 13 – Barry and Jean Wood (50 years)

June 15 – Steven and Kathleen Morris Mong (1)

June 18 – James and Linnea George

14. Through the Bible – this week’s readings:

June 10 – Jeremiah 15-17

June 11 – Jeremiah 18-19 and Matthew 23

June 12 – Jeremiah 20-21 and Matthew 24

June 13 – Jeremiah 22-23

June 14—Jeremiah 24-26 and Matthew 25  
June 15 – Jeremiah 27-29  
June 16 – Jeremiah 30-32  
June 17 – Jeremiah 33 and Matthew 26  
June 18 – Jeremiah 34-36

15. Pastor BJ will be away (for R & R) June 16 through July 6. After a 4 day retreat with his covenant group, he and Karen will be spending time with family and friends and visiting East Coast cities of the USA. In his absence: if pastoral care is needed contact the church office at 839-3260

Roger Johnson will be preaching on June 22; Peggy Bermudez will be preaching on June 29 and Rev. Jim Pollard will be preaching on July 6.

16. MISSION OF THE MONTH in JUNE is “Dress our People”  
This ministry began at Christ Church in the spring of 2012. This summer many people are needed to gather, cut, sew and package dresses and shorts for children in Uganda. Donations are needed to purchase t-shirts to be sent with the shorts. Last year we sent over 300 articles of clothing to Uganda!. If you would like to help contact Peggy Nye (648-1850). **Donations of Cotton fabric or cotton/polyester blends no less than 1 yard in length, thread, bias tape, and trim are needed.** Donations may be placed in or near the Dress our People mailbox outside the church office. Thank you.

#### 17. **Summer Schedule at Christ Church**

1. Office Hours to begin June 16. From June 16 to mid August the office will be open 9 to 3 p.m.
2. Worship times will remain at 9:00 and 11:00 all summer.
3. There is no FaithXpress in the summer but there will be Vacation Bible School (see #18)

18. **Vacation Bible School: WORKSHOP OF WONDERS** – July 14 through July 18 from 9:00a.m. to Noon

Workshop of Wonders: imagine and build with God. Discover how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God!

Register online at <http://ww.christchuramherst.org/education/vacation-bible-school-2014/>

#### 19. **SOME MISSION NEWS**

1. A “YOUTH ORIENTATED” journey to Uganda is being planned for June 28-July 9/10 in 2015. Youth 16 and over are welcome. Application forms are available through Pastor BJ.

2. Jessica Lawson has returned from India; Courtney Cataudella is currently in Costa Rica;

Pastor BJ Norrix and Joe Fort will be returning to Uganda in October 5-23, 2014.

20. Family Justice Center - Voices Ending Violence Fundraising Breakfast

Date: Friday, June 13, 2014

Time: Registration: 7:30 am - Program: 8:00 - 9:00 am

Location: Buffalo Convention Center 153 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

Mary Travers Murphy and others will speak about domestic violence in our community and the Northtowns Satellite will be highlighted. There is no charge for the breakfast. You will have an opportunity to give a donation in any amount at this event. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Peggy Bermudez by Friday, June 6th. 626-4897 or [bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com).

21. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – August 14 and 15, 2014. This event, put on by the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, is an annual gathering of leaders from a wide variety of disciplines and expertise. It is an event I try to attend every year. The nearest satellite location is in Rochester. Sally, Janelle and I are preregistered but there is room for plenty more. Current registration is \$189 (\$199 after May 20). If you would like to attend with us please let me know ASAP and we'll get you signed up. Scheduled speakers include: Louis Giglio, Erica Ariel Fox, Carly Fiorina, Patrick Lencioni, Susan Cain, Tyler Perry, Jeffrey Immelt and Bill Hybels (Pastor at Willow). This event was attended by nearly 200,000 people worldwide last year.

### **Parting Thought**

I'm getting ready to take some time off. This is part of the natural rhythm of life and of the spiritual life. Remember even God rested after six days of work. Periodically we need to shut down, look at something else for a while, and play! Do you ever wonder what God did on his day off? Could that be when he was playing with odd left over parts from creation and came up with the duck billed platypus and the Giraffe? I am looking forward to a few weeks of rest and renewal. Karen and I do not have much planned this time around. We are going to

do some touristy things in New York and Philadelphia and try to dip our toes in salt water a few times in the process but mostly we are just going to lay low, take long walks and work on our house in Liverpool (well, she's going to work on the house; I'm planning to play a bit of golf with my dad!). Christ Church is moving forward. Keep praying. Keep working. Keep inviting your friends and family to come and join us in celebration of God's amazing love and our going out to make a difference in this world for Jesus!

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead pastor, missionary, restorer