

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

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

**UPDATE June 11, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

**716-839-2460**

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

Hi Everyone:

We are in the middle of one of those ministry weeks where we get to cover the complete spectrum of ministry. We began with the celebration of newly professed faith in the lives of Julie Sciolino and Hannah Smith on Confirmation Sunday. The week moves forward as we say our blessings and farewells to our good friend Curt Barber (Thursday at 2:00). Saturday we will celebrate the wedding of Kathleen Morris and Steven Mong and Sunday we cap it off with the baptism of Giovanni Castellino (at 11:00). There are those weeks in ministry where we go from highs to lows to highs (to higher highs?). I am deeply blessed to be pastor of a church, like Christ Church, that has excellent and capable staff (both paid and unpaid!). Watching our community surround Julie and Hannah and the Curtis family has been a profound blessing, indeed!

Here is what is happening at church:

1. Attendance Sunday was in the 150 range. Continued blessings on Hannah and Julie who were confirmed Sunday. Thank you also to their mentors, Mary Ball and Kathryn Weaver! Thank you, deepest thank you, to Sally Pollard who coordinates our confirmation process (and SO much more). Thank you to all our musicians and other worship leaders for making this a memorable event in the lives of these new Christ followers! And, especially, thank you to Michelle and Chris and Vicki and Scott who are raising such brilliant and excellent young women.

2. This Sunday I am finishing my series on Elijah and Elisha. This week we are looking at 2 Kings 13:14-20a. It is the final chapter in the life of the prophet Elisha and it teaches us a critical faith principle. That principle is this: God dreams for us possibilities that are far beyond our reach or imagination.

We are celebrating the baptism of Giovanni Castellino at the 11:00 worship time. Giovanni is 6. He and his dad have been worshipping with us for several months.

We are also recognizing and celebrating our graduates (and there are a bunch of them!)

3. Monday, June 17, I will begin my Summer vacation and will return on July 5. Karen and I are driving my mom and dad to Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada (my mom’s home town). We are planning many stops along the way and a circle tour of the island of Newfoundland. While I am away if there is a pastoral emergency

please call the church office there is a pastor "on call" while I am out and Rachel and Sally have the phone number. On July 7, when I return, I am beginning a series on the 10 Commandments for today.

Sunday June 23 – guest preachers Ben and Laurel O'Connor. Seminary students at Drew University Seminary in Madison, New Jersey.

Sunday June 30 – guest preacher Dr. Mark Abbott – our missionary to Spain – is our guest preacher

4. Curtis T. Barber's arrangements: Calling hours are today from 2-4 and 7-9 at the Dietrich Funeral Home on Kensington Ave. Committal is on Wednesday at the family grave plot in Fredonia. **Memorial Service** in celebration of Curt's life is Thursday, June 13 at 2:00 here at Christ Church. A light reception will follow – contact Sally Pollard if you can help out. Louise Barber's circle, the Elizabeth Circle, is coordinating the reception.

5. Church Office Summer Hours begin on June 17. The Office will be open from 9-3 until mid August. The Office will be closed July 4 and 5 in observance of the holiday.

6. In our prayers: family and friends of Curt Barber; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Doris Schanzlin, Carl and Jean Ericson, Gena Magoon, Art Gundlach, Mitch Mooney, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy, Greg Yungbluth; families in crisis, those looking for work. High School students finishing up exams and upcoming graduations. Say a prayer of blessing for Julie and Hanna. Say a prayer of blessing for Giovanni Castellino as he is baptized Sunday. Say a prayer of blessing for Kathleen Morris and Stephen Mong as they are married this Saturday.

**7. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** is August 8 and 9 in Syracuse, New York. This Annual Leadership gathering is put on by the Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, ILL. The GLS is the best leadership event I attend. 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 3 of us attended from Christ Church and I would like more of us to go if we can. 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.

8. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday June 11 – Hand2Plow group meets at 7:00

Thursday, June 13 – Bible Study at 10:00

– Curtis Barber Memorial service at 2:00

-- Stewardship and Finance at 7:00

Saturday, June 15 – Morris/Mong Wedding

9. The Thursday Morning Bible Study will be off for the Summer after this week and will resume in September  
The "Going Deeper" group is now off for the Summer and will resume in September

10. Happy Birthday this week

June 12 – Pat Zaleski

June 13 – Nathan Gowen, Samuel Suggs

June 14 – Richard Mestler

June 17 – Laura Smith

June 18 – Vincent Malpica Andrew Rapini

11. Happy Anniversary this week

June 13 – Jean and Barry Wood  
June 15 – Scott and Viki Smith  
June 18 – James and Linnea George

12. Through the Bible in a year – this week’s readings – I have recently posted introductions to the books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon on my blog: [www.drjbithoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjbithoughts.blogspot.com).

June 11 – Song of Solomon 5-8; Psalm 94 and Philippians 1  
June 12 – 1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 10-11 and Philippians 2  
June 13 – 1 Kings 13-14; 2 Chronicles 12 and Philippians 3  
June 14 – 1 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 13-14 and Philippians 4  
June 15 – 1 Kings 16; 2 Chronicles 15-16 and Colossians 1  
June 16 – 1 Kings 17-19 and Colossians 2  
June 17 – 1 Kings 20-21; 2 Chronicles 1-16 and Colossians 3  
June 18 – 1 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 18-19 and Colossians 4

13. Coming soon to Christ Church:

June 15 – Wedding of Kathleen Morris and Steven Mong at 2:00 at Christ Church

June 18 – Harlem Kensington Cleveland Community Association end of School Picnic 6-8 at the Harlem Road Community Center

Family Entertainment by “Magical John” Hot dogs, dilly bars and beverage all for only \$1!!

June 23 – Special guest preachers: Ben and Laurel O’Connor

June 30 – Special guest preacher: Dr. Mark Abbott

July 15 – 19 – Vacation Bible School at Christ Church – 9:00 a.m. to Noon

July 20 – Community Fun Fair

**14. FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (NORTHTOWNS) UPDATE:** The **Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing** approved the initial use of the building and the hours of operation. Our next meeting for the Northtowns Center is **Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00** at North Presbyterian Church.

**THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER** (Northtowns edition **revised**) 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 we can ask for help with the building project. We need tons of things; for instance, furniture, lamps, carpeting, paint, art work. 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 versus paid contractors and vendors.

4) The FJC is having a fundraising breakfast June 7th at 8:00 am in the Buffalo Convention center. Please contact Kathy or Peggy if you are interested in attending.

15. 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

Again, contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

16. JUNE 22 – LET’S Go to the Ball Game – Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> is STAR WARS NIGHT as the Buffalo Bisons take on the Durham Bulls. See information in the June **CALLER** or in Sunday’s bulletin. Reservations must be made by June 15 (EVERYONE IS WELCOME). Post Game fireworks!

17. NEXT BLOOD DRIVE – June 21 from 2 to 6 at Christ church. See Geoff Hill for details.

### 18. MISSION UPDATES:

1. **Courtney and Jessica have returned from their respective journeys to Nicaragua and India – we are setting up a time for them to talk about their mission work and experiences.**

2. The money for the Well in Gomba is on its way. Thank you. The Uganda Team will be present for the dedication of this well in November and we’ll have lots of photos and stories to tell.

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.

### 19. This and That . . .

Youth group sold out their Chiavetta ‘s bbq last Tuesday!

There were over 40 from Christ Church and the wider community at the CPR AED training last night (THANK YOU TIM REED!!!)

There has been a **Doris Schanzlin** sighting . . . she is steadily improving and hopes to back to full strength by July.

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.

21. Sally Pollard will be sending out the update the new few weeks! (Yea, thank you Sally!).

### Parting Thought:

I’m getting ready for vacation. Vacation is an odd word, isn’t it? I’m not vacating . . . I’m taking a little time away and a little (OK not so little) trip. Newfoundland is an extraordinary place. Wonderful people, spectacular scenery and views. Mom grew up in a little village called Stephenville Crossing (if you look at a map it is on the west side of the island near the slightly larger town of Stephenville). My dad was stationed at the US Harmon Air Force Base in Stephenville during the Korean War and he and mom met and were married there in 1952. I have visited “the Rock,” as the St. John’s residents call it, 8 or 9 times in my life. Some of my fondest childhood

memories are of the long journey from Flat Rock, Michigan (my home town) to visit Grandma and Grandpa White and the rest of my mom's family. We have many stops planned along the way and are planning to visit some places I've never been before in Newfoundland. Pray for Karen and I (and Mom and Dad) as we journey together. Summer for we Western New Yorkers has a special meaning. The "nice" weather, drives us out doors and sends us to cottages, boats, golf courses, gardens (and, yes, even trips to Atlantic Canada). Remember that your Church is here and remember to connect with God and your faith in your play time. I am praying for all of you and look forward to sharing photos and other items on my return.

Blessings,

B.J. Norrix, lead servant, missionary, ½ Newfie!

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church. Feel free to share this with your friends and neighbors. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please let me know and I will take off the list.