

UPDATE - June 17, 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!

It feels like summer today, warm air and sunshine. A good day for joining together with Christian Education Team members from CUMC and from Amherst Community Church to continue preparations for Vacation Bible School. That's right! We're gearing up for "Workshop of Wonders" where we'll imagine and build with God. Not only do we gather every Tuesday to combine our creative efforts (making robots this year!!) but I'm also watching the registrations coming in and seeing many new names! What a joy it will be to greet new friends and welcome them to Christ Church.

Here's some other things happening at Christ Church:

1. On Sunday we welcomed guests at worship and were moved and inspired as Jessica Lawson, a student at American University, shared her experiences and what she learned as a result of leading a trip to Tamil Nadu, India. It was a return trip for Jess and it was important to her to let the children she had met on her first trip know that they and their stories were remembered. You see, the children are dalits, the name given to the lowest individuals in the caste system, which literally means, "the dust under our feet." Imagine how much it meant to them to have Jessica, someone so full of love, creativity and fun, come back to them and continue and deepen the relationship of love and respect they had begun earlier. Jessica was moved to find that she too was remembered and welcomed warmly. Jessica spoke to us about making ourselves vulnerable as Jesus shows us in serving the needs of others, that it hurts when you connect and weave your story with others. When the oppression of others makes it impossible for you to enjoy your own freedom, when you don't enjoy your own food knowing that there are others who have little or no food or clean water to eat & drink and when you can feel something happening inside you that feels like God's Spirit calling you to action, well, you just have to respond with faith and love. And you will never be the same.

Jessica is now off to her summer work at Camp Asbury. Courtney Catudella, a student at SUNY Geneseo, has just returned from study in Costa Rica and joins Jessica at Camp Asbury as a summer camp staff person.

2. Pastors BJ and Karen are on vacation for the coming weeks. This Sunday Roger Johnson will be preaching at both worship celebrations.

3. Summer hours began this week. 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. Last weekend we partnered with Encore Experience to bring Dinner Theater to Christ Church. Thank you to Chef Guy Castellino for the delicious spaghetti dinner and to those who helped set, cook, serve and clean up -- Dede Johnson, Peggy Bermudez, Janelle Martin, Viki Smith,

Hannah Smith, BJ and me. We had great fun, learned cooking tips and raised about \$600 for Mission Youth.

5. Good News! Following up on our shoe collection, Christ Church received **\$1634.80** from our efforts. Thank you to the Christian Education Team members who coordinated this effort, to those who helped pack shoes on Make A Difference Day, to those who loaded the truck and to all who brought shoes and invited others to do the same. *And that's my final word on shoes!* 😊

6. This Week at Christ Church:

Monday, June 16 -- Conversation on Immigration 7 pm

Tuesday, June 17 -- VBS prep 9 am & 7 pm

Friday, June 20 -- Bloodmobile 2- 6 pm

7. **In our Prayers this week:** Ross Markello, Sister's Hospital, Sue Cataudella recovering from a fall, Brian Martin (Janelle's brother) who has begun treatments for Leukemia at Roswell; Tom Davis; Janet Hill; 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. Remember United Methodist pastors in transition to new appointments and retirement, those serving in the armed forces, families in crisis and all who are looking for work. students, teachers and administrators as the school year comes to a close.

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

Friday, June 20 - Provide dinner and visit with a guest family through **Family Promise**. Contact Lee Watson for information 837-0589.

Saturday, June 21 - 1-5 pm Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner to Benefit the **Alzheimers Association**. Dinners are \$10 presale, \$11 at the door and may be picked up at the corner of Hamilton Dr & Kings Hwy. To purchase dinners call Terry Johnson 908-9055 or contact Erin & Chris Johnson for more information.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

June 17 – Laura Smith *Today!!*

June 18 - Vinny Malpica, Andrew Rapini

June 19 - Taylor Ramsey

June 21 - Kristen Webb

June 22 - Donna Hammond, Laura Nye Hagley, Emily Nye Heimer

14. Happy Anniversary this week:

June 18 - Jim & Linnea George

June 20 - Allen & Joan Lesswing, Donna & Greg Yungbluth

15. 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.

16. 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.

"Transitions are almost always signs of growth, but they can bring feelings of loss. To get somewhere new, we may have to leave somewhere else behind." This wisdom from Fred Rogers rings true at this time of year as children move to the next grade or school, as graduates make the transition to the working world, as colleagues in ministry move to new locations, churches welcome new pastors and friends enter a new way of life called retirement. No matter what transition in life you're facing it can be an exciting, frightening stressful time. Who will we be in this new place, this new classroom, church, home, or new situation in life. Jesus never promised his followers that life would be easy or that things would always turn out the way we plan. What Jesus did promise was to be with us always, in all times and places, sad or happy, sick or well, near or far we're never alone. God is with us, in us and among us as we open ourselves up to love, forgiveness and possibilities. I'm grateful to be surrounded by a church community that cares and reaches out to make a way for others.

With JOY,

Sally