

**UPDATE - June 23, 2015**

**Christ U M Church  
Harlem Road at Saratoga Road  
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**

***Why not 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)

Or call us at: [716-839-2460](tel:716-839-2460)

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Tuesday, June 23

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 85-ish. (160 the week before, I misreported). Mac Sabol brought our morning message on "Changing Labels Changes Meaning." Unfortunately the sermon did not get recorded but Powerpoint slides are available if anyone is interested. During times of transition there are many endings and beginnings. Between them lies a gap called "transition." With many of the changes that occur around us there is little over which we have any control. With transition, however, we have complete control. The labels we assign make all the difference in how we will live through the transitions in our lives. I'm looking forward to the opportunities opening before us as together we shape the future as Christ Church, a Community Center for Faith.

2. Thank you to Kevin Durkin, Minister for Music, who is providing music for our 9 am worship celebration for the coming weeks. Kevin invites you to join in a Festival Choir which will be singing on Sunday, July 5th at the 11 am Traditional Celebration.

A rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room. You do not need to be a choir member to join in! Join us in welcoming Rev. Darryl Barrow to this new adventure in life and ministry on July 5. Communion will be offered at both worship celebrations.

This Sunday at Christ Church - Sunday, June 28 - Peggy Bermudez, our Lay Leader, will bring the message. We will also send out our Uganda Mission Team, including: John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Janelle Martin, Erisawe Briere, Kathryn Weaver and B.J. Norrix. They will return on Tuesday, July 14.

3. The Praise Team invites you to consider joining them in leading our Sunday morning (9am) Praise Celebration. If you or someone you know plays guitar, keyboard or drums or likes to sing praise music, please let us know! . . . We are praying for you!

4. Thank you to the Trustees, to Dick Radel and all those who gave their time and energy to clean, paint and garden in preparation for TODAY. Rev. Darryl Barrow is *in the house!*

5. **In our Prayers:** **Elizabeth Brunner**, broke her arm; **Debbie LaBerta**, knee problems; **David Lawson** - recovering from eye surgery; **Ann Burdette**, rehab at Harris Hill Nursing Home; **Todd Evans** at Beechwood. **Mary Jo Evans** at Blocher Home; **Mitch Mooney**, Amberleigh; **Glenn Hurst** at home; **Tom Davis** at Elderwood Room 312-A, 200 Bassett Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221; **Laney Fuller** at Blocher; **Jan Rhinehart**; **Sharon Ferrelli** continues cancer treatments; **Dr. Robert Nachbar** at Blocher Home; **Charles Terranova**, hodgkins lymphoma; **Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Edmond Wrycza** (Julianna Sabol's father in nursing home in Fort Erie); **Barbara Clinton**, **Fred and Lynda Painton**, **Guy Castellino** (and Guy's mother and father who are both dealing with major health matters); **Bim Rowlands**, **Nicky Sebastiano**, **Ruth Kitson**, **Ruth Luss**, **Shirley Downey**, **Ed Maker** (Ed and Marie worshipped with us last Sunday); **Alice Schmidt**, **Diane Lovejoy**; **Marion Wenner**, and **Debbie Suggs**. Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign) especially: **Alex Dunbar**, **Ian Johnson** and **Lindsey Darling** (all serving in the US Navy). Pray for **Christ UMC** in our time of transition. Pray for Pastor BJ and Rev. Darryl Barrow (and all UM pastors and congregations) in this season of pastoral transition.

6. **G-Force - God's love in action!** Vacation Bible School is coming...**July 13-17 9 am to noon for children Pre-K through completing Grade 5. Amherst**

**Community Church**, with Deb Cullen, Christian Ed. Co-ordinator, is our partner for VBS this year. We have planned VBS together for several years. This year we will join together for the week of VBS as well.

**We need your help with...**

*Prayers, financial support, helping hands during VBS week, **decorating items such as:** Bikes, bike tires, scooters, pogo sticks, skateboards, surfboards, helmets, skates (any kind), running shoes, ball caps, sports jerseys and equipment, old license plates, kites, knee and elbow pads, tires, hula hoops. **We will return items to you after VBS week.***

Contact Sally Pollard for more information.

**7. Motion Commotion Fun Fest! Saturday July 11 10 am to 2 pm**

This event is for the whole community and includes a garage sale (reserve tables for \$15 each), face painting, games, bike and helmet safety checks and safe child ID by the Amherst Police, food, fun and more.... The Christian Ed team and UM Women are sponsoring this event. For more info contact Sally Pollard, Beth Sweet or Peggy Bermudez.

**8. Take Me Out To The Ball Game - Saturday, July 18 Buffalo Bisons vs. Columbus Clippers**

Reserved seats in the club level "Special Reserved" section. Seats - \$10.75 per person

Additional \$6.50 for hot dog & a coke. Sponsored by the UM Men's Group. Contact Jim Pollard for tickets.

**9. Happy Birthday this week:**

June 23 - Sean Brown

June 25 - Julie Sciolino

June 27 - Ruth Munson

June 28 - Barbara Mitchell

**10. Happy Anniversary this week:**

June 22 - Chuck & Joanne Gilbert

June 29 - Bill & Marg Bauza

**11. Through the Bible readings -**

Copies of the Bible Reading Plan for the rest of the year are available in the church office or on the ledge in the back of the worship space.

## 1 2 . Ongoing collections -

**Non-perishable food items** for local food pantries. Place items in the shopping carts located in the building.

**Veterans Hospital supplies for patients, day programs and homeless** - leave them in the container provided in Crafts Hall. Needed items: Socks, underwear, T-shirts (White, L to XXXL, V-neck), towels, Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, disposable razors, mouthwash, nail clippers, body wash, combs, shaving cream, pocket mirrors, chap stick – be sure mouth wash and other items are “Alcohol free”; Gift cards (McDonald’s, Wendy’s, Burger King, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Tops); Patriotic throws or lap blankets, books and audio books, DVDs.

**UMCOR donations** - Mark financial contributions for UMCOR. 100% of your donations goes to rescue and relief efforts.

## 1 3. **COMING SOON**

June 28 – Uganda Mission Team leaves for Uganda and returns July 14.

July 5 – Rev. Barrow’s first Sunday at CUMC Festival Choir Holy Communion

July 11 - Motion Commotion Fun Fest 10 am to 2 pm

July 18 - Night at the Ballpark Buffalo Bisons vs Colombus Clippers 6:05 pm Fireworks!!!

## A last thought - *From Pastor BJ*

Hi Everyone:

I am back from retreat and my nephew Tim’s wedding and wanted to take a moment to express my deepest appreciation to all of you for your most gracious send-off on June 14. I laughed, and giggled, and felt your love and affection in profound and surprising ways. Who knew that my entire ministry was about bad jokes, eggplant and silly hats. Nonetheless, from my heart to yours: Thank you! Special thanks to Janelle and her memes (I am still showing them to friends for a good laugh); to the Snyder Tenors (the mustaches make the deal); to the SPRC; our Lay Leader, Peggy Bermudez; and to all who came, and ate, and told stories. Your generous financial gift will help Karen and I finish some much needed work on our home! The gift of your love and affection I will carry with me always.

Whenever you are in Syracuse, please let me know. It would be great to reconnect!

Please use the gmail address below if you wish to contact me.

I have been blessed by all of you! I will do my best to pass that blessing on to others!

Until we meet again, so long and thanks . . . BJ

Last Sunday I shared with those in worship some of Rev. Barrow's thoughts in a letter to the churches of the Crossroads District where he has served as District Superintendent. He was prompted to write these thoughts following the shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. He posed these questions...

*"How do people of color continue to find love in the midst of this kind of hate; grace and forgiveness in the midst of this kind of adversity; and love for our enemies?"*

*"When will this end, friends? When will more of the people who represent the dominant culture, and more of my white sisters and brothers in our UM Church simply say and profoundly mean it, that enough is enough, even at the risk of being called names? Even at the risk of bearing the cross of Christ more faithfully?"*

*"As I am preparing to be pastor at a church, I pray they will be ready to come alongside with me (DRB) and be a true partner about this matter and other matters that have historically done so much harm to others... We are all part of the problem, we can all part of the solution."*

I invite you to continue your reflecting and to share the thoughts in your hearts and minds. Together we can do more to shape the world as God envisions.

With Joy,

Sally