

**UPDATE - June 24, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

[716-839-2460](tel:716-839-2460)

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

**Like us on Facebook!**

While walking down the street this week, I passed students coming home from school. It was their last day and they were H-A-P-P-Y! Everything about them said they were feeling free. This coming Sunday Peggy Bermudez will be bringing the morning message and she shared this quote,

"The Gospel is about freedom in Christ. Think of all the strands that tie us up - death, sin, fear, anger, addictions... self-involvement! The Gospel, the Good News is about freedom in Christ. It is about knots being untied, ropes loosened, ties unbound."

Martha Grace Reese, *Unbinding the Gospel*

I hope you find yourself feeling free and unbound from anything that has been holding you back or getting you down. We are loved and forgiven and Jesus is with us through it all. That's good news!

Here are some things happening at Christ Church:

1. On Sunday 75 worshipers came to Christ Church on the first glorious Sunday of summer!! Roger Johnson brought the morning message entitled, "Jesus Never Lets Go" reminding us that even when life is hard and we deal with difficult situations and difficult people, or feel like we've lost hope, still Jesus promises to be with us through it all. We can step out and take some risks knowing that we're not alone.

2. Pastors BJ and Karen are on vacation for the coming weeks. This Sunday Peggy Bermudez will be preaching at both worship celebrations. Keep BJ and Karen in your prayers as they enjoy the freedom called v-a-c-a-t-i-o-n!

3. Summer hours are in effect at the church office. 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. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, 24th - Christian Ed team - VBS prep 9 am & 7 pm

Deborah Circle - Lunch at Vinecroft

Thursday, 26th - "Caller" assembly team 10 am

Alzheimers Dance - 11 am - 2 pm

Friday, 27th - Game Night 7 pm

**5. In our Prayers this week:** Donna Hammond at home recovering from shoulder surgery, Ross Markello, at home doing well, Lois Lewis, Sue Cataudella recovering from a fall, Brian Martin (Janelle's brother) who has begun treatments for Leukemia at Roswell; Tom Davis; 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.

## **6. Opportunities to Make A Difference -**

**Platelet Donation** - Please consider becoming a platelet donor! Brian Martin, brother of Janelle, our Office Manager, is currently in Roswell receiving treatment for Leukemia. He receives platelets daily, and there is an ongoing need for donors at Roswell. The process is similar to giving blood, and takes approximately 2 hours. If you or someone you know would be able to donate platelets, please call Roswell Park at 845-8275 or visit [www.roswellpark.org/donorcenter](http://www.roswellpark.org/donorcenter) to schedule an appointment. Thank you!

**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.

**Food Collection** - Support area food pantries by bringing canned and packaged non-perishable food items. Hunger doesn't take a vacation.

## **7. Happy Birthday this week:**

June 23 – Sean Brown

June 25 - Julie Sciolino

June 27 - Evan Carney, Ruth Munson

June 28 - Barbara Mitchell

## 8. Happy Anniversary this week:

June 22 - Chuck & Joanne Gilbert

June 23 - Wendy & Peter Johnston

9. 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.

## Bible readings for this week:

June 23 - Jeremiah 48-49, Philippians 1

June 24 - Jeremiah 50, Philippians 2

June 25 - Jeremiah 51-52, Philippians 3

June 26 - Joel 1-3, Philippians 4

June 27 - Deuteronomy 1-3, Acts 1,

June 28 - Deuteronomy 4-6

June 29 - Deuteronomy 7-9, Acts 2

June 30 - Deuteronomy 10-12, Acts 3

July 1 - Deuteronomy 13-15, Acts 4

July 2 - Deuteronomy 16 -18

July 3 - Deuteronomy 19-21, Acts 5

July 4 - Deuteronomy 22-24,

July 5 - Deuteronomy 25-27, Acts 6

The month of July is not far away and with it the celebration of Independence Day. Take time to think about the freedom you experience and as we follow Jesus and offer peace, hope and a caring community to everyone we meet.

With JOY, Sally