

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

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

UPDATE June 4, 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

716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

I have just returned from Annual Conference and feel like a fresh wind of the Spirit has blown through Upper New York. Annual Conference is the regional body of the United Methodist Church and, as an Elder, is my church. United Methodist Elders do not belong to the local church they serve, they belong (are members) of the Annual Conference. When the Upper New York Annual Conference gathers is the gathering of my church. I have made a study of leadership for the past 25 years – a good 20% of my library books are on leadership and how to be a better leader, I have attended The Leadership Summit (put on by Willow Creek) at least a dozen times. It was a great blessing to see good leadership at work at Annual Conference through our new bishop, Mark J. Webb. Leadership is about creating a culture where the vision can be lived out. On the Annual Conference level this requires a change in temperature, a change in focus and a significant change in functioning. We have to begin to adjust how we live out our lives of faith together. Bishop Webb brought a wind of grace and hope to the proceedings. We celebrated, we remembered, we planned but most of all we worshipped Jesus Christ. I can’t remember the last time I felt like Annual Conference was a spiritual renewal event. It was great. Pray for our Bishop and our conference leaders as they seek to lead the United Methodist Church into a new era of growth in ministry.

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 125. Thank you to our tenor soloist (Mr. Mac Sabol) and to all of our communion servers. I was deeply blessed. Special appreciation to Mrs. **Mary Ball** who was awarded the UMW’s Mission Service Pin – much of Mary’s family was here to celebrate with her.

I also want to express my appreciation to **Dave Mitchell** and **Tom Weaver** – Dave built a new protected, secure, platform for the sanctuary projector and they installed it the end of last week. This allowed us to pull the communion table forward for the celebration of communion. THANK YOU!!

2. This Sunday is Confirmation Sunday. We will be celebrating with **Julie Sciolino and Hannah Smith** who will be confirmed. Julie has been mentored by Kathy Weaver and Hannah has been mentored by Mary Ball. The theme of the day is “Wells of Living Water!” with scripture from John 4. We will celebrate communion with the Confirmands and their mentors serving.

3. Chiavetta 's BBQ – TODAY, Tuesday, from 4 to 7 cost is \$10. This event is sponsored by the Senior High Youth Group for their Summer Mission Trip.

4. Death Notices: It has been a rough week.

Charles Kellner died the first of the week. His body has been donated to UB Medical School and the school will hold a memorial service at a later time. Please keep his son Mark and daughter Sally Whittaker in your prayers.

Gerard Schmidt died on Monday. A member since 1950, Mr. Schmidt's funeral will be Thursday at 6:30 at Christ Church. Burial will be Friday Morning. **If you knew Gerard I would like to speak with you before Thursday.**

Memorial service for **Nancy Elliott**, mother of Bill Elliott (Betsy), will be held Saturday, June 8 at 10:00 am at the Amherst Community Church, Washington Highway.

5. In our Prayers: 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, Al Wrisley, Curt Barber (at Suburban); Greg Yungbluth (recovering from double bypass surgery). Pray for the Family and Friends of Chuck Kellner; family and friends of Gerard Schmidt. Remember those who are looking for work, those who are in harm's way and families in crisis. Please say a pray for all United Methodist Pastors and congregations who are in transition – June/July has many of my colleagues saying goodbye to former congregations and hello to their new ones.

6. **GRADUATION LIST:** If you or a family member is graduating from High School, College or Graduate School please let us know so that we can honor and celebrate these achievements in worship on Sunday June 16. We need this information as soon as possible – call Rachel at 839-2460.

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. Offering Envelopes are now available. If you would like envelopes please let the finance team (and Doris) know. We are grateful for the efforts of **Donna Yungbluth** and **Lynda Painton** for pulling everything together to make this possible. THANK YOU.

9. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, June 4 – 4:00 to 7:00 Chiavetta's BBQ \$10

7:00 Church Council in the Church Parlor

Wednesday, June 5 – 7:00 to 9:00 "Conversations: Poverty: a Christian Response" with Rev. George Nicholas of Buffalo

Thursday, June 6 – 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Memorial Service for Gerard Schmidt

Saturday, June 8 – 10:00 a.m. – "Where in the world is Ian Webber" United Methodist Men gathering
5:00 Confirmation Dinner (at Sally Pollard's house) and Rehearsal (at the

Church)

10. Happy Birthday this week

June 4 – Richard Ball
June 5 – Barbara Clinton; Diane Poe Schroeder
June 6 – Carol Gundlach; Forrest (Woody) Rhinehart
June 7 – Karen Hoffman; Ross Markello
June 8 – John Lopez; Nicole Takac
June 9 – Charlotte Davis
June 10 – Samantha Willhauck

11. Happy Anniversary this week:

June 5 – Dave and Patti Bechtel; Bob and Marcia Snyder
June 8 – Gene and Jayne Kremzier
June 9 – Woody and Jan Rhinehart

12. Through the Bible in a year – this week's readings

June 4 – Proverbs 28-29; Psalm 60 and Romans 16
June 5 – Proverbs 30-31; Psalm 33 and Ephesians 1
June 6 – Ecclesiastes 1-3; Psalm 45 and Ephesians 2
June 7 – Ecclesiastes 4-6; Psalm 18 and Ephesians 3
June 8 – Ecclesiastes 7-9 and Ephesians 4
June 9 – Ecclesiastes 10-12; Psalm 94 and Ephesians 5
June 10 – Song of Solomon 1-4 and Ephesians 6
June 11 – Song of Solomon 5-8; Psalm 94 and Philippians 1
June 12 – 1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 10,11 and Philippians 2

13. Coming soon to Christ Church:

June 9 – Confirmation Sunday come and celebrate the Confirmation of **Julie Anne Sciolino and Hannah Grace Smith at 11:00**
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!!
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, and 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 verses 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 – We had two of you wanting to provide a lawnmower for the parsonage (and the Pastor's use). So here is what we did – a lawnmower has been purchased and **has been deployed**. The second donor has agreed to **designate their gift for a new gas stove for the parsonage**. We need about \$250 - \$300 more to buy and install the stove if you can help please see Tom Weaver. Here is the rest of the 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 (**partially cared we are getting close!!**)
2. Back Yard Deck

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

16. **UNITED METHODIST MEN:** COMING June 8 – Where in the world is **Ian Webber**. 10:00 a.m. Ian will be sharing some his photos accumulated during his 18 years of work abroad. Ian is a serious photographer with over 50 years experience. He has photographed many iconic images in Asia and the Middle East. Following the presentation lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant.

JUNE 22 – LET'S Go to the Ball Game – Saturday the 22nd 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** has returned from Nicaragua – good to see her in Church Sunday and Jessica **returns from India later this week** – keep our mission friends in your prayers

2. The money for the Well in Gomba is being wired within the next week or so. 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 met for the first time on Monday, June 3. The team is Pastor BJ, Pastor Clair Mosher, Kathryn Weaver, and Joe Forte. We talked of our itinerary (very fluid at this point) and fund raising ideas. We will have a big event in late September (20th or 27th) here at Christ church.

19. Coming Guest Preachers (while Pastor BJ is away to Newfoundland June 17 through July 5).

June 23 – **Laurel and Benjamin O'Connor** – two recently married seminary students (Drew Seminary) will be preaching together.

June 30 – **Dr. Mark Abbott** – UM Missionary to Spain

20. DON'T FORGET: CPR and AED Training at Christ Church on Monday, June 10 from 6:30 to 9:30. Tim Reed, certified in both procedures will be teaching all comers – want to know how to do these things and perhaps save a life. See you Monday.

21. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is on the scene in Oklahoma helping with the clean up and rebuilding following the series of devastating Tornadoes. You can help by writing a check to CUMC with "OK Tornadoes" in the memo line. Every dollar will go to support the relief effort.

22. Beginning June 17 the Church office will switch to "Summer Hours." The Office will be open Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. summer hours will continue into mid August when we will resume our normal schedule.

Parting Thought

I've been thinking about Julie and Hannah and the Confirmation of their faith. The word Confirmation assumes that some faith has been "pre-planted". Someone believed for these young women and brought them to the church for baptism. Someone loved these young women and brought them to worship and Sunday school and other events related to the church community. Faith has existed in and around them since the day they were born. Confirmation is that vital moment on the journey when they publicly claim that faith – the faith others previously claimed for them – for themselves. This is a basic Christian understanding. At some moment on the journey all of us have to make a choice as to whether to be a Christ follower or not. All who call themselves Christian have staked this claim; have made this choice. All of us who call ourselves Christian have made both a private and public profession of faith. We chose within ourselves to respond to God's gracious love and we chose to make it known that we are now identified as one of Christ's own. I invite you to join me in daily prayer between now and Sunday. Pray for Julie and Hannah. Pray that the Holy Spirit will confirm their choice by filling them both with grace and empowering them to be faithful followers of Jesus. Confirmation, like Graduation and marriage and so many of the other pivotal life moments does not mark the end of a journey but its new beginning. What was once believed on our behalf by our parents and sponsors is now our faith, our belief, our newly expressed trust in God. Be sure to come and celebrate this moment with these two new fledgling disciples of Jesus.

Have a great week!

BJ Norrix, Christ follower, lead servant, missionary

This e-mail is a communication ministry of Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please let me know.