

UPDATE

March 10, 2015

Christ United Methodist 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

**10:00 FaithXpress, Soul Strength and Adult
Opportunities for Learning**

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

Or call us at: 716-839-2460

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

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Hi Everyone:

It hit 35 degrees yesterday; I was running around in short sleeves! Warmer days and still cold nights means the sap is running and the sure and certain first signs of the world’s annual renewal begin to appear all around us. After nearly six weeks of cabin fever, yesterday’s sunshine and relative warmth gave me a flirtation with spring fever. Change is in the air, change is everywhere. We are half-way through the season of Lent with Palm Sunday and Holy Week a mere 19 days away. How go your preparations? Are you making space for prayer and quiet? Are you

making room to practice some of the classic spiritual disciplines? Are you looking for ways to extend the love and mercy of God to others?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Worship attendance last Sunday was in around 115 (three straight weeks of climbing numbers!). I finished the series on the Sermon on the Mount as we talked about what it means to actually live this extraordinary life of following Jesus.

2. This Sunday I will bring a message titled "Grace Notes". Ephesians 2 tells us ". . . it is by grace that we are saved through faith . . ." and John 3 reminds us that God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him. Grace notes. Grace = unmerited favor.

This Sunday, March 15 is **One Great Hour of Sharing**. One Great Hour of Sharing supports the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is the disaster and emergency relief arm of the United Methodist Church. Because we have a church in every zip code in the United States we can provide onsite services following any natural or other disaster. UMCOR set up in the south towns following the November lake storm. UMCOR also has overseas relief teams who are among the first on the scene following a disaster. One Great Hour of Sharing donations pay for UMCOR's overhead which allows the relief agency to send 100% of all specified donations given for disaster relief to the actual emergency! Please find a way to be generous to this special collection.

3. Death notice 1: We learned that Richard (Dick) Manville died this past week. Funeral services are being held at a later date and will be private.

4. Death notice 2: We learned that Sam Ross, grandfather of Erin Johnson, died this past week. A service celebrating his life was held in Cleveland, Ohio.

5. Memorial Service for Margery Facklam will be held this Saturday, March 14 at 11:00 a.m. here at Christ Church. A luncheon will follow. Margery was a 65 year member of Christ Church (joining in 1950) and was a well-known author of children's nonfiction.

6. **Ron Corsaro Jazz Trio** in the Christ Church coffee house (Crafts Hall) at 7:00p.m. on Friday, March 13 – come hear some great Jazz and support the Uganda Mission Team.

7. In our Prayers: family and friends of Dick Manville, Sam Ross and Margery Facklam; Sue Estee will be having major surgery at Roswell on March 19, keep Sue in your prayers, **Sue has asked that friends refrain from visiting her in the hospital-** I will publish updates as we get them. She will be at Roswell for about a week after surgery before returning home for recovery – **cards, notes and an abundance of prayers are welcome;** Pray for **Todd and Mary Jo Evans** – Todd is now at Wesley Rehab (room 714) and is exploring treatment options for liver cancer; **Mary Jo is at** Blocher Homes; **Laney Fuller** broke a hip and following rehab is now a resident at Blocher Homes and is hoping to return to Asbury Pointe soon; **Jan Rhinehart** undergoing tests; **Sharon Ferrelli** begins her follow up treatment on Thursday; **Dr. Robert Nachbar** has moved to Blocher Homes Room 224 Blocher Homes 135 Evans St, Williamsville, NY. 14221-9244, Phone #: 716-568-9628; **Chuck Gilbert**, following a recent hospital stay; **Dorothy Brown; Dona Dalton; Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Glenn Hurst, Edmond Wrycza** (Julianna Sabol's father in nursing home in Fort Erie); **Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Tom Davis, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino** (and Guy's mother and father who are both dealing with major health matters); **Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Nicky Sebastiano, Ruth Kitson, Ruth Luss, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy;** and all those who are dealing with colds, flu and bronchitis. 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 the members of our congregation who are returning from the south following some winter reprieve and those heading out.

8. On the ***Wish List: the Church's snow blower*** (which has lasted over 15 years of heavy duty use) is on its last legs. The Trustees would like to purchase a new, commercial grade snow blower that would cost about \$2500. Is this something you'd like to purchase for your church? See me or Tom Weaver if you'd like to help. I am calling this the "be kind to Dave Wolf" project. Dave is the one who wrestles that old and often repaired machine most days of the week!

9. This week at Christ church:

Tuesday, March 10 – 7:00p.m. Stewardship and Finance

Wednesday, March 11 – Lenten Supper and Study 5:30p.m.
Choir Rehearsal at 7:30p.m.

Thursday, March 12 – Bible Study at 10:00a.m.
DRESS OUR PEOPLE – Noon to 4:00p.m.
Living Well Training – 6:30 to 8:30p.m.
SPRC meets at 7:00p.m.

Friday, March 13 – Ron Corsaro Trio in Concert at 7:00 p.m. “Coffee House”

Saturday March 14 – 9:30a.m. UMM in the Wesley Room
11:00a.m. Margery Facklam Memorial Service

March 15 through 20 – Pastor BJ is at a training event.

10. DRESS OUR PEOPLE – will be meeting to cut patterns on Thursdays March 12 and 19 from noon to 4:00p.m. in the Wesley Room. Clothing will be packed for the Uganda team on make a Difference Day, May 17. **Needed Items:** ½” to ¾” wide elastic; plastic zip bags (6.5x7” and 8x7”) double/triple strip zip works best; fabric buttons, bias tape, trim, lace and thread. Clothing will be taken to two sites in Uganda for the poorest of our friends.

11. AARP Driver Safety Class: Christ Church will host an AARP Driver Safety Class on Friday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members (paid by cash or check on the day of the training). Lunch will be available for \$5. Register by contacting Janelle at 839-2460 or cumc350@gmail.com.

12. FOOD PANTRY – Canned Meats and Stews and Tuna is this week’s collection. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT MISSION.

13. **Uganda Team Fund Raisers and events** (come and help us out)

A. **Anderson’s Coupon Books – Uganda team** is selling these books for \$4. They contain over \$60 worth of coupons and all proceeds benefit the Uganda 2015 trip.

B. We are also selling handmade Ugandan bead necklaces for \$5 each. Contact Janelle (839-2460) for more information. Proceeds support two ministries in Uganda.

C. **Ron Corsaro Trio** in Concert is on **March 13 at 7:00p.m.** Come and join us in the Bistro/Café in Crafts Hall for an evening of Jazz. Cost: donation to support the team.

D. Krolc's Fish Fry – is scheduled for April 10 here at Christ Church –
Tickets are \$12 and will be available in advance.

E. We are planning a chicken barbecue/silent auction in early May (watch for more details as the date approaches).

13. Ron Corsaro Trio – March 13 at 7 p.m. Ron and friends will be playing in the Crafts Hall coffee house. Delicious desserts and beverages will be available. Donations support the Uganda mission team.

Ron has also made 30 CD's of his trio available for a suitable donation (\$25 or more) to the Uganda Team.

14. Happy Birthday this week:

March 12 – Andrew Lopez

March 15 – Joanne Gilbert

March 16 – William Morris

March 17 – Marshall Rhinehart

15. I have no anniversaries listed for this week.

16. THROUGH THE BIBLE – this week

March 10 – Deuteronomy 13-15 and Galatians 1

March 11 – Deuteronomy 16-18; Psalm 38 and Galatians 2

March 12 – Deuteronomy 19-21 and Galatians 3

March 13 – Deuteronomy 22-24 and Galatians 4

March 14 – Deuteronomy 25-27 and Galatians 5

March 15 – Deuteronomy 28-29 and Galatians 6

March 16 – Deuteronomy 30-31; Psalm 40 and 1 Corinthians 1

March 17 – Deuteronomy 32-34 and 1 Corinthians 2

March 18 – Joshua 1-2; Psalm 37 and 1 Corinthians 3

HERE'S A WAY TO ENHANCE YOUR BIBLE READING: Try keeping a Journal.

Sometimes, when you are reading, something in the reading will speak to you or stand out to you. Take a moment and write down the SCRIPTURE. Then make an OBSERVATION (what spoke to me??). Thirdly, ask "How would I APPLY this to my life. Finally, make what you learned into a PRAYER. This method of bible reading is called the S.O.A.P. method and allows us to ask "how will I be different because of what I just read?"

17. MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

A. Uganda 2015 – The team is set. Dr. BJ Norrix will be leading a team of 8: John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Kathryn Weaver, Janelle Martin, and Erisawe Briere. We will be travelling to Uganda June 28 through July 14. We fly from Toronto through London on British Air. Your prayers are desired and appreciated. We will be visiting schools, presiding at Nexus graduations, dedicating water projects and a church, visiting an animal preserve, working in a health clinic and a school and much, much more.

B. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY we are beginning to set up projects and mission opportunities for our annual Make a Difference Day the third Sunday of May. Have an idea or a project? Let Janelle know at your earliest convenience.

18. Uganda Bibles: For our graduates in Rakai and Nakasangola, I need to purchase a case and a half of Lugandan language bibles (every graduate of Nexus Seminary, Uganda, receives Bible study resources, a Bible (English or Lugandan), and a copy of my Bible Primer (in English or Lugandan). The purchase price for 33 of these bibles is \$400. **Would you like to be the donor of these bibles?** Please see ME (BJ) if this is something you'd like to make this gift.

19. Coming Soon:

March 13 – Ron Corsaro and friends in concert, Crafts Hall Coffee House (bistro?) see above for details.

March 14 – United Methodist Men – 9:30a.m. Rev. Jim Pollard's photos of Alaska- "An Alaskan Odyssey".

March 14 – Margery Facklam Memorial Service at 11:00a.m.

March 21 – Amherst Lions Club Pancake Breakfast – 8:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. at Christ Church

March 28 – Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women Communion Breakfast and Memorial Service at Christ Church from 9:30a.m. to 12:00. Rev. Anne Cole is the guest speaker and Dr. B.J. Norrix will be presiding at Communion.

March 29 – Palm Sunday

April 2 – Holy Thursday worship at 7:00p.m.

April 3 – Good Friday – observance at Noon and 7:00p.m.

April 5 – EASTER – RESURRECTION DAY!!

April 10 -- Uganda Team Fish Fry

April 25 – The Bach Children's Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada – in Concert (see more on #20 below)

May 2 – Uganda Team Chicken BBQ
May 17 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!!

20. Christ Church's Mission footprint (AKA our "Salt Map"): Peggy Bermudez (and friends) has put together a couple of maps. One is Erie County and the other is the rest of the world. On the map is a representation of the agencies and ministries that the Christ Church community is engaged with around town and around the world. The display is in the parlor. Take a look and see that Christ Church people are in ministry in a multitude of places and ways!

21. BACH Children's Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada. The Concert is Saturday evening, April 25. It features Singers ages 6 through university age are divided into three choirs. These award-winning choirs compete nationally; have released 6 CD's and recorded a song for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics! Mark your calendars – you won't want to miss this. For more information, **or to host children/adults from the group in your home**, contact Sally Pollard (839-2460).

22. Did you know . . .

. . . Alicia Bermudez was recently published in her campus newspaper?

. . . Al Sillato will turn 100 on March 24 (and Nicky Sebastiano hits 103 on the 21st?)

23. **ABOUT THOSE ROOF LEAKS:** Since a number of you have asked. Our Trustees have been in communication with the roofing contractor (Tuscarora) and with our Insurance Company (Church Mutual) regarding the ice jams and roof leaks (especially those in the "new" roof). These issues are being attended to and as soon as it is safe to do so they will be repaired. Thank you for expressing concern.

24. Diane Klenk is working with our local Veterans Hospital regarding supplies for the in patient, day programs and homeless. Below are needed items. If you can help see Diane or bring these items to the church and 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 mouthwash 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.

Parting Thought

I was chatting with Janelle yesterday at the end of our work day. She was off to a Bible study that had as its subject “finding the will of God.” I playfully suggested that they check with God’s lawyer (after all that’s where a lot of wills are kept). I am such a jerk! But, we both had a good laugh. Upon further reflection I should have added: The truth is finding God’s will/purpose for our lives is not difficult. We are called to do whatever we do in the name of Jesus (under his authority). If God wants you to change what you are doing God will let you know. All too often we are confronted with a need, a situation, and an opportunity to extend grace and mercy and/or to work for justice. These moments come to us multiple times every day. We do not need to ask God what His “will” is in those situations. We are Christ-followers and apprentices to Jesus. God’s will and purpose is for us to extend His grace and mercy and work for justice in every situation that confronts us. The answer is always “yes”. Erwin McManus, one of my favorite writers and speakers, speaks of this in his great little book Seizing Your Divine Moment that I read over 10 years ago. God’s will and purpose for our lives is summarized by our founder, John Wesley, who wrote, “Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.” That is God’s “will” for every Christ-follower. If you are “called” to be a pastor or a missionary or to a career change trust me, God will make that call crystal clear! In the mean time be Christ’s hands and feet extended to the world.

See you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, apprentice to Jesus