

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

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

UPDATE March 26, 2013

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL

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:

This is Holy Week. The eight days from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday recall and remember the central events of our faith as Christians. I find it helpful to remember that we walk with Jesus through this week in real time. There are no legendary or fantasy or mythical elements in the story. The journey we walk this week recalls a sequence of events that happened in real time in a real place to real people. Can you see Jesus after Palm Sunday walking back to Bethany each night and returning to Jerusalem to sit on the steps with his disciples and teach any and all who will listen. Can you hear the increasing confrontation between Jesus and those whose livelihood and identity are enmeshed in the religious system as it exists? On Wednesday do you see the furtive figure, one of the twelve, a man named Judas Iscariot? Do you see him sneaking away and approaching the religious elite and taking thirty silver pieces to reveal Jesus “secret hide out”? On Thursday do you see Jesus washing the feet of his followers? Do you see the entourage gathered in a large furnished upper room and remembering the Passover together? Do you hear the conversation (One of you will betray me; which of us is the greatest; are two swords enough)? We follow Jesus into the olive tree garden where the olive press is located (a garden of the olive press – in Hebrew called Gethsemane). We anguish in prayer with Jesus as he faces his final challenge. . . the night becomes a blur: a mob, an arrest, a slave loses then regains an ear, into the dungeon at Caiaphas the High Priest’s home, a sham trial, and early in the morning, the journey to the Antonia Fortress and an audience with Governor Pilate. Jesus endures another trial and is condemned to death – to be crucified. They mock him, beat him, force him (and a stranger named Simon) to carry the cross through the market place and outside the city gate to a place of the skull and there he is nailed to a cross and left to die. Mid day Friday he dies. Late Friday a man named Joseph (with help from our friend Nicodemus) gets permission to take the body down. He wraps it, lays it in a nearby tomb, rolls a stone in front of the tomb and everyone goes home. . . This story would be just another tragic event in the daily life of the Roman Empire except for one last detail: Easter Sunday morning. In the deep gloom of a very dark Friday (that would never be called good without the following Sunday) there comes the hint, the rumor, the impossible hope: it may be Friday . . . but Sunday is coming.

Make space to walk with us this week: HOLY THURSDAY – anointing and Holy Communion at 7:00; GOOD FRIDAY – biblical stations of the cross at NOON and 7:00 p.m.; and, of course, EASTER (Sunday the 31st) at 9:00 and 11:00.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance Palm Sunday was in the 160's. Special appreciation to my readers: Bill and Linda at 9:00 and Brad and Roger at 11:00. Thank you to the Worship team and Altar Guild for the excellent presentations of palms.

2. This Sunday is EASTER SUNDAY: I will be preaching a message titled "Idle Tales . . . Endless Possibilities" from Luke 24:1-12. We will have some special music from our children and our Adult Choir and the worship concludes with the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah – bring your own copy or come and join us.

NOTE: there is no FaithXPress, Soul Strength, Youth Group, AOL or Going Deeper groups meeting on Easter Sunday.

3. Remember this week's worship schedule:

Holy Thursday (March 28) at 7:00

Good Friday (March 29) at Noon and 7:00

Easter Sunday (March 31) at 9:00 and 11:00

4. Pledge Campaign Update: 105 commitments for over \$225,000. If you have not yet returned your pledge card please do so at your earliest convenience.

5. In our prayers: Ed Maker and Christ Klenk (who had surgery last week) and a man named Arnie Ross who is coming home following heart surgery; pray for Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckwith, Shirley Downey, and all who are hurting; pray for those looking for work, for families in crisis, for all in harm's way

6. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, March 27 – Choir Rehearsal at 7:30

Thursday, March 28 – Bible Study at 10:00

Worship at 7:00

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday observance at Noon and 7:00

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Celebration!

Monday, April 1 – SPRC (it is also April Fool's Day and Dingus Day)

Tuesday, April 2 – Church Council meets at 7:00

7. Quilting for a Cause

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Sunday is right around the corner! May 19th to be exact. Marcia Snyder will be leading a team with the goal of making a quilt for the American Cancer Society (ACS). Do you have any experience quilting or sewing? Then Marcia would love for you to join her team! Recently Christ Church has developed a close relationship with the local office of the ACS, and we are supporting them in their efforts to fight cancer. Marcia will be hosting a special meeting at noon on Sunday, April 7, to go over details regarding this quilting opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia at 741-6901 or marcia_snyder@roadrunner.com

8. MISSION UPDATES

A. Hands4NY – March 31 – Powdered Milk and juices

B. DRESS OUR PEOPLE -- Dress Our People is currently working on completing 2 projects- cancer caps for Roswell and the American Cancer Society plus pillowcases for the local Ronald McDonald house. Dress Our People has a mailbox outside Sally's office- on the bottom right. If you have completed projects, please place

them in the mailbox. There are also some packages of cut out projects in the mailbox- please feel free to take them home to complete! All completed projects should be returned by April 28th. UPDATE: so far we have completed- 32cancer caps and 36 pillow cases- we are well on our way to our goal of 50 each! If you have any questions, please call Molly Butler ([716-204-8993](tel:716-204-8993)) or send an e-mail (kwmgbutler@gmail.com).

C. CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE MISSIONARIES

1. Courtney Cataudella is returning to project Chacocente in Nicaragua May 17-28 if you would like to support Courtney please mark your gift for her.

2. Jessica Lawson is traveling to India to work with children among the “untouchables”. If you would like to support Jessica mark your gift for her.

D. Kathryn Weaver is raising support to have a proper bore hole well dug in a village in the Gombe district of Uganda. . . lack clean drinking water is one the greatest obstacles to health and wellness in the developing world. The village in question collects rain water in a hole in the ground at the bottom of a hill for its drinking water. Water borne illnesses are nearly universal in the people of this village. Clean drinking water for this village would radically improve the health and well being of the village. Contact Kathy for more information: kdweaver23@verizon.net or 839- 5918. **We are gaining partners from the wider community for this as well!**

E. Did you know **Make a Difference Day** is only 8 weeks away? Sunday May 19 we will go, gather and do our best to make a difference.

NEW ON THE CALENDER: Pancake Brunch to support Courtney Cataudella’s journey to Chacocente will be April 14 at Christ Church. Watch for details.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

March 26 – Ashley Miller

March 29 – Jordan Maliken

March 31 – Jan Rhinehart

April 3 – Caleb Parete

10. Through the Bible in 2013: This week’s readings. Check out occasional postings on Pastor BJ’s blog:

www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

March 26 – Joshua 23-24, Psalm 44 and 1 Corinthians 11

March 27 – Judges 1-3 and 1 Corinthians 12

March 28 – Judges 4-5; Psalm 39-41 and 1 Corinthians 13

March 29 – Judges 6-7; Psalm 52 and 1 Corinthians 14

March 30 – Judges 8; Psalm 42 and 1 Corinthians 15

March 31 – Judges 9-10; Psalm 49 and 1 Corinthians 16

April 1 – Judges 11-12; Psalm 50 and 2 Corinthians 1

April 2 – Judges 13-16 and 2 Corinthians 2

April 3 – Judges 17-18; Psalm 89 and 2 Corinthians 3

11. COMING April 13 – Spaghetti Dinner and basket auction to help support Lim and Raffaella Marcantonio and family. They are adopting three Ugandan orphans (twins and their older sister all under two). Watch for more information regarding the this “Africa Angels Event!” Tickets are \$20 (free for kids under 3) call 873-8700 for more information. Lim and Raffealla are trying to raise the \$35,000 necessary to adopt these children.

12. Coming April 14 – Special guest preacher will be Rev. Marvin A. McMickle, Ph.D., President of Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School in Rochester. Dr. McMickle is one of our nation’s foremost preachers and teachers of homiletics and will be preaching at Christ Church’s 11:00 a.m. worship celebration. Watch for more information.

13. COMING SOON TO CHIRST CHURCH

April 13 – “Hand2Plow” training at Camp Asbury. See Pastor BJ if you’d like to attend. The subject of this session is “Worship”.

Spaghetti Dinner for African Angels at Christ Church

April 14 – Dr. Melvin McMickle special guest preacher.

Pancake Brunch for Courtney

May 19 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY – One Worship at 9:30 and off to serve. Watch for opportunities.

May 30 – June 1 – Annual Conference Session in Syracuse

June 9 – Confirmation Sunday

14. Trustees wish list: Here are some things the Christ Church Board of Trustees is wishing for in 2013. If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

3. Gas Powered Edge Trimmer (**now cared for THANK YOU**)

5. Parking Lot Repaving

6. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank

7. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range

2. Back Yard Deck

4. Lawn mower (so Pastor can mow the lawn)

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

15. Sunday evenings at 6:30 the GOING DEEPER group is currently reading C.S. Lewis’ book The Great Divorce. The group is an open forum discussion and everyone is welcome. **NOTE: group will not meet on Easter Sunday.**

Parting Thought

This week our Jewish friends and neighbors will be observing traditional Passover feast called the Seder. This meal symbolically recalls the events of Exodus and the deliverance of the Hebrew children from slavery in Egypt. The phrasing of the remembering is vitally important. The first time I attended a Seder I was struck with the personalization of the experience. People at the table said “I” was a slave in Egypt: Not we, or they or our ancestors but “I” was a slave in Egypt. Later the language continued with God delivered “Me” and did these things for “Me” – again not us, not them, not our ancestors. This personalization is the key to experiencing the Christian observance of Holy Week. It is one thing to say “for God so loved the **world** that he gave his son”. At that point of understanding it is comfortable and generic and in the realm of theological discourse – isn’t it nice that God loves the world. Imagine the Seder level of personalization applied here. It is something very different to acknowledge “for God so loved **me** that he gave his son. . .” At this point it is an awareness that God loves me! I walk through Holy Week with a keen sense of personal involvement: I am Judas Iscariot – how often have I betrayed my Lord and Savior and for much less than 30 silver pieces. I am Simon Peter in the courtyard denying that I even know this Jesus person. I am Pilate – pronouncing a death sentence for political expedience. I am the mocking soldiers. I am the women weeping along the road – the daughters of Jerusalem. Mel Gibson’s movie the Passion of the Christ has some interesting (and very bloody) views of the crucifixion of Jesus. There are two things he got right. The first is that the soldiers do not force Jesus on the cross. Jesus lays down of his own accord. The second is that Mel Gibson, himself, is holding the spike that is being driven through the hand of Christ. I am also the spike holder, the spear driver, the dice rollers. I am Mary and John watching from a distance. I am Joseph and Nicodemus. I am the entourage of Mary coming to the tomb early on Sunday morning. I am the Disciples in shock and awe. This story is my story – it is your story. These events did not just happen for others in another place and time. These events happened for MY redemption; for MY

forgiveness; for MY new life and new possibilities. And, in case you need this point hammered home, for YOU as well.

I'll see you through the valley at the end of the week and the great celebration this Sunday as the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, redeemed

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