

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

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

**UPDATE May 1, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

**716-839-2460**

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

Hi Everyone:

Yesterday was Karen’s birthday so we spent a marvelous day yesterday wandering around the various gardens that make up the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Many of the gardens are still in process for the blooming season but several were absolutely alive with tulips, daffodils and other spring bulb flowers. Karen and I wandered about on trails and took photos and saw many birds and basically enjoyed a great spring day in the great outdoors. I often find when my life gets a little harried or stressful a few hours in the sunshine and air helps me to refresh, relax, and be ready to get back at it. We even stopped at the IKEA store in Burlington (for shopper frenzied friends) which was quite intriguing. We didn’t buy anything but enjoyed looking.

Here is what is happening at church:

1. Attendance last Sunday (counting our 23 retreaters) was about 140. Special appreciation to Julianna Sabol for the solo and to Mac Sabol who filled in as liturgist in Sally’s absence in both celebrations! We are blessed with new friends and voices.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** With Doris Schanzlin still out of commission we are instituting a short term solution to the offering envelop situation. Specially marked offering envelopes will be available in every bulletin and extras at the end of each row starting this Sunday. When Doris returns the boxed envelopes will be available for your continued use. Please use the new (and temporary) ones provided. THANK YOU for your patience – the Stewardship and Finance Team

2. This Sunday is a Communion Sunday and I am continuing our journey through the Elijah and Elisha stories. This week we look at 1 Kings 19:19-21 where Elijah anoints his successor. One of the keys to anything in life is succession. One of my teachers once said “there is no success without successors.” It is a worthwhile question to ask – who am I training and raising up to replace me in this life when my life is done or when it is time for me to do something else. Elisha, when given the opportunity to step up as Elijah’s successor burns his bridges and follows his new teacher.

This Sunday at 10:00 – FaithXPress/Soul Strength/Youth and AOL

This Sunday *We “Knead” your help!* – our confirmation class (Julie Sciolino and Hannah Smith) will be having a bake and craft sale to provide additional support for the Uganda Well Project. The girls and their mentors (Kathy Weaver and Mary Ball) will be making and selling baked goods and handmade coasters sets.

3. Thursday **May 2** is National Day of Prayer. There are events all around the Buffalo area. The main event is at Buffalo’s Niagara Square in front of City Hall at 1:30 p.m. I have found over the years that these events are often used to emphasize what divides us rather than actual prayer. I challenge all of us – whether we are attending an event or staying home – to make space to humble ourselves and pray and seek the face and presence of God as we pray for our city, our nation and our world . . . and, dare I say it, ourselves.

4. In our Prayers: Doris Schanzlin (making progress at Wesley Rehab); Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve; Ruth Kitson; Shirley Downey; Ed Maker; Chris Klenk; Family and friends of Rosalie Johnson (Roger’s mom); Carl Ericson; Gena Magoon; Art Gundlach; Gaetano Castellino (surgery on Friday); remember those who are looking for work and all who are in harm’s way;

5. **Make a Difference Day – 18 days away** – Last May we helped in a wide variety of ways; Team lists and sign ups are located in the parlor at Church. Check them out and find a team that you would like to join. There is more information available in the Sunday Bulletin and our web site [www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org). It is time to step up and do what we can! **REMEMBER: on Make a Difference day we gather at 9:30 (only one worship) and are off to our projects from 10 to 1 and return for a light lunch.**

6. **Dress our People Update:** all completed hats and pillow cases are due in today. This Sunday, May 5, we will have them all on display before we send them to their designated locations. THANK YOU Molly Butler and team for this great work.

7. **Courtney Cataudella and Jessica Lawson** have both REACHED THEIR FUND RAISING GOALS! Thank you Christ church for helping send these two young missionaries to Nicaragua (Courtney) and India (Jessica) in the months ahead. Please help with the next phase and hold our friends in your prayers.

8. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – just in time for Mother’s Day – Habitat “house” pins are available in the Café’ between worship celebrations for the next two Sundays. Pins are \$15 and are available in many designs and color combinations. All proceeds support Habitat Buffalo. See Marg Bauza (837-2421) for more information.

9. This Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The Alden Christian Theatre Society (ACTS) will present **“On a Mission”**. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. To reserve tickets contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897.

#### 10. MEN AND WOMEN AND YOUTH

UMM – Men AND Women are invited to join the tour of the North Tonawanda History Museum on **Saturday May 11. Carpool at 10:00.** Admission is \$5 adults \$3 for veterans and seniors. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant. Contact Bill Bauza 837-2421 for more information.

UMW – **United Methodist Women Fashion Show** – “Fashions in Bloom” by TJ Maxx is **Saturday May 18 from 10:00 to Noon.** Tickets are \$15 and are available on Sunday mornings. Proceeds support UMW mission projects.

YOUTH – Chiavetta’s Chicken Barbecue **May 10 at the church. \$10.** Proceeds support Youth Summer Mission Trip.

11. Happy Birthday this week:

May 1 – Tom McCray  
May 2 – Roger Johnson; Ruth Kitson  
May 3 – Margaret Mugel  
May 4 – Ruth Swenson

12. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 4 – Greg and Lynn Ramsey

13. Through the Bible in a Year: This week's readings:

I just posted introductions to Chronicles, 2 Samuel and Psalms at [www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com)

May 1 – 1 Chronicles 14, 15, Psalm 132 and Matthew 18

May 2 – 1 Chronicles 16; Psalm 106 and Matthew 19

May 3 – 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17; Psalm 2 and Matthew 20

May 4 – 2 Samuel 8, 9; 1 Chronicles 18, 19 and Matthew 21

May 5 – 2 Samuel 10; 1 Chronicles 20; Psalm 20 and Matthew 22

May 6 – 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51 and Matthew 23

May 7 – 2 Samuel 13, 14 and Matthew 24

May 8 – 2 Samuel 15, 16, Psalm 32 and Matthew 25

May 9 – 2 Samuel 17, Psalm 71 and Matthew 26

14. **THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER** (Northtowns edition) is underway. Here is a report from the Christ Church representatives: Dede Johnson, Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez – if you wish to help with any of the items below see Dede, Kathy or Peggy!

1) The loose change collection that was suggested we do on Make a Difference Sunday. We would like to call it "change" a life and let people know that it would benefit the FJC. We would like to give people time and reminders so they bring their donation on that day. We will also have donation jars at the drop off trucks in the parking lot.

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 8:00 am to 9:00 am. They will take a free will offering. If we have enough people interested we can arrange for our own sponsorship table.

15. We wired our Uganda Orphan money this week and I received this e-mail response this morning:

Dear DR BJ Norrix

We send you greetings and appreciations in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are very much excited to receive funding for the orphans from Christ community UMC in Syracuse and Christ UMC in Amherst (New York). Send our thanks and greetings to all those who contributed the money, may the almighty Lord richly bless you and them. The money reached our account on 29th April 2013 the amount we received is 7,272,990 Ughs. It is the first time to receive such great amount of funding. It is going to be used to cater for 76 orphans. We don't know how can express our Love to you and we are looking forward to receive you warmly in November. Wishing you well. From Grace and Naphtal

**NOTE: 7,272,990 Ughs (Uganda shillings) is what the \$3,025 sponsor money from the two churches converted to at current rates.**

16. 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 (**now cared for THANK YOU!**)

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

17. Coming Soon:

1. Upper New York Annual Conference – May 30 through June 1 in Syracuse
2. Confirmation Sunday is June 9.

18. AARP Driver Safety Class taught by Jim Pollard is Friday May 10 from 9 to 4 at Christ Church. Cost is \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for non members. Lunch is available for an additional \$5. Call the church office at 839-2460 to register.

***Parting thought:***

Now that May is here I am starting to get a bit “revved up” for Make A Difference Day here at Christ Church. I am excited to see many new names showing up on our sign up sheets and am excited that Christ Church is preparing to touch many, many lives here in Snyder and in the wider community. We believe there is something on our list of missions for everyone to do. Making the time to step out of our comfortable rhythms and patterns and engage in acts of kindness and service and mission can often be the first step in a whole new understanding of God’s grace, mercy and love. There are attributes of God that don’t transfer to humans (God is all powerful and all knowing and all present – we are not any of these). However, there are attributes of God that are intended to be fully manifested in how we live our lives. God is loving (and so are we) God is creator (and so do we) God is compassionate and caring and merciful and (well, you get the idea). As we grow and mature in faith these attributes are formed and shaped in our lives. In a sense we become more like God when we love and serve. Make a Difference Day will produce many small blessings in the great ocean of our city. It may, however, produce much greater (dare I say transformative) changes in our lives which will lead to greater spiritual growth which will lead to greater engagement which will help to transform us all into the image and likeness of Christ. Make a Difference day is a day of new beginnings – DON’T MISS OUT. We are blessed to be a blessing. But a much deeper truth should not be overlooked – we are blessed whenever we are a blessing for others.

Have a great week!

BJ Norrix, missionary, coach, lead servant

*This email is a communication of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder New York. If you do not wish to receive this email please let me know.*