

# **Christ United Methodist Church**

**Snyder, New York**

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

**UPDATE May 15, 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.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)**

Hi Everyone:

This Sunday is “Make a Difference Day!” **ONE brief Worship service is at 9:30 a.m.** There are multiple projects and opportunities to serve and most of our teams could use some more help. If you have yet to sign up for one of our teams there is still time to do so – call the Church office and we’ll get you connected. Come on Sunday and we’ll send you out to work. The wider community around our church is quite excited about the collection/shredding and other activities that are happening on site. We have been getting phone calls from people wanting to help out. I am looking forward to a great day of serving our community in the name of Jesus Christ. Remember the schedule:

WORSHIP is at 9:30

PROJECTS are 10 to 1 (some will be a bit longer)

LUNCH is at 1:00 (ish)

My prayer is that we will all find ourselves closer to Christ because we were the hands and feet of Christ extended in mission and service.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Mother’s Day attendance was just over 140. Special appreciation to those moms who tried to get their entire clans here for worship (you know who you are!).

2. This Sunday is PENTECOST SUNDAY – custom is to wear RED for Pentecost. I love the idea that we are “Making a Difference” on Pentecost. The celebration of the arrival of the Holy Spirit is not only the birthday of the Christian movement but the POINT of Pentecost was that the new believers WENT OUT proclaiming and living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All in all it will be a great day for us to get away from our building and out into the community. **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:30!!!**

Going Deeper Group resumes at 6:30 this week.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – Doris is soon to be released from rehab at Wesley Rehab center and we will have the boxed offering envelopes out as soon as she returns. In the mean time plain white envelopes are in every bulletin for your use – be sure to write your name on the outside. Thank you for your patience.

--- **This just in:** We are in need of a representative to the Upper New York Annual Conference Session May 30 through June 1 in Syracuse. Roger Johnson, our “Lay Member to Annual Conference” will be in Spain visiting his son. Representative can stay with Pastor BJ and his wife Karen (reducing expenses). . . Call BJ TODAY if you can do this.

3. In our prayers: Doris Schanzlin; Nicky Sebastiano; Marian Steve; Ruth Kitson; Shirley Downey; Ed Maker; Chris Klenk; Carl Ericson; Gena Magoon; Art Gundlach; Mitch Mooney; Alice Schmidt; Benjamin Maliken; those looking for work; families in crisis; those in harm’s way – good weather on Sunday!

4. “Fashions in Bloom” – Fashions by TJ Maxx. Saturday, May 18 from Noon to 2. Cost is \$15. Sponsored by the Christ Church United Methodist Women all proceeds will be used for UMW missions. Come and join the over 100 people who have purchased tickets.

**5. MAKE A DIFFERENCE – MAY 19, 2013 BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M.**

There are many projects but here is one that needs filling up fast:

**Community Gardening Projects** – there are three projects: Central City Garden; Massachusetts Avenue Project Urban Gardens and the Seneca Babcock Neighborhood Garden at Seneca Street UMC. No experience required but we need some folks who can help weed, hoe, and perhaps to plant on one of three projects. Please sign up by responding to this e-mail or signing up at Church.

**Remember that there is one worship gathering on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 – projects run from 10:00 to 1:00 with lunch at the Church!!**

6. This week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, May 15 – 7:30 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 16 – 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Trustees

Friday, May 17 – 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class visits Temple

Saturday, May 18 – Noon to 2:00 – UMW Fashions in Bloom

Sunday, May 19 – Pentecost – MAKE A DIFFERENCE 9:30

7. Happy Birthday this week:

May 16 – Linnea George; Rosemary Kochan

May 18 – Kristin Darling

May 20 – Mary Landel

May 21 – Rebecca Lopez; Ryan Lopez; Scott Smith; Rachel Vaughan

May 22 – Tyler Deer; Lisa Juergens; Sally Pollard

8. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 16 – Brian and Jamie Carney

May 19 – Chris and Diane Klenk

May 21 – John and Pam Lopez

9. Through the Bible in a Year: This week’s reading

May 15 – 1 Chronicles 25-27 and 1 Thessalonians 4

May 16 – 1 Kings 1; 1 Chronicles 28; Psalm 91 and 1 Thessalonians 5  
May 17 – 1 Kings 2, 1 Chronicles 29; Psalm 95 and 2 Thessalonians 1  
May 18 – 1 Kings 3, 2 Chronicles 1, Psalm 78 and 2 Thessalonians 2  
May 19 – 1 Kings 4, 5; 2 Chronicles 2; Psalm 101 and 2 Thessalonians 3  
May 20 – 1 Kings 6; 2 Chronicles 3; Psalm 97 and Romans 1  
May 21 – 1 Kings 7; 2 Chronicles 4, Psalm 98 and Romans 2  
May 22 – 1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 5; Psalm 99 and Romans 3  
May 23 – 2 Chronicles 6, 7; Psalm 135 and Romans 4

Remember to check periodic updates on my blog: [www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com). I'll soon be posting introductions to Kings and 2 Chronicles.

10. Young Missionary Update: Jessica Lawson and Courtney Cataudella will soon be leaving for India and Nicaragua respectively. Please hold these young missionaries in your prayers as they serve Christ through these outreach opportunities.

11. UGANDA TEAM UPDATE: The Money for the Well survey was wired this week and, once the best location for the well in Gombe is found we will wire the balance to have this project completed. Airline tickets were purchased last week for Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, Rev. Clair Mosher and Pastor BJ for their November 3 through 22 mission journey. They will be working with clinics, schools youth events and, of course, the core of the trip will be working with the Nexus Seminary training. We are planning to dedicate a well (thanks to your generosity) and the way things are looking we may need to dedicate more than one!! Please hold us in your prayers. We will have some fund raising events this fall as we get closer to departure.

12. **FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (NORTHTOWNS) UPDATE:** Please come to the **Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00** at the Town Hall on Main Street to support our change of use request to the board. Our next meeting for the Northtowns Center is **Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00** at North Presbyterian Church.

**THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER** (Northtowns edition) 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) 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.

13. 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 are doing – a lawnmower has been purchased and will soon be tried out. 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:

5. Parking Lot Repaving
6. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank
7. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range (**partially cared for need another \$250**)
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.

14. Harlem Kensington Cleveland Community Association's next meeting is Monday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Harlem Road Community Center. Guests are welcome.

15. Coming Soon:

May 19 – Make a Difference Day!

May 30-June 1 – Upper New York Annual Conference Session in Syracuse New York

June 9 – Confirmation Sunday

June 18 – HKCCA Annual End of School event 6-8 at Harlem Road Community Center

Parting Thoughts:

I am away the end of this week to attend the graduation of my good friend Rev. Aaron Bouwens (now Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens). Aaron is a member of my covenant group and will be receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew Seminary. Aaron is the youngest member of our group (not yet 40) but he is a living example of the kind of life Christ followers should strive to live. He is committed to Christ and he is deeply committed to continued growth in all areas of his life. Part of that commitment is to grow intellectually and mentally so Aaron returned to school (much as I did in 2003) to earn another degree. I have learned over the years that a deep and strong faith in Jesus Christ is most evidenced by a desire to keep growing. All too often people live what I have come to call a "half life" Christianity. We see acknowledging our faith in Christ as the end of the journey and therefore once the relationship begins we stop exploring and stop growing. It is not the end but a new beginning. It is a beginning of a spiritual adventure that, as I read my Bible, continues throughout eternity. If I am yet alive, I want to keep growing. I want to grow in my understanding – so I keep reading and studying the Bible and leadership and whatever else I can get my hands on. I want to grow in my personhood – so I work on my flaws and strive to improve my strengths to become a better person. Most of all I want to grow in my relationship with Jesus Christ. My relationship with Christ is at the heart of my life and since life is lived from the center this central relationship has to have first priority. I will admit that like any relationship, Christ and I have our ups and downs – OK I have my ups and downs, I'm pretty sure he doesn't move or change. There are times when I feel profoundly close and there are times when I feel light years away. When I am being honest with myself, I know this is true of all of my relationships. There is a dance of closeness and apartness that we experience in all of our relationships. The key is to not worry about where I am today but to stay in the dance and to keep moving forward. What are you doing to grow deeper in your relationship with Christ? How goes the dance?

See you when the Church gathers!

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, dancer

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