

Christ United Methodist Church

UPDATE

May 19, 2015

**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

**Why not 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

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Hi Everyone:

Over 100 of us participated in “Make a Difference Day”. We cleaned, we landscaped, we baked, we sewed, we collected, we handed out bookmarks, we packed, we collected blood and baby stuff, oh, and we cooked and served and froze some assets and we made a difference in both big and small ways in our community. WELL DONE Christ Church family! Special acknowledgement goes to Peggy Bermudez, Janelle Martin and

Sally Pollard who have served as the “administrative team” for this event. Special thanks to all of the team leaders and to all of you who gave of yourselves to make this a great day together. I was greatly blessed to visit all of the mission sites and to wander through the parking lot and the church and to offer a little help here and there. We received an email from one of our neighbors that read: “I wanted to send an extra big thank you to a very sweet young lady who came to my door this morning with a wonderful gift. She and her friends gave me a beautiful bookmark with a reminder of how we should live our lives. I was overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation. This simple act of kindness made my day. I was hoping you would extend my gratitude to Olivia and her family and friends. What a wonderful thing to do.” The Kingdom of God is extended in a million small ways every day!

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Attendance was about 100 (hard to count with everyone coming and going); but attendance was not our goal this week: participation was!!
2. This Sunday, May 24, is PENTECOST SUNDAY. Happy Birthday Christian movement. The reading for this week is Acts 2:1-20. The 120+ Christ followers who were gathered in the Upper Room encountered God in wind, fire and miracle and in that encounter they set out to change the world. In Acts 1:4 the Christ followers were told to wait in Jerusalem until “power” was sent from God. In Acts 2 we see the arrival of that power and presence. What if every Christian church decided to end its busyness for a season or two and chose to simply pray and wait on God for the power and vision to move forward?
3. **ONE THING THAT NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:** with my departure in mid June, the 9:00 worship team is without a music leader. The team can provide worship leadership but will need a lead **guitar** or **piano** or **drummer** to hold the music together and to keep the team in focus. I know that many of you play or can play . . . we are praying for you to step up and join us. See BJ for more information.
4. We have been planning a **First Responder Appreciation** Day at Christ Church since late last year. The idea is to host a community wide event that would acknowledge the Police and Fire and EMT’s who selflessly give of themselves to protect the rest of us. Unfortunately, the funding we had anticipated from some of our community partners did not come through and we are in need of some support to the get word out about

this event. So we are inviting ALL of our friends and neighbors to share in the offering for the **First Responder Appreciation Day event being held at Christ Church on Sunday, May 31, from 3-6 pm.** *Since we don't qualify to receive community funds to send a mailing to our community neighbors, any funding support is appreciated. Whether you write a check for a thousand dollars or a smaller amount, please know that your support is appreciated. You may donate online, send or bring your contribution to the church. A gold basket will be on the ledge in the worship space on Sunday. Thanks for helping to work a miracle of sharing.* If you have questions please contact Sally Pollard in the church office.

5. In our Prayers: In our Prayers: **Ann Burdette** fell and broke a femur requiring surgery on 4/27 she is now Harris Hill Nursing Facility, on Wehrle Drive in Lancaster for rehab; Sue Estee is now HOME (and back in worship) following her surgery; Ruth Swenson (broken shoulder after a fall); Pray for **Todd and Mary Jo Evans** – Todd is now at Beechwood. **Mary Jo** is at Blocher Homes; **Mitch Mooney**, following a recent hospital stay is now home; **Glenn Hurst** is home; **Tom Davis** is now at Elderwood Room 312-A, 200 Bassett Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221, (and is not doing well); **Laney Fuller** is at Blocher; **Jan Rhinehart** undergoing tests; **Sharon Ferrelli** continues cancer treatments; **Dr. Robert Nachbar** is at Blocher Homes; **Dorothy Brown; Dona Dalton; Brian Martin** for continued healing;; **Edmond Wrycza** (Julianna Sabol's father in nursing home in Fort Erie); **Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Fred and Linda Painton, Guy Castellino** (and Guy's mother and father who are both dealing with major health matters); **Bim Rowlands, Nicky Sebastiano, Ruth Kitson, Ruth Luss, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy.** Pray also for: **Marion Wenner, Cindy Fisher, and Debbie Suggs.** 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 **Christ UMC** in our time of transition. Pray for Pastor BJ and Rev. Darryl Barrow (and all UM pastors and congregations) in this season of pastoral transition. Pray for renewal and a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit!

6. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, May 19 – Trustees meet at 7:30p.m.

Wednesday, May 20 – Social Security workshop at 7:00p.m.

Church Choir at 7:30p.m.

Thursday, May 21 – Caller Collation at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study at 10:00a.m.

Visitation Team at 11:00a.m.

Wednesday, May 27 through Saturday May 30 is Upper New York Annual Conference in Syracuse

7. We are Honoring Graduates on June 7. Did you or a member of your family graduate this year? We know about Emily and Ben and Courtney and Jessica . . . and I am sure there are many, many more. If you have not already done so please contact the church office (839-2460) or cumc350@gmail.com and let us know.

8. FOOD PANTRY – this week we are collecting Pure Fruit and Vegetable Juices.

9. Uganda Mission 2015

1. ONE LAST FUNDRAISER: Ron Corsaro **quartet** on Friday May 29 in the Café Bistro. Desserts and beverages will be available - donations appreciated!

2. THINGS WE ARE COLLECTING:

A. **School Supplies** – pencils, pens, stickers, pencil sharpeners, colored pencils **by JUNE 13th!!**

B. **Medical Supplies** – Acetaminophen; Ibuprofen (BIG BOTTLES); Curad Silk Tape; Alcohol Swabs; Allergy Relief for children and adult; Bacitracin zinc first aid antibiotic ointment; Ear loop Masks; Hydrocortisone ointment; multi vitamins; Gauze sponge; Imodium tabs BY JUNE 13th!!

The Uganda Mission Team wants to thank everyone for their generosity and contributions. Together, we will make a difference!

John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Janelle Martin, Erisawe Briere, Kathryn Weaver and B.J. Norrix will depart for Uganda on Sunday June 28 and will return on Tuesday, July 14. **FOCUS of the Mission:** We will be working with two clinics (at Lusanja and Nabukondo) we will be leading two Nexus graduations (at Rakai and Nakasangola) we will be working on a church building at a school and holding at least one youth rally. We will be dedicating a new well (at Gombe) and a new church at Seeta. There will be time taken to visit the source of the Nile river in Jinja and a Game Preserve near Rakai.

PRAY FOR US as we prepare, as we travel, as we work and as we return!

10. Happy Birthday this week:

May 20 – Mary Landel

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

May 22 – Lisa Juergens; Sally Pollard

May 24 – Janet Hilder; Pastor Theva

May 26 – Marg Bauza
May 27 – Christopher Maliken; Annette Smith
May 28 – Jacob Rhinehart; Alice Schmidt
May 30 – Megan Noyes; Adam Schroeder
May 31 – Alexander Juergens

11. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 19 – Chris and Diane Klenk (8)
May 21 – John and Pam Lopez (21)
May 26 – BJ Norrix and Karen Bellimer (36)
May 29 – Wayne and Molly Butler (33)

12. **STAR WARS NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK – July 18 first pitch is 6:05p.m.**

Registration forms and ticket sales will be available soon!!

13. A word about giving from our Stewardship and Finance Chair, Brad Loliger: Now you can make ***ONLINE contributions to Christ Church!*** You can make a one-time donation, or schedule a recurring electronic contribution. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness, or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an interrupted basis.

Get Started Today!

1. Visit ChristChurchAmherst.org
2. Click on the Donate tab at the top
3. Click on Donate Now button to create an online profile and schedule your recurring contributions.

14. Through the Bible readings (**last posting – if you want the readings for June through December see Janelle or the web site**).

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 – 2Chronicles 6-7; Psalm 135 and Romans 4
May 24 – 1 Kings 9; 2 Chronicles 8; Psalm 136 and Romans 5
May 25 – 1 Kings 10; 2 Chronicles 9; Romans 6

May 26 -- Proverbs 1-3 and Romans 7
May 27 – Proverbs 4-6 and Romans 8
May 28 – Proverbs 7-9 and Romans 9
May 29 – Proverbs 10-12 and Romans 10
May 30 – Proverbs 13-15 and Romans 11
May 31 – Proverbs 16-18 and Romans 12

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?"

On the First of June, I will make available copies of our Bible Reading Plan for the rest of the year. You may contact Janelle in the church office or copies will be on the ledge in the back of the Sanctuary.

15. FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY is May 31

Sunday, May 31 from 3-6 p.m. Christ Church will be hosting a community wide event honoring the first responders in our area. Touch-a-Truck emergency vehicles and k9 officers will be present throughout the afternoon, and an appreciation ceremony at 4:00 p.m. will include proclamations from the towns of Amherst and Cheektowaga. Join us in saying "Thank You" to the brave men and women who keep us safe!

16. 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 mouth wash 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.

17. COMING SOON

May 29 -- Ron Corsaro Trio (**quartet**) at 7:00p.m.

May 31 – First Responder’s Celebration and Appreciation Day
June 14 – Pastor BJ’s last Sunday
June 28 – Uganda Mission Team leaves for Uganda and returns July 14.
July 5 – Rev. Barrow’s first Sunday

Parting Thought

I am running out of weeks. Next week I am at Annual Conference (all week); then June 1 I have one last transition meeting in Syracuse and I will be here (without going east) until my departure on June 14 (the moving truck comes on the 10th). I am running out of weeks. This has been a frantic and frenetic Easter season. Every week since Easter I have driven to Syracuse for one or more meetings. Every week since Easter I have met with a congregation (or two) in Syracuse. Every week since Easter I have been in communication with the new pastoral team as we head into this new adventure together. I have put over 3000 miles on my car in the past 8 weeks just driving back and forth to meetings. The end result is that I have not been here much. Thank you for your graciousness and your patience with me. I don’t like saying good bye and I have yet to learn to let go of people and friends who have become important to me. I will say this again before I actually move: while I will not be doing “pastoral” work here in Amherst, our conversations and friendships do continue (even if at a distance). My connection to the mission and ministry of Christ Church doesn’t end on June 30. I will be off with 6 of you to Uganda in June/July; next fall Rev. Davis Matovu will be in the US and I will bring him to visit when he is here; I promised John Miller that he and his younger son will be able to make this Uganda trip with me in the future; and every single one of you has a place to stay (if needed) and certainly coffee and a resting place whenever you are going east to or through Syracuse. I am running out of weeks . . . but I am not running out (if you know what I mean). I am excited about Christ Church’s future. We are growing (several new families in the past few months); we are increasing our mission foot print; we are making better connections inside and outside our walls; the Holy Spirit is bringing a fresh wind and fire to all of us.

Remember to pray for me even as I hold all of you in prayer,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, traveler.