

UPDATE
Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem at Saratoga

Amherst, New York

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

EVERYONE is WELCOME

May 27, 2014

EVERY SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress/Soul Strength/AOL (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

716-839-2460

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

Like us on Facebook!

Hi Everyone:

Thank you for all your encouragement and well wishes on Karen and my 35th wedding anniversary. As those of you who have been married longer will attest, it seems like yesterday and it feels like forever. Both of which are good. In the movie “Shall we Dance” with Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez, Susan Sarandon, who plays Richard Gere’s wife, says the purpose of marriage is so that “we will have a witness to our lives.” Another famous discussion of marriage suggests that we get married to demonstrate God’s grace and love by working out a community of two (more if there are children) among radically different and unique individuals. They both work just fine. I am inclined to think that every marriage evolves over time but that the firm foundation of every successful marriage is the friendship and affection that is formed through the days and weeks and years of common shared experiences. I am blessed to be married to a beautiful, talented, and creative woman!

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 95 – yeah it was a long weekend, the weather was great, etc. We express our appreciation to Adam Baber who was our guest organist while Kevin Durkin attended a family wedding.

2. This Sunday we are honoring our Graduates here is my list:

From College

Lindsey Darling	US Naval Academy
Joel Jackson	St. Bonaventure
Christopher Kraatz	Niagara University
Sean Johnson	Canisius College
Meaghan Ramsey	SUNY Empire State College
Taylor Ramsey	St. John Fisher College
Mary Rhinehart	Daemen College
Kelsey Reed	Nazareth College

From High School

Andrew Lopez	Clarence High School (Case Western University)
Molly Reed	Cleveland Hill High School
Nicole Sciolino	Williamsville East High School (St. Bonaventure)

3. I will be speaking this Sunday from John 17 about Unity. This will also be a Communion Sunday!

4. Remember that June 8th is PENTECOST SUNDAY. We will be celebrating our Confirmands. It is customary to wear RED on Pentecost.

5. The Mission Youth and friends had a great visit with US2 Missionary, Sarah Mudge on Friday. Sarah spoke of her motivation in becoming a 2 year missionary in the United States (she is serving in Seattle, Washington) and about her work with Mary's Place in Seattle.

6. "Sunday at Christ Church" is a music and image presentation based on photographs taken by Ian Webber and Ross Markello and arranged by Janelle Martin. The show can be accessed through our web site:
www.christchurchamherst.org (just click on the "Sunday at Christ Church" button

on the home page). Or you can go direct to the YouTube link by clicking here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pwlk9G1g7M>.

7. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, May 27 – Church Council at 7:00

Wednesday, May 28 – Identify Theft Workshop at 7:00

Choir Rehearsal at 7:30

Thursday, May 29 through Saturday May 31 – Upper New York Annual Conference in Syracuse

Sunday, June 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. – Ron Corsaro Quartet Concert to benefit Mission Youth

8. In our Prayers this week: Brian Martin (Janelle's brother) who has begun treatments for Leukemia at Roswell; : Bob Jackiewicz; Tom Davis; Janet Hill; Caroline Hess, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino, Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy. Remember those serving overseas, remember families in crisis and all who are looking for work; pray for the Upper New York Annual Conference that will be meeting in Syracuse this week (Thursday through Saturday) and for Jim Pollard, BJ Norrix and Roger Johnson who will be attending from Christ Church.

9. May 28 – Identity Theft Workshop at Christ Church- how to recognize and prevent identity theft. The workshop is free and open to the public. Call the Church office at 839-2460 to reserve a place.

10. **THE SHOE REPORT** – We collected 188 bags of shoes (25 pairs per bag) that would be 4700 pairs of shoes or 9400 individual shoes!! Well done education team. The shoes were picked up on Sunday afternoon – so **don't bring us any more shoes!!** Thank you to everyone for their hard work and participation.

11. THURSDAY – SATURDAY – May 29-31 is THE UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION. We will be meeting at the OnCenter in Syracuse. Annual Conference is the Annual meeting of the over 940 United Methodist congregations in the Upper New York Area. We will approve a budget, set boundaries and standards, ordain and commission persons into ministry and hear mission and ministry reports from the past year's activity. We will study the bible together, engage in conversations regarding the social and spiritual issues of our time. We will remember pastor and lay members of conference who have died in the past year.

12. SOME MISSION NEWS

1. At the Mission Youth (MY) gathering on May 9 with Rev. Davis Matovu we passed out Application Forms for the 2015 Mission Youth journey to Uganda. This 11/12 day trip will connect our youth (and adults) with comparable aged Uganda youth for worship, mission work, some evangelism and a little play time. Applicants must be 16 by the end of June (or be travelling with a parent). See BJ for further information regarding cost and other matters. We are planning to leave the last Sunday of June in 2015.

2. Jessica Lawson is currently in India on a mission from American University; Courtney Cataudella is currently in Costa Rica;

Pastor BJ Norrix and Joe Forte will be returning to Uganda in October 2014.

3. Our friend **Davis Matovu** is on his way to New York City today in preparation of his flying home on Thursday. I saw Davis yesterday in Syracuse and he has had a very successful visit – making new friends, deepening friendships with old friends and learning some new things.

13. Happy Birthday this week:

May 27 – Christopher Maliken; Kent Panasiewicz; Annette Smith (who is now 2)

May 28 – Jacob Rhinehart; Alice Schmidt

May 30 – Megan Noyes; Adam Schroeder

May 31 – Alexander Juergens

June 1 – Laura Curthoys

June 4 – Richard Ball

14. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 29 – Wayne and Molly Butler

15. Confirmation Sunday is June 8. Please pray for our Confirmands and their mentors:

Confirmand

Jonathan Miler

Robert Paddock

Paige Shupe

Mentor

Brad Loliger

Lynn Ramsey

Laura Smith

16. Through the Bible this week's readings:

May 27 – 2 Kings 15-16

May 28 – 2 Kings 17-18 and Matthew 15

May 29 – 2 Kings 19-21

May 30 – 2 Kings 22-23 and Matthew 16
May 31 – 2 Kings 24-25 and Matthew 17
June 1 – Hosea 1-4 and Matthew 18
June 2 – Hosea 5-8
June 3 – Hosea 9-11 and Matthew 19
June 4 – Hosea 12-14
June 5 – Jeremiah 1-2 and Matthew 20

17. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – August 14 and 15, 2014. This event, put on by the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, is an annual gathering of leaders from a wide variety of disciplines and expertise. It is an event I try to attend every year. The nearest satellite location is in Rochester. Sally, Janelle and I are preregistered but there is room for plenty more. Current registration is \$189 (\$199 after May 20). If you would like to attend with us please let me know ASAP and we'll get you signed up. Scheduled speakers include: Louis Giglio, Erica Ariel Fox, Carly Fiorina, Patrick Lencioni, Susan Cain, Tyler Perry, Jeffrey Immelt and Bill Hybels (Pastor at Willow). This event was attended by nearly 200,000 people worldwide last year.

18. DRESS OUR PEOPLE: Has begun sewing clothing for the Ugandan children. **Donations of Cotton fabric or cotton/polyester blends no less than 1 yard in length, thread, bias tape, and trim are needed.** Donations may be placed in or near the Dress our People mailbox outside the church office. Thank you.

19. A Men's pre-work breakfast group is now meeting at the **Sheridan Family Restaurant** on Sheridan near Harlem Road. We will next meet on **June 3 at 7:00** a.m. All men are welcome to join us.

20. Christ Church is blessed with excellent gathering and fellowship space. One of the most popular is the **Café on Sunday morning**. The café provides hot and cold beverages and tasty snacks before and following our Sunday worship gatherings. What makes this work is a lot of volunteers who "Host" the café by preparing coffee/tea, etc. and putting the snacks out and then cleaning up afterwards. Would you like to help in this vital hospitality ministry of our Church? Contact Sally Pollard at 839-2460 or by signing up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Café.

21. COMING EVENTS

May 28 through 31 UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
Syracuse

June 7 – Star Wars Night at the Ball Park
June 8 – Confirmation Sunday

22. CHANGE TO CHANGE THE WORLD: Save up your loose change for the Family Justice Center! We will be collecting change every day to make a positive transformation in the lives of those affected by domestic violence.

23. John Bell is doing a workshop on Saturday, May 31 at the North Presbyterian Church on North Forest in Williamsville. Here is a link to the information: <http://northchurchwilliamsville.org/get-involved/john-bell/>. The event is free -- there is a fee if you have lunch at the church. John Bell is a resident of Glasgow, Scotland and a member of the Iona Community. He is an internationally known composer of hymns and an active proponent for the propagation of congregational song.

Parting Thought

Annual Conference. The Upper New York Annual Conference is my church. As a United Methodist pastor I am a member of the Annual Conference (not an individual congregation). I see portions of my church community over the calendar year but this week likely will be the only time we are all together in one place at the same time. Like any church its gathering is something like a family reunion – getting reacquainted with old friends, catching up on families and stories and “what are you doing different this year” kind of stuff. We will remember the past and we will do our best to make plans for the future. Also, like any family reunion, there are friction points and old arguments at all too often dominate the dialogue. I ask that you pray for Mark Webb, our Bishop, pray also for Wayne Butler, our District Superintendent (and the other 11 superintendents as well). Pray for those who gather that they might choose to gather in the spirit of Jesus Christ and that we would gather to further the cause of Christ (and not our own). Honestly, these are difficult days for the regional and national church. What we were is becoming increasingly less viable. What we will be has yet to be revealed.

I'll see you when Christ Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, coach

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