

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

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

UPDATE May 28, 2013

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship
FaithXPress/Soul Strength and AOL will resume in September
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:

I am off this week (Wednesday through Saturday) to Syracuse to attend the 4th session of the Upper New York Annual Conference. This body came together four years ago by combining the former Western New York and (where Christ Church resided) North Central New York Annual Conferences with districts from the former Wyoming and Troy Conferences. We are still trying to figure out who everyone is and the scale of things in this new body. We have a new Bishop which always brings some changes. Bishop Mark Webb came to us from York, Pennsylvania and is the youngest bishop we have had since the election of Joseph Yeakel back in the 1970’s. The Annual Conference exists for two primary purposes: first to recruit, train and deploy effective clergy leadership for the nearly 950 United Methodist Churches in the Conference. To this end we will commission, ordain and hear of the deployment of clergy throughout the three days of our gathering. The Second purpose of an Annual Conference is to help us do together what none of us could do alone. This would involve our mission outreach both locally and globally; it would also involve things like camps, pensions, seminaries, and the like. The best part about Annual Conference is that it is the annual gathering of my church. As an Elder in the United Methodist church I do not belong to any local church but rather my church membership is with the Annual Conference. This is the one time all year when we are all together and it is good to connect with old friends, make new friends and to remember our colleagues who have died in the past year. We always begin by singing “And Are We yet Alive”. . . which seems profoundly appropriate.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was just short of 120 – pretty good for a holiday weekend. We learned all about seeing God at work in ways we never imagined!
2. This Sunday is June 2 – it is a Communion Sunday. I am speaking from 2 Kings 7:3-15 a message titled “An Army of Four”. It is the story of four outcasts (lepers) who discover a great victory and make the choice to share it with those who considered them outcasts. The UMW “Gift to Mission” Pin will be presented at 11:00.
3. In our prayers: Donna Yungbluth’s husband, Greg, is having double bypass surgery on Wednesday this week; Doris Schanzlin in recovery; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson (who broke her arm); Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Chris Klenk, Carl and Jean Ericson, Gena Magoon, Art Gundlach (and Carol); Mitch Mooney, Alice

Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy, those who are grieving, those putting home and house together following last week's tornado outbreak; those looking for work, families in crisis, all who are in harm's way.

4. Alicia Ticconi has moved to a group home near her sister in Ohio. Her new address is: Alicia Ticconi, 1251 East Ave, Elyria, Ohio 44035

5. This Week at Christ Church:

May 28 – Noon – Deborah Circle

May 29 – 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

May 30 – June 1 – Annual Conference Session in Syracuse

May 30 – 6:45 Christian Education VBS meeting

May 31 – 7:30 p.m. Game Night in Wesley Room

June 3 – 3:00 – Uganda Mission Team Meeting

June 4 – 7:00 – Church Council

June 5 – 7:00 – UMW sponsored "conversations: Poverty: "A Christian Response" with Rev. George Nicholas. Everyone welcome.

6. CPR and AED training will be offered at Christ Church on Monday June 10 from 6:30 to 9:30. Learning to use an AED (automated external defibrillator) is highly intuitive and surprisingly simple. Many people report that it is far easier than learning CPR. And CPR has gotten simpler as well. Join instructor, Tim Reed, for some hands-on practice that will sharpen your skills and increase your confidence. Sign up by calling the Church office 839-2460.

7. HONORING OUR GRADUATES: We will be honoring our graduates on Sunday, June 16. If a member of your family is graduating from High School, College or post graduate schools we would love to know so we can celebrate with you. Contact the Church office 839-2460 with information.

8. Happy Birthday this week:

May 28 – Jacob Rhinehart; Alice Schmidt

May 30 – Megan Noyes; Adam Schroeder

May 31 – Alexander Juergens

June 1 – Laura Curthoys

June 4 – Richard Ball

9. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 29 – Wayne and Molly Butler (31)

June 5 – Dave and Patti Bechtel (42); Bob and Marcia Snyder (54)

10. Through the Bible in a year: This week's readings

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

June 1 – Proverbs 19-21 and Romans 13

June 2 – Proverbs 22-24 and Romans 14

June 3 – Proverbs 25-27 and Romans 15

June 4 – Proverbs 28-29; Psalm 60 and Romans 16

June 5 – Proverbs 30-31; Psalm 33 and Ephesians 1

11. COMING SOON:

May 30 – June 1 – Annual Conference

June 4 – Church Council Meets at 7:00

June 8 – Confirmation Rehearsal and Dinner

June 9 – Confirmation Sunday come and celebrate the Confirmation of **Julie Anne Sciolino and Hannah**

Grace Smith at 11:00

June 15 – Wedding of Kathleen Morris and Steven Mong at 2:00 at Christ Church

June 18 – Harlem Kensington Cleveland Community Association end of School Picnic 6-8 at the Harlem Road Community Center

Family Entertainment by “Magical John” Hot dogs, dilly bars and beverage all for only \$1!!

July 15 – 19 – Vacation Bible School at Christ Church – 9:00 a.m. to Noon

July 20 – Community Fun Fair

12. FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (NORTHTOWNS) UPDATE: The **Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing** approved the initial use of the building and the hours of operation. Our next meeting for the Northtowns Center is **Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00** at North Presbyterian Church.

THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (Northtowns edition **revised**) 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) Our "change a life" program continues. Donation jars are located at the back of the sanctuary, in the cafe and in the office. You can help change the life for victims of domestic violence by donating your spare change.

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 versus paid contractors and vendors.

4) The FJC is having a fundraising breakfast June 7th at 8:00 am in the Buffalo Convention center. Please contact Kathy or Peggy if you are interested in attending.

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 did – a lawnmower has been purchased and **has been deployed**. 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**)

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. UNITED METHODIST MEN: COMING June 8 – Where in the world is Ian Webber. 10:00 a.m. Ian will be sharing some his photos accumulated during his 18 years of work abroad. Ian is a serious photographer with

over 50 years experience. He has photographed many iconic images in Asia and the Middle East. Following the presentation lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant.

JUNE 22 – LET’S Go to the Ball Game – Saturday the 22nd is it STAR WARS NIGHT as the Buffalo Bisons take on the Durham Bulls. See information in the June **CALLER** or in Sunday’s bulletin. Reservations must be made by June 15 (EVERYONE IS WELCOME). Post Game fireworks!

15. NEXT BLOOD DRIVE – June 21 from 2 to 6 at Christ church. See Geoff Hill for details.

16. MISSION UPDATES:

1. Courtney has returned from Nicaragua and Jessica is now working in India – keep friends in your prayers
2. The money for the Well in Gomba is being wired within the next week or so. Thank you. The Uganda Team will be present for the dedication of this well in November and we’ll have lots of photos and stories to tell.
3. The Uganda Mission team will be having its first meeting on June 3 at 3:00 at Christ Church. Please keep us in your prayers as we make our plans and begin to work together for our 2013 mission.

17. Coming Guest Preachers (while Pastor BJ is away to Newfoundland).

June 23 – Laurel Frega and Benjamin O’Connor – two recently married seminary students (Drew Seminary) will be preaching together.

June 30 – Dr. Mark Abbott – UM Missionary to Spain

Parting Thought:

Annual Conference is a lesson in diversity. It is not necessarily racially diverse as the membership of the annual conference and its clergy is still well over 90% Caucasian. It is a diversity of opinion and perspective. The United Methodist church houses a wide range of Christian perspective and opinion: some of which is mutually exclusive and some of which is clearly contradictory. However, we believe that there is room at the table for everyone and we believe that in holy conference we come to understanding (if not always agreement) and we seek to find ways to stay in community and continue the journey together. Frankly, this is not easy. Much like our country where political extremes seem to be pulling us apart, within the national church there are similar forces striving to break us apart. These have been uneasy times for our denomination. As many of you have probably noticed I have some rather diverse views and Annual Conference can challenge me from both the left and the right. The important thing is that I am challenged (while staying true to who I am and what I believe and making changes when necessary). Pray for us as we seek to be in community together and as our rather large Annual Conference seeks to build relationships – beyond our political groupings – with one another.

Have a great week!

BJ Norrix, lead servant, coach, missionary

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