

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Snyder, New York  
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”**

**UPDATE  
May 29, 2012**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH  
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.  
10:00 – Faith Express and Soul Strength will return in September  
Vacation Bible School is July 16-20  
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.  
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!**

[www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

716-839-2460

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

Hi Everyone:

I pray everyone had a good and relaxing Memorial Day. It is a good day to stop and remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. It is also a good day to offer a word of appreciation to those who put themselves in harm’s way everyday to keep us safe. Karen and I spent a good relaxing day at home, took a drive along the lake and generally had a nice day together. These respites on the journey are essential for our well being. The Sabbath principle in the Bible reminds us that we were created to rest one in every seven days. A day to just kick back and watch the world go by is one way to rest. We are now heading into Summer and it will be important to find some spaces to rest and re-create. It will also be important to remember that your Church is here (9:00 and 11:00) every Sunday to help you connect with God and to enjoy Christian community.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 125 – I think that is pretty good for the Memorial day weekend. Special appreciation to all who helped make Sunday worship significant. We celebrated the fresh wind and fire of God on Pentecost Sunday. . . come Holy Spirit, come.

**2. Congratulations to Laura and Chris Smith on the birth of their second daughter this past Sunday evening (5/27): Annette Robin weighed in at 7 pounds 7 ounces and 19 inches. Mother and child are both well.**

3. This Sunday, June 3 is CONFIRMATION SUNDAY. We will be confirming Leanne Paddock and Brandon Miller this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Leanne and Brandon have been working with their mentors (Michelle Sciolino and Thomas Weaver respectively) and are ready to publically declare their faith in Christ and to take their places as full members of our Church community. We are blessed by your presence.

4. This will be a busy week at Christ Church:

Friday, June 1 – Chiavetta’s Chicken Barbecue to support the Youth Group’s mission trip to Confrontation Point. \$9 and will be serving from 4 to 7 (eat in or take out). The youth group will be serving lunch at Seneca Street on Sunday, June 3 and would like to serve chicken barbecue. They are asking everyone to purchase a second dinner for them to give away on Sunday.

Saturday, June 2 – Youth Car Wash from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 2 – Confirmation Dinner and Rehearsal at 5:00

Sunday, June 3 – Ron Corsaro and the Upstate Express with vocalist Laurie Bordonaro. 7:00 concert at Christ Church entrance is a donations to benefit the Youth Group’s mission trip.

5. A Couple of Summer Learning experiences:

A. UNY Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be at Camp Asbury, July 26-28. See Peggy Bermudez or Beth Sweet for information.

B. Global Leadership Summit is August 9-10 (Thursday and Friday). The Christ Church staff will be attending in Syracuse. Cost will be no more than \$169 for registration and then the shared cost of overnight (we could cut down on that expense if you don’t mind “camping” at BJ’s home in Liverpool) and meals. (**Note from BJ:** I have attended this event for the past 12 years. We will hear teachers and practitioners of leadership from many different disciplines including: government, education, the church, etc. Among the featured speakers are John Ortberg, Condoleezza Rice (former Secretary of State), Jim Collins (author of Good to Great), Patrick Lencioni, William Ury, Pranitha Timothy (justice worker in India) and more. The two days will not only help you with your church leadership but will help you become a more effective leader in all aspects of your life). See Rachel to register. NOTE: some business and organizations will cover the registration expense as leadership training. . . it is worth asking.

6. In our Prayers: Dave Bechtel (surgery Wednesday); Jean Di Domenico (at Kenmore Mercy); Nicky Sebastiano, Mary Emens (good to see Mary in Church); Barbara McCray (saw Tom this weekend and Barb is in the middle of her radiation treatments); Carmen Ticconi, Ed Maker, Alicia Ticconi, Courtney Cataudella and Jessica Lawson in Nicaragua; Habitat Women Build Team; Youth Team going to Kentucky this summer; and the Uganda Mission Team (Kathy Weaver, John Miller, Pastor BJ, Clair Mosher, Bill Mudge and Esther Keene). Remember to pray for all who are in harm’s way.

7. LET’S GO TO THE BALL GAME! – Saturday, June 9 at 6:05 p.m. at Coca-Cola Field. The Buffalo Bisons vs. the Norfolk Tides. The Christ Church men invite all of you to join us at a night at the park. Cost is \$10 per person (for an extra \$5.50 you can pre order a hot dog and a coke). **Sign up by this Sunday, June 3. Order forms are available at the church or see Jim Pollard for details.**

8. Happy Birthday this week:

May 30 – Megan Noyes, Adam Schroeder

May 31 – Alexander Juergens

June 1 – Laura Curthoys

June 4 – Richard Ball

June 5 – Barbara Clinton, Diane Poe Schroeder, Nina Shanley

9. Happy Anniversary this week:

We missed Pam and John Lopez’s anniversary on May 21, 1994 (sorry for the oversight).

10. Through the New Testament in 2012: Remember to check out my blog I am posting comments on each chapter daily. This week's reading: May 29 – Acts 3; May 30 – Acts 4; May 31 – Acts 5; June 1 – Acts 6; June 4 – Acts 7; June 5 – Acts 8; June 6 – Acts 9. [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)

11. Summer time is play and rest time: However worship will continue every Sunday at 9:00 (praise) and 11:00 traditional.

1. Dr. BJ will be on vacation from June 14 to July 5. In case of pastoral emergency call the church office.

Preaching for Dr. BJ – June 17 – Roger Johnson; June 24 – Rev. Gail Lewis; July 1 – Rev. Jim Pollard

2. On June 18 we will switch to **Summer Office Hours** – Church office will be open 9 to 3 regular hours will resume on August 20.

3. The Church Choir will sing June 3 and then be off until the Sunday after Labor Day – Choir rehearsals will resume in September.

4. Anyone interested in a week night (say a Wednesday) gathering and Bible Study beginning July??

12. May 31 through June 2 – Upper New York Annual Conference will be meeting in Syracuse at the OnCenter. Roger Johnson and Dr. B.J. Norrix will be representing Christ Church. Pray for the Annual Conference and the short window in which we have to do our work. The Annual Ordination service on Saturday will see 14 ordained and several more commissioned as Pastors in our Church.

### 13. **MISSION NEWS AND NOTES**

1. Hands for New York – this week's collection: **Everything and anything! – The official tally for the year will be announced at Conference this week.**

2. Habitat Women Build is underway with 10 from Christ Church leading the way! Lynn Ramsey, Marg Bauza, Kathy Weaver, Dede Johnson, Lisa Lawson, Joanne Gilbert, Patty Keller, Pat Noyes, Inger Darling, and Peggy Bermudez are the Christ Church builders!

3. Courtney Cataudilla and Jessica Lawson are in Nicaragua this week to help build a school, make friends, and work and play with children!

#### 4. UGANDA PROJECTS UPDATE:

a. Dr BJ will be travelling to Uganda to continue his work with the Nexus Seminary this fall (October 1-October 17). The 2012 Uganda team: Rev. B.J. Norrix, Rev. William Mudge (Adirondack District Superintendent), Kathy Weaver and John Miller of Christ Church, Esther Keeney (of Pulaski) and Rev. Clair Mosher (Erieville and Ononativia United Methodist Churches in Onondaga County)

b. Rev. Clair Mosher has formed a Uganda Youth initiative that will sponsor the training of youth leaders and hold youth rallies in Uganda. Pray for Clair's work as well.

5. Several of our "Make a Difference – Be the Church" will be continuing. The "Dress our People" team is cutting, sewing and making clothing. See Peggy Nye or Molly Butler for more information or to help out.

*If you would like to support the Christ Church Uganda Team or any of our Mission Teams directly: write a check to Christ UMC with the specific mission in the memo line.*

14. There are now **8** of us officially signed up for **the Israel 2013 journey**. The tour is 10 days: we spend 3 days in the Galilee in and around the sea; we spend four days in and around Jerusalem,

Bethlehem, etc. We will visit Jericho and the Dead Sea and walk the via Dolorosa. **We depart on January 28, 2013.** If you would like to join us see the Church office or Pastor BJ for brochure and more information. All Inclusive cost is \$2598 (transportation from New York; deluxe hotel accommodations; breakfast and dinner ground transportation, guide, deluxe motor coach and all entrance fees). There are extensions available for those who would like to visit Petra in Jordan or see the Pyramids of Egypt.

This will be my 5<sup>th</sup> journey to the Holy Land. Each trip I discover something new to illuminate my understanding of the Bible (Old and New) and the background needed for understanding.

If you know anyone who would be interested in joining us there is room for more.

There is plenty of room for more . . . see Dr. B.J. for more information and/or brochure.

15. Coming this Summer:

June 22 – Red Cross Blood Drive at Christ church.

June 23 and 30 – Youth Car Wash to raise funds for mission trip to Confrontation Point in Kentucky

July 16-20 --Vacation Bible School: “Operation Overboard!”

16. **HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES:** We are compiling a list of Christ Church folks who are graduating this year. Let us know so we can let the whole Church know so we can all rejoice with you in your great accomplishments – Graduation Sunday is June 17.

I am excited about our first Confirmation together. I believe that the Christian faith is something that must be chosen. At some point in our lives, at some moment along the journey we need to make a conscious choice to be a Christ follower (or not). The importance of this choice is often lost in the cultural Christianity that surrounds us. We often do things like baptism and confirmation because it is what we are supposed to do at a certain age and season. Although this is a great way to have us connected to the church it can leave us lost in the ritual formalism of the event and we miss the point that a critical choice is being made. We go through the ritual and miss the vital relationship that is the heart of the Christian faith. At a baptism parents are making promises and making a choice to raise this child as a Christian. At Confirmation our young people are publically affirming and confirming for themselves those choices and promises their parents made for them when they were baptized. It is an important moment and a vital decision. We don't become Christ followers by accident or by osmosis. It is a life that we choose. I am praying, and I invite all of you to join with me in praying for Brandon and Leanne as they publically choose to be followers of Christ.

How are your choices?

Have a great week,

BJ Norrix, missionary, chooser, lead servant