

May 6, 2015

UPDATE

Christ United Methodist Church

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](tel:716-839-2460)

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

Follow us on Twitter

@CUMCamherst

Hi Everyone:

I'm enjoying this glorious stretch of spring weather. I just wish I wasn't on the road so much, but at least my sunglasses are getting a work-out. We are approaching our annual "Make a Difference Day" on May 17th. Around the country there are churches like ours that are following this example. It is called by various names in various places: Be the Church Sunday, Rock the Routine, Out and About Day, etc. The concept, to the best of my knowledge began at the Ginghamburg United Methodist Church near Dayton, Ohio. The concept was simple: give the entire congregation a 1-day mission experience. The experience would be a "taste and see" event where people could sample the kind of mission work they might like to engage in more deeply later on. We have seen over the last 5 years our Make a Difference Day grow. We have had about half the projects continue each year and the others have been different projects around the city of Buffalo and our community. The signup sheets are in the back of the sanctuary or you can call Janelle in the church office and she will get you signed up. Whatever you do, find something you can do and go out and Make a Difference in the name of Jesus.

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. We were just short of 130 last Sunday. We celebrated Communion and learned that Jesus is the source of life (the "bread of life").
2. This Sunday is Mother's Day and I am continuing the series on 'Who is Jesus' in his own words. . . this week it is "I am the True Vine" from John 15:1-8. The question to ponder is what does it mean to stay connected to the vine? What does it mean for us to bear fruit? How does the branch (us) draw nourishment from the vine?
 - 2.1. **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.
3. We have been planning a **First Responder Appreciation** Day at Christ Church since late last year. The idea was 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 get the 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 at the church office.

4. THANK YOU – to all of you who supported the Uganda Mission Team's Spaghetti dinner on Saturday. We had a smaller than anticipated crowd but still managed to make just under \$1500 for the mission. Special appreciation to Michele & Julie Sciolino, Guy Castellino (and Ari), Patti Bechtel, Barb Critoph and all of you who helped to set up, take down, clean up and who came to eat the excellent spaghetti and meatballs and bid on the baskets. From John and Brandon, Viki and Hannah, Janelle, Kathryn, Erisawe and Me - THANK YOU!

5. In our Prayers: **Ann Burdette fell** and broke a femur requiring surgery on 4/27, she is now at Elderwood on Harris Hill 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** following a recent hospital stay is due home this week; **Tom Davis** is now at Elderwood, Room 312-A, 200 Bassett Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221, (and is not doing well); **Laney Fuller** will be staying at Blocher and not returning to Asbury Pointe; **Jan Rhinehart** undergoing tests; **Sharon Ferrelli** continues cancer treatments; **Dr. Robert Nachbar** has moved to 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. **UGANDA TEAM NOTES:** 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 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.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: PRAY FOR US as we prepare, as we travel, as we work and as we return!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: Ron Corsaro Trio (OK, now he tells me it's a quartet) in the Crafts Hall Bistro **May 29 here at Christ Church!**

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: Collect supplies for us to take with us: 1. **school supplies (pencils, colored pencils, erasers (NO CRAYONS OR PAPER));** 2. Basic medical supplies (gloves, bandages, etc.); 3. toothbrushes; 4. toys (stickers, small items); 5. Bibles, bible resources (ask BJ if in doubt); 6. Silent Auction Basket items for May 2.

We can also use "reader" glasses (1.5 or 2.0 magnification) frame styles do not matter.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: D. I am about **\$400** short on funds needed to help Rev. Davis Matovu publish his most recent book [A Hermeneutical Bridgeway](#). This book will be of great assistance to our Ugandan Pastors in their interpretative work with the Bible. We have \$2600 in hand for the publication but are in need of about \$400 more. If you can help with any part of this see me (BJ) for more information!

7. 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.

8. **Rev. Darryl Barrow** is at Christ Church this Friday to continue his transition time and learning. He is scheduling appointments with Christ Church team leaders and others. If you would like to have a meeting with Pastor Barrow, contact Janelle at 839-2460 – first come first scheduled. Meetings will be held in the Library at Church.

9. United Methodist Men are going racing this Saturday at 10:00: All who can drive, as well as those who ***think they can drive*** will be going to the Pole Position Raceway for indoor karting. Meet at Christ Church at 10:00 on May 9 – carpool to Galleria Mall. Drivers will complete 14 laps around the course in electric go-karts capable of 45 mph. The sensation of speed one inch off the ground will provide an adrenaline rush guaranteed to cause grins from ear to ear. One race of 14 laps is \$28, but with 8 people, two races are \$55. More details contact Ian Webber at 689-4413.

10. This week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, May 6 – 7:30p.m. Choir

Thursday, May 7 – 10:00a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, May 9 – Men's Club at 10:00a.m.

Crafting for a Cause at 10:00a.m.

Monday, May 11 – ID Theft Workshop at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 12 – Stewardship and Finance at 7:00p.m.

Wednesday, May 13 – is the JUNE CALLER DEADLINE

11. Happy Birthday this week:

May 12 – Kevin Durkin; Rosemary Little

May 13 – Mary Ball; Chuck Terranova

12. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 10 -- Roger and Dede Johnson

13. Through the Bible this year: this week's readings

May 6 – 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51 and Matthew 23

May 7 – 2 Samuel 13-14 and Matthew 24

May 8 – 2 Samuel 15-16; Psalm 32 and Matthew 25

May 9 – 2 Samuel 17; Psalm 71 and Matthew 26

May 10 – 2 Samuel 18; Psalm 56 and Matthew 27

May 11 – 2 Samuel 19-20; Psalm 55 and Matthew 28

May 12 – 2 Samuel 21-23 1 Thessalonians 1

May 13 – 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21; Psalm 30 and 1 Thessalonians 2

May 14 – 2 Chronicles 22-24 and 1 Thessalonians 3

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.

14. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IS only **2 weeks away!!**

Signup sheets are in the back of the Sanctuary. Take a look at the projects we have lined up this year and sign up for a team that meets your interests and abilities. Project clipboards are hung on a bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary. Join us as we make a difference together in our community!

15. 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.

16. COMING SOON

May 17 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!! 9:00a.m. Gathering, out to work and lunch 1 ish.

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

17. **ONE FINAL THING:** 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.

Parting Thought

Yesterday I attended a “mandatory” transition workshop for all pastors who are moving this year. The material was pretty basic and most of it was common sense: but all stuff that it is helpful to be reminded of. We were reminded that in leaving it is important to say good bye in both formal and informal ways. We were reminded that once a United Methodist pastor leaves an appointment they do not go back to perform pastoral duties in the parish they have left. This is not to say that friendships and relationships won’t continue but they will continue as friends rather than as pastor and congregation. After July 1 (well, really, after June 28) I won’t be able to perform funerals or weddings or baptisms or (well, you get the picture). My new responsibilities are already beginning. Much as Rev. Barrow has been visiting Christ Church this past month to begin relationships and learn his way around, so I have been spending time with the 8 congregations in Syracuse (and the pastoral team). We are trying to pin down some of the moving pieces (and doing very well, I might add) and we are preparing to decide how best to deploy the four of us pastors into the city as a whole and to the 8 congregations for which we have pastoral responsibility. I have appreciated your prayers and encouragement and support. Back to saying “good bye”. I know that the SPRC is planning some kind of farewell. I know my friends out at Asbury Pointe are trying to set up a dinner and the 9:00a.m. worship team is going out together the end of next week. I am trying to make any and all time available for these gatherings. It has been a little tricky with my over a dozen meetings in Syracuse between Easter and June 2 and I grateful to you all for your patience with me and your commitment to the United Methodist Church as a whole as you support me in this transition. I will probably say this a dozen times before the 14th of June – but I have been deeply blessed to be your pastor and I have been profoundly blessed to work with a great team here at Christ Church. I will save the “THANK YOU’s” for another time but, know that I am deeply grateful to all of you.

God’s grace never ends and never runs out!

See you when the church gathers,

B.J. Norrix, lead servant and missionary in transition