

Christ United Methodist Church

Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE May 7, 2013

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL

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:

We have just two weeks until “Make a Difference Day”. I am excited to see many of our team lists filling up and expect that many more of you are planning to participate on the 19th than have signed up to date. Please make time this Sunday to sign up and, of course, even if you didn’t there will be room on most teams on the 19th. This is a significant day in the life of our Church. For the past few years this event has been growing. We “packed a pod” a few years back and last year sent out our first gardening and work teams. This event makes a difference in a multitude of ways. The primary way is that we get to put legs to our faith. We say we love God and our neighbor “Make a Difference Day” is a day to show our love for God by loving our neighbors. This love doesn’t have to be extravagant. It can be as simple as planting a flower and as complicated as helping to build or remodel a building. We will be collecting useful (and shred able) items here at the church. We will be making useful items (like dresses and a quilt). We will be selling brownies for wells and teaching about how simple mosquito netting could stop malaria. We will spend our morning and early afternoon being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Pray for good weather (a day like last year would be great) and come do whatever it is you can.

Here is what is happening at church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was just under 150. I am grateful to my friends Denise Weeks-Bush and her brother Gary Weeks for sharing their communion song last Sunday morning (at both celebrations). Thank you to all who made our morning worship meaningful and a blessing for all.

Thank you for supporting the Confirmation’s “We Knead Your Help” bake sale for water wells in Uganda – they had a good day.

2. This Sunday is Mother’s Day – I am talking about the day that Elijah leaves Elisha (he is carried to heaven in a chariot of fire) and how Elisha discovers that the mantle that now rests on him is not just a symbol but a sign that the power that worked through Elijah now works through him. The passage is 2 Kings 2:1ff.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – Just a reminder that with Doris still out we are providing envelopes weekly (one in each bulletin and extras at the back of the sanctuary). Boxed offering envelopes will be out just as soon as Doris is able. Thank you for your patience and your continued generosity.

3. In our Prayers: Doris Schanzlin is still at Wesley Rehab (and making progress); our former custodian Don Jurowicz is in ICU at Suburban; Mitch Mooney is doing better after a brief hospital stay; Gaetano Castellino is making progress following back surgery; Prayers for Greg Maliken's dad Benjamin Joseph Maliken (called BJ); Nicky Sebastiano, Mark Fisher (Ed and Cindy's son); Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey; Ed Maker; Chris Klenk (outpatient surgery on Friday); Carl Ericson, Gena Magoon, Art Gundlach, we've also learned that Alice Schmidt is in the hospital in Florida (we have no other details); pray for Roger Johnson and family on the death of his mother; pray for Pastor Youngjae Jee (pastor of the Korean United Methodist Church on Niagara Falls Blvd. and his family on the death of his son Minsung Christopher Jee – memorial service is at the Church on NFB on Saturday, May 11 at 2:00; pray for those who are in harm's way, for those looking for work and for all who are striving to find The Way.

4. MAKE A DIFFERENCE – MAY 19, 2013 BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M.

There are many projects but here is one that needs filling up fast:

Community Gardening Projects – there are three projects: Central City Garden; Massachusetts Avenue Project Urban Gardens and the Seneca Babcock Neighborhood Garden at Seneca Street UMC. No experience required but we need some folks who can help weed, hoe, and perhaps to plant on one of three projects. Please sign up by responding to this e-mail or signing up at Church.

Remember that there is one worship gathering on May 19th at 9:30 – projects run from 10:00 to 1:00 with lunch at the Church!!

5. Pastor Sinnathamby Thevanesan has completed a new book titled Love Lessons. Copies are available from Diane Klenk or Peggy Bermudez for \$7.95.

6. This Week at Christ Church

Wednesday, May 8 – Choir meets at 7:30

Thursday, May 9 – Stewardship and Finance Team meets at 7:00 in the Wesley Room

Friday, May 10 – 9:00 a.m. – AARP Driver's Safety Course

4:00 – 7:00 Youth Group Sponsored **Chiavetta 's Chicken BBQ (\$10)**

Saturday, May 11 – United Methodist Men are visiting North Tonawanda Museum at 10:00 a.m.

7. Happy Birthday this week:

May 12 – Rosemary Little

May 13 – Mary Ball; Charles Terranova

May 14 – Jamie Carney; Jordan Lawson

8. Happy Anniversary this week

May 10 – Roger and Dede Johnson (1986)

9. Through the Bible in a year – Join us (at any point) and read through the Bible in a calendar year:

Follow occasional postings at www.drjithoughts.blogspot.com

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 and 1 Thessalonians 1

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

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

May 15 – 1 Chronicles 25-27 and 1 Thessalonians 4

10. ***Fashions in Bloom*** – *Fashions by TJ MaXX – spring fashion show and luncheon*

Saturday, May 18, 2013 from Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Cost is \$15 – all proceeds support United Methodist Women Missions

11. Young Missionary Update: Jessica Lawson has reached her fund raising goal and will be off to India in the next few weeks!

Courtney Cataudella is still in need of some support – thank you to all who have helped out. Remember to mark your checks Courtney! Courtney will be off to Nicaragua within the next few weeks as well.

12. UGANDA TEAM UPDATE: Tickets have been purchased for Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, Rev. Clair Mosher and Pastor BJ for their November 3 through 22 mission journey. They will be working with clinics, schools youth events and, of course, the core of the trip will be working with the Nexus Seminary training. We are planning to dedicate a well (thanks to your generosity) and the way things are looking we may need to dedicate more than one!! Please hold us in your prayers. We will have some fund raising events this Fall as we get closer to departure.

13. MEN AND WOMEN AND YOUTH

UMM – Men AND Women are invited to join the tour of the North Tonawanda History Museum on **Saturday May 11. Carpool at 10:00.** Admission is \$5 adults \$3 for veterans and seniors. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant. Contact Bill Bauza 837-2421 for more information.

UMW – **United Methodist Women Fashion Show** – “Fashions in Bloom” by TJ Maxx is **Saturday May 18 from 10:00 to Noon.** Tickets are \$15 and are available on Sunday mornings. Proceeds support UMW mission projects.

YOUTH – Chiavetta ‘s Chicken Barbecue **May 10 at the church. \$10.** Proceeds support Youth Summer Mission Trip.

14. **THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER** (Northtowns edition) 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) The loose change collection that was suggested we do on Make a difference Sunday. We would like to call it "change" a life and let people know that it would benefit the FJC. We would like to give people time and reminders so they bring their donation on that day. We will also have donation jars at the drop off trucks in the parking lot.

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 verses paid contractors and vendors.

4) The FJC is having a fundraising breakfast June 7th 8:00 am to 9:00 am. They will take a free will offering. If we have enough people interested we can arrange for our own sponsorship table.

15. 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 are doing – a lawnmower has been purchased and will soon be tried out. 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**)
2. 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.

16. Coming Soon:

1. Upper New York Annual Conference – May 30 through June 1 in Syracuse
2. Confirmation Sunday is June 9
3. Vacation Bible School – July 15-19 watch for more information!

17. Graduations are beginning to arrive:

Chris Maliken graduates from University of Pennsylvania Dental School on Monday, May 13th. He plans to continue his training with the Naval Oral Surgery program in Portsmouth, VA.

Parting Thought

Thursday of this week, May 9, is Ascension Day. According to the Gospels and the book of Acts, Jesus spent 40 days with the Disciples following his resurrection. Thursday marks the 40th day after Easter. 40 days Jesus taught, reminded and was present with the fledgling Christian community. His final instructions (see Acts 1) were that they should stay in Jerusalem and wait in there for "the promise of the Father. 'This,' he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'" 10 days later (the 50th day after that first Easter) the Holy Spirit fell on the new Christian community. On the day of Pentecost the community was transformed and the church was born. Ascension day is a vital step in this journey. The Christ had to return from whence he came – he was sent by the Father to accomplish a particular mission and he is returning to the Father with that mission fully in process. The sending of the Holy Spirit marks the beginning of a new era of faith and life and community. The mission of Jesus was to initiate the transformation of the world. This would include the redemption of humanity (one person at a time) and a redeemed humanity would work to bring heaven to earth (the coming of the Kingdom and the Will of God). 2000 years later we are still living out the process that Jesus initiated. The other piece of the promise is that he would return in the same manner in which he left (Acts 1:11). On ascension day remember to look up for our redemption is drawing near.

Have a blessed week!

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, sky gazer

(this e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ UMC of Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please let us know).