

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”
UPDATE
November 1, 2011

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.
10:00 – FaithXpress, and youth Sunday school and AOL
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!

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Hi Everyone:

Today is the Feast of All Saints on the Church calendar. In the early days of the Christian movement All Saints was one of the major feasts of the Christian year rivaling Easter and, in many places, much more important than Christmas. In the early days of the Christian movement, being a Disciple of Jesus Christ was illegal and was often punished by death or imprisonment or severe fines. These early Christians, who died for the faith, were called martyrs. There were thousands (hundred thousand by some estimates). The custom was for the church to gather on the anniversary of their martyrdom and that day of the year became known by the Saint’s name. Some of these remain: St. Patrick (March 17); St. Valentine (February 14); St. Stephen (December 26) and so forth. Eventually there were more martyrs than there were days of the year so the early Christians picked one day to remember all of those who had gone before us in the faith. They chose November 1 and called it the Feast of All Saints.

Christ Church keeps this ancient tradition on the first Sunday of November with a Memorial Communion service wherein we pause to remember those of our church community who have died in the past year and to call to mind the many saints we have known and journeyed with through the years. We will pause and remember them in both of our morning worship gatherings.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance this past Sunday was 173 (it was GREAT to be home!).

We celebrated the baptism of Abigail Rose Johnson

Abby’s great grandmother, Carol, fell before the service and had to be taken to the hospital. She needed 7 stitches but was able to return to participate in the baptism party later that afternoon. Our prayers go out to Carol. I am grateful that our Church family was on the scene with Michele and Chris Sciolino and Kathy Weaver providing expert medical assistance until the EMT’s could arrive.

2. This Sunday November 6, is ALL SAINTS SUNDAY. I am preaching a message titled “What happens next” from Revelation 21:22-22:5. We will have Communion in both morning celebrations and will be remembering those of the Christ Church family who have died in the past year.

Faith Xpress meets at 10:00

AOL – is studying Rob Bell’s “Everything is Spiritual” through the 20th of November at 10:00 Sunday morning.

3. More on the Uganda Trip:

A. I have begun to post my Uganda Journal on my Blog – go to drbjthoughts.blogspot.com and read of our mission and experiences.

B. I have small drum key chains that I picked up in Kampala, Uganda as a small thank you to all who made donations or agreed to be prayer partners for me on this journey. If I did not catch you Sunday morning, please see me. I am deeply grateful to all who helped to make this mission possible. (If you gave anonymously, I won’t tell but come and get a drum too!). :)

C. I am scheduling a time to show pictures and tell stories of this mission trip. Watch for more information. I am leaning toward a Sunday afternoon so that our members who don’t drive at night will be able to participate.

D. I have begun to make arrangements for next October’s mission. Is God calling you to join me? See me for more information.

4. In our Prayers: Barbara Burr had a mild stroke last week and is due home tomorrow; Jane Darling; Nicky Sabastiano, Judy Radel, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Erick Schmidt, Tom McCaffrey and former pastor Drew Heitzenrater who is home following back surgery. Remember those who are looking for work, those who are suffering from addictions and, as always, our men and women serving in many capacities overseas.

5. HOPE FOR AFRICA CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Will be performing at Christ Church on **Wednesday November 16 at 7:00**. The choir is from the Mukono district of Uganda (just east of the Capital Kampala) and come from the United Methodist founded and run Humble School. The choir also will be performing on November 15 at St. James UMC in Niagara Falls. We are still arranging transportation do you have a couple of large vans you could loan us for the three days (Tuesday morning through Thursday evening). We will need to be in Syracuse to pick the children up on Tuesday a.m. and will return them on Thursday morning. Contact me or the Church office if you can help.

Concert is free and open to the public. A Love Offering will be taken to support the choir and the Humble School.

6. REMEMBER this Saturday night we change back to Standard Time – Roll em back 1 hour (if not you’ll be an hour early for church – which is OK we’ll find something for you to do! – extra prayer is good for all of us).

7. **Pastor’s Monday bible conversations IMPORTANT NOTE:** We are going to **meet at 6:00 this Monday November 7** (due to SPRC meeting at 7:00) and will resume our 7:00 schedule on the 14th.

8. CHURCH COUNCIL is meeting this Thursday at 7:00

The “Making a Difference” group continues its conversation at 6:00 and is working on goal setting for Christ Church.

9. The Worship/Altar team has moved its meeting from November 3 to November 8 at 7:00 (due to scheduling conflicts).

10. The Youth Group is meeting with Pastor BJ this Sunday from 12 to 3.

11. OUTREACH REPORT: I just got this from Peggy Bermudez
Hands4NY - 611 lbs of food = 470 meals

Primera Iglesia UMC food pantry now serves 900 families (It was 700 just a few months ago.) There was very little food when I arrived and they told me that they had prayed for food this morning so they would have something to give people today.

Turkey Baskets - Ann McIlroy, who coordinates the Turkey Baskets for North Presbyterian, was overwhelmed with the amount of food Christ Church had gathered. She said that for the first time this year, some baskets will be going to families in Williamsville.

Coat Drive - over 35 winter coats were given - this may be the most we've ever given.

Soul Strength (the Middle School Faith Xpress group) assembled 25 UMCOR Health Kits! (Way to go team!).

We had a good response for these efforts from the community groups that meet at Christ Church, especially Bel Canto.

MEDIA SALE – is November 12 from 9:00 to 1:00 – this is also a Habitat Work Day

The Giving Tree will be up starting November 20 take tags, fulfill the wish, return unwrapped gift by December 11.

12. Happy Birthday this week:

November 1 – Ruth Anderson

November 3 – Carl Ericson

November 7 – Nancy Vastola

November 8 – Joyce Moser, Tammy Mugel

13. Happy Anniversary this week: I have none listed for this week.

14. UMW General Meeting is Saturday November 5 at 10:00 a.m.

15. Rehearsals for “If It Happened Today” a Christmas Pageant will be underway this month. Watch for more information.

16. December Special Events on the Calendar

Sunday December 4 at 4:30: Valerian Ruminski will be performing Opera, Jazz and Broadway music for the Christmas season. Tickets are \$15 and are available through Carol Teresi on Sunday morning or through the Church Office. Proceeds benefit the Nickel City Opera and Christ Church Outreach.

Friday, December 9 – “Christmas Dinner at Mount Vernon and Traditional Carol Sing” at 5:30. Dinner (Virginia Baked Ham and Roast Turkey; baked sweet potatoes; spiced cranberries, plantation green beans, plum pudding, cherry pie and coffee and tea) and an evening of music from the Amherst High school “the Sweet Sixteens and the Varsity Singers. Tickets are \$18 and proceeds will benefit the CUMC Youth Group.

Saturday, December 10 – “Angels Aware!” and “Carols, Cookies and Cocoa!” will be presented by the Amherst Players at Christ Church. Tickets are available through the Amherst Players web site www.amherstplayers.org or calling 791-7529. All are invited to bring canned goods or other nonperishable items for the Youth Group’s food drive.

17. I have begun initial inquiries into visiting Israel in February of 2013. This would be a 10 day journey (roughly 8 days in Israel) and would visit the Galilee, Jerusalem and other points of biblical interest. Is this something you would be interested in doing? Cost is roughly \$2500 (still waiting on figures) with some additional money needed if you need a passport and to purchase gifts and other things. I have made this journey 4 times in the past and am hoping to make arrangements for my friend Rev. Davis Matovu from Uganda to join us as well. If you are interested let me know by calling the church office or by responding to this e-mail.

I have to admit it is great to be home. I have been deeply blessed by your welcome over these past 4 months and was quite pleased to note that my arrival in the Buffalo Airport felt very much like coming home. Karen got home from Syracuse on Sunday p.m. (that made it much more like home) she brought the cats with her (a little more like home). I am going to be in transition for a while as our house in Liverpool is unsold and Karen is still “commuting” but I have felt for some time that Snyder is my home, now and I am very glad to be here. God has some amazing plans for us. It will be fun to watch them unfold.

See you when the church gathers,