

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

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

**UPDATE**  
**November 13, 2012**

**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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)  
**716-839-2460**

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

Hi Everyone:

November is a time to remember and be grateful. How is your attitude of gratitude today? I find the biggest obstacle to gratitude for me rises out of envy (jealous of what someone else has) and greed (that insatiable desire to just have more). I am profoundly blessed. I am blessed with a beautiful and gracious wife. I am blessed with an abundance of stuff. When I visit other parts of the world the first thing that strikes me is how amazingly blessed I am to live where I live. I am blessed to be able to live out my calling as a pastor and to have full support to do so. I am blessed to be able to serve and lead as pastor at Christ Church. I am blessed with an abundance of friends and an extraordinary covenant group (Alan, Aaron, Bill) who love me and hold me accountable. I am blessed with a great family. I want to live life with an attitude of gratitude. I am grateful for the struggles I have had in life – for each painful moment has taught me much and therefore is also a blessing. How is your attitude of gratitude today?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 154. I want to give special appreciation to our ushers who help with our traffic flow and help everyone feel comfortable and welcome!
2. This Sunday I am preaching from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 a message titled “Living Life with Open Hands”.

3. Wednesday November 21 at 7:00 p.m. we will have a time of “Thanksgiving”. Come and worship and give thanks with your church family on the eve of the feast!

4. This Sunday immediately following morning worship (let’s say 1:00 ish) the 2012 Christ Church Uganda Mission Team will be showing pictures and telling stories about their journey. Come and hear Kathryn Weaver and John Miller (and Pastor BJ) share of their experiences. We will have a soup and bread lunch (bread from our friends at Wheatberry Bake Shop) and soup provided by the Outreach team.

5. TODAY IS THE Caller Deadline for December/January

6. Thursday November 15 this week:

Outreach Team meets at 6:30

Trustees are meeting at 7:00

7. SATURDAY – November 17 – Breakfast with Santa – a joint event between Christ Church and the Amherst Players. Breakfast is \$10 for Adults and \$8 for children.

8. The Conference Council on Youth Ministries annual gathering is in Rochester this Friday through Sunday!

9. In our Prayers: Ruth Kitson is now home; Don Munson is now home; Bim Rowlands still in rehab at ECMC; Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Ed Maker, Marian Steve, Laura Walfrand, those looking for work, families in crisis.

10. We took 7 completed flood buckets and many empty buckets and lots of other supplies to the Harris Hill UMC today. Members of Harris Hill will be taking them to Mission Central in Mechanicsberg, PA over the weekend to be completed, proofed and then sent to New York/New Jersey to help people with the clean up.

**WE ARE STILL COLLECTING** if you have flood bucket materials please bring them in we will get them where they need to be.

FLOOD CLEANING BUCKETS (value approximately \$55) – these help home owners clean up after the flood.

**5 Gallon bucket with re-sealable lid** -- Buckets from fast food restraints or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned. Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner. Advertisements on the outside are acceptable. Here is what goes into a flood bucket:

**Liquid laundry detergent** – two 25 oz. or one 50 oz bottles only. **Liquid household cleaner** – 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water. No spray cleaners. **Dish Soap** – 12-28 oz. bottle any brand. **1 can air freshener** -- aerosol or pump. **1 insect repellent spray** -- 6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover. **1 scrub brush** – no toilet-bowl brushes. Plastic or wood handle ok – no kitchen or dish brushes. **18 cleaning wipes** – handi wipes, or reusable

wipes. NO terry cleaning towels – remove packaging. **7 sponges** – removed from wrapper. No cellulose sponges due to mold issue. **5 scouring pads** – remove from wrapper – no Brillo, or SOS pads that will rust **50 clothespins** – remove from packaging. **Clothes line** – two 50 ft. or one 100 ft – cotton or plastic. **24 roll heavy duty trash bags** – remove from box 30 to 45 gallon size **5 dust masks** **2 pair disposable waterproof gloves** – rubber or latex, remove from packaging **1 pair work gloves** – cotton or leather, leather palms necessary **Bring completed buckets to the church (or separate items) no later than November 16. We will pack and send with a team heading to Mission Central. Buckets that arrive later will be sent by another method.**

**Make a whole flood bucket (like the Youth Group) OR, bring anything that goes into one and we'll build our own. THANK YOU.**

As noted above checks to UMCOR are also appreciated and can be sent to the Church or placed in the offering.

#### 11. NOVEMBER 18

1:00 – Uganda Team Presentation

THE GIVING TREE appears – take a tag and buy a gift for a resident of Gateway Longview, Haven House and Habitat for Humanity. Bring the **unwrapped** gift to church by December 8. Thank you.

12. SUGAR AND SPICE – HA-HA Happy Holidays – all women are invited to join an evening of relaxation, refreshments, conversation and laughter on Monday, November 19 at 7:00 in the parlor. Snacks, prizes and a surprise guest!

13. Through the New Testament in a year: this week's readings – November 13 – 2 Corinthians 7; November 14 – 2 Corinthians 8; November 15 – 2 Corinthians 9; November 16 – 2 Corinthians 10; November 19 – 2 Corinthians 11; November 20 – 2 Corinthians 12; November 21 – 2 Corinthians 13; November 22 – 2 John

Follow Pastor BJ's comments on his blog: [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com).

#### 14. Education News:

“Tell Me the Story of Christmas” – a Christmas Pageant has begun rehearsals for a December 23 performance at Christ Church. All children, youth and adults are invited to share in this pageant filled with singing, storytelling and pantomime. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. See Sally Pollard for more information.

The Christian Education team is looking for adults willing to help the children/youth rehearse their parts. Rehearsals will take place Sunday's from October 28 to December 23. Contact Lynn Ramsey for more information.

NOVEMBER AOL – “Justice for the Poor and Studying Poverty – led by Beth Sweet and Peggy Bermudez

The Thursday Bible Study is currently reading Daniel and will be reading through the Minor Prophets. We meet at 10:00 and all are welcome.

15. Happy Birthday this week:

November 13 – Carol Corsaro; Ian Webber

November 14 – Justin Kennedy

November 15 – Leah Groh

November 16 – Lynn Ramsey

November 19 – Ashley George (and BJ’s mom Lorna Norrix)

November 20 – Jim Beller

November 21 – Evelyn Cole

16. Happy Anniversary this week:

Geoff and Janet Hill – November 21, 1970

17. LET’S REMEMBER TOGETHER: Do you have a special Christmas memory from a church gathering or including your church family? This year Christ Church is inviting you to remember Christmas past and the joys that your church has brought to your celebrations. Submit the story – in person or email ([cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:cumc350@gmail.com)) by December 9. We only ask that your story include a church memory or a church family memory. Church is not something you do during the holidays but is where we experience the holy of the holy days!

18. MYM Christmas Party: Friday, December 7 at 5:30 in Crafts Hall. “*Christmas in Italy – Buon Natale*” Appetizers and punch at 5:30 Dinner at 6:00. The Amherst Male Glee Club will be providing entertainment. Tickets are \$18 each and are on Sale **beginning this Sunday!** Proceeds benefit the Christ Church youth group.

19. The United Methodist Men are meeting this Saturday at 10:00 to tour the Niagara Power Project followed by lunch at an area restaurant.

20. **Seneca Street Church After-School Program needs YOU!!!** During part of December and during the month of January we are without the college students that help our program survive. In addition, this year we will be without our Director during this time because she will be out on maternity leave enjoying her newborn baby girl!

The After-School Program runs Monday-Thursday from 2:30-5:30. Any help during the week would be greatly appreciated. The dates that we will need help include: Dec. 10-13, Jan 3&4, Jan 7-10, Jan 14-17 and Jan 22-24. If you are interested in any day please contact Cheryl Bird at [716-491-2200](tel:716-491-2200) or [cbird@daemen.edu](mailto:cbird@daemen.edu) OR Jamie Ryder at [215-219-8765](tel:215-219-8765) or [ryder.jamie@gmail.com](mailto:ryder.jamie@gmail.com). Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

21. Upcoming worship schedule:

Wednesday, November 21 – Thanksgiving Eve Gathering at 7:00

Sunday, November 25 – Roger Johnson and a celebration of Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent and Communion

Sunday, December 9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 23 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Annual Christmas Program

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – Worship Celebrations at 9:00 (with choir and special music) and 11:00 with carols and communion

We are about to hit the “crazy” season and now is the time to talk about it. I once did a study that was titled “Unplug the Christmas Machine”. C.S. Lewis once wrote a short story about an alien visiting Britain during the “holiday rush”. He described the people’s exhaustion, their franticness and their over indulgence in food, beverage and spending. This story was written in the 1940’s and could easily fit with the craziness that seems to infuse people today beginning with Thanksgiving. In the “Going Deeper” group that has been meeting on Sunday evening we recently completed two very significant chapters. The first was on simplicity – someone once said that the devil was in the details – simplifying our lives is one way to live more faithfully and well. How might I simplify my celebrations so that I could enhance the lives of others? How might I simplify my celebration so that I might encounter the living God in the holy days ahead. The other chapter was on solitude. It is clear that amid the noise and clamor of the next 6 weeks it is hard to hear ourselves and those we love let alone the voice of God. My annual challenge to myself and to all of us who are Christ followers is to slow the pace, simplify the season and try to imagine the amazing story at the heart of it all. The creator of the universe became a human being and dwelt among us . . . . can you hear the cry of a baby? Can you hear the joy of a shepherd? Can you hear the voice of God expressing amazing love for you and me?

I’ll see you when the Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, simplifier