

Christ United Methodist Church
UPDATE
November 4, 2014

**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

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

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com

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

Hi Everyone:

The first ever 350 Saratoga Concert was a rousing success! We had performances by the Amherst Red Blazer Chorus, the Bel Canto Presto Choir, Ballroom & Beyond, the Christ Church Praise Band and the Christ Church Choir. We collected two grocery baskets full of canned and boxed food. There were over 200 in attendance at this event and, from audience reactions, a great time was had by all. Thank you to all who participated and especially to our music leaders and to Sally, Peggy and Peggy (and others) who put together the reception afterwards. Responses from the various groups suggest that we may need to make this an annual event!!

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the 130’s – we remembered our members and friends who have died in the past year. Thank you to all who participated.

Please note - Every Sunday message (By Pastor BJ or others) is recorded and available for listening through our church web site. <http://www.christchurchamherst.org> Click on the tab "worship" & move the cursor to a drop screen labeled "Sermons." Click on "sermons" and you'll see a list of every sermon of this year by date, title and preacher. Click and listen to any and all.

2. This Sunday we are back to Stewardship. We are stewards of the faith. Someone held the Christian faith so we could experience and live into it. We now hold the faith for those who are coming after us. We are stewards of our testimonies and the "means of grace" that God has provided. Bible Readings are 1 Timothy 6:11-16/Philippians 2:12-17 and the sermon is titled **"Keepers of the Faith (Stewards)"**

3. This Friday at 7:00p.m. **The Ron Corsaro Trio** will be performing in the Crafts Hall Cabaret. Come and enjoy coffee and snacks and great music. This event is a benefit for the Mission Youth (especially for those youth who will be traveling to Uganda in 2015). Come and bring your friends!

4. **Bible 101** – Learn your way around the Bible in 3 simple sessions. Hands on (BYOB – Bring your own Bible) class led by Pastor BJ will teach the basics of the Bible and how to navigate this essential book. Thursdays at 1:00 on October 30, November 6 and 13 in the Wesley Room.

5. Christmas Pageant - there's a place for you!

At FaithXpress at 10 am this Sunday through December we'll be preparing to tell the Christmas story in a fun and memorable way. All children, youth and adults are invited to participate in speaking & non-speaking roles, as well as instrumental and song opportunities. Join us Sunday at 10 am to hear more about **The Kings of Orient, AR.**

6. This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

9:30 – Library Team

2:00 – Pastor BJ at Asbury Pointe

4:00 – UMW Board Meeting

7:00 – Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 5

7:30 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 6

10:00 – Bible Study

11:00 – New Vision Circle

1:00 – Bible 101

7:00 – Circle of Joy

7:00 – Living Well Coaches

Friday, November 7

10:00 – Books We Have Loved

7:00 – Ron Corsaro Concert

Saturday, November 8

10:00 Men's Club
UMW District Meeting

7. We want to express our thanks and appreciation to **Bill and Marg Bauza** who have led our praise team for the past 3 years. Bill and Marg will be stepping down from this role on November 16. A reception (cake and punch) will be held following the 9:00a.m. worship service on November 16. THANK YOU Bill and Marg for your years of dedication and faithful service. The 9:00a.m. worship will continue with a reworked praise team. **Do you play? Do you sing? Would you like to join us? See pastor BJ for more.**

8. Annual Church Conference – November 16, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at Pendleton Center UMC. This is Christ Church's annual meeting. We will take care of necessary business and hear concerns and information from our District Superintendent and Bishop.

9. Can you help? **Dr. Robert Nachbar** is no longer driving and is in need of occasional rides. Dentist/eye appointments on Monday/Tuesday mornings and other journeys. Is willing to pay driver. Will call ahead to confirm details. Call Bob at 837-1905 to volunteer. Thank you.

10. **IN OUR PRAYERS:** - Al Wrisley - continues recovery from surgery, Brian Martin - as he recovers following bone marrow transplant – but is now home; Edmond Wrycza (Julianna Sabol's father in a nursing home in Fort Erie); Glenn Hurst, Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Mac Sabol (surgery on November 18), Tom Davis, Fred Painton, Nicky Sebastiano, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy and all who are at home and unable to get to church. Remember those who are serving in the armed forces (especially Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling serving in the US Navy). Pray for the West African nations, the World Health Organization, Doctors without Borders, the US military and all the others who are battling the Ebola virus. Pray for the ongoing situation in Iraq and Syria. Please pray for all who are in harm's way.

11. Happy Birthday this week:

November 7 – Nancy Vastola

November 8 – Joyce Moser, Tammy Mugel

November 10 – Ian Johnson; David Mitchell

12. Happy Anniversary this week: None listed.

13. COMING DECEMBER 5 – MYM Christmas Dinner and Concert

5:30 on December 5. Special concert by the Buffalo Silver Band at 7:30.

Dinner is Appetizers and Punch, Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans, Applesauce, Rolls and Butter and Chocolate Trifle.

Cost is \$18 – on sale November 16 in Crafts Hall. Proceeds benefit Christ Church youth.

14. Training – Visitation and Care Ministry is going on today and November 12 here at Christ church. This District-sponsored pilot workshop is led by Deacon candidate Rebecca Naber.

15. AOL kicks off Advent with a series titled "Christmas: the Good, The Bad & the Ugly". Led by Rev. Jim Pollard. The study launches November 30 and will run for 4 weeks. See Jim or Sally for more information.

16. Through the Bible in a year: this week's readings,
November 4 – Nahum 1-3 and Colossians 2
November 5 – Habakkuk 1-3 and Colossians 3
November 6 – Zephaniah 1-3 and Colossians 4
November 7 – Ezra 1-2 and 2 Timothy 1
November 8 – Ezra 3-5 and 2 Timothy 2
November 9 – Ezra 6-8 and 2 Timothy 3
November 10 – Ezra 9-10 and 2 Timothy 4
November 11 – 1 Chronicles 1-3 and Jude
November 12 – 1 Chronicles 4-6

17. MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

SENECA STREET COAT DRIVE – We provided a small truck load of coats and warm items for our friends at Seneca Street! Well done everyone!

Cheektowaga Food Pantry – Janet Neiman, Director of the Cheektowaga Food Pantry, is in need of volunteers to help each Tuesday and Wednesday during November. Call Janet (392-2318) for details.

Family Justice Center – October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mary Murphy, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center, is available to give presentations to any group. Contact Mary Murphy at 558-5270.

Uganda 2015 – Our team is nearly set. Dr. BJ Norrix will be leading a team of 11: John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Kathryn Weaver, Janelle Martin, Briana Woods, Erin Patrick, Katey Waldon and Erisawe Briere (and possibly ONE more). We will be travelling to Uganda for 2 weeks the end of June/July 2015. Your prayers are desired and appreciated. We will be visiting schools, presiding at Nexus graduations, dedicating water projects and a church and much, much more.

18. Within the staff we are noting a couple of significant anniversaries this month:

Janelle Martin is completing her first full year as our Office Manager and Ministries Assistant!

Kevin Durkin is completing his first full year as our Minister of Music!
We are profoundly blessed to have Janelle and Kevin as a part of our staff and I am sure you will want to join me in expressing our appreciation to them!

Parting Thoughts

Lord Acton is credited with saying, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men." It is a saying that reminds us that people will often go to great lengths to gain, and maintain power. J.R.R. Tolkien wrote his Lord of the

Rings Trilogy to explore this very question. The One Ring (the Ring of power) can only be wielded by one at a time and it completely corrupts whoever attempts to use it. In the weeks leading up to election day we are reminded that people will do just about anything and say just about anything to get or to keep power. In the United States we created a constitution some 200+ years ago to “balance the power” and to guarantee certain rights. The Bill of Rights in the constitution serves as a hedge against the tyranny of the majority, guaranteeing that even if the majority wants it to be otherwise certain rights are still protected. I am deeply disturbed by the rhetoric and vitriol thrown about by politicians on either side of the aisle. I am deeply disturbed by the level of discourse (or total lack of discourse) that prevails in our nation. I will not be voting for anyone who has stooped to fear mongering as a means of controlling people’s votes. I am praying today (praying hard) and, yes, I will be voting today. As turned off as I am by the process and the money and the mean spirited nature of the political discourse I will not surrender my right to participate. I am concerned with fairness and deeply concerned for our future. I invite all of us to make time today, when you vote, to pray for the nation, to pray for our leaders (whoever they are or will be) and to pray for a spirit of grace and mercy to prevail in this land.

I’ll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, ballot caster