

Christ United Methodist Church

Living Christ's Ways and Exploding With Love and Service!

Weekly Update Tuesday, November 5, 2013

[It's Election Day. Please vote!](#)

I read an article this morning. A reflection really on the power of presence. The writer is a die-hard football fan who rarely misses a game. If they do have to miss it, record it to watch at a later time.. The writer goes on to say, "If I had tickets, which I do not, I would do everything I could to go to the game. I would amend my calendar, reschedule my appointments, and prioritize my activities to ensure my attendance. But if something happened, and I couldn't make it, it would not affect the dynamic of the crowd, or the outcome of the event. It wouldn't change, one little bit, the atmosphere. Simply put, my attendance would not be missed. The team would stick to their game-plan, the crowd would maintain their electric charge, and the prices would be exactly as they are. The same is NOT true for my attendance at church."

What happens when we miss Sunday worship?

When you're not there the body of our church community is incomplete. Your voice is not heard in the worship and singing of the saints. (*yes, you are one of the saints!*) You can't actively serve others who may need your gifts. You cannot contribute in offering the gift of you and your resources. You don't receive the Word of God shared in the morning message, sung in the songs and anthems, or the vision cast that moves us forward. You miss out on prayer, the prayers you hold in your heart and the spoken prayers that gather up all our thoughts, feelings and remembrances. You give up sharing in community with other believers, their encouragement, their care, their witness to what God is doing in their lives. You make it easier to miss the next week, and then the next. You make it harder for others to bear the responsibility of ministering to others. You miss opportunities to share your own struggles with others who are also finding their way. You cause unnecessary worry for others who notice and feel your absence. You miss out on life-changing decisions, and spiritual experiences.

I assure you, your church loves and needs you.

From time to time we all need vacations, and sick days. But when we don't gather regularly with others in the body of Christ it hinders our own spiritual growth and weakens the spiritual strength of the entire church community. I hope you know how important you are to Christ Church. Without you, we're not the same. I invite you to come, where a place is prepared for you. Come ready to worship, to celebrate and be uplifted, and to thank God for the blessings of life and love. Come ready to be changed and sent out to where you make a meaningful difference! *Now that's got to be better than football!!!*

1. On **All Saints Sunday 162 worshipers gathered**. We prayed a blessing over the Uganda Mission Team members, Kathy Weaver, Joe Fort and Pastor BJ (and Rev. Claire Mosher). We also remembered 16 church members who died in the past year, lighting a candle for each one and also remembering other extended family members and friends, saints who may not have made a mark on the world, but who made a mark on us and were a part of making us who we are. The choir (joined by the whole community) lifted our hearts in their singing of **For All The Saints!** Holy Communion was received and the mission team left immediately to begin their journey to Uganda.

2. **The Mission team has arrived safely in Uganda** and beginning to make their way to Uganda friends and places where they will teach, touch, help and heal. These folks will not be the same when they return to us. Keep them in your prayers. Also pray for and encourage their families here at home.

3. **Nicky Sebastiano** and **Diane Lovejoy** are back at their homes after being hospitalized. **Phyllis Nicholson's** surgery was postponed till further notice and **Guy Castellino** will have out-patient surgery this Friday. **Glenn Hurst, Dick Ball, Bim Rowlands and Mitch Mooney** continue recovery at their homes. Be in prayer for them and for their caregivers as well. Also keep in prayer those serving in the Navy at this time: **Ian Johnson and Alex Dunbar**.

4. We rejoice with **Rachel (Vaughan)** and Stephen Adam who were married in Louisiana on Saturday, November 2. We celebrate with **Brad Loliger** who has passed the bar exam. And **Sean Johnson** was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society at Canisius College. (I guess that means he's smart in two languages!!) Congratulations and best wishes to all in these milestones in their lives.

5. This Saturday, November 9 is the **Grand Opening of the Northtowns Family Justice Center** located on N. Forest Rd. The ribbon cutting takes place at 2 pm. There will be tours (check out the upstairs bathroom renovated by members of Christ Church), refreshments and the following items will be collected if you feel moved to provide them...bottled water, travel size soaps, shampoos, new stuffed animals, children's books, fleece throws, blankets/shawls, puzzles, games, toy cars, trucks, Tops/Wegmans gift cards. The FJC meets the needs of victims of domestic violence.

6. **AARP Safe Driver class** is being offered at Christ Church on Monday, November 18 at 9am. The cost is \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for non-members. Call the church office to sign up.

7. **Church Staff changes** - Office Manager, **Michelle Panasiewicz** will be leaving to take a new position in a science lab which better suits her family life and her goals. Beginning as new Office Manager on Monday, November 18th will be **Janelle Martin**. Please introduce yourself and give information for your groups and ministry teams to Janelle.

Our new Minister of Music, **Kevin Durkin**, will join our staff on November 24th. Many thanks to **Melanie Rodgers and Mac Sabol** for their leadership in the interim. What a joy they are as they lead us into God's presence with music and song each Sunday.

8. This coming Sunday, November 10, is Children's Sabbath. Members of the United Methodist Women's group will lead worship. Our guest speaker, **Catherine Miles - Kania**, comes to us from Gateway Longview. As a Social

Worker, Catherine is passionate about her work with troubled children and youth. Welcome Catherine this Sunday at 9 am and 11 am.

9. **Special Church Conference** - Sunday, November 24 at noon. Don't miss this opportunity to meet together for the purpose of discussion and decision regarding the opportunity to purchase the property located directly behind the church on Harwood Drive. All of the information we currently have is available in print form at the church. You may pick it up to read in advance. District Superintendent, **Rev. Wayne Butler**, will lead that meeting following worship. All church members may vote.

10. **Daily Bible Reading** -

November 4- Job 26-27, Mark 15-16

November 5- Job 28-29, Galatians 1-2

November 6- Job 30, Psalm 120, Galatians 3-4

November 7- Job 31-32, Galatians 5-6

November 8- Job 33, 1 Corinthians 1-3

November 9- Job 35-36, 1 Corinthians 7-8

11. **November birthdays this week:**

Thursday, November 7 - **Nancy Vastola Moser and Tammy Mugel**

Friday, November 8 - **Joyce**

Remember to vote today!

I'll see you when the church gathers!

With JOY,

Sally