

**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**Snyder, New York**  
***“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”***

**UPDATE**  
**November 6, 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.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)**

Hi Everyone:

It is election day, make sure you exercise your right and privilege to vote.

Election day aside we are gearing up to help with the cleanup efforts on the US East coast. This past Sunday we collected \$650 for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Every dollar sent through UMCOR goes to the relief effort (all of UMCOR’s overhead is paid through our Shared Ministries and connection giving.) Send the checks to the church and mark them UMCOR or Hurricane relief. We are also collecting materials for flood buckets – see information below. I want to give a special appreciation to **our YOUTH GROUP** who took the flood bucket information I shared on Sunday morning this week and went out and put a flood bucket together – it is outside my office. Way to lead and well done Christ Church youth!! Wendy Johnson is travelling to the New York City area to help with clean up efforts. There are teams from our area that are heading to Pennsylvania to help with the supply chain of relief and clean up materials. Watch for opportunities to help.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 146. Thank you Sally Pollard and all of our candle lighters who helped make our All Saints Memorial Communion a time of remembering and celebrating the lives of those who have gone before us. Thank you Tammy Mugel and the communion servers!

Thank you Christ Church choir and Elizabeth Holt Curtis for the special music that encourages us in our grief.

2. This Sunday I am speaking from 2 Corinthians 3 and 4 a message titled “With unveiled faces in jars of clay”. We reflect the glory of God in flawed human vessels. It is one of the more marvelous things about the Christian journey – it is one of the more frustrating things about the Christian journey. . .

### 3. WORSHIP NOTES:

November 21 – Thanksgiving Eve Communion celebration. Come and join your church family for a time of giving thanks and holy Communion as we prepare to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.

Christmas Eve – ADVANCE NOTICE – Monday, December 24 there will be TWO Worship gatherings. One at **9:00** (note the earlier time) that will feature special music and our choir and the Hallelujah Chorus and one at **11:00** that will feature Carols, Candles and Holy Communion.

4. In our Prayers: Bim Rowlands (in rehab following car accident a week ago); Don Munson (in rehab following a bout with pneumonia); Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Ed Maker, Marian Steve, Laura Walfrand and Ruth Kitson (Ruth is now home!!!!); pray for our nation; pray for all those who are in harm’s way; pray for those looking for work and all families in crisis . . .

### 5. HURRICANE RELIEF

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.

#### 6. TURKEY BASKET PROJECT

The turkey Basket project is collecting food for Thanksgiving dinner. We are looking for gifts of the following: stuffing mix, brownie mix, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables (peas, beans or corn), and canned fruit in the shopping charts by **THIS SUNDAY November 11**. Turkeys can be given to any member of the outreach to be put in the freezer. **THANK YOU FOR HELPING.**

7. SUGAR AND SPICE – HOWLING WITH LAUGHTER **NOVEMBER 19** -- this was rescheduled from October 29. **All Women** are invited to join us for an evening of relaxation, refreshments, conversation and laughter at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Snacks, prizes, a surprise guest and much, much more.

8. Through the New Testament in a year (one chapter a weekday): this week's readings: November 6 – 2 Corinthians 2; November 7 – 2 Corinthians 3; November 8 – 2 Corinthians 4; November 9 – 2 Corinthians 5; November 12 – 2 Corinthians 6; November 13 – 2 Corinthians 7; November 14 – 2 Corinthians 8. You can follow Dr. BJ's comments on the daily reading through his blog at [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com).

#### 9. 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.

#### 10. Happy Birthday this week:

November 7 – Nancy Vastola

November 8 – Joyce Moser; Tammy Mugel

November 10 – Ian Johnson; David Mitchell

November 11 – Jeanette Tackett  
November 12 – Grace Markello  
November 13 – Carol Corsaro; Ian Webber

11. There are no anniversaries listed for this week.

12. **November 18** (Sunday) immediately following the 11:00 worship celebration the **Uganda 2012** team will be telling stories and showing pictures, etc. We will have a soup and bread lunch. Come and hear Kathryn Weaver and John Miller and Pastor BJ share their recent mission experience. NOTE TO FOOTBALL FANS – the Bills play on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> that week so the time after Church should be open for all of us (grin).

13. Coming Soon:

November 17 – Breakfast with Santa 10:00 to Noon at Christ Church. Breakfast is \$10 for Adults and \$8 for seniors and children. Proceeds benefit Christ Church and the Amherst Players Community Theater.

November 17 – United Methodist Men are meeting at 10:00 for a trip to the Niagara Power Project.

November 18 – Uganda 2012 Team presentation following worship

November 21 – Service of Thanksgiving at 7:00

December 7 – Buon Nalale – Christmas in Italy with the Mid-Years Ministry. Tickets on sale in Crafts Hall beginning November 18 for \$18 – proceeds benefit the youth group at Christ Church.

14. The “Giving Tree” will appear in Crafts Hall on November 18. Recipients this year will be Gateway Longview, Haven House and Habitat for Humanity. Please take a tag or more, fulfill the wish and bring it back to church **unwrapped** with the tag by December 8. Thank you.

15. I have been talking to a lot of **Cancer Survivors** in and around Christ Church. There are a lot of you. I thought it might be helpful for those of you who are survivors to tell the rest of us how we can help you (and what people do that you find unhelpful). I know there is a tendency, when we are with someone who has cancer and is undergoing treatment to do one of three things: 1) ignore the subject entirely; 2) try and say that perfect thing to “make it all better”; or 3) to tell our own tales of woe and horror. I’m pretty sure none of these are helpful. So, **Cancer Survivors** can you help the rest of us out? Contact Rachel Vaughan at 839-2460 (or respond to this e-mail) and we’ll compile a Christ Church – **“Survivor’s advice booklet”** for all of us to use.

16. **Greeters needed:** An important part of hospitality for any community is having people who will greet and welcome all comers on Sunday morning. Pam Lopez coordinates this vital ministry for Christ Church. If you can help by being a greeter call Pam at 741-3592.

17. **CAFÉ HELP needed:** The café is a welcoming place every Sunday morning. We gather for coffee and fellowship (and usually something sweet) before, between and after our Sunday morning worship celebrations. We need your help – sign up to set up food, beverages and supplies before the 9:00 worship celebration or to replenish supplies as needed and clean up at the end of the morning. **Signup sheet is in the café** – or call the church office. Many hands are willing to assist but we need someone “on point” each week. THANK YOU to all of you who have faithfully served your church through this vital hospitality ministry.

18. Do you have a Church related Christmas story that you would like to share? We are collecting brief stories (no more than a paragraph) to share during the Advent season. Send your paragraph to Rachel Vaughan in the Church office or to [ccumc350@gmail.com](mailto:ccumc350@gmail.com)

19. Stewardship and Finance are meeting this Thursday at 7:00

### **Parting thoughts:**

Living in a democracy gives us a unique privilege and a profound responsibility. The privilege is the “right to vote”. This right was originally only extended to white men who owned property. Later non property owners were included; later still African American men were allowed to vote; and later still the franchise was extended to women. The right to vote is often hard earned from those who hold power. Even in a democracy it takes time to get it right – and sometimes getting it right is a long and painful process. One writer once said that democracy is the worst form of government on earth – except for all the alternatives. Democracy is a slow and messy process and it is dependent on many variables. Democracy’s success depends on the education and engagement of the electorate. When vast numbers of people choose to disengage or are disenfranchised democracy becomes the will of the motivated rather than the will of the people. As Christians we are called to support and pray for our leaders whether we like them or not and whether we agree with them or not. In New Testament times the Christian movement suffered severe persecution at the hands of the Roman government, yet the Christian leaders called on all Christ followers to abstain from violence, to be good citizens (thereby setting an example) and to never cease to pray for those who were in authority. Whatever happens in today’s election our local, regional, state wide and national leaders are in need of our prayers. Will you remember to pray? Deciding who to vote for in a national election is a great challenge. I apply the Old Testament prophetic standard (I know that there are dozens of other ways to make this decision). The Old Testament prophets defined a good king (and therefore national leader) according to two things: 1) did they follow God’s way; and, 2) did they protect and care for the poor. Obviously both are open to a wide range of interpretations but as I understand these matters it helps me to make faithful decisions on both the national and local level. How will you decide?

Have a great week and I’ll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, participant in democracy

(This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please reply: remove – Feel free to share this with family and friends.)