

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE

October 9, 2013

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 FaithXPress/Soul Strength/Youth Group AOL (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
716-839-2460

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

Hi Everyone:

I had a great time at Chautauqua this past weekend with the MY+M group. There were 22 of us at the Methodist House (and nearby locations) for the weekend. I was deeply blessed to be able to spend this time getting to know the members of this vital ministry in our church. We worked our way through what I have heard called the “Quaker Questions”. These questions are designed to help groups discover some of their vital history and to be able to tell their stories. The questions: 1) where did you live when you were seven? Who lived with you? What did they call you?; 2) How did you heat the house? 3) What was the center of warmth for you (could be a person, a place or a season)? And, 4) When did God become more than just a name for you? I learned many years ago that people often worship side by side, work on teams and committees for years, and even do mission together and never really know their stories. It was a great blessing for me to hear the stories – many of them stories of struggle in those early years – and the

faith journeys of this group. I've printed the questions here for the rest of our congregation so you can think about them. How would you answer them? The last question, the essential faith question, has a near infinite number of responses. Some of us have had dramatic life shaking first experiences of God while others of us were nurtured into the faith and found a more gentle path to Christ. Some of us can point to a specific day and time when God became more than just a name to us while others of us do not remember a time when we did not know the presence of God in our lives. There is no right or wrong way to come to know God nor is there a normative experience (read the book of Acts to see a wide range of experiences). I want to thank the MY+M group for the invitation and for allowing me to be a part of their lives and community.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 140 (118 at Christ Church 22 at Chautauqua). Special appreciation to Rosemary Kochan for coordinating our 3 guest speakers. Thank you, also, to Rev. Jim Pollard for presiding at Communion. We celebrated World Communion Sunday at Christ Church and at Chautauqua and quite literally around the world!!

2. This Sunday I am preaching on "Dealing with Conflict". A friend of mine once told me that criticism from others is evidence that what we are trying to do actually matters. Even if that is true it can still sting and learning to manage how this kind of adversity is important. My scripture is from Ephesians 4:25-32.

This Sunday is **Elizabeth Holt Curtis'** final Sunday as our Music Director.

There will be a reception in her honor following the 11:00 worship time.

Plan to come and celebrate her 19 years with us!

Farewell gifts to should be to Roger Johnson by now.

3. **UMW FALL HARVEST DINNER** is Friday October 18 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Roast Pork with all the trimmings. Signup sheets to help are posted on the refrigerator in the church Kitchen. Tickets are available in the Café on Sunday morning (and at the door). Come and support our UMW and their mission projects! (BJ: I'm excited that this Fall I will actually get to attend as I was in Uganda the last two Octobers. UMW's around the world do the best dinners!!)

4. **DRESS OUR PEOPLE UPDATE:** All the dresses and shorts have been distributed – please finish sewing and return items to the church by Sunday, October 20th. We will do a final count and see if we meet our goal of 300 pieces of clothing to send with the Uganda team – currently we are at 265 pieces of clothing.

We could still use some colorful stickers to include in the packages. Place them in the Dress Our People mailbox in the hallway outside the church office. We will pack up the clothing on Wednesday, October 30th from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Youth Hall.

5. Minister of Music Search Team Update: Our search for a new Minister of Music is well underway. We have received 8 quality resumes and will be auditioning and interviewing them before the end of the month. We expect to have a new Minister of Music named by November 1 and, hopefully, ready to go by the first Sunday of Advent. Please keep this process in your prayers.

In the interim: 1) Mac Sabol will be leading the choir beginning October 16; 2) we will have “guest” organists on Sunday morning until the new Minister of Music is in place. We are asking everyone to hold this process in your prayers as we seek to move forward.

6. In our Prayers: Richard Ball (now in Rehab); Nicky Sebastiano (also in rehab); Kathy Weaver (recovering from surgery); Phyllis Nicholson (gall bladder surgery pending); Bim Rowlands; Glenn Hurst; Marian Steve; Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey; Ed Maker; Carl and Jean Ericson; Art Gundlach; Alice Schmidt and Diane Lovejoy. Remember to pray for the Uganda Mission team (leaving in under 4 weeks) – Pastor BJ, Kathy Weaver, Joe Forte and Rev. Clair Mosher; pray for those who are in harm’s way; pray for those families in crisis and for all who are looking for work.

7. FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: we are collecting “Stuffing Mix” this week (Peanut Butter is always a welcome item!)

8. FLU SHOTS – October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Library. Schedule an appointment by calling Geoff Hill (316-1522), Barb Mitchell (839-2435 or Debbie Fiebelkorn (626-3398).

9. MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER: October 19, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Niagara Square, Buffalo

The Christ Church Cupcakes are again participating in this annual event. Last year they raised nearly \$1500. If you would like to join the team and walk contact Sally Pollard at 839-2460 or sjpjoy@christchurchamhrst.org.

10. OCTOBER is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Family Justice Center satellite office is being created in Williamsville, next to the North Presbyterian Church on North Forest Road. The grand opening

ceremony is November 9 and everyone is invited. If you are interested in volunteering in the new center once it has opened please contact Kathy Weaver for details on the training process. We would like to thank Scott Smith and Dave Mitchell for all their efforts in remodeling the bathroom of the new center. It is looking great and is ready to be cleaned and painted. The Family Justice Center has a fundraising event coming up on Thursday October 17th from 5:30-8:30pm. It is called Mosaic, A celebration of everything Buffalo. See the poster on the outreach board in Crafts Hall for details. Any questions please contact Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez or Dede Johnson.

11. This Week at Christ Church

Wednesday October 9 – 7:30 Choir Rehearsal
Thursday October 10 – 10:00 -- Bible Study
7:00 – Stewardship and Finance
Saturday October 12 – 10:00 UMMEN to Paddock Golf Dome (and lunch)
Sunday October 13 – NOON – Elizabeth Holt Curtis Retirement Party
10:00 to 1:00 – Flu Clinic in Library

12. Happy **Birth**day this week:

October 9 – Susan Cataudella
October 10 – Bill Bauza; Rachel James; Rob Noyes
October 12 – Julie Wrisley
October 13 – James George

13. Happy **Ann**iversary this week:

October 8 (yesterday) – Susan and Thomas Cataudella 's 25th

14. Through the **Bible** in a year: This week's readings

October 9 – Nehemiah 1-2; Psalm 133/134 and Luke 22
October 10 – Nehemiah 3-4 and Luke 23
October 11 – Nehemiah 5-6; Psalm 146 and Luke 24
October 12 – Nehemiah 7-8 and Acts 1
October 13 – Nehemiah 9-10 and Acts 2
October 14 – Nehemiah 11-12; Psalm 1 and Acts 3
October 15 – Nehemiah 13; Malachi 1,2 and Acts 4
October 16 – Malachi 3-4; Psalm 148 and Acts 5
October 17 – Job 1-2 and Acts 6-7

15. The **Uganda Mission** Team (BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, Clair Mosher) is under a month from their mission journey. We leave November 3 following worship. Here's how you can help:

PRE "A" – PRAYER – please pray for us daily between now and our return!

A. Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser and silent auction was **enormously successful!!** Raising over \$3500!! **THANK YOU**

B. Direct Support can be made by writing a check to Christ Church labeled "Uganda 2013"

C. Pastor BJ **has raised an additional \$1000** for a "Bible Scholar's Summit*" he will be teaching in two places –Kampala and Mbale -- in November
THANK YOU EVERYONE who contributed to this effort.

*Bible Scholar's Summit – I'll be taking the basics of Biblical Interpretation (called Hermeneutics) and applying them to a specific passage of the Bible over a two day period. Day one – the basics of hermeneutics (review) followed by a day and a half of application. This will be interspersed with worship and other activity.

16. **AARP DRIVER SAFETY** – taught by Jim Pollard – is being held on November 1 or November 18. Call the Church office to register (839-2460). Cost is \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for all others. Payment is due the day of the event. You must sign up in advance. Lunch will be available (\$5).

17. **United Methodist Men** are going to the Paddock Golf Dome for some Miniature Golf this Saturday, October 12 (car pool from Church at 10:00). They will be enjoying lunch afterwards.

18. UMW – ***Harvest Dinner!!!*** Is **October 18 from 4:30 to 7:30 tickets on sale in café following worship**

19. **All Saint's Memorial** Communion is November 3. Christ Church has observed the first Sunday of November as a day to remember the celebrate those members of our church family and extended family who have died since last November 1. If you have a member of your family who has died since November 1, 2012 please let us know so we can include them in this memorial time. There is a time in the service to speak the names of those who have been gone longer that 1 year but primary focus is to remember those who have died since our last Memorial Communion.

20. **Coming Soon** to Christ Church

Saturday, October 12 – United Methodist Men going to the Paddock Golf Dome carpool at 10:00 Lunch at the Grill at the dome following.

We will be playing miniature golf!

Sunday, October 13 – Farewell gathering for **Elizabeth Holt Curtis** – Crafts Hall at NOON

Flu clinic sponsored by Health and Wellness Team in library from 10 to 1

Wednesdays – October 16, 23, 30 – Financial workshops

Friday October 18 – ***UMW Fall Harvest Dinner 4:30 to 7:30***

Saturday, October 19 – Making Strides against Breast Cancer – 10:00 a.m. Niagara Square in Downtown Buffalo!

Tuesday October 29 – Church Council at 7:00

Wednesday October 30 – Dress Our People packing 3-5 in Youth Hall

Sunday, November 3 – **ALL SAINTS Memorial Communion Sunday** (remembering those of our family who have died in the past year)

Sunday November 3 – Uganda Mission Team leaves at noon (returns November 22)

Monday, December 2 – Annual Church Conference 7:00

Parting Thought:

I have been struggling with the distinction (important though it may be) between being “in mission” and being “missional”. The distinction is made in one of the required reading for clergy participating in the Hand2Plow training led by my friend Rev. Aaron Bouwens. As best I can tell being “in mission” is all about stuff that we do. When we talk of “in mission” we are thinking of projects and events and locations. On the other hand being “Missional” has to do with purpose, reasons and attitude behind doing what we do. Being “missional” may result in the same kinds of projects, events and locations that we see among those who are “in mission” but there is something deeper. Being missional is about being servants of Jesus Christ striving to live out his message in the world. We feed the hungry in the name of Jesus. We clothe the naked in the name of Jesus. We teach the children and walk with the elderly in the name of Jesus. We work for justice and fairness not for political reasons but because it is what Jesus calls us to be about. I have come to understand that being missional is not something you do it is something you are. Missional is a way of looking at the world. If I believe that I am sent by Jesus to make a difference in this world for His sake then I will face very day, every encounter and every need as a mission encounter. I will do this not worrying about my time, my resources, my energy. I will simply engage to do whatever needs to be done.

I'll see you when the church gathers . . .

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, coach

This email is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. Feel free to share this with friends. If you don't want to receive it please let us know.