

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

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

***UPDATE***

***October 16, 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](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 has been interesting to track the shifting changes in our society. Have you noticed that things that used to be considered “rude” or “inappropriate” are not called “abusive” or “offensive?” Have you noticed, especially in the political realm, the rhetoric has shifted from “I don’t agree” and “you might be misinformed” to name calling and the demonization of one’s opponent. Over my 30 plus years in ministry I have seen this shifting attitude wheedle its way into church meetings (especially on the regional and national level) and find that people have trouble just sitting down and talking with one another. All of this is particularly hard on the church community. As Christ followers we don’t get to live our lives in isolation but are called to live life in community. St. Paul wrote “If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all (Romans 12:18).” I cannot control what other’s are going to do but I do control my responses. We need to be committed to making sure that we are not the peace breaker and trouble

maker. Avoiding gossip and other bullying behaviors moves us a long way to “living peaceably with all!” Or, as famous philosopher, Ted (or was it Bill?) put it more succinctly: “Be excellent to each other!”

Here is what is happening at Church

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the 120’s. We had some very special music and lots of appreciation for Elizabeth Holt Curtis.

A number of us got shot by the Health and Wellness Team on Sunday (thank you Geoff Hill and team).

2. We had a great farewell for Elizabeth Holt Curtis on Sunday. The choir sang splendidly, the poem from the choir was great, the flowers were beautiful, she loved her new organ pipe/stop (and a very significant farewell financial gift in her last pay check) and all the cards and well wishes. I want to give special appreciation to the members of the choir and others who worked so hard to make the reception “healthy” (since that is what Elizabeth would prefer) and fun. Elizabeth has been a good staff member, music leader and friend to Christ Church for 19 years and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

3. This Sunday I am continuing my series on dealing with life’s issues. I am going to speak about “Dealing with Failure”. Take a look at John 10 especially verse 10. Failing is inevitable – all people experience failure – it is how we deal with it and respond to it that matters. Successful people learn to “fail forward!”

4. **UMW FALL HARVEST DINNER** is THIS 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!

**This from Peggy Bermudez:** Our heartfelt thanks to all who have signed up to help with Harvest Dinner. There are still some openings left. We especially need help during the dinner in the kitchen and serving in Crafts Hall. Here's what's needed:

Friday, October 18th, Kitchen - Food preparation from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3 people needed

Friday, October 18th, Kitchen - Cooking and plating dinners 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm 7 people needed

Friday, October 18th, Serving dinner, 4:15 pm - 7:00 pm (or part of this shift) 8 people needed

Friday October 18th, Taking care of beverages, 4:15 pm - 7:00 pm 2 people needed

Contact Peggy Bermudez [bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com) to sign up.

5. This is a Weekend to WALK

Saturday, October 19 – Taking Strides against Breast Cancer – see Sally Pollard. The Christ UMC “Cupcakes” are walking and appreciate your support. Contact Sally at [sjpjoy@aol.com](mailto:sjpjoy@aol.com) or 839-2460 to join the team or to sponsor a walker.

Sunday, October 20 – The CROP WALK – Take a walk against Hunger locally, nationally and internationally. The Annual CROP Walk gathers at the Amherst Community Church for registration at 12:30 and the walk begins at 1:00. A significant percentage of all monies raised go to support local food projects

6. **DRESS OUR PEOPLE UPDATE:** All the dresses and shorts have been distributed – please finish sewing and return items to the church by Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 30<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Youth Hall.

7. **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 or pianists 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.

8. In our prayers: Mildred Andersen was taken to the hospital early yesterday; Dolores Bellimer (Karen’s mother) undergoing tests in Rochester; Mitch Mooney is having surgery on October 22; Richard Ball; Kathy Weaver; Phyllis Nickerson (Gall Bladder surgery pending); Bim Rowlands; Glenn Hurst; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve; Ruth Kitson; Shirley Downey; Ed Maker; Carl and Jean Ericson; Art Gundlach; Alice Schmidt; Diane Lovejoy. Remember Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson who are both serving in the US Navy and for all our service men and

women overseas. Remember to pray for the Uganda Mission team: Pastor BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Forte and Pastor Clair Mosher (they depart in just over 2 weeks). Pray for all who are in harm's way, for families in crisis.

9. FOOD PANTRY THIS WEEK: Canned Fruits and veggies; Brownie Mixes

10. NORTHTOWNS Family Justice Center – from Kathy Weaver

The Northtowns satellite of the Family Justice Center is having an open house to celebrate the completion of the center on **November 9 watch for more details.**

The center is in need of donated items for use in the satellite or distribution to clients who use the center. If you are able to donate any of the following items please contact Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez or Dede Johnson. **ITEMS NEEDED:** Tops/Wegman's gift cards, New Stuffed animals and children's books, bottled water, New fleece throws, New blankets, New shawls and travel sizes of soap, shampoo or toothpaste. Thank you in advance for your support of this mission to stop domestic violence.

11. Something for **MEN** – Sundoulos (a ministry with men in the Buffalo area) in partnership with the Christian Service Brigade, Camp Hickory Hill and Iron Sharpens Iron is holding a meeting on Friday, October 28 from 6:45 to 9:00 at the Randall Baptist Church (Main Street in Williamsville). Contact Bill Bauza at 837-2421 for information and car pool.

12. Happy Birthday this week:

October 16 – Mitch Mooney (he is 85 today)

October 22 – Abbie Gowen

October 23 – Susanne Gelormini

13. Happy Anniversary this week:

October 22, 1949 (64 years!) Carl and Jean Ericson

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

October 16 – Malachi 3-4; Psalm 148 and Acts 5

October 17 – Job 1-2 and Acts 6-7

October 18 – Job 3-4 and Acts 8-9

October 19 – Job 5; Psalm 108 and Acts 10-11

October 20 – Job 6-8 and Acts 12

October 21 – Job 9-10 and Acts 13-14

October 22 – Job 11-12 and Acts 15-16

October 23 – Job 13-14 and Acts 17-18

15. DISCIPLE 1 – Bible Study

We decided to begin the new Disciple Class in January. An information meeting will be held in December – watch for more.

16. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, October 16 – Choir Rehearsal at 7:30

Financial Workshop 7-9

Thursday, October 17 – Trustees meet at 7:00

Friday, October 18 – Harvest Dinner 4:30 to 7:30

Saturday, October 19 – Breast Cancer Walk 10:00 a.m. at Niagara Square

Sunday, October 20 – CROP Walk 12:30 p.m. Amherst Community Church

Monday, October 21 – Praise Team Rehearsal at 6:00

17. 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:

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

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.

18. **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).

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

20. **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 than 1 year but primary focus is to remember those who have died since our last Memorial Communion.

## 21. **Coming Soon** to Christ Church

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:***

It happens to all of us at some point (probably multiple points) on the journey. We are on cruise control and have life well in hand when, suddenly, the phone rings in the middle of the night, the routine medical checkup finds something irregular, the car doesn't stop in time – and, like down shifting from 5<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> everything comes to a screeching halt. In a flash, an instant, everything changes. I happen to believe that our sense of “cruise control” is merely an illusion and that the sudden stops and turns of life, which are happening to people all around us all the time, are more the norm. It may well be that the crushing of the illusion of security and “cruise control” has the greatest impact – like the day we discovered our parents were not invincible. What do you do during these times? How does our relationship with Jesus get us through these times? I have discovered a few things that have really helped me in these moments. First, is to maintain my spiritual routine no matter what is going on around me. I am committed to read my Bible and pray every morning. No matter what is happening, no matter what else is going on I make space to tend to my relationship with God every morning. Second, is to take care of home base. Be extra kind to those with whom you are in covenant – spouse, parents, children. Third, ask for help. When I allow myself to lean on and count on those who are around me I find help and strength to keep on keepin' on. I am reminded of God's last words to the Israelites through Moses “Be strong and

courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6).”

I’ll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, coach, missionary

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