***Christ United Methodist Church***

***Snyder, New York***

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

***UPDATE***

***October 30, 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:

Sometimes in life (and especially in ministry) things can quickly cluster around you. This past weekend was one of those. Joe Fort, Kathy Weaver and I drove to South Onondaga, New York on Saturday (about 300 miles round trip) to help our friend Rev. Clair Mosher with his Uganda fund raiser. It was a very successful event and we got to meet some of Clair’s church people, some old friends, and extended family. On Sunday I drove to Immanuel Baptist Church on Rochester’s East Side (about 140 miles round trip) to participate in the Ordination of a woman, Katie Jo Suddaby, I have known since she was a child and helped her sort out her call to ministry when she was a teenager. Well worth the road time and a great blessing to be part of the event. On Monday Karen and I drove to Brockport (yes another 125 mile round trip) to take care of some things for her mother who has been ill (but is improving). Finally, on Tuesday I was at Camp Asbury (another 120 mile round trip) to work with the pastor’s group for the Hand2Plow training. It was another good ministry day and well worth the drive but that is close to 700 miles in 4 days. So I decided to not do any more driving about until Sunday . . . oh, yes, Sunday we leave for Uganda (400 miles to New York City, 20 hours in 2 different air planes and an overnight in Dubai). Keep us in your prayers. (But I am excited to be seeing my Ugandan friends once again!) The key, for me, is to always strive to present where I am and not where I was or where I may be later. But to be here now (wherever here is and whenever now is). I’d like to say I am a master at this but Pastor’s are not supposed to lie. I am, I believe, getting better but there is no doubt that stretches of time like this week push my limits.

Here is what is happening at Church:

***Remember to “Fall Back” on your clocks this week. One hour extra sleep.***

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 150 (coming up). Appreciation to Melanie Rodgers and Mac Sabol for being our interim musicians. Thank you to Patty Sandle for her gift of song.

2. This Sunday is “All Saints Memorial Communion” Sunday. We will be remember our church family and extended family who have died in the past year at both morning worship celebrations . . . we will also be celebrating Communion. My message will be on “Overcoming Loneliness”. The biblical text is Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. ***Remember to “Fall Back” on your clocks this week. One hour extra sleep. If you forget you will be early and can join us for prayer!***

3. Minister of Music search process update: The final two candidates will be working with the Christ UMC choir tonight at 6:30 and 7:30. Please keep this process in your prayers. I should have an announcement for tomorrow (and Sunday). I am deeply grateful to the search team who has done their work with prayer, faithfulness and diligence. I am excited about our finalists and know we will be fine with either one.

4. 4040 property update: The estate sale was held last weekend (and many of us wandered through the stuff!). The Trustees (and others) will be taking an inspection tour of the property on Friday morning at 9:00. A certified building inspector will be doing a professional appraisal of the building and grounds for us at that time. This is the first of the serious “Go No Go” moments in the process. If we are to continue there will be a Fact/FAQ sheet available for this Sunday to bring everyone up to speed on what we know and a Special Church Conference will be scheduled for the entire congregation to participate in the final decision as to whether we should or should not proceed with the purchase. Up to date information about “demolition” and parking and zoning issues, costs, etc. will be available at that time as well. **Please continue to hold this process in your prayers!**

5. In our prayers: Mitch Mooney (now home); Nicky Sebastiano (now home); Dick Ball (now home); family and friends of Mildred Anderson; Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Alice Schmidt and Diane Lovejoy. Remember those who are serving in the military and overseas. Remember to pray for Kathy Weaver, Joe Fort, Clair Mosher and BJ Norrix (our Uganda Mission Team). Pray for those looking for work, for those families in crisis and all who are in harm’s way.

6. Saturday November 2 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon “A Financial Education for children” and November 9 from 10:00 to Noon “Financial Math for Children and Teens – understanding the value of a dollar”. These events are free and open to the public. Call the church office, 839-2460 for more information.

7. Mildred Anderson Memorial Service will be Saturday, November 23, 2013 at 2:00 in the afternoon at Christ UMC.

8. United Methodist Women (UMW) General Meeting is this Saturday (November 2) at 10:00 a.m. in the Café. The theme is “Keeping in Touch” and reports from visitors to shut-ins will be given. Continental breakfast ($5). The World Thank Offering and the Least Coin offering will be collected. The Pledge service and election of officers will also take place. Deborah circle is hosting.

 The Circle of Joy will be meeting Sunday November 10th at 12:30 in the Library

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9. FOOD PANTRY: This week: Cranberry Sauce and Gravy

10. **Winter Coats, Hats and boots drive**: used, cleaned winter attire for donation to the Seneca Street UMC. Coats must have working zippers and snaps. This is a great way to help families keep warm this winter with protective outerwear.

11. United Methodist Men (UMM) will be meeting on November 9th at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to the Niagara Falls Airport and visit the Aerospace Museum and lunch following.

12. LOVE, HOPE and DEVOTION Concert: is this Saturday, November 2 at 3:00 p.m. This event supports the Erwin H. Johnson Memorial Fund. The EHJ Memorial Fund Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation supporting and promoting opera in Western New York and especially the idea of a dedicated performing arts space for opera and ballet. Admission is a “Donation” and all are welcome. For more information see the web site [www.ehjfund.org](http://www.ehjfund.org).

13. **DRESS OUR PEOPLE UPDATE**: **We have surpassed our goal of 300 pieces of clothing and have 333 to send with the Uganda Team.** 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. **NOTE:** The Uganda Mission team will be packing their mission supplies beginning at 4:30 on October 30.

14.  NORTHTOWNS Family Justice Center – from Kathy Weaver

The Northtowns satellite of the Family Justice Center is having a 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.

15. Happy Birthday this week;
 November 3 – Carl Ericson

16. There are no anniversaries listed for this week.

17. Through the Bible in a year:

 October 30 – Job 21 and Mark 5-6

 October 31 – Job 22 and Mark 7-8

 November 1 –Psalm 121 and Mark 9-10

 November 2 – Job 23-24 and Mark 11-12

 November 3 – Job 25 and Mark 13-14

 November 4 – Job 26-27 and Mark 15-16

 November 5 – Job 28-29 and Galatians 1-2

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

18. This Week at Christ Church:

          Wednesday, October 30 – Choir Rehearsal at 6:30 and 7:30

                                                   Financial Workshop 7-9

          Thursday, October 31 – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

 Friday, November 1 – Israel travel group reunion at Fishers

          Saturday, November 2 – UMW General Meeting at 10:00

 Saturday, November 3 – Erwin Johnson Memorial Fund Concert

19. The **Uganda Mission** Team (BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, Clair Mosher) is 4 days our 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. On Behalf of Kathryn and Joe and I ***THANK YOU*** to the members and friends of Christ Church who have so generously supported our mission!!!

          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.

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20. **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).

21.**Coming Soon** to Christ Church

          Wednesday – October 30 – Financial workshops

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

 Saturday, November 2 – UMW General Meeting at 10:00

          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)

          Saturday, November 9 – Men’s Group to Niagara Falls Airport to visit the Aerospace Museum – carpool at 10:00 a.m.

          Sunday November 10 – UMW Sunday and Children’s Sabbath

          Sunday November 17 – Rev. Jim Pollard is our guest preacher

          Saturday, November 23 – 2:00 p.m. Mildred Anderson memorial celebration with reception to follow

          Monday, December 2 – Annual Church Conference 7:00

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***Parting Thought:….***

Special events are all around us this week. Tomorrow, October 31, is not just about spooks and candy. 496 years ago on October 31, 1517 at Noon Martin Luther walked across the commons in Wittenberg, Germany and posted his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Chapel. This event, and subsequent turmoil, led to what historians know as the Protestant Reformation. Luther was not the first to attempt to reform the Christian movement in the West. He was, however, among the first to make it permanent and to survive doing so. Happy Reformation Day, everyone! Friday is November 1. In the early centuries of the Christian movement November 1 was one of the biggest days on the calendar. It was (and is) known as All Saints Day! One day to remember all of those people of faith who have gone on to glory before us. Who are the saints in your life? Who are the people who, by precept and example, helped to form you (or are forming you) into the people of faith you are becoming? I have many names in my All Saints Hall of Fame! Cheryl and Jeff and Ted and C.S. and John and Francis and Paul and Betsy and Garry and Mark and Todd and Karen and Joe and Everett and Bill and Aaron and Alan and Davis and the list goes on and on and on. These are all people who were used by God to form and shape me into the person I am today. On Sunday we will remember those Saints who have died . . .don’t forget to remember (and thank) those who are still with us.

Sally Pollard will be sending out the update the next few weeks. I’ll see you all Sunday the 3rd and then on the 24th after we return.

Be blessed,

BJ Norrix, Christ follower, lead servant, missionary

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church of Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this please let us know.

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