

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE
October 31, 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
716-839-2460

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

Hi Everyone:

Frankenstorm was a major event on the east coast but something of a fizzle here in Buffalo. I suppose it is prudent to take precautions based on the “worst case scenario” but it seemed to me that most of us overreacted to the media hype. The hype was real for those in New Jersey, New York City, Long Island and for those that got buried in 2 feet of snow in West Virginia but the storm never became what was promised this far west. In the media saturation age in which we live I am increasingly concerned about how we over react to these kinds of news stories. I am concerned that too many of us live in fear and fearful people often make very bad decisions. I am reminded, in the Bible, that perfect love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18). I have come to believe that the opposite of faith is not doubt. In reality, some doubt is essential for a healthy faith because the doubt keeps us seeking, searching, exploring and learning. The opposite of faith is fear. In the face of an impending storm (meteorological or metaphorical) I make all necessary precautions (yes I made sure the windows were secure and the things that could blow away were put away) but I move forward trusting that God will use me no matter what the circumstances.

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the mid 140’s. Once again we were blessed to see many new faces and to welcome more folks into our community of faith. It was great to see 11 children

(plus a few moms and dads) up front for the children's moment this past Sunday. A sure sign that we are moving forward.

2. This Sunday is ALL SAINTS MEMORIAL COMMUNION SUNDAY. We will be remembering those members of our church, and our extended families, who have died in the past year. We will remember them with chimes and candles and stories. If you had a loved one die in the past year and would like them remembered please call the Church office ASAP so we can include them on our remembrance list. I will be preaching from Hebrews 12:1-3 a sermon titled "Remember!"

3. REMEMBER – roll your clocks back one hour this Saturday night. If you don't you will be an hour early for Church – not a bad thing you could join a class or the choir or simply get caught up with a few folks. This is FALL BACK weekend.

4. In our Prayers: Bim Rowlands was in a car accident over the weekend and is in hospital recovering; Don Munson; Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Katy Cady, Ed Maker, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson – remember the victims of Hurricane Sandy (see article below on how to help); pray for those who are looking for work; who are enduring hardship and families in crisis.

5. Hurricane clean up relief efforts. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is already on the scene. Follow this link: [Bishop Webb Flood Letter 2012 3 25 31 PM.pdf](#) to see Bishop Webb's letter on how we can help.

6. HANDS4NY – we are collecting food for the Turkey Basket Project to provide Thanksgiving dinners for families in need. We are collecting Brownie Mix this Sunday and we are collecting Turkeys. To give a turkey see any member of the Outreach Team to be put in the freezer.

7. FAMILY PROMISE: Christ Church will be helping the Crossroads Lutheran Church with hosting on Friday November 2. If you would like to help contact Peggy Bermudez (626-4897) or Lee Watson (837-0589).

8. The Amherst Players' have partnered with Barnes and Noble for a Christmas Showcase this Saturday from 1-3 p.m. There are special vouchers that can be used in store or on line that will give Amherst Players' 10% of your purchase. Obtain vouchers through the Church office (they were in last Sunday's worship bulletin as well).

9. Tuesday, November 6 is ELECTION DAY – remember to exercise your right to vote.

10. UMW is meeting this Saturday from 9 to Noon at the Church. This is their fall "General Meeting". This meeting is about "Keeping in Touch" and will be led by Pat Zaleski and Grace

Markello. \$5 continental breakfast. Program includes a pledge service, World Thank Offering, Least Coin Offering and election of officers.

11. Through the New Testament in 2012: www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com is my blog where I am posting daily commentary on the readings: this week's readings: October 31 – Hebrews 11; November 1 – Hebrews 12; November 2 – Hebrews 13; November 5 – 2 Corinthians 1; November 6 – 2 Corinthians 2; November 7 – 2 Corinthians 3; November 8 – 2 Corinthians 4

12. Happy Birthday this week:

November 1 – Ruth Anderson

November 3 – Carl Ericson

13. No Anniversaries listed for this week.

14. NEW EVENTS NEW EVENTS NEW EVENTS

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.

November 21 (Wednesday) at 7:00 – a **Service of Thanksgiving**. Come and join with friends as we offer our thanks and praise to God for another year of bounty and blessings. We will sing some vesper hymns and share in communion together.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. **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.

20. **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.

21. I (Pastor BJ) am looking for a dentist to do some extensive dental work. Ideas are appreciated. (I know you’re out there – who wants me?)

Parting Thought:

October 31, 1517 marks a major moment in Christian history. At Noon on the 31st of October 1517 an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther nailed to the door of the Wittenberg Chapel a document called “95 Theses” – this paper outlined 95 disputes with the current practices of

the church of his day. The ensuing fire storm erupted into what we now call the “Protestant Reformation”. One wonders if brother Martin was aware of the potential impact of what he did on this day nearly 500 years ago. One wonders if brother Martin was aware of the fire storm his 95 propositions would cause. What is clear is that Martin Luther had reached a point in his frustration with the church of his day that no longer could be restrained. There come times and moments in our lives where we have to take a stand (sometimes for sometimes against) and not count the cost nor the consequences. Martin Luther is one of my heroes. He was earthy, bold, opinionated and passionate about what he believed and why he believed it. So, instead of hobgoblins and witches this October 31 – let us contemplate something really scary. What if we all found Martin Luther’s passion and took a stand for what is right and a stand against what is wrong in the church of today . . . in the society of today . . . in our world today?

I’ll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, wannabe radical, lead servant