

October 7, 2014

UPDATE

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem Road at Saratoga Road

Amherst, New York

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

EVERYONE is WELCOME

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 FaithXpress, Soul Strength and 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

Or call us at: [716-839-2460](tel:716-839-2460)

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

Like us on Facebook!

Hi Everyone:

In a sermon in BJ's "Take 5 for Life" series he made a comment about *forgetting the excitement of what it's like to begin something new*. That's been rolling around in my mind. In church groups, and other organized groups, in groups of friends, even in our families, we can get into patterns and ways of behavior that become routine. Routine helps get things done, it makes us comfortable, but it can lead to boredom and dullness. Without some fresh new idea or experience to spark our interest and excitement, life becomes pretty dull. We begin to disengage.

Whether we learn to pray in a new way, try out a new skill or dance step with a new group of people, or take on something that moves you out of your comfort zone, a fresh experience brings new enthusiasm, the spark of excitement bursts into exhilaration and joy. We feel renewed and freed to think and act differently as we follow new pathways. I hope that will be true for us in this community called Christ Church. Don't be afraid to share a new thought or start something new, even if it means letting go of a familiar routine. Don't be afraid to fail the first time. You'll learn something valuable. Don't be afraid if you find yourself thinking differently about some opinion or belief you held as absolute. God needs openings in our lives to get through to us.

Current need - Diane Lovejoy is in need of a ride today or tomorrow to Wegmans Alberta Drive. If you are able to supply a ride, please call Diane at 276-9711.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the 130s including the group (MYM) on retreat at United Methodist House in Chautauqua. The focus in worship was on Mission & Ministry and we celebrated World Communion Sunday with a sung Great Thanksgiving by Pastor BJ and the choir. (There's an example of something fresh and new to help us experience something familiar in a thoughtful new way. Thank you Kevin Durkin!) We sent off with blessings Pastor BJ and Joe Fort as our Uganda Mission Team. They should be arriving there in a couple of hours as I write this late morning on Tuesday. Keep them in your thoughts & prayers as they travel, teach, encourage and build relationships. BJ also blessed the animals who came to church on Sunday morning, both stuffed and those more animated! It

was a joy to experience the wideness of the church as we met Christ at the table where we all have a place.

Please note - Every Sunday message (By Pastor BJ or others) is recorded and available for listening through our church web site. <http://www.christchurchamherst.org> Click on the tab "worship" & move the cursor to a drop screen labeled "Sermons." Click on "sermons" and you'll see a list of every sermon of this year by date, title and preacher. Click and listen to any and all.

2. This Sunday at Christ Church: The theme is "Children's Sabbath." Be prepared for some surprises as you hear about local women who made a difference and whose legacies continue. They made some noise...and you may too! Don't miss it!

3. ROOF – The roof has been replaced over the central and west wing portions of the building. The roof over the sanctuary was not replaced due to a lack of funds. Here is an opportunity for us to meet this challenge and raise the funds to complete the project. It's a joy to say that the rain last weekend was only OUTSIDE!!! **THANK YOU** to Tom Weaver and Greg Ramsey for overseeing this project.

4. LIVING WELL WORKSHOPS: A well of resources to help you live well at all the stages of life.

Wednesday, October 8 at 7 PM - Experience less stress

Wednesday, October 15 at 7 pm - Caregiving

Wednesday, October 22 at 7 pm - The Golden Rule as resource for broadening your capacity for love.

If you prefer to participate from the comfort of your home, you can go online for the Living Well Internet workshops, beginning Thursday, October 9th at 7 PM. The online workshops will be recorded so you can watch at your convenience. You may register for any of these free programs at

www.FindingMoreLove.org or by calling the church office at 839-2460.

Later this fall, to prepare participants to offer practical help and spiritual support to friends, family and co-workers, Pastor BJ and Tom DeLoughry will be co-leading a Living Well Coach Training program. [Click here to download at Living Well flyer](#) [link is <http://findingmorelove.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/LW-Christ-church-flyer-092014.pdf>] to share with family, friends or coworkers. Please visit the Living Well website at www.FindingMoreLove.org to learn more and to register.

5. Coming up...

Flu Clinic - Sunday, October 12, 10 am - 1 pm Get your flu shots!

Contact Geoff Hill at 316-1522 for more information.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer - Saturday, October 18. You can make a difference by walking and/or donating to the America Cancer Society. All of our lives have in some way been touched by this disease. We want to remember those who lived with cancer, to support those currently living with it and change the outcomes for future generations. The Christ Church Cupcakes (C-Cups) Team includes: Patty Keller, Pam Elberson, Lynn Ramsey, Peggy Bermudez and Sally Pollard. The walk begins at 10 am from Niagara Square. You can make a donation by signing up at the pink bulletin board at the back of the worship space, or donate online at <http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer>

CROP Walk - Sunday, October 19. You can make a difference by walking and/or donating to help stop hunger in our own neighborhood and everywhere. The walk begins at Amherst Community Church at 1 pm. Contact Peggy Bermudez for more information.

6. This week at Christ Church

Wednesday, October 8, 7 pm - Living Well : Less Stress Workshop, free, open to the public

7:30 pm - Choir rehearsal

Sunday, October 12 - Children's Sabbath

Monday, October 13 - Church Office Closed - **Columbus Day Holiday**

7. Food Pantry is collecting: **canned fruits and vegetables**

8. IN OUR PRAYERS: - Al Wrisley as he recovers from surgery, Brian Martin - as he recovers following bone marrow transplant); Edmond Wrycza (Julianna Sabol's father in a nursing home in Fort Erie, soon to be 97 and not doing well); Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Mac Sabol, Tom Davis, Fred Painton, Nicky Sebastiano, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy and all who are at home and unable to get to church. Remember those who are serving in the armed forces (especially Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling serving in the US Navy). Pray for the West African nations that are battling the Ebola virus. Pray for the ongoing situation in Iraq and Syria. Please pray for all who are in harm's way.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

October 9 – Sue Cataudella

October 10 – Bill Bauza

Rachel James

Rob Noyes

October 12 - Julie Wrisley

10. Happy Anniversary this week:

October 8 – Sue & Tom Cataudella

11. Through the Bible this week's readings:

October 7 – Ezekiel 42-44

October 8 – Ezekiel 45-46, John 19

October 9 - Ezekiel 47-48, John 20

October 10 - Song of Songs 1-3, John 21

October 11 - Song of Songs 4-5, Ephesians 1

October 12 - Song of Songs 6-8, Ephesians 2

October 13 - 1 Samuel 1-3, Ephesians 3

October 14 - 1 Samuel 4-6, Ephesians 4

October 15 - 1 Samuel 7-9, Ephesians 5

Coming attractions...

Watch for **The Caller - Special Mission Edition: Christ Church is...**Coming to your mailbox soon!

November 2 – **350 Saratoga Concert** 3:00 p.m. Performances by groups sheltered at Christ Church. Admission will be a canned or boxed item for the food pantry.

November 7 – **Ron Corsaro Jazz Trio** – 7:00 p.m. An evening of excellent music to benefit Mission Youth

November 16 – **Annual Charge Conference** 3:30 pm at Pendleton Center UMC

I'll leave you with this...

All of life is a beginning. Find the open part of your soul , open to wonder, waiting to be filled, waiting to be surprised. Take in what is life-giving. Empty out what is blocking the way.

With Joy,

Sally