

UPDATE

September 10, 2014

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

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

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

Hi Everyone:

With September in full swing we are moving forward in our conversation about how to be better “apprentices” to Jesus. The apprentice’s job is to observe, learn and begin to do the work that the Master does. This is true in woodworking, quilting, electrical work and so many more disciplines. The apprentice learns the routines and practices and expectations of the Master. We are learning, and trying to experience, prayer, bible study, worship, accountable relationships and

mission/ministry, and to incorporate these practices into our daily routines. The goal of the Christian life is to become like Jesus. What practices do you engage in to deepen your walk with Christ? What practices do you engage in to deepen your relationship with others?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 91. Special appreciation to Dede Johnson who did double duty as our liturgist and for the children's moment. Special thanks to Sandy Cumming for special music.

2. This Week is Part 2 of 5 steps to a new life. The subject is Bible Study. It is a BYOB (Bring your own Bible) Sunday experience.

We welcome the Choir back this week at 11:00a.m.

We will be blessing book bags and Bibles (part of our getting "back to school")

DID YOU KNOW . . . that every Sunday message (By Pastor BJ or others) is recorded and is available for listening through our church web site. Go to <http://www.christchurchamherst.org>. At the top right of the home page is the word "Worship". Move the cursor there and a drop screen labeled "Sermons" will appear. Click on "sermons" and a screen will appear that lists every sermon of this year by date and title and preacher. Click and listen to any and all.

3. It looks like the treasurer position has been filled (watch for formal announcement later this week). On Sunday during our Prayer workshop I prayed for God to send someone to fill this vital role – God who is generous and deals in abundant life sent me two! "You have not because you ask not" James 4:2b

4. The Trustees voted unanimously to award a roofing contract to replace the church roof from the Narthex entrance all way to the parking lot. The cost for this project (just over \$50,000) will be taken from Trustee Capital reserve funds (funds that have been gathered for just this kind of purpose). Work will commence the week of September 21 or 28) and should take 4 or 5 days. The Trustees have also applied for potential warranty coverage on the old roof with hope of some financial support for the current project.

The replacement of the Sanctuary roof (which will need to be done in the next few years) will cost an additional \$25,000. If you would like to help with replacing the Sanctuary roof please see Tom Weaver or Pastor BJ.

5. This week at Christ Church

Wednesday September 10 – Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Thursday September 11 – 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

1:00 p.m. Dress our People

6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

Friday, September 12 – Brunner/Cordero Wedding 4:30 p.m.

Saturday September 13 – 10 a.m. – Noon Gallery Day (VBS)

4:00 p.m. Mission Youth Pizza Party

6. In our Prayers: Glenn Hurst; Edmond Wrycza (Julianna Sabol's father in a nursing home in Fort Erie) soon to be 97 and not doing well; Remember the Malpica family in your prayers- Rubin's mother, Asuncion (Susie) died in August; Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Mac Sabol, Dave Mitchell (surgery scheduled for 9/18), Brian Martin (his bone marrow transplant is scheduled for September 17, he will enter the hospital on the 11th); Donna Hammond, Tom Davis, Caroline Hess, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino, Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, and Diane Lovejoy. Remember those who are serving in the armed forces (especially Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling). Pray for the citizens of the Ukraine and Gaza and Israel. Pray for the West African nations that are battling the Ebola virus. Pray for the ongoing situation in Iraq.

7. **Spaghetti and Meatballs Dinner and Silent Auction - September 26** 5p.m. (ish) to 7:00p.m. -- \$10 for spaghetti and meatballs (homemade by Michele Sciolino) salad and bread; desserts available for \$1. Silent auction includes baskets (Thank you Barb and Patti) for children, knitting, dentistry, golf clubs, and an assortment of other things to bid on.

All proceeds support Joe Fort and BJ Norrix's Uganda/Kenya mission (October 5 through 23)

Fundraiser theme Baskets – Donations of theme baskets, individual items or gift cards are needed for the September 26 Uganda team fundraiser. Theme suggestions include: Movie Night, Kid's Crafts, Snack Attack, Pet, Book Club, Holiday, etc. Donations can be left in Pastor BJ's office.

8. Congratulations to Valerie Elberson and David Lewandowski who were married by Pastor BJ on Saturday September 6.

9. Congratulations to Michele Brunner and Jeremiah Cordero who will be married by Pastor BJ on Friday, September 12.

10. THE FOOD PANTRY is collecting Chicken Noodle Soup this week (boxed or canned).

11. Happy Birthday this week:

September 11 – Patti Bechtel; Darcie Beyer, Emma Reagan

September 14 – Barbara Brayman

September 17 – Glenn Hurst

12. Happy Anniversary this week:

Ed and Marie Maker (63 years)

13. Financial Workshop Opportunities

Wednesday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. (10 proven strategies for securing your financial future: “Where does the money go?”)

Monday, September 29 – 7:00 p.m. (Investing Principles for Today and Beyond: Understanding the ups and downs of investing)

Call the church office (839-2460).

14. **GALLERY DAY** – Calling all VBS participants! We will be meeting on Saturday September 13 at 10:00 a.m. to create our new garden sculpture and we need your hands. Come for a fun time of games, snacks and activities.

15. **MISSION YOUTH** – PIZZA PARTY – September 13 at 4:00. All youth grade 6 and older are invited to join us as we have Bible study, explore plans, eat pizza and salad, etc. RSVP to the Church office (839-2460) or reply to this email.

16. Through the bible: this week’s readings:

September 10 – Judges 9-10

September 11 – Judges 11-12 and John 4

September 12 – Judges 13-15 and John 5

September 13 – Judges 16-18

September 14 – Judges 19-21

September 15 – Lamentations 1-2 and John 6

September 16 – Lamentations 3-5

September 17 – Amos 1-3 and John 7

17. ON THE MISSION FRONT:

1. **UGANDA 2014:** Pastor BJ Norrix and Joe Fort are under **4 weeks** away from their mission journey to Uganda and Kenya (depart October 5 return October 23). Please keep them and our Ugandan partners in your prayers as they prepare. They will be teaching and preaching in multiple sites, presiding at a Nexus Graduation, opening a new teaching location and reconnecting with our friends there. They will be travelling to Mombasa, Kenya (on the Indian Ocean) to work with a group of Anglicans. A **Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction** in support of this journey will be held **September 26**. Do you have items for the auction? Please leave them in the Pastor's office.

2. **Uganda 2015 youth experience** (June 28 through July 10, 2015).
Deadline for declaring interest in this journey was extended to **September 15, 2014 – this team is now 11 travelers (7 from Christ Church and 4 from the Syracuse area). I have room for 4 more. Is God calling you to join us?**

18. Coming Soon:

September 13 – MISSION YOUTH – Meet at 4:00p.m. for dinner, Bible study, fun, and planning.

September 14 – National Back to Church Sunday (isn't it about time?)

September 14 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength resume

September 14 – **Bible and book bag blessing:** bring your Bibles and book bags on Sunday September 14 for a special blessing as a new school year begins.

September 19-21 -- UMW Women's Retreat at Camp Asbury

With many of the women will be away on retreat so we will be having "GUY CHURCH" on September 21

Stomp Band at FaithXpress – bring a pot, pan or trash can to play along!

September 24 and 29 – Financial Workshop Opportunities at 7:00 p.m.

September 26 – Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction (over 30 baskets) to support the 2014 Uganda Mission Team

September 27 – 2015 Uganda Mission Team meeting at 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. at Christ Church. There will be at least 11 of us traveling June 28 through July 10, 2015.

October 5 – Blessing of the Animals at 10:00 a.m. and Worship and following

October 12 – Children’s Sabbath

October 17 – UMW Harvest Dinner

November 2 – 350 Saratoga Concert 3:00 p.m.

19. Advance Notice: We have been working on scheduling a concert that would feature all of the groups who rehearse at Christ Church. The **“350 Saratoga” Concert will be held on the first Sunday of November at 3:00 in the afternoon.** It will feature select groups from the “Red Blazer Chorus”; the Bel Canto choirs; the Ballroom Dance studio; the Christ Church Choir and praise band and some select surprises. Admission will be a canned or boxed item for the food pantry.

20. Speaking of November – Ron Corsaro’s trio will be doing a concert on Friday November 7 (coffee house format) as a fund raiser for Mission Youth (in particular the 2015 mission team) . . . plan to come and enjoy the evening.

21. ASBURY POINTE Residents – did you know Pastor BJ is at Asbury Pointe on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month for a “spiritual conversation”. Check the activities board. The next visit will be September 16 at 2:00p.m.

Parting Thought:

Some “cosmetic” changes will be obvious when you come to church over the next few weeks. I mentioned the new roof (see information above) which should be completed by month’s end. This week we will be installing three video monitors around the church. These monitors will display information about Christ Church and this week’s events. They will be located in the Narthex, the café, and at the top of the stairs near the offices. There are nearly 1,000 people who pass through Christ Church every week **who are not part of our worshipping congregation.** It is our hope that these “welcoming” monitors and the information displayed will serve as an invitation for others to come and take a closer look at the Christ Church worshipping community. OBVIOUSLY the best way to make someone welcome is to welcome them when we see them. However, as we strive to be a

“community center of faith and mission” it helps for our partners to know more about the purposes and practices of the Church. By the end of the month the new sculpture will be installed in the memorial garden. The sculpture comes from the imagination of resident artists, Lisa Lawson and Dave Mitchell, and incorporates the work of the 2014 Vacation Bible School participants. Open hands like flowers reaching up to God! The choir room will be painted sometime this month as well. All of these things, we pray, will help our church community be more welcoming, more inviting and more connected to the wider community around us. Thank you for your patience while we are “under construction.”

I’ll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, connector