

**September 2, 2014**

**Christ United Methodist Church**

**UPDATE**

**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  
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)  
Or call us at: 716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)  
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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

Hi Everyone:

I am enjoying looking at Facebook posts of photographs of all the kids and parents heading back to school. I’m sure between now and the end of the week there will be dozens more. In a schooled culture, like ours, there are two times in the calendar year that encourage fresh starts and new beginnings. The first is the changing of the calendar and the New Year – most of us start the New Year with some kind of self improvement plan. The second is the week after Labor Day and all the flurry and fuss over getting “back to school.” I want to go to the supply store and buy new pens and pencils and fresh paper. I want to get a new back

pack and buy some new books. I want to get a compass and a protractor (even if I've forgotten what they are for). I want to get back to learning and on with the next stage (grade) of life. Every September from just before my 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to just before my 25<sup>th</sup>, I started back to some kind of school (kindergarten, primary school, junior high school, senior high school, college, and seminary). That works out to 20 straight years and even if I haven't been back to school in September for the last 33 years (the doctoral work was not done on a semester basis) it is still hard wired into me to begin some kind of new learning after Labor Day. Rather than fight the urge I am trying out some new things. I am starting a plan to refocus my day around the monastic hours. The schedule includes: prayer and devotion first thing in the morning; again at midday; and, finally, at the end of the day. It is something I have wanted to try and this seems to be the time to try. What new endeavor are you yearning to engage? What new learning are you feeling encouraged to enter into?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 95. Special appreciation to Peggy Bermudez who was our guest liturgist.

Congratulations to Kathryn D. Weaver who was awarded the UMW Mission Recognition Pin at 11:00 on Sunday with family and friends rejoicing with her!

We talked about what it means to be apprentices to Christ and how the Christian life is lived inside out.

2. This Sunday I am beginning a series on the practices of apprentices to Jesus Christ. We will be talking about Prayer. Did you know that Jesus took time and space away for prayer and meditation? Did you know that prayer is about being present with God? We will be looking at some of Jesus' prayer times and what they teach us.

This Sunday at 10:00 – How Do You Imagine God? Has your image of God changed over time? Adults, youth, and kids are invited to come and share your story. Add your artwork to the Clothesline Gallery!!

This Sunday at 6:00 – Disciple Bible Study resumes.

**DID YOU KNOW . . .** that every Sunday message (By Pastor BJ or others) is recorded and is available for listening through our church website? Go to <http://www.christchurchamherst.org> and 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. Wednesday, September 3 – Adult Choir Rehearsal resumes. The choir will lead in worship beginning September 14. Rehearsal is at 7:30p.m. and all singers are welcome to come and participate.

4. Friday, September 5 – Men's Breakfast at Sheridan Family Restaurant at 7:00 a.m. All men invited to join us.

5. Saturday, September 6 – United Methodist Men going to Beaver Meadow Audubon Center in North Java. Car pool at church at 10:00. The Homestead festival costs \$7 and lunch will follow. Contact Bill Swenson at 634-7147 with questions and reservations.

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; Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Mac Sabol, Dave Mitchell, Brian Martin (his bone marrow transplant is scheduled for September 17 – **here's another way to help: Brian is in need of platelets people can donate through Roswell – it is a lot like giving blood only it takes a little longer**); 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). 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. **Pray for our college students who are making their way back to classes in the next week to ten days. Pray for our primary and secondary students and their teachers as they begin another year.**

7. **Gallery Day** – Calling all VBS participants! We will be meeting on Saturday September 13 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon to create our new garden sculpture and we will need your hands! Join us for a fun time of games, snacks and activities.

8. FaithXPress and Soul Strength will resume on September 14 (no structured classes this week but come and join the “How do you imagine God?” gathering on the 7<sup>th</sup>).

9. **Christ Church MISSION YOUTH – Fall Pizza Party.** Is September 13 at 4:00 p.m. at the Church. Come for bible study and fun and conversation and food and . . . RSVP the Church Office (839-2460) or by responding to this email.

10. **Bible and Book bag Blessing:** Students and all bring your Bibles and book bags on Sunday, September 14 for a special blessing as the new school year begins.

11. Ballroom Dance Class: Ballroom and Beyond will be hosting at Introduction to Ballroom Dance class at Christ Church on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. on September 9, 16, 23 and 30. Cost for the four classes is \$20 per person, with proceeds to benefit our mission projects in Uganda. To register contact Tara Scime at [tmsdace@yahoo.com](mailto:tmsdace@yahoo.com).

12. **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.

13. Congratulations to Valerie Elberson and David Lewandowski who will be married by Pastor BJ on Saturday September 6.

14. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday – Special Caller Edition meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Trustees special meeting (roof) at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday – Choir Rehearsal at 7:30p.m.

Thursday – There is no bible study this week

Saturday – UMM to Beaver Meadow Audubon at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday – Disciple Class resumes in the Wesley Room

15. Happy Birthday this week:

September 4 – Kayleen Hannon; Ryan James

September 5 – That pastor guy

September 6 – Kathleen Morris Mong; Keith Nehrboss; Al Wrisley  
September 9 – Bim Rowlands

16. Happy Anniversary this week:

September 8: Herb and Jane Darling (58); Tom and Kathy Weaver (30)

17. Through the Bible:

September 2 – Psalms 137-139

September 3 – Psalms 140-142 and 2 Corinthians 12

September 4 – Psalms 143-145 and 2 Corinthians 13

September 5 – Psalms 146-147 and John 1

September 6 – Psalms 148-150

September 7 – Judges 1-3 and John 2

September 8 – Judges 4-6

September 9 – Judges 7-8 and John 3

September 10 – Judges 9-10

18. 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 Ball Room 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.

19. 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.

20. **YES we are still seeking a treasurer.** This volunteer ministry position needs to be filled by September 15 (and if Pastor BJ hasn’t called you to step up don’t be too surprised when he does). If you have knowledge of QuickBooks (or can learn quickly) and are good with numbers . . . 839-3260 is the number to call (operator is standing by now!).

21. ON THE MISSION FRONT:

1. **UGANDA 2014:** Pastor BJ Norrix and Joe Fort are under **5 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 – I'm holding out for a few more applications**. Pastor BJ has application forms available. This journey will have at least 5 persons under 20 (possibly more) and some parents travelling to Uganda to work with our projects there. For more information contact Pastor BJ.

22. Coming Soon: (and sooner than you think)

September 12 – Michelle Brunner/Jeremiah Cordero Wedding

September 13 – MISSION YOUTH – Meet at 4:00 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 away on retreat 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 10:00 to 2:00 at Christ Church. There will be at least 11 of us traveling June 28 through July 10

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.

**Parting Thought:**

I've often wondered what it would feel like to make a desperate cry for help. Well, here it is: **HELP!** I have spoken to several of you about the open Treasurer's position and none of those I have spoken to have been willing to step up. I assume that this means I have not been listening to God clearly enough. I am also assuming that one of you is sitting there waiting to be asked. **OK, this is me asking.** You can call any time and say yes- God is calling me to step up and fill this vital volunteer position at Christ Church. You probably have been sitting around desperately wanting to be needed. This is your moment: we are desperately needing you. Eric Dokken who has been our treasurer is moving to Charlotte, North Carolina the last weekend of September. We need a week or so to get you orientated to the new position and procedures. So, today is the day to call (839-3260). I am still listening to God and still making phone calls but you could save us both the trouble and call me (839-3260) NOW. Knowledge of Quick Books would be helpful (knowledge of accounting even more so as Quick Books is pretty quick and easy to learn if you have any basic computer skills). The Office Manager does all of the clerking work – data entry, printing and mailing checks. Treasurer has oversight, signing responsibility and reporting to the Stewardship and Finance team. 2 Corinthians 6:2 "At the acceptable time have listened to you . . . See, now is the acceptable time; . . ." Thank you.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, apprentice to Christ, lead servant, missionary