

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Snyder, New York**

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

***UPDATE September 4, 2013***

***SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH***

***9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship***

**SUNDAY FUNDAY KICK OFF at 10:00**

***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.drjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com)**

Hi Everyone:

Today is “tweener day” on my calendar. It is the day between (‘tween’) my dad’s birthday (83 yesterday) and my birthday (tomorrow). For the past 20+ years dad and I have played a “tweener” round of golf as a way of celebrating our birthdays together. This year, due to tweener day being in the middle of a busy week here in Amherst, Dad and I played our tweener round on Friday at Foxfire in Baldwinsville, New York. My friend Aaron played with us this year and, although none of us played particularly well, we had a great time of fun and fellowship. Dad and my combined age this year totals 140. Every family has its own collection of standing jokes, preset conversations and odd little traditions. What are yours? When everyone gets together what are the stories of yesteryear? When the clan gathers what are the memories rehearsed and shared? As a church family the same jokes, conversations and traditions apply. Church communities have common experiences and shared memories just like biological families and, when together, love to tell them or talk about them – this is good and right and normal. The difficulty comes when there are guests in the house. These customs, jokes, inside information and language need to be explained so as to make the guests among us feel comfortable and welcome. This Sunday, and in the Sunday’s that follow, be aware of the new faces and guests in our midst and do what you can to welcome them into our family – and watch out for the running joke that someone new might not understand. Blessed tweener day, everyone!

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. I have attendance in the 80’s for last Sunday. Special appreciation to Roger Johnson, our guest preacher, and to Elizabeth Curtis who provided music for both morning celebrations on Labor Day Sunday.

I want to express my appreciation to Kathryn Weaver, Sally Pollard and Ross Markello who provided assistance for a member of our congregation who, during the 11:00 worship hour, had a reaction to a medication he had been taking. The three of you (and Roger) by all reports responded with grace and aplomb and provided much need help for our friend.

The Education Team will be in the forefront this week and this Sunday. Be sure to express your appreciation to all their hard work and for all that they do for our children and grandchildren.

2. This Sunday is filled with special events:

9:00 praise worship and a message about "Letting the Little Children Come to Jesus" we will be celebrating Holy Communion

10:00 – Sunday Fun Day – photo booth, games and other activities for the children.

11:00 – Sunday Worship celebration; celebrating 50 years with ANS; celebrating children's ministry; blessing the children; Holy Communion

12:00 – Sunday Sundaes – ice cream party following worship.

AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning) launches this week with a study of the 10 Commandments – AOL meets in the Wesley Room at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

3. In our Prayers this week: Glenn Hurst is at Suburban Hospital; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Alice Schmidt and Diane Lovejoy. Remember to pray for everyone going "back to school" this week (teachers and students all); pray for the situation in Syria, pray for those looking for work.

4. This Afternoon (September 4) we will be interviewing candidates for the Office Manager/Ministry Assistant position. Please pray for the interview team to have a discerning heart and listening ears. We hope to have an announcement in the next few days.

5. The Uganda Mission Team (BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, and Clair Mosher) is 2 months from their mission journey. Here's how you can help:

A. Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser and silent auction **Friday September 27 from 5 – 7 (auction 4-7)**

1) Tickets for the dinner at \$10 for adults

2) make a basket for the auction (see Barb Critoph and Patty Bechtel)

3) make a donation for the auction (see Barb or Patty)

B. Direct Support can be made by writing a check to Christ Church labeled "Uganda 2013"

C. Pastor BJ is raising an addition \$1000 for a "Bible Scholar's Summit\*" he will be teaching in two places –Kampala and Mbale -- in November

If you can help with this see him directly.

\*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.

6. DRESS OUR PEOPLE – Update from Molly Butler

The final bags of cut out dresses and shorts are in the Dress Our People mailbox. Please take some and help us finish up this project. We are on our way to the 300 pieces of clothing to send with the team in November.

If you purchased t-shirts for this project, please turn them in as soon as possible. We still need a few more t-shirts, so if you would like to purchase some please contact Molly Butler (716-204-8993 or [kwmgbutler@gmail.com](mailto:kwmgbutler@gmail.com)).

We are also looking for children's stickers to send in the packages this year. If you have any you would like to donate, please put them in the Dress Our People mailbox.

7. FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER UPDATE – from Kathy Weaver

The Northtowns satellite of the Family Justice Center is making great progress. We now have a lease for the North Forest house that will be the home of the satellite location. We also have our building permit and remodeling has begun. We are hoping for the grand opening of the center to be in early November. If you are interested in volunteering in the new center once it has opened please contact Kathy Weaver for details

on the training process. We would like to thank Scott Smith and Dave Mitchell for all their efforts in remodeling the bathroom of the new center. It is looking great and is ready to be cleaned and painted. The Family Justice Center has a fundraising event coming up on Thursday October 17th from 5:30-8:30pm. It is called Mosaic, A celebration of everything Buffalo. See the poster on the outreach board in Crafts Hall for details. Any questions please contact Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez or Dede Johnson.

8. DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY to be offered. Disciple 1 is a Junior College Level Bible Survey Course. It takes 34 weeks to complete. Disciple combines Bible Study with building covenantal relationships with a group who take the adventure together. Are you ready to take this deeper step in your walk with Christ, community and deeper understanding of the Bible contact Pastor BJ (or respond to this e-mail).

9. For the Ladies of Christ Church,

My dear friends at my church, Life Church, are giving Stephen and me a wedding shower this Saturday, at 10 a.m. at Life Church (4928 Seneca St. West Seneca). I am personally inviting all of you ladies to join us. Please RSVP to me at [rachelvaughan@oru.edu](mailto:rachelvaughan@oru.edu) so that we can prepare to welcome you this Saturday!

Stephen and I are registered at Target under the "Vaughan Adam Wedding" or you can follow this link (<http://www.target.com/RegistryGiftGiverCmd?isPreview=false&status=completePageLink&listId=ZqY3xP7bh-nXYmkdxlkbua&registryType=WD&cumulativeTime=-1&isAjax=false&noOfPings=>).

I hope to see you all there. :) Rachel Vaughan

10. UMW (United Methodist Women) – UMM (United Methodist Men) News

UMW – Sugar and Spice – **Monday September 9** – 7 – 9 p.m. an evening of fun for all the ladies of the church. Bangles, Baubles and Beads! Come and create your own beaded jewelry. Marg Bauza will show us how. Circle of Joy is hosting. Contact Jan Rhinehart at 839-2940 with questions.

UMM – A day at Letchworth State Park **Saturday September 14**. Carpool at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Drive to the park, do some hiking and have lunch at the Glen Iris Inn – reservations have already been made). Bring your camera, hiking shoes, hats and money for lunch. Contact Tom Nye (648-1850) or Bill Bauza (837-2421) to make reservations.

11. CHURCH COUNCIL met last night – brief summary

- engaged in Bible Study around the question of "what is a Christian leader?"
- approved the previously working budget
- heard an update on the 4040 property from the Trustees
- heard ministry team reports from UMW, Education, Outreach, et al.

12. Happy Birthday this week:

September 4 – Kayleen Hannon; Ryan James

September 5 – BJ Norrix

September 6 – Kathleen Morris Mong; Keith Nehrboss; Al Wrisley

September 9 – Bim Rowlands

13. Happy Anniversary this week:

September 8 – Tom and Kathy Weaver (29)

14. Through the Bible in a Year – this week's readings

September 4 – Ezekiel 22-24 and Revelation 9

September 5 – Ezekiel 25-28 and Revelation 10

September 6 – Ezekiel 29-32 and Revelation 11

September 7 – 2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 40-41 and Revelation 12

September 8 – Jeremiah 42-44, Psalm 4 and Revelation 13  
September 9 – Lamentations 1-2; Obadiah and Revelation 14  
September 10 – Lamentations 3-5 and Revelation 15  
September 11 – Daniel 1-2 and Revelation 16

15. 4040 Harlem Road property (borders the church to the North) update: The Trustees have received an independent appraisal

- The sale of the property will likely be in late October the executor is working with us, exclusively, on the purchase

- There will be a Church Conference in **October** (watch for announcements this will be after worship on a Sunday and there will be at least 2 weeks' notice)

Purpose of the church conference will be three things: 1) do we make the purchase? 2) If yes to 1) will we assign the Trustees as our "building team"? And 3) if yes to 1) and 2) will we approve the necessary financing to see it through. All Christ Church members will have voice and vote at this meeting.

- Short term financing – a member of the congregation has agreed to provide a "Bridge Loan" until a conventional mortgage can be obtained. This loan will allow us to purchase the property in the window available to us.

- The short term plan: is to rent the house until we can finish a capital campaign to pay for the installation of a new parking lot

- The long term plan is to tear the buildings down and put in a new parking lot with sufficient green space.

**As of Council Meeting last night:** we are waiting to be able to inspect the property – we cannot hold our church conference until we have had the facility inspected by a professional inspector and the District Committee on buildings. Our inspection will not happen until after an impending "estate sale". Watch for more details as they become available to us.

16. Coming Soon to Christ Church

Monday September 9 – Sugar and Spice at 7:00 p.m.

SPRC Team at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday September 15 – Going Deeper group meets at 6:00

September 26, 27, 28 – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Directory Photographs – call church office (839-2460) or sign up on line christchurchamherst.org

Friday, September 27 – Uganda Mission Fundraiser – 4-8 p.m.

Sunday, September 29 – Farewell gathering for Rachel Vaughan following worship

Flu clinic sponsored by Health and Wellness Team – contact Geoff Hill (316-1522) or Barb Mitchell (839-2435)

Wednesday October 2 – Bishop Mark Webb on Niagara Frontier District (watch for more)

Friday October 4 – Sunday October 6 – MYM at Chautauqua

Friday October 18 – UMW Fall Harvest Dinner

Saturday, October 19 – Making Strides against Breast Cancer – 10:00 a.m. Niagara Square in Downtown Buffalo

Tuesday October 29 – Church Council

Sunday November 3 – Uganda Mission Team leaves (returns November 22)

Monday, December 2 – Annual Church Conference

### ***Parting Thought:***

I saw big yellow school busses this morning. As I drove around there were children waiting for those busses and moms and dads with cameras recording that "first day of school" or the first day back to school or (like

some of our youth) the last first day of school as they begin their Senior years. Summer in Buffalo is coming to an official close and most of us are "getting back to it." The laxer, easier, lake side, golf side, pool side days are coming to a close and we are "getting back to it." The work schedule seems to be moving forward at full speed and traffic has increased in the morning and evening drive times as everyone seems to be "getting back to it." At Christ Church, we are "kicking off" our FaithXpress and Soul Strength and Youth Group and AOL and all of our other groups this week as we help everyone "get back to it." We have had a spectacular July and August, weather wise, we ran around and played and enjoyed, and basked and relaxed and went crazy outside in our gardens at our pools on the course and in the parks . . . but now it is time to "get back to it." The church is not a place or a street address. The Church (in Greek ecclesia) is a gathering, an assembly or, more importantly, a community. The community is stretched when we are separated and it is whole again and healthy again when we are gathered and growing. Welcome "back to it."

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, coach

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