

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”
UPDATE
October 4, 2011

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.
10:00 – FaithXpress, and youth Sunday school and AOL
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!

Hi Everyone:

I ran across this quote from C.S. Lewis many years ago from his sermon “The Weight of Glory”. It makes me sit up and pay attention every time I read it. What if every Christian, every Church chose to treat each other this way? Here’s the quote: “It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations -- these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit – immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously – no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption. And our charity must be a real and costly love, with deep feeling for the sins in spite of which we love the sinner – no mere tolerance or indulgence which parodies love as flippancy parodies merriment. Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses.”

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance this past week was 173 (including the 21 at Chautauqua). Special appreciation to the Communion Stewards and the children who baked the international breads this week to enhance our sense of “World” on World Communion Sunday. Thank you also to our worship teams and the choir – we had a great morning together.

2. This Sunday we are “On the Road to Rome”. The Christian life is a journey that has a final destination – however that destination is beyond this mortal life. How we live, where we go and the day to day living of this life is moving and walking in the Spirit. One never knows where God will lead.

We will Commission Dr. B.J. Norrix for his trip to Uganda (he leaves Sunday afternoon).

FaithXpress is learning about Jewish Feasts and Festivals – the events Jesus would have participated in with his family. **Passover** is this week.

Adult Opportunities for Learning (AOL) is viewing and discussing Rob Bell's "**Everything is Spiritual**" at 10:00 in the Wesley Room.

3. I (BJ Norrix) am leaving for Uganda this Sunday afternoon. In my absence we have pastors on call should they be needed. Rev. Jim Pollard will be the primary coverage. If you need pastoral care call the Church office and Rachel will get you connected.

Worship on October 16 is LAITY SUNDAY and Co-Lay Leader Peggy Bermudez will be our primary speaker

Worship on October 23 is UMW's Children's Sabbath

I will be back to preach on the 30th.

I need a small favor: I need someone to drive me to the Buffalo Airport (pick me up at 2:30) **this Sunday** (can you do this? Call me or reply)

I also need someone to come and get me on October 27 – my plane arrives at 10:16 p.m. (Jet Blue) – any takers? call me or reply.

4. In our Prayers: Nicky Sabastiano, Judy Radel (back in worship this past Sunday!); Mary Emens, Barbara McCray (second surgery went well); Wrick Schmidt, the family and friends of Ralph Anderson (Linda Anderson Shupe's father) whose funeral was Monday morning; pray for the family and friends of Marion Butler (my brother in law, Ed Butler's mother), Marion died last Friday and her memorial service is this afternoon in Syracuse; pray for Pastor BJ, Pastor Linda Prell, Pastor Clair Mosher, Barbara Walter and Kathy Walter as they travel to Uganda this Sunday.

Mission Prayers: remember our friends at Seneca Street, Central City and Asbury Shalom Zone

Remember those who are digging out from recent flooding along the US east coast

5. Pastor BJ's Monday Bible Study is suspended until November. We will resume the first Monday of November.

6. Valarian Raminski's concert on Saturday evening raised over \$200 for our Mission team. We are considering an Advent/Christmas concert with Mr. Raminski in December.

7. MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

Outreach Team meets Tonight at 7:00

Membership Team is meeting Tonight at 7:00

The Vision Team (from our Day to Make A Difference) is meeting Thursday at 6:00

The Thursday Bible Study resumed last week: they are studying the book of Acts.

8. Happy Birthday this week/month:

October 4 – Nicholas Darling

October 7 – Jacob Horley

October 9 – Susan Cataudella

October 10 – Rachel James, Rob Noyes

October 12 – Julie Wrisley

October 13 – James George

October 22 – Abbie Gowen
October 23 – Susanne Gelormini
October 24 – Curt Berber
October 27 – Debbie Fiebelkorn, Janet Hill

9. Happy Anniversary this week/month:

October 16 – Mary and don Parsons
October 22 – Carl and Jean Ericson

10. COMING SOON TO CHRIST CHURCH:

HARVEST DINNER – Friday, October 21, 2011 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. – Tickets are \$10 (adults) \$5 (under 10) and under 4 are free.

Watch for sign ups to help. Proceeds benefit United Methodist Women mission projects.

OUTREACH MEDIA SALE – November 2 – bring in books movies, music and electronic games (FAMILY FRIENDLY variety) for this sale.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 – **Hope for Africa Children's Choir from the United Methodist HUMBLE SCHOOL in Uganda**

Will be at Christ Church for an evening Concert beginning at 7:00 p.m.
We will need some drivers, some host families and other assistance. Watch for more information.

The concert will be free (with an offering taken for the choir).

11. MEN: Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference – October 29. Contact Bill Bauza (837-2421) or Tom Nye (648-1850) for more information (or consult your Sunday bulletin).

12. Hands 4 New York – we are collecting non perishable food items all month in October.

Boxes or bags of stuffing mix
Canned cranberry sauce
Canned vegetables (corn, peas or green beans)
Canned fruit
Boxes of brownie mix (no cake mixes please).

13. **UMCOR Hurricane Relief** – this is going to be an ongoing need for a while. Advance #901670 – Hurricanes 2011 is how to label your checks payable to CUMC or go to UMCOR.ORG to contribute directly. I am hearing reports of churches and communities JUST NOW getting back to their facilities and homes to begin the process of digging through the mud and rubble and repairing their lives. Work teams will be needed in the rebuilding phase – watch for more information.

14. We are in need of **Greeters** – visiting a church for the first time can be a very intimidating experience (like walking into someone else's family reunion). The ministry of greeting is an essential "hospitality" ministry. It is not difficult to smile, shake a hand, say welcome and give simple directions. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Pam Lopez at 741-3592 or pamwlopez@hotmail.com.

15. AMHERST PLAYERS: are holding auditions for their children's December Christmas Pageant on Wednesday, October 5 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday October 8 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Christ Church.

Children ages 6 and up may audition. For more information contact Valerie at 791-7529. (There will be a performance of this production at Christ Church in December.

16. ZUMBA CLASSES: led by Toni on Monday and Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Hall, downstairs beginning Monday, October 17. Opening Night (October 17) will be free for all who attend! Men, women, bring sneakers, comfortable cloths and water. Limited space, so first come first served.

17. HEALTH AND WELLNESS: **FLU SHOT** clinic on Sunday October 30. See bulletin for more information or contact Goeff Hill at 316-1522.

I leave Christ Church to carry your love, grace and generosity to the people of Uganda, East Africa. I pray that a time will come when many of you will be able to make this journey with me in person so that the friends I have made half way round the world will become your friends, the children I touch the churches I help plant the pastors I help encourage and train will become familiar faces and ministry partners with all of us. In the mean time, everywhere I go in Uganda and it is my turn to speak or teach I will introduce myself. It is a standard introduction that changed three months ago. "Hello, my name is Dr. B.J. Norrix. I am the husband of only one wife, her name is Karen Bellimer. It is my joy to be Senior Pastor of the Christ United Methodist Church near the city of Buffalo New York. I bring you their greetings and prayers. . . " Christ Church goes to the distant mission field with me. I look forward to sharing with you the stories and pictures of this adventure. Thank you for gracefully encouraging me on this journey.

See you Sunday morning, and then the end of the month.

Peace,

BJ Norrix, missionary, pastor of Christ Church Amherst, lead servant