

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
September 20, 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 experience!

Hi Everyone:

Church leadership had a great time "visioning" with Dr. Scott Johnson on Saturday, September 17. We discussed the mission of the Church and agreed that "Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service" is an excellent description of what we are trying to do and be at Christ Church. We discussed vision (what would the future look like if we lived out our mission) and we began a discussion about goals. We are Christ followers and the goals we set should be of the kind that we can only accomplish with the direct help of God – if we can do it ourselves it is not much of a dream or much of a goal. There were several possible goals and dreams discussed around the table and the team decided to continue the goal setting conversation. We are planning to meet on Thursday, September 22 at 6:00 (one hour before the Church Council) this week to continue the conversation – bring a few bucks, pizza and beverage provided. Join the dreaming for the future of Christ Church.

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. I am deeply blessed by your generosity for me and the work in Uganda. You have more than covered my additional expenses and have made it possible for me to carry some extra supplies this trip. Thank you to the nearly 30 of you who have agreed to pray for me while I am away October 9 through 27 (still room for more prayer partners) and thank you to the nearly 50 of you (and probably more) who made financial contributions (to date nearly \$2400) to help me cover my "on the ground expenses" and a gift to the mission. I am learning that Christ Church is a generous and mission minded place. Thank you.

Some of you have asked about "specific" needs the Nexus project has. I will have brochures available soon that will explain how to sponsor Bibles, Dictionaries, students, teachers, and other opportunities for those who might be interested.

2. Attendance last Sunday was 173 (up again) – 31 at 9:00 and 142 at 11:00. We give special appreciation to the children and their "Torah" Procession at 11:00. I was able to pray a blessing on every child present. We welcomed some new faces to our worshipping community. It was a great day!

3. This Sunday, September 25 (only 90 shopping days to Christmas) – I am on the road to Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13-20). Jesus is nearing the conclusion of his ministry and checks with his closest followers to see if they understand who he is and why he is here. He asks “who do the people say that I am” and then he asks “who do you say that I am”. The answers from the two groups are different, they are always different. The world’s understanding of who Jesus is will always be different from what Christ followers say.

FaithXpress is learning about Jewish Feasts and Festivals – the events Jesus would have participated in with his family. This week Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

There is a meeting of the Prayer Chain immediately following the 11:00 worship celebration.

4. Tonight at 7:00 at the Amherst Town Hall we have a meeting with the Amherst Town Zoning Board. We are asking for a variance on the “set back” laws for the placement of our new church sign. Please pray for favor with this board. Anyone who wants to join us is welcome. I am leaving from the church at 6:30 or you can meet us there. The new sign will greatly increase our visibility, will “clean up the corner” by eliminating the other signs and will increase our ability to notify the wider community about events at Christ Church.

5. Today at 1:00 there is another of those “Small Group Gatherings” with Pastor BJ. This one is at the church and all are welcome. The final two are scheduled for next week – THANK YOU to all who have hosted and participated in these conversations.

6. Wednesday at Christ Church

- 9:00 worship team rehearses at 6:00
- Choir rehearsal is at 7:30

7. Thursday The Caller Collating team is here.

Church Council meets at 7:00 (discussion time begins at 6:00).

8. In our Prayers: Nicky Sabastiano, Diane Lovejoy, Judy Radel, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray (surgery Friday), Mary Jane Shanley (good to see her back in worship this past Sunday), Peter Shanley and Erick Schmidt. We remember those who are looking for work, those serving overseas (in all capacities), families in crisis.

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

Pray for Pastor BJ Norrix and his team: Rev. Linda Prell, Rev. Clair Mosher, Ms. Barbara Walter and Ms. Kathy Walter as they prepare to leave October 9 for 2+ weeks in Uganda.

There is a good chance that an African Children's Choir (from the United Methodist Humble School in the Mokono District of Uganda) will be at Christ Church in mid/late November. Watch for more details.

We are collecting gently used coats for our friends at Seneca Street – bring them to the church and place them in the bins provided.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

- September 20 – Drew Smith, Sandra Paddock, Rob McCray, Hildegard Webber
- September 24 – Nora Townsend, Lisa Malpica
- September 25 – Danielle Keller
- September 26 -- Barbara Carier
- September 27 – Jean Wood

10. Happy Anniversary this week:

- September 21 -- Herb and Nora Townsend Wilber

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. The Health and Wellness Team has scheduled a Flu Shot Clinic at Christ church for October 30. See the church bulletin for more information or call Geoff Hill if you have any questions at 316-1522.

14. OCTOBER 1 – Valerian Ruminski will sing Opera, Jazz and Broadway from 7 to 9 p.m. at CHURCH UMC. Cost is \$15 (concert and Hors d'oeuvres) and

proceeds will benefit CUMC and the Nickel City Opera. Contact the Church office or Carol Teresi at 839-4373 for tickets.

15. The HARVEST DINNER is coming Friday October 21 from 4:30 to 7:00. Tickets are 410 for adults \$5 for under 10 and children under 4 are free. Proceeds benefit mission projects of the United Methodist Women. Dinner: roast pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, glazed carrots, applesauce and PIE. I believe that prayer is not just asking God for stuff (as if the purpose of God to was serve us).

I believe prayer is entering into relational communion with our creator. When Jesus says “whatever you ask, in my name, I will do for you” he is not spouting some magic formula that guarantees that if we add “in the name of Jesus” to our prayers they will magically happen. “In the name” meant under the authority and in relationship with the one whose name you were using. To pray “in the name of Jesus” means that I have placed myself under his authority and am attempting to live my life in a living growing relationship with him. I believe in prayer. I believe in the power of prayer.

I believe that when we live our lives in relationship with Jesus and seek his help and intervention in situations before us . . . amazing and great things happen. It is in this vein that I ask you to pray for me, not just when I am traveling on mission (because all of life is mission) but as I lead, teach, preach and pastor the Christ United Methodist Church. Some of you may have a special calling to prayer and to provide prayer support for your Pastor. I will be looking for you and hope to be forming a “prayer partner” team who will intentionally provide prayer support for me on a regular basis.

I am praying for you and for Christ Church. I already feel an amazing difference in the spiritual energy, enthusiasm and mission focus of our church. I think God has some amazing things he intends to do through our ministry here in Snyder. Keep in relationship and keep praying!

In Christ, BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, partner in prayer