

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”
UPDATE
September 13, 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:

Acts 1:8 Jesus tells his followers to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. This means that a healthy church ministry and mission connects with the needs of the world on a local, regional, nation and global scale. In recent weeks we have been watching as our friends and neighbors in Binghamton, Keene (and surrounding areas), Northern Pennsylvania and Vermont and other places who have been inundated with floods.

We have published for the Christ Church family information on health kits and flood buckets and we have been collecting funds to assist with the relief effort. Because there is a United Methodist church facility in every zip code in the United States, we are already staging relief efforts locally through our congregations in these hard hit areas and we are rapidly getting aid to those that need it most.

I heard one parsonage (that was empty) was used to house some homeless families in the Adirondacks and several of our churches are collection and distribution points for flood buckets, health kits, food, and clothing. I am profoundly proud of our United Methodist Connection when I see how quickly and how well we respond following natural (and even not so natural) disasters.

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. It was great to be back to our normal schedule this past Sunday. We had 158 in worship (43 at 9:00 and 115 at 11:00). I was blessed to work with the new 9:00 worship team (Bill, Marg, Sandy, Lynn {and soon to be joined by others}) and it was great to hear our terrific choir at 11:00. I am looking forward to adding my voice to the chorus starting this week. The message was about living the religious life and still missing the spiritual journey that God is calling us to.

2. This Sunday, September 18 I am preaching “on the Road to Gaza” from Acts 8:26-40.

We will be having the Blessing of the Children at both the 9:00 and 11:00 worship times. Each child will be prayed for and blessed by pastor BJ. We will also be consecrating the Christian Education teachers and workers at 11:00 (we neglected to do this on 9/11).

FaithXpress is learning about Jewish Feasts and Festivals – the events Jesus would have participated in with his family. This week we are looking at the Festival of Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks/First Fruits/and the giving of the 10 Commandments. We would call it Pentecost.

We are receiving a special offering for my Uganda Mission this Sunday. Thank you to the several folks who have already made contributions! I leave for Uganda on October 9 (following morning worship) and will return October 27. I will be teaching teachers, preaching, working with Nexus Seminary students, dedicating a water well, and whatever else the Ugandans have for me. I am traveling with 4 others (Rev. Linda Prell (Associate Pastor at Christ Community UMC), Rev. Clair Mosher (Onativia and Erieville UMCs), Barbara Walter (retired teacher) and Kathy Walter (ESL specialist).

You can help in 2 ways:

1. Agree to pray for my team while we are away (10/9 through 10/27)
2. By your financial contribution. This money will help pay my expenses on the ground and will provide a gift for the Nexus Seminary training program that I am working with. The cost of this trip is \$2500 but I pay for my own Plane ticket (\$1300 this time) so I am in need of raising \$1200 - \$1500 to cover my share of the balance. All help is appreciated (THANK YOU). Use the special envelopes provided or write on your check "Christ Church – Uganda 2011". What doesn't come in I will pay out of pocket.

A word about NEXUS Seminary: Nexus is a certificate level training program designed for rural Ugandan pastors. It is 20 courses taught once a month over a two year span. Our goal is to train 2000 pastors in 20 years. We will be graduating 44 students in Kikyusa, Uganda this October which will put us just short of the 200 mark.

3. THIS SATURDAY: "A Day to Make a Difference" with Upper New York Annual Conference Lay Leader, Dr. Scott Johnson. We will be here from 10:00 to 3:00. There is still plenty of room for more participants. Call the Church office TODAY to reserve a spot or respond to this e-mail. Lunch and Child care will be provided (donations appreciated).

4. GRACE CRITOPH's Memorial Celebration is this Saturday at 4:00 with a light luncheon to follow. Grace was a charter member of Christ Church and was 101 when she died in early July. If you would like to help with the luncheon see Carol Corsaro.

5. UMCOR HURRICANE RELIEF

Remember our friends in your prayers. UMCOR is at work. If you would like to help with the cleanup effort here is what you can do:

1. Checks payable to CUMC Advance #901670 – Hurricanes 2011
2. direct gifts through UMCOR.ORG
3. Work teams are being assembled to help with clean up (want to help – see me and we'll get you hooked up)

6. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN – UMW general meeting and program is Thursday, September 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Crafts Hall. Peggy Bermudez will be speaking on the St. Louis National Assembly. Cost is \$5 for Unit Missions.

7. MEN: IRON SHARPENS IRON CONFERENCE – October 29 Cost is \$39. Contact Bill Bauza or Tom Nye for information.

8. Pastor BJ's Monday evening "Bible Conversations" began last night with a good turnout. This will be an open group and we have decided to read the Epistle of James together to get us started. Join us next Monday at 7:00.

Adult Opportunities for Learning (AOL)

In the Café there are many clipboards with Adult Learning Opportunities. Sign up for the ones you would be interested in.

Sunday Mornings in the Wesley Room

September 18 – 25 Morning Coffee: Genesis let's begin in the beginning

October 2 – November 20 – Everything is Spiritual. This DVD series presented by Rob Bell, Pastor of the Mars Hill Church. Taking a close look at the Creation story and discovering the fusion of two realms.

November 27 – December 18 – Advent Series

A Look at the Book of Acts – led by Diane Klenk this class will meet Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Wesley Room and begins September 29.

Sunday Evening Gatherings: food, friendship and Fun: meeting at the home of Audrey and Mike Gavin, 249 S. Huxley Drive Chkt. Call Gavin's 835-2619 for dates and topics.

9. Today is the Caller Deadline

10. Trustees meet this Thursday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m.

11. The Youth Group is on retreat at Letchworth Park Friday the 16th (meet at 6:00) through Sunday a.m. See Youth Leaders for details.

12. WEDNESDAY evening is music time at Christ Church
6:00 is the 9:00 Worship team rehearsal
7:30 Church Choir rehearsal.

13. In our Prayers: Nicky Sabstiano, Diane Lovejoy, Judy Radel, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Mary Jane Shanley, Mike Gavin's uncle died this week; remember our kids away at school; remember our military serving at home and abroad; remember those looking for work; families in crisis and remember our friends and neighbors on the east coast who are still digging out from the recent hurricane induced flooding.

14. Happy Birthday this week:

- September 14 – Barbara Brayman
- September 15 – Doris Steinmetz
- September 17 – Glenn Hurst
- September 18 – Kevin Johnston, Jim Pollard
- September 19 – Will Gowen, Jessica Lawson, Jonathan Miller
- September 20 – Rob McCray, Sandra Paddock; Beth Reilly-Brown; Drew Smith; Hildegard Webber

15. Happy Anniversary this week:

- September 15 – Edwin and Marie Maker (60 years)

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Here is why I travel to Uganda in October. We know that the pace of any organization, church, community is set by the leaders in that place. In a village where limited educational opportunities are offered elevating the education level of the key leaders (pastors for example) in that place helps everyone in the long run. When the leaders become aware of a bigger world, find resources in themselves they were not aware of and learn new understandings and techniques in their leadership . . . the entire village is helped as well as the church. I believe that the local church is God's plan to be the hope of the world.

The Local Church is entrusted with the message of the Gospel. The Local Church is where disciples are called, made, formed and sent out. The Local Church is the front line of the Christian movement. When the leaders in a local church are strengthened and challenged and trained the church increases its ability to be all that God has called it to be. Trained leaders train other leaders. Everyone benefits. I could site dozens (dare I say hundreds) of examples of our graduates doing exactly what I am writing about. One will suffice. Her name is Grace.

She started a church in a small village near a place called Kikyusa in the Luweero district of Uganda (North and West of Kampala). Grace completed our

training and while still in class had a heart and a passion to help the children in her village who did not have access to education. (The Ugandans are on a “British” system of schooling where the parents pay tuition to send their children to school – there is no government funded, universal compulsory education like in the US). The poorest half of the village had no access to education. Grace’s husband, Naphtal, is a trained educator, and together they started a primary school. That school is now providing education for 150 children who could not go to school before. Her training is changing the lives and futures of over 150 children and their families.

THAT story is why I take the time every October to support Nexus Seminary and why I invest a lot of time in preparing lessons and sermons for the journey. I am looking forward to having you partner with me on this journey.

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, teacher