

**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**Snyder, New York**  
*"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"*  
**UPDATE**  
**January 23, 2012**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**  
**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.**  
**10:00 – FaithXpress, Soul Strength, 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!**

[www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.'s blog is [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)

Hi Everyone:

I wanted to send a few quick notes before I head out of town for 8 days of R&R.

1. Attendance Sunday was 166 (40 and 126). Thank you to everyone who helped make it a great day.

We began Confirmation 2012 this Sunday morning. Thank you to parents and mentors and especially Sally Pollard who pulls all this together.

2. This Sunday the United Methodist Women are leading both morning worship celebrations. I am looking forward to hearing stories of the great women leaders at Christ Church through the years (and we have some great leaders, who happen to be women, in 2012!).

3. Through the Bible 2012 – this week's readings: January 24 – Romans 1; January 25 – Romans 2; January 26 – Romans 3; January 27; Romans 4; January 30 – Romans 5; January 31 – Romans 6; February 1 – Romans 7

As I will be out of town January 24 through January 31 I will probably not be posting on my blog. I'll begin posting again when I return.

Check out introduction to Romans at [drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)

4. . In our Prayers: Carmen Ticconi; Barb McCray; Sandy Cummings; Nicky Sebastiano; Mary Emens; Erik Schmitz; Drew Heitzenrater (had hip replacement last week and is now home); Ed Maker; Louise Barber (now home from the hospital) those looking for work; families in crisis; those who are living in fear and violence and in harm's way around the world.

5. Happy Birthday this week:

January 24 – Jamie Jackson

January 25 – Elvira Gonzalez

January 26 – Barbara McCray

January 31 – Sara Thomas

6. There are no anniversaries listed for this week:

7. This week at Christ Church

Monday, January 23 – Accumulation Strategies (Financial Planning Workshop) at 3:00 *and* 7:00

Wednesday, January 25 – Distribution Strategies at 3:00 and 7:00

*How to run out of money before you run out life in retirement*

Thursday, January 26 – Church Council meets at 7:00 (The “Make a Difference” group meets at 6:00)

Friday, January 27 – Game Night

Friday, January 27 through Sunday, January 29 – DCYM Youth Retreat

8. Mission News:

1. We have sponsored **12 of the 14 orphans** at Pastor Grace’s school in Kirimandagi. \$100-110 sends a child to school for the year. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these children contact Rachel in the church office.

2. DVD’s of the Hope for Africa Children’s choir are available in the café on Sunday mornings. You may have one of the DVDs for a free will offering (you decide how much to give). Proceeds will be used for scholarships for our African friends.

3. Hands for New York – this week’s collection (January 29) is pasta and sauce.) and next week (February 5 --).

4. FAMILY PROMISE: We are helping Crossroads Lutheran Church to host families on January 27. We need help preparing and serving dinner from 4:30 to 7:30 and/or to be present at Crossroads Lutheran from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. If you can help contact Lee Watson or Peggy Bermudez

5. UGANDA PROJECTS UPDATE:

A. Dr BJ will be travelling to Uganda to continue his work with the Nexus Seminary this fall (tentatively September 23-October 9). Is God calling you to journey with us? See me for more information.

B. I have three DVD’s from last year’s Uganda journey. I would be glad to lend them to you.

a. is me teaching a series of lectures on Palestine of Jesus time

b. is Kikyusa graduation

c. is the well project at Kirimandagi

9. COMING IN FEBRUARY:

1. I am planning a “Newcomer Orientation” will be February 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. Are you new to Christ Church? Would you like to know more about who we are, what we believe God is calling us to be about and how to become a member and/or to become more involved? Let Rachel or I know and watch for announcement information.

2. February 22 is ASH WEDNESDAY. We will begin our Lenten Suppers and Study at 5:30 on February 22 with an Ash Wednesday service. The service will include the imposition of ashes as a symbol of our repentance and commitment to live more faithful lives in Christ. Watch for details.

10. Celebration of Discipline is an excellent handbook by Richard Foster on the spiritual disciplines of the Christian life. This book explores everything from fasting and meditation to the disciplines of confession and celebration. Over my years of ministry I have walked through this book with several groups in a combination book study/spiritual laboratory/covenant group format that takes 12 to 14 weeks to complete. This will be something for early spring/summer/fall but am wondering who might be interested. Interested? Drop me a note.

Several of you have responded to this invitation: watch for a future announcement.

The Benedictine monks taught a rhythm of life and blended the temporal with the spiritual. They believed that a day should be balanced. They believed that in every day one should pray, work and play. I have tried to practice this rhythm for much of my adult life but find that it works best for me when I think in terms of months and seasons rather than days. My days have plenty of prayer (could always use more) my days are filled with plenty of work and I do find time to play. This gets balanced out when I manage to take a week or so to shut down, play a little golf, walk the beach and hang out with family. Karen and I are off tomorrow for one such journey. Because I don't have to worry about housing in Florida, this is a pretty inexpensive trip (plane tickets are pretty cheap when you buy them early and off season). I appreciated all of your well wishes and encouragement on Sunday. I am looking forward to some rest and to be able to return renewed, refreshed and ready for the great season of Lent and the push to the Biggest Sunday of them all: Resurrection Day!

If you need pastoral care please call the church office, area pastors have agreed to be on call in case of an emergency.

Blessings,

BJ Norrix, coach, missionary, ease taker

(this e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ UMC in Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this communication please reply: remove.)