

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE

October 23, 2013

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 FaithXPress/Soul Strength/Youth Group AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

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
716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

I love the new “Ark of the Covenant” that the FaithXpress children carried into worship on Sunday. Special appreciation to Dick Radel and Dave Mitchell for their construction assistance. The Ark of the Covenant was a symbol and a reminder in ancient Israel of God’s continuing presence with the people. Inside were a few things: the tablets of stone upon which were written the Ten Commandments; a jar of manna from the wilderness; and, Aaron’s rod the budded see Hebrews 9:4 (you’ll have to read about all these stories in Exodus and Numbers in your Bible). The Ark was carried from camp to camp and eventually was carried to Jerusalem in the time of King David and it eventually resided in the temple built by King Solomon. There are two theories as to what happened to the Ark. One school of thought believes that the Levites hid the Ark in Egypt or Ethiopia just before Jerusalem was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. The other school of thought believes Nebuchadnezzar captures the Ark, along with other items from

the temple, and carried it back to Babylon where it was melted down for the gold plating. Our replica will serve as a reminder to all Christ followers that we live in a covenant with God through Jesus Christ that did not begin with us (nor will it end with us). It is the continuation of a covenant begun thousands of years before the birth of our savior and will continue through to the end of time.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 130. Thank you to Mac Sabol (interim choir director) and Melanie Rodgers (interim keyboard player) for leading us in worship through the gift of music. We had a good morning learning about overcoming failure.
2. This Sunday I am preaching on dealing with Doubt. I am particularly interested in dealing with doubt that is generated by negative thinking and thinkers. I am often overwhelmed by the power of negativity in the lives of people I care about. As Christ followers we have to look to a bold and bright future. Yes, this will lead us into risk and sometimes when we take risks it won't work out as planned but the alternative is to do nothing and continue the slow deathly slide into oblivion and irrelevancy. My text this Sunday is from Numbers 13 and 14 about the 12 spies that Moses sends to inspect the Promised Land. 2 spies (Joshua and Caleb) report overcome able difficulties. 10 spies report overwhelming odds against them and a sense of utter insignificance in the face of these difficulties. These 10 convince the community to not move forward and take the risk before them. The consequence of this negativity is a generation lost wandering in the wilderness.
3. In our Prayers: Mitch Mooney had successful surgery yesterday and is recovering; family and friends of Mildred Anderson; Dolores Bellimer, Richard Ball, Kathy Weaver, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Alice Schmidt, and Diane Lovejoy (who will be moving to assisted living in Jamestown). Pray for Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson serving in the US Navy. Pray for Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, BJ Norrix and Clair Mosher as they prepare to depart for Uganda in 11 days. Pray for those looking for work for families in crisis and for all who are in harm's way.
4. Mildred Anderson Memorial Service (REVISED) – NOTE THE CHANGE: Mildred Anderson's memorial service will be Saturday, November 23, 2013 at 2:00 in the afternoon at Christ UMC (this is a revision from the originally announced date of November 9). Watch for more information as we move forward.

5. **THANK YOU** to all who helped with the UMW Harvest Dinner. It was successful!

6. **FOOD PANTRY** – This week bring Potato Flakes (boxed potatoes!)

7. **WELL DONE:** To our CROP Walkers who walked to reduce world hunger and to our “Christ Church Cupcakes” who walked to take strides against breast cancer!

8. **Minister of Music Search Update:** We are auditioning and interviewing 8 prospective candidates this week and expect to have an announcement in a week (October 30/31). Please keep this process in your prayers.

In the interim: Mac Sabol will be conducting the Choir and Melanie Rodgers will be playing the piano for worship at 11:00 on Sundays.

9. **4040 Property Update** (the property just north of the church building on Harlem Road): Here is where we are in this process. There is an Estate Sale this weekend (24-27) – feel free to wander through and take a look but the Estate Sale staff will have no information or awareness of our participation in the possible purchase of the property. On November 1 the Trustees will take a formal tour (with a certified house inspector and the chair of the Niagara Frontier District Committee on Church Building and location). We expect, following that tour, to announce a Special Church Conference to make a decision as to whether or not we will pursue purchasing the property. At a “Church” Conference every member of the Church has the right of voice and vote. A “FAQ” sheet will be made available in the next week or so with pertinent details on the property, cost, plans etc. Please keep this process in your prayers.

10. DRESS OUR PEOPLE UPDATE: All the dresses and shorts have been distributed – please finish sewing and return items to the church by Sunday, October 20th. We will do a final count and see if we meet our goal of 300 pieces of clothing to send with the Uganda team – currently we are at 265 pieces of clothing. We could still use some colorful stickers to include in the packages. Place them in the Dress Our People mailbox in the hallway outside the church office. We will pack up the clothing on Wednesday, October 30th from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Youth Hall. **NOTE:** The Uganda Mission team will be packing their mission supplies beginning at 4:30 on October 30.

11. **NORTHTOWNS Family Justice Center** – from Kathy Weaver

The Northtowns satellite of the Family Justice Center is having an open house to celebrate the completion of the center on **November 9 watch for more details**. The center is in need of donated items for use in the satellite or distribution to clients who use the center. If you are able to donate any of the following items please contact Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez or Dede Johnson. **ITEMS NEEDED:** Tops/Wegman's gift cards, New Stuffed animals and children's books, bottled water, New fleece throws, New blankets, New shawls and travel sizes of soap, shampoo or toothpaste. Thank you in advance for your support of this mission to stop domestic violence.

12. Something for **MEN** – Sundoulos (a ministry with men in the Buffalo area) in partnership with the Christian Service Brigade, Camp Hickory Hill and Iron Sharpens Iron is holding a meeting on Friday, October 28 from 6:45 to 9:00 at the Randall Baptist Church (Main Street in Williamsville). Contact Bill Bauza at 837-2421 for information and car pool.

13. Happy Birthday this week:
October 23 – Susanne Gelormini
October 27 – Debbie Fiebelkorn; Janet Hill
October 28 – Bob Kreib

14. Happy Anniversary this week – I have no anniversaries listed for this week.

15. Through the Bible in a Year: This week's readings. I recently posted introductions to Malachi and Job on my blog: www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com.
October 23 – Job 13-14 and Acts 17-18
October 24 – Job 15 and Acts 19-20
October 25 – Job 16 and Acts 21-23
October 26 – Job 17 and Acts 24-26
October 27 – Job 18; Psalm 114 and Acts 27-28
October 28 – Job 19 and Mark 1-2
October 29 – Job 20 and Mark 3-4
October 30-- Job 21 and Mark 5-6
October 31 – Job 22 and Mark 7-8

16. DISCIPLE 1 – Bible Study
We decided to begin the new Disciple Class in January. An information meeting will be held in December – watch for more.

17. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, October 23 – Choir Rehearsal at 7:30

Financial Workshop 7-9

Thursday, October 24 – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

Worship Team at 7:00

Friday, October 25 – Game Night 7:30 in the Wesley Room

Tuesday, October 29 – Church Council at 7:00 p.m.

18. The **Uganda Mission** Team (BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, Clair Mosher) is 11 days their mission journey. We leave November 3 following worship. Here's how you can help:

A. PRAYER – please pray for us daily between now and our return!

B. On Behalf of Kathryn and Joe and I **THANK YOU** to the members and friends of Christ Church who have so generously supported our mission!!!

C. Pastor BJ **has raised an additional \$1000** for a “Bible Scholar’s Summit*” he will be teaching in two places –Kampala and Mbale -- in November
THANK YOU EVERYONE who contributed to this effort.

*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.

19. **AARP DRIVER SAFETY** – taught by Jim Pollard – is being held on November 1 or November 18. Call the Church office to register (839-2460). Cost is \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for all others. Payment is due the day of the event. You must sign up in advance. Lunch will be available (\$5).

20. **All Saint’s Memorial** Communion is November 3. Christ Church has observed the first Sunday of November as a day to remember and celebrate those members of our church family and extended family who have died since last November 1. This year we have 30 names of members and friends who have died in the past year. If you have a member of your family who has died since November 1, 2012 please let us know so we can include them in this memorial time. There is a time in the service to speak the names of those who have been gone longer than 1 year but primary focus is to remember those who have died since our last Memorial Communion.

21. **Coming Soon** to Christ Church

Wednesdays – October 23, 30 – Financial workshops

Tuesday October 29 – Church Council at 7:00

Wednesday October 30 – Dress Our People packing 3-5 in Youth Hall

Sunday, November 3 – **ALL SAINTS Memorial Communion Sunday**
(remembering those of our family who have died in the past year)

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

Saturday, November 9 – Men’s Group to Niagara Falls Airport to visit the
Aerospace Museum – carpool at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday November 10 – UMW Sunday and Children’s Sabbath

Sunday November 17 – Rev. Jim Pollard is our guest preacher

Saturday, November 23 – 2:00 p.m. Mildred Anderson memorial celebration
with reception to follow

Monday, December 2 – Annual Church Conference 7:00

Parting Thought:

St. Paul wrote one of the most poignant and useful lines in all of the New Testament in Romans 7:21. He wrote, “So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.” I have learned in my 40 years on this faith journey that the easiest way to live this life is to just go with the flow and move through life in sync, as best we can, with everything else around us. On the surface this seems like a great idea until one begins to think about growth and change and improvement and other concepts like trying to make a difference. It would work great if the world were, in fact, a fair and just place. Jesus said to “enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it (Matthew 7:13-14).” Perhaps that is what Robert Frost had in mind when he wrote about the road less travelled. I believe there is a profound human need to know significance. We need to be loved. We need to belong. And, in order to make a difference in the world, we need to risk vulnerability and the possibility of failure and even ridicule. This requires us to be brave (thank you Dr. Brene’ Brown). Back to St. Paul: if I choose to not be vulnerable and to not risk and to not be placed in situations that require me to be brave I could live a long life but I doubt that it would have significance. However, when I choose that narrower and harder path I risk the possibility of struggle, failure and “evil being close at hand.” The question is how will we live the life God has given us? I visit my folks at their winter place in Florida. They are surrounded by other retirees. My dad plays golf, he sings in a few choirs, he encourages ministries at home and abroad – in other words he stays engaged and strives to make a difference where and when he can. However, most of the retirees (certainly not all) have reduced themselves to early dinners and trivial pursuits. It

is an absolute waste of life experience and creative energy. Why not take the road less traveled and seek to live a life that matters? People ask me why? Why do I keep going back to Uganda? Why do I invest in trying to rebuild congregations? Why do I invest in young pastors and encourage people to get involved in making the world a better place? I have reached the simple conclusion that, though there are a lot of options on how to live this life, this is the only life I find worth living.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, coach, fellow traveler

This email is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this email please let us know.