

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE

February 4, 2014

EVERYONE is WELCOME

EVERY SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress/soul Strength/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:

How do you change the world? John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, once said that the doctrine of Original Sin is the only doctrine of the church that could be proven empirically. In order to see that human nature is fundamentally all you need to do is open your eyes and look around you. Human brokenness, selfishness, sinfulness is on display 24/7 all around us. How do you change the world? We have been looking at the “Fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22) these past several weeks (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness – this week Goodness). This series is the answer to the question: how do we change the world? The answer: I begin to change the by changing myself. I am changed from the inside out. I believe that people who have been transformed by the grace and mercy of God change the world into a better place simply by living out in their lives the fruit of that transformation. When the grace and mercy of God reform and reshape me I live

out that new life in the real world and everything I have contact with is touched and transformed by that new life. The world is changed one person at a time and the one changed person begins with me.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 120. Special appreciation to the communion crew and my communion servers.

2. This Sunday, February 9, we have part 6 of our Fruit of the Spirit series. We are talking about goodness. What does it mean, in our day and age, to be virtuous? What does it mean in our culture to be good? How is a good God reflected in the fruit of our lives? The Bible passage is from Matthew 7:15-20. We hear from our Mission of the Month as well.

3. In our Prayers: Sean Brown is in University Hospital in Morgantown; West Virginia following a ruptured appendix he had additional surgery on Sunday evening; Peggy Bermudez had outpatient surgery this morning at Suburban; pray for Sue Faye Allen's (director of Bel Canto) husband Carl who had emergency surgery this morning; Greg Ramsey and family in the death of Greg's father, Bill. A Celebration of his life is being planned for Father's Day in Myrtle Beach, SC; Pray for: Fred Pinton; Guy Castellino, Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy. Remember all of our service men and women (Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson, et al); remember to pray for those looking for work. Pray for families in crisis. Pray.

4. MEN'S NEWS

Interested in a pre-work breakfast conversation and fellowship? Join us this Friday, February 7 at 7:00 a.m. at the Famous Pancake House on Main Street in Williamsville. Breakfast, conversation, looking for ways to challenge and support one another in our work-a-day world.

UMM is going to the Buffalo Car Show this Saturday. Carpool meets at 10:00 at the church. We will have lunch after the show.

5. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, February 04 at Noon, Deborah Circle in the Wesley Room

Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m. – Bible Study (open to all)

Thursday, February 6 at 7:30 – Elizabeth Circle in the Wesley Room

Friday, February 7 – 10:00 a.m. – Books We Have Loved

Saturday, February 8 – UMM to the Car Show 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 9 – 12:15 p.m. MYM soup and Sandwiches Event with
Susanna Wesley

Monday, February 10 – Discussion/Action Group at 7:00

Tuesday, February 11 – Stewardship and Finance Team at 7:00

6. Food Pantry this week: Boxed Rice and Mashed Potatoes

7. MYM (Mature Years Ministry) is hosting Portrait Artist Denise Reichard who will be portraying Susanna Wesley, Mother of John and Charles Wesley (and 17 others). The event follows worship this Sunday, February 9 and will be held in Crafts Hall.

8. Christ Church is blessed with excellent gathering and fellowship space. One of the most popular is the Café on Sunday morning. The café provides hot and cold beverages and tasty snacks before and following our Sunday worship gatherings. What makes this work is a lot of volunteers who “Host” the café by preparing coffee/tea, etc. and putting the snacks out and then cleaning up afterwards. Would you like to help in this vital hospitality ministry of our Church? Contact Sally Pollard at 839-2460 or by signing up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Café.

9. Just a reminder that the March Caller deadline is next Tuesday, February 11.

10. The new Church Directories are now available. If you were photographed for the directory your new book is available through the church office or they are on at a table in the parlor on Sunday mornings. If you were not photographed and would like a directory see Janelle, she has extras.

11. Happy Birthday this week:

February 4 – Kelsey Reed

February 7 – Emily Mugel, Kristin Scaringi

February 8 – **Dorothy Brown (99)**

February 9 – Joshua Reagan

February 11 – Jayne Kremzier

February 12 – Beth Sweet

12. There are no anniversaries listed for this week.

13. Through the Bible in 2014: this week’s readings.

February 4 – Isaiah 34-36
February 5 – Isaiah 37-38; Mark 9
February 6 – Isaiah 39-40; Mark 10
February 7—Isaiah 41-42
February 8 – Isaiah 43-44
February 9 – Isaiah 45-46 Mark 11
February 10 – Isaiah 47-49
February 11 – Isaiah 50-52; Mark 12
February 12 – Isaiah 53-55; Mark 13

14. Discussion/Action Group coming February 10 at 7:00 p.m.: What are the next stages of a church's revitalization? What is the best learning and best practices of churches that are effectively retooling their ministries to meet the needs and challenges of today's world? What will Christ Church need for the next 60 years of ministry? These questions, research information and exploration and implementation of necessary steps forward will be the focus of this once a month gathering. It is open to all who are interested in being a part of helping us all move forward.

15. **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

Opportunity 1: We need people to sign up to host morning coffee hour – sign up is outside the Kitchen.

Opportunity 2: A chart has been posted in Crafts Hall for those wishing to sign up to donate flowers for worship in 2014.

Opportunity 3: We are putting together a worship “creative” team. Want to be a part of this group? Let BJ know.

16. **Mission Opportunities:**

Opportunity 1: **UGANDA 2014.** I am planning to travel in early October this Fall to continue our work in Uganda. Is God Calling you to join me? This journey is 9 months away so I will need to know soon – Tickets will likely be purchased in March/April.

Opportunity 2: Rev. Davis Matovu (our Uganda Mission partner) will be in the US in April and May and will be preaching at Christ Church on the 2nd Sunday of May. Watch for more.

Opportunity 3: Uganda Orphans – it is time to re-sponsor our Kirimandagi orphans. The cost is \$125/year. Write the check to Christ Church and put in the memo line “Uganda Orphan”. See Janelle for more information.

Opportunity 4: **MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY** is only 15 weeks from Sunday . . . many new projects are being planned.

17. MISSION YOUTH – meeting originally scheduled for February 7 has been postponed to February 28 at 6:30 at the Parsonage (aka BJ's house) at 320 Saratoga.

What is Mission Youth? It is a monthly gathering of youth for fellowship, learning, prayer, fun, and mission engagement. Parents and youth have been invited but if you qualify and didn't get an invite let me know.

18. Parents with Pre-Schoolers . . . Moms/Dads/Moms and Dads . . . interested in a support/fellowship gathering of other PWP's?? Let me know.

Parting Thought:

Ok, so the Super Bowl was a total bust – remembering the shocked and panicked look on Payton Manning's face as the ball sailed over his head and into the end zone for a safety on the very first play of the game was both painful and (guilty pleasure alert) humorous. I had a great time with friends talking life, football, and commercials. I quite enjoyed the Radio Shack's "The 80's call and they want their store back" Ad and the Budweiser horse and puppy was cleverly done. Over half the TV's in the US were tuned to the game (a record). What is it about spectacles and expectations that draw us around our TV sets? What is it about the life of the 21st century main line church that totally fails to captivate in the same way? Part of the answer is what is offered. Our TV's offer us guilty pleasures and escape. Even the so called "reality shows" allow us to see people who are better off (so we can envy them) or worse off (so we can feel superior to them) and don't give us much reality at all. The church is offering something quite different and it will never be as attractive. What we are offering is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and an invitation to live a very different kind of life. I find my life in faith is lived connected to the mainstream but lived by values and priorities that are quite different from the mainstream. It is a challenging life. Living this life has had spectacular and unimaginable rewards (to actually know and walk with the creator; to intentionally bring hope and joy and love to other human beings!!). But it is a call to deny self (rather than revel in it), it is a call to live sacrificially so that others may live; it is a call to live for the redemption of the world and not just my own satisfaction and convenience. That's a life that will not be seen on TV but, just between us Christ followers, is the only life worth living.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, Christ Follower, missionary, in by not always of the world

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 me know.