



## Christ United Methodist Church

*Making connections and offering opportunities  
for faith, love, and service"*

**Worship Service-10 am**

**Education Hour-11 am**

**TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE**

*Pastor*

**Rev. Daven Oskvig**

*Office Manager/Ministry Assistant*

**Janelle Martin**

*Minister of Music*

**Paul Staley**

*Financial Secretary*

**Doris Schanzlin**

*Custodian*

**David Wolf**

**350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226**

**Phone: 839-2460**

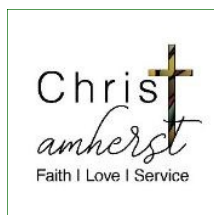
**Fax: 839-2166**

**[www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org) E-mail: [Cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:Cumc350@gmail.com)**

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-5 Thursday 9-noon**

***Office will be closed: Monday, February 17***





At the end of this month, a holy fast is announced by way of Ash Wednesday (see article later in *The Caller* for meaning of Ash Wednesday.) This fast of 40 days is called Lent. This was the original time of preparation for baptism by converts to the faith which slowly became a time of penance by all

Christians. Traditionally the focus of Lent in Christianity has been prayer (justice to God,) fasting (justice to self,) and almsgiving (justice to neighbor.)

We use the period of forty days to correspond to those aspects of our spiritual past that happened in 40s. In the story of Noah, it rained for 40 days up on the mountain top; the Israelite people travel for 40 years in the wilderness before they entered the promised land; both Solomon and David were said to have reigned for 40 years; Jonah gave the city of Nineveh 40 days to repent; Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness following his baptism to prepare for his ministry; and Jesus appeared to his disciples for 40 days following his resurrection. If we leave it in the past, however, we forget that this is our history and we are its present. We are the history of tomorrow. So, what will be the result of our 40 days? Will it merely be the absence of certain vices for this period, or will it be a new reality after we have faced the worst of it all, death itself, and then found life and devoted ourselves to justice to God, self, and neighbor? Will the chapter we write be added to all those of the past, transforming reality and establishing justice in a period of forty?

As we will hear from the prophet Joel on Ash Wednesday, “Blow the trumpet in Jerusalem! Sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

(Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Bring everyone—the elders, the children, and even the babies)...Turn to me now, while there is time! Give me your hearts.

Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning... Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful.” Let us meet together in preparation for and through these 40 days, that God may use us to

write the next chapter as we “Make Connections and Offer Opportunities for Faith, Love, and Service.”

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Daven*

## February Birthdays

Barbara Burr .....	3
Marion Rowlands.....	3
Olivia Smith.....	14
Donna Yungbluth .....	15
Laura June Merrill .....	17
Marilyn Welker .....	17
Ben Bermudez.....	20
Abigail Johnson .....	23
Paul Staley.....	23
Viki Smith .....	25
Linda Parete .....	26
Michele Sciolino.....	27
Herb Wilber.....	28

## March Birthdays

Marcia Snyder .....	1
Gregory Yungbluth.....	2
Graciella Cordero .....	3
Michael Farley.....	4
Clem Arrison .....	5
Gregory Watson .....	7
Brad Bermudez .....	8
Andrew Lopez .....	12
Joanne Gilbert.....	15
William Morris .....	16
Marshall Rhinehart .....	17
Toni Neidel.....	18
Karen Arrison .....	19
Marjory Gibson .....	19
Pat Noyes .....	24
Peggy Bermudez .....	25
Ashley Miller .....	26
Jordan Maliken .....	29
Jan Rhinehart .....	31
Warren Hammond .....	31



**No Anniversaries in February or March**



**April /May 2020 Caller Deadline:  
Friday, March 13**

to

**[caller350@yahoo.com](mailto:caller350@yahoo.com) or  
[bbmitch@verizon.net](mailto:bbmitch@verizon.net)**

**Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell  
839-2435 or [bbmitch@verizon.net](mailto:bbmitch@verizon.net)**

# LENT

**February 26 – April 11, 2020**

## **Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

February 26 at 7:00 pm

## **Music and Meditation**

Fridays, February 28 – April 10, at 5:30 pm

## **AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning)**

Sundays following worship.

March 1 – April 5: *The Grace of Les Miserables*

Facilitator: Dr. David Pliss

## **Searching the Scriptures**

Tuesdays at Noon in the Wesley Room

Join Rev. Oskvig in a conversation about the scriptures which will be explored in the sermon on the following Sunday.

## **Donuts and Devotions**

Wednesdays, March 4 – April 8, at 9:00 am

Make time each week to nourish your body and soul.

Facilitator: Rev. Daven Oskvig

## **Thirstaid**

Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

February 27 – April 2: *Taste and See*

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

*Lent Opens  
and we're off again  
with forehead freshly smeared  
and spirits seared anew by memories of dust, rumors of all  
or nothing up ahead.*

*These frigid days and weeks lean  
inward, huddling for warmth, and  
disciplines attempt in vain  
to shape them toward value, meaning,  
promise. Warmth will, of course, return bearing its customary,  
temporary, blossoming.  
But all remains a stay of execution  
till the stone is rolled, those sentries flee,  
and startled women run with aching news.*

~ J. Barrie Shepherd

**FAITH X PRESS**

**Sunday mornings  
11 am Lower Level**

**The children will be learning about Leaders In The Community featuring Jesus and his disciples along with women who showed courage. VeggieTales Sunday is on February 16.**

**March instruction will include the observance of Lent.**

**Community Youth Group**



**Meeting: February 9 at 11am**

**Contact John Miller for more information (jptmiller30@msn.com)**



### Music and Meditation

In the season of Lent

February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10  
at 5:30 pm

In quiet candlelight, join in meditative song, prayer,  
and scripture reading that penetrates the heart and  
the whole being.



### ASH WEDNESDAY EXPLAINED

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in light of God’s redeeming love in Jesus Christ. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. Ashes, the sign of death, are put on the forehead not in some random pattern but in the shape of a cross. This alters the starkness of the message from one of just recognition of mortality, to the immortality possible in Christ. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Passion/Palm Sunday service and burn them to produce the ashes for this service.

### Lenten Season

Lent is a season of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days of Lent represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter” celebration of Jesus’ victory over sin and death.



Wednesday, February 26  
7pm

### FINANCE TEAM—DECEMBER/JANUARY

The December 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Offering for Elder Law was \$419 and the January 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Offering for Compass House was \$306.

The amount raised for the Seneca Street After School Program from the Advent Music and Meditation services and the Christmas Eve Offering totaled \$2,397.

To date we have received 83 pledges totaling \$195,715.77. It is not too late to turn in your commitment card.

The total amount we received for 2019 from outside groups (including the Nursery School) using our facilities was \$16,967.

We ended the year with all our bills paid and our World Service (Apportionments) paid in full.

As you are doing your year-end and estate planning, please keep Christ Church in mind.

-CUMC Finance Team



Children's Sabbath: November 24, 2019



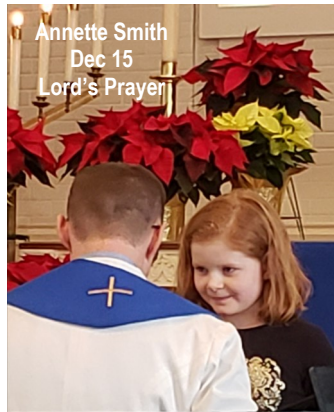
Dee Finch preaching November 24 2109



**KID OF THE DAY— DECEMBER 2019**



Danielle Johnson  
Dec 8  
Sound Board



Annette Smith  
Dec 15  
Lord's Prayer



Amelia Oskvig  
Dec 22  
"Silent Night" Solo



Paula Kreib  
Dec 29  
On her "29" Birthday

**Our Teams at Work**



Hospitality Team at work—Café furniture construction and making Thanksgiving gift bags

**Spiritual Formation Team and Stewardship Team**

*Thirstaid Thursday*  
 1:00-2:30 in the Wesley Room  
 February 6, 13, 20  
*The Future of the United Methodist Church,*  
 Facilitator: Rev. Daven Oskvig  
 Questions and conversations in a moment of uncertainty  
 February 27 - April 2      *"Taste and See"*  
 Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

Is God a foodie who wants to transform your supper into sacrament? This study by Margaret Feinberg provides a culinary exploration of scripture that will satisfy your body and soul as we journey through Lent and take our place at the table.

**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES**—Tuesdays at Noon in Wesley Room  
 Join Rev. Oskvig in a conversation about the scriptures which will be explored in the sermon on the following Sunday.

**AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning)**  
 Sundays following worship  
 Facilitator: Dr. David Pliss

**Through February 23: The Letters of Paul**  
 What do these ancient letters that were used to encourage early followers of Christ have to say to us today about grace, faith, joy, growth, and unity in the midst of uncertainty?

**March 1 – April 5: The Grace of *Les Miserables***  
 Whether or not you know the story, you will be engaged in this thought-provoking study that dives into six ideals - grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character from Victor Hugo's epic story.

## OUTREACH MISSION OF THE MONTH—FEBRUARY

*Opportunities to share ourselves, our talents,  
and our resources with others*

### Souper Bowl Sunday-February 2



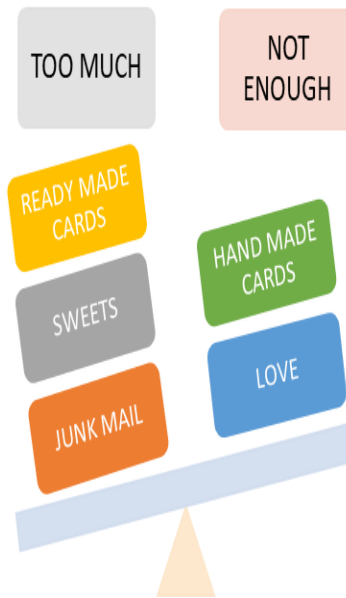
There is nothing like a hot bowl of chili or soup on a winter's day. We will be holding our annual chili and soup sale on Sunday, February 2. A variety of homemade soups and chili will be available. Stay tuned for details. All proceeds will go to support the missions of our church.

### Blanket Sunday-February 16

Have you ever been through a big storm? The kind where you're glued to the weather channel, getting that terrifying text alert or hearing community sirens as you strategize the safest place in your house? Families in western Ohio experienced that gripping fear when 15 tornadoes touched down overnight. And after the tornadoes finally let up, neighbors stepped out to a world that was broken. The destruction left a traumatic mark; even now, many families haven't been able to move back into their homes. But they aren't alone, and they aren't forgotten. Your gift to CWS Blankets proves it, as did the gifts of thousands like you last year. With those gifts, members of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dayton, OH, were able to immediately embrace their neighbors. In a matter of days, they were distributing blankets and supplies to those who lost everything. It signaled to a hurting community that someone cared about them, that Christ's love comforts and heals, that we find light together in our darkest times. Will you give generously to CWS Blankets to set that in motion for future needs? You'll signal your love to families who are desperate for a healing embrace.



## IS THERE SUCH A THING AS TOO MUCH? SOMETIMES YES!



**THANK YOU**

*I want to thank everyone who has generously donated ready-made cards to the "CARDS FOR CARING" ministry of CUMC. At this time, we have more than we can use. The goal of the ministry is to make the cards we send to our families and the friends of Christ Church. If you would like to donate further to this ministry, we will always accept cardstock paper, envelopes, scrapbooking tape/glue and stickers. TUESDAY MORNING is a great store to find inexpensive items like those above.*

*Again, thank you for your generosity and help in bringing messages of God's love and compassion to our shut-ins and those in need.*

*Blessings to you,  
Paula Kreib*

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Joyce Moser upon her death on January 14, 2020. A memorial service celebrating her life was held on Saturday, January 18.

We also extend our sympathy and prayers to Anne Merritt. Sheldon Merritt died on January 20.



### Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families

Christ Church serves local families in distress. The following items are needed: **cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, deodorant, and soap.**

#### The Tigers Den Food Pantry

For **February and March**, they are collecting **healthy snacks (such as granola bars and cereal bars), coffee, and tea.** **They also are in need of paper bags and reusable cloth bags.**

Collecting bins are in the office hall and are marked for Tiger's Den and for local families.



Christ Church is pleased to partner with **Hearts and Hands**. Hearts and Hands is a not-for-profit, neighbor-helping-neighbor organization which pairs volunteers with seniors to provide transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping, and errands. Some volunteers

also provide in-home supports such as light housekeeping, yard work, and caregiver respite.

*Hearts and Hands is always in need of volunteers.* Volunteering is flexible, select only the assignments which are convenient for you. Mileage reimbursement and supplemental insurance coverage are provided. If you're looking for a way you can live out the spirit of giving by sharing your time and talents with our care receivers, please call (716) 406-8311 ext. 103.



**Clocks go ahead 1 hour on March 8<sup>th</sup>**

## OUTREACH MISSION OF THE MONTH—MARCH



**UMCOR Sunday - March 22**  
(Formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing)

UMCOR lives out signs of Christ's extravagant grace in the world by prayerfully working with communities that are overwhelmed by natural or man-made disasters. UMCOR builds on the strengths of what is already available in a community and actively involves the people affected in recovery efforts. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own – and through our connection UMCOR has been doing this for 80 years. The special offering received on UMCOR Sunday helps support the small but impactful UMCOR staff who are specialists in disaster response and recovery. Funds also ensure adequate training for emergency response coordinators, construction volunteers, and case managers who assist victims of disasters and more.

### Crafting for a Cause



We have recently completed a dozen stuffed bears for Amherst Police to give to help comfort children, as well as several small quilts for veterans and new mothers. Our next project will be a project benefiting children. For more information, please contact Diane Klenk ([diane.klenk@gmail.com](mailto:diane.klenk@gmail.com)) or Lee Watson. Everyone is welcome!

**THANK YOU!**

**The Christmas Candy/Baked Goods sale was a huge success!**

Together we raised over a \$1,000 for missions! Thank you to everyone who baked, plated, wrapped, and supported this sale.



## United Methodist Women

### Saturday, March 14, Breakfast Gathering

10:00 am in the Café



Speaker: Gary Willoughby II  
President and CEO of Erie County SPCA

Cost: \$5

Hosts: UMW Executive Board

ALL are welcome! Please invite your family and friends. Some furry friends will be there, too!

Contact Peggy Bermudez at 626-4897 or [bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com) if you plan to attend.



### CIRCLE NEWS

**Elizabeth Circle** will meet **Tuesday, February 11 at 1pm** at church. Hostess: Paula Kreib (725-6067) Program: Book discussion of *One Life to Give* by Andrew Bienkowski.

We will meet **Tuesday, March 10 at 1 pm** at church. Hostess: Kay Barber (634-6987) Program: Pastor Daven will discuss the current situation in the Methodist Church.

**Rachel Circle** will meet Tuesday, February 25 at 12:15pm if the January meeting is cancelled due to weather. The next meeting will be Tuesday March 24 at 12:15pm. Activity TBD

**Circle of Joy** will meet **Thursday, February 13 at 6:30pm** for dinner at Bar-Bill North, 8326 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221 .

We will **meet Saturday, March 7 at 7:30pm** at the Lancaster Opera House for *Tribute to Buddy Holly*.

## Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women

### Gift Day

Saturday, February 29, 2020, 9:30a

Churchill Memorial UMC

8019 Boston State Road, Hamburg, NY 14075



Speaker: Rev. Diann Holt, Durham Baby Café

*We will be gathering gifts for 11 ministries in our District. Gift Day lists and a tote to receive gifts can be found in Crafts Hall. Thank you!*

## 2020 Easter Plant Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate by circling one:

In Memory of

In Honor of

Name of person(s) being remembered/honored (**Please PRINT**)

### Flower Information

Cost of each pot of blooms is \$9 (several blooms in a 6" pot)

Please indicate how many pots.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pink tulips \_\_\_\_\_ White Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ Yellow Daffodils

Total amount paid \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check or Cash (**Circle one**)

Make checks payable to : **Christ United Methodist Church**

### Distribution Instructions (Check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Will pick up after service

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver to Beechwood or other shut ins

\_\_\_\_\_ Please decorate the Sanctuary

A Worship Team member will be collecting orders in the Family Room after services on March 22, 29, April 5.

