

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Worship 10 am

Education Hour –TBD

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

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Phone: 839-2460

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS (September)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9am –2pm



View from behind the camera—photo by Tom Weaver

The Caller

September 2020



**October—November 2020 Caller Deadline:
Sunday, September 13**

to

**caller350@yahoo.com or
bbmitch@verizon.net**

**Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell
839-2435 or bbmitch@verizon.net**



We now enter the fall with limitations continuing and uncertainty remaining. I know we all greatly hoped by this month for things to be different. We continue to use face coverings, maintain physical distancing, and limit certain aspects of life/living. Our young people are returning to school with multi-modal learning models as families grapple with managing complicated schedules. And while we knew of the application of the term 'hybrid' to vehicles and botany, its use in medicine, pedagogy, and ministry is requiring quick adaptation.

It certainly feels new to be exploring ministry in these ways (online, physically spaced, absent of some things, heavy with others,) but is this really a new phenomenon? Looking back over the history of the church, it seems that it has always been involved in hybrid/multi-modal experiences. For example, Jesus didn't just approach his ministry in a single way. Rather he spoke in parables and taught in synagogues. He also healed and performed miracles often connected to the parables and teachings. The early church not only met in synagogues, but in homes and outside, not limiting the message to a particular people, ethnicity, or geography. It lived the love of God & neighbor in sharing what they had to meet needs. Later, the church adapted again through making the language of the people the language of the church and bible. And the people called Methodists alongside founder John Wesley took to home, streets, stones, and stumps along the path to expand the notion of parish to be inclusive of the world, while fostering basic education, homes for children and the elderly, and care for all.

Perhaps as much as our current conditions feel foreign to us, it is tapping into part of the very nature of being a follower of Jesus Christ, part of the apostolic spirit. The word 'apostle' in Ancient Greek means 'one who is sent.' These are the times and ways in which we are being sent. So I pray you will engage in these new ways as we continue to explore our offerings, ability to offer them, and the means of ministry delivery. We are the benefactors of 2000 years of multi-modal/hybrid learning. Let us use this to 'Make Connections and Offer Opportunities for Faith, Love, and Service!'

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*

September Birthdays

Jane Darling.....	3		Sandra Paddock	20
Pastor BJ.....	5		Beth Reilly-Brown	20
Al Wrisley	6		Hildegard Webber	20
Lianne Oskvig	7		Lisa Malpica	24
Bim Rowlands.....	9		Nora Townsend Wilber.....	24
June Gilbert	10		Danielle Keller.....	25
Patti Bechtel	11		Barbara Carier.....	26
Kathy Brunner	11		Jean Wood	27
Nancy Annunziata	16			
Jim Pollard.....	18			
Jonathan Miller	19			

September Anniversaries

Herb and Jane Darling	September 08, 1956
Tom and Kathy Weaver.....	September 08, 1984
Michelle and Jeremiah Cordero	September 12, 2014
Herb and Nora Townsend Wilber	September 21, 1990 (30 years!)
Greg and Phyllis Maliken.....	September 22, 1979
Charles and Joanne Gilbert	September 27, 1975



Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of Linda Rekate who passed on June 18, 2020.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Janelle Martin and her fiancé, Jeremiah Davis and his family, on the death of Jon Davis, Jeremiah's father, who passed on July 10, 2020.

Christ Church at Work during Covid-19



Covid-19 church preparations



Covid-19 choir



Covid-19 sound and video



Tigers' Den Food Drive
July 11, 2020



Outreach Team & Mongo
awaiting Tigers' Den donors
All photos by Peg Bermudez



Worship is now available on Sunday mornings at 10 am, both in person and online!

Live-streamed worship will be available beginning at 10am each Sunday, with a direct link posted on our website and Facebook page to our livestream: www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live

Recordings of each service will also be available on our YouTube channel for viewing once the service has ended.

Please be advised of new guidelines for those wishing to worship together in person at Christ Church:

-All will be required to wear a mask. We will have a limited supply of masks on hand for those who come without one.

-Enter through one door at the main entrance.

-Use hand sanitizer at the provided station before entering the Sanctuary.

-Maintain social distancing (6 feet apart) from those not within your immediate family.

-Please do not enter the building if you are experiencing any symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, chills, diarrhea).

We will continue to provide online opportunities for worship and connection. Our [YouTube channel](#) is the best way to find new content and worship services. We encourage you to 'Subscribe' to our channel! You'll be notified each time new content is uploaded, and the more subscribers we have, the fewer ads will appear!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

During the months of June and July, a few team members gathered to clean and sort the Resource Room which holds all the art and craft supplies, VBS curriculum, and other related items. We also organized the Art Room with a repaired cabinet and the Bible Times Story Room. We are hoping to see our children inhabit these instructional spaces soon!

At this time, **FaithXpress** instruction will be offered in a variety of forms either on site or remotely. More details will follow in the weekly email update. Families should contact the CUMC office for updated information after September.



A Note From Church Council:

Thanks to all members of our church community who have worked throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to keep weekly worship services going each and every Sunday. Further, thanks to all weekly worship attendees for being flexible, understanding, and following our new rules for socially-distanced worship in the Sanctuary.

Reconciling Congregations

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our congregation was beginning to have conversations relative to Christ Church's becoming a Reconciling Congregation, showing that we are welcoming and affirming to all LGBTQ persons. Please stay tuned to the weekly email updates for upcoming virtual and in person meetings as we re-start this process. Any questions can be directed to bradloliger@gmail.com.

Finance Update

The Finance Team again wishes to **Thank You** all for your fantastic support over the summer months when we were closed. It has been above our expectations!

Our special offerings were as follows:

UMCOR Sunday: \$215

Easter : \$870

Native American Awareness: \$105

Golden Cross: \$160

Peace with Justice: \$310

The offering for the food program at Seneca St. UM Church: \$915

The Amherst Lions Club sent us \$300 for our food pantry, which we sent to The Tigers' Den.

Again, thanks so much for your support!

- CUMC Finance Team

Remembering Your Church

For many people, the ability to make a gift to their church in their will is a source of comfort and great satisfaction. They know that long after they are gone, the ministries of their beloved faith community will still thrive and grow, in part because of their generosity.

Making your church a beneficiary of your will isn't difficult. You'll want to talk to your attorney, of course, and work with him or her to draft a legal document that is well-written and complete. Your gift may be in the form of cash, or you may make the church a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, thus allowing your gift to be far more significant in size than what you might otherwise be able to give. You may also gift the church with appreciated securities, real estate, charitable gift annuities, charitable annuity trusts, or IRA distributions.

As you prepare to set up your will, talk to your loved ones so that they understand your wishes regarding your bequest to your church and the rest of your estate. And, of course, spend time in prayer and contemplation to help you discern how best to use your financial assets.



Thank you so much for all of your expressions of care and concern during the illness and following the death of my future father-in-law, Jon Davis. It has been a very stressful and difficult

season for my fiancé Jeremiah and me, but we are so grateful for the love and support of the Christ Church community.



We are excited to invite everyone to celebrate our marriage with us! Jeremiah and I will be getting married at Christ Church on Sunday, September 27 at 3:30 pm. While we aren't able to invite everyone in-person as I had hoped, we are excited to be able to share the ceremony via livestream using the church's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live)



With love,
Jeremiah and Janelle (soon-to-be) Davis



*Bridal Shower for Janelle Martin
Saturday, September 5, 2020*

*Stop by the Christ Church Parking Lot any time
between 10:00 am and Noon
to give Janelle your best wishes, drop off a gift,
and have a little fun.*

RSVP by August 21st

*Kathy Weaver 574-0942 Peggy Bermudez 626-4897
If there will be many guests, we may be calling you to
arrange a time slot.*

Missions of the Month

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

Thank you very much!

Thank you everyone who donated groceries or cash to our recent Food Drive for Tigers' Den Food Pantry. It was so nice to see our church family that day as we hadn't been able to gather for quite some time at that point. Together we were able to give over **30 bags of groceries** to the food pantry. Seven of our neighbors stopped by to drop off groceries. One woman thanked us for making it easier to help those in need. A gentleman pulled up on his bicycle with bags of groceries. Another woman purposely stopped at Tops in the Har-Ken plaza and sweated her way over on foot to help out by bringing groceries. It was quite a heartwarming day. Thank you for supporting the many missions of our church.

September—Mission of the Month—Homelessness

During the month of September especially we invite you to make a donation of your gently used clothing for Hearts for the Homeless. Donations can be placed in the receptacle in the church parking lot. We will also be collecting new sweatpants and underwear for Family Promise. Details will be forthcoming.

Thirstaid

Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:30 on Zoom

A Year of Biblical Womanhood (Part 2)

A study by Rachel Held Evans

September 17 – October 22

Led by Diane Klenk

AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

Sundays following worship in the Family Room

and on YouTube: CUMCAmherst

September 13th – October 4th **Happiness and Mental Health**

Facilitator: Dr. David Pliss

Happiness and Mental Health is designed as a four-part study. It looks at how happy people tend to be healthier, have better relationships, do good or meaningful work more often, and are more successful and abundant in life. This study looks at how peoples' mindsets (how one person sees a problem where another sees an opportunity---as well as the possible genetic causes of these mindsets,) combined with their life situation, and their voluntary actions and choices, can make all the difference in feelings of well-being. This study includes an examination of how prayer, mindfulness and meditation can be used to create beneficial change in our biological mindset. In addition to introducing techniques from cognitive behavioral therapy, the study will discuss wisdom literature from the Bible, and from traditions around the world, including scientific insights to describe 10 basic keys for increasing happiness in life.

Exploring Sunday Scriptures: Online: Tuesdays In-Person: TBD

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

Feasting on the Word with Rev. Oskvig – posted Wednesdays on our website: www.christchurchamherst.org.



Looking ahead to October:

AOL: The Gospel According to Leviticus: Finding

God's Love in God's Law by David Kalas

An all-church read (postponed from May)

Books available from Christ Church

NEW Monday Evening Zoom Study (October 5, 12, 19, 26 from 7-8 pm)

Finding Peace in an Anxious World

As events unfold in the coming months and it is safe to use our building more frequently, it is our hope that each spiritual formation opportunity will be available in person and online. Please watch for updates and prayerfully choose the way that is best for you to participate.

**Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women
Annual Meeting**

Saturday, September 19, 2020

at Christ Church

9:30am- Doors Open

10:00am- Business Meeting

11:00am- Program with speaker **Mary Travers-Murphy**

Family Justice Center of Erie County

Live-stream also available on YouTube at CUMCAmherst

Due to COVID-19, we will have a 2-hour event which will include worship, a business meeting, and a program. The event will be free, no food will be served, and we will be following the policies for worship at Christ Church. Greeters will be needed to guide those attending in person.

We will gather **Gift Cards from Tops and Target** for the new Family Justice Center satellite which will be located on the grounds of Trinity UMC, Grand Island.

If attending in person, **RSVP no later than**

Monday, September 13th to:

Peggy Bermudez

(716) 626-4897

bradbermudez@hotmail.com



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Christ Church Executive Board will meet on Tuesday, September 1, at 1:00 pm via Zoom

September 12th Breakfast Gathering is cancelled due to COVID-19.

Circle of Joy will meet on Thursday, September 3 at 7pm. Diane Klenk



will lead a discussion of the book, *I'll Push You* by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck. If the weather is good, bring your mask and a chair and we will meet outside at Diane's home. If the weather is inclement, we will meet via Zoom.