

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



Christ
amherst
Faith | Love | Service

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Phone: 839-2460

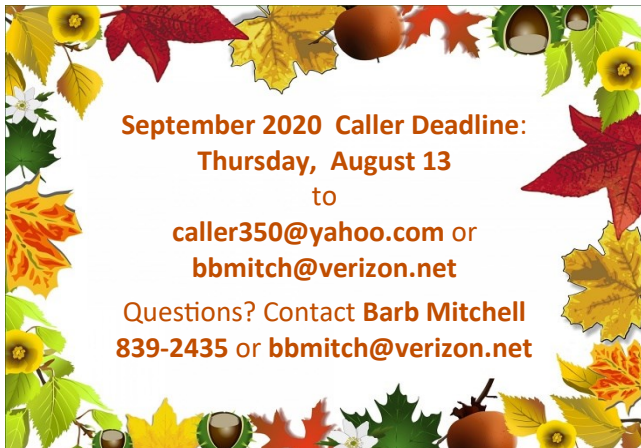
Fax: 839-2166

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SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9am-2pm

Office Closed July 6



The Caller



*I am the church,
You are the church,
We are the church
Together*

Summer 2020



Adaptive Change

The Christian church has long been a place we seek out for stability. Particularly in challenging times, we lean heavily on our faith and its traditions for solid ground among shifting realities.

So many times families and individuals have recounted that they couldn't imagine navigating through complicated situations without their faith. We saw this collectively as people sought out faith institutions following the tragedy of 9/11. And, truth be told, it has been a difficulty of our current crisis not to be able to collectively gather for comfort, support, and to listen for God's words of hope to us today.

This will undoubtedly be one of the greatest challenges of our time and for the church. But I feel that this is in the very nature of the church itself, part of its seeking out the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The church has been involved with adaptive change since those first apostles were gifted with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It has gone from worshipping at temples and synagogues out in the open to being forced by persecution underground into the tombs and catacombs; the language of worship has shifted from Latin to the native tongues of each respective people; communion has changed in the many forms and methods employed; and the music and form of worship has gone through many amendments to name just a few of those changes. By following our vision and purpose of 'Making Connections and Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love, and Service,' we will be involved with adaptive change.

What will this look like? Certainly, it is a greater reliance upon technology with Live Streaming and other ministry opportunities migrating online. But what else? That is the adventure we now launch out into, an adventure of the ministry in the name of Jesus Christ through adaptive change guided by the Holy Spirit. And that is a history I can't wait to be a part of!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*



June Anniversaries

- Dave and Patti Bechtel June 05, 1971
- Woody and Jan Rhinehart..... June 09, 1956
- Scott and Viki Smith June 15, 1985
- Frank and Nancy Annunziata..... June 19, 2009
- Allen and Joan Lesswing June 20, 1953
- Greg and Donna Yungbluth..... June 20, 1981
- Charles and Joanne Gilbert June 22, 1968
- Daven and Lianne Oskvig June 28, 2002

July Anniversaries

- Dave and Barb Mitchell July 03, 1964
- Tom and Darcie Beyer..... July 08, 1978
- James and Lisa Juergens July 12, 2003
- Chris and Laura Smith July 15, 2006
- John and Marie Miller July 16, 1994
- Richard and Mary Ball..... July 17, 1993
- Tom and Peggy Nye July 20, 1974
- Darren and Sandy Paddock..... July 20, 1996
- Paul and Millie Staley..... July 23, 1977
- Chris and Michele Sciolino July 24, 1993

August Anniversaries

- Don and Barb Critoph August 08, 1981
- Warren and Donna Hammond..... August 09, 1969
- Stephen and Theresa Sahlem August 11, 2019
- David and Lisa Lawson August 15, 1987
- Robert and Patricia Loesch August 15, 1964
- Bim and Marion Rowlands..... August 15, 1964
- Larry and Ann Burdette..... August 16, 1958
- Harley and Sue Estee August 21, 1993
- Brad and Peggy Bermudez August 22, 1981



June Birthdays

Richard Ball	4
Diane Poe Schroeder.....	5
Carol Gundlach.....	6
Woody Rhinehart.....	6
Karen Hoffmann.....	7
John Lopez.....	8
Nicole Takac.....	8
Charlotte Davis.....	9
Lisa Lawson.....	9
Samantha Willhauck.....	10
Patricia Zaleski.....	12
Samuel Suggs.....	13
Laura Smith.....	17
Richard Miller.....	18
Andrew Rapini.....	18
Donna Hammond.....	22
Sean Brown.....	23
Julie Sciolino.....	25
Pat Loesch.....	27
Ruth Munson.....	27
Bob Varian.....	27
Anne Merritt.....	28
Barb Michell.....	28

July Birthdays

Patty Keller	2
Leanne Paddock.....	3
Ann Burdette.....	4
Sharon Ferrelli.....	4
Kathleen Cady.....	5
Peggy Nye.....	10
Frank Parete.....	11
Frank Willhauck.....	11
Courney Cataudella.....	13
Tom Nye.....	14
Debbie Laberta.....	20
Kay Barber.....	21
Shirley Downey.....	26
Dede Johnson.....	26
Greg Ramsey.....	27
John Miller.....	28
Brandon Miller.....	29
Cindy Fisher.....	30
Alex Ladowski.....	30
Linda Ladowski.....	30



August Birthdays

Valari Zanghi.....	1	Megan Weaver.....	24
Erin Johnson.....	5	Chris Johnson.....	25
Phyllis Maliken.....	5	Marcia Miller.....	26
James Juergens.....	6	Dave Bechtel.....	27
Helen Peacock.....	6	Sandy Cumming.....	27
Steven Kraatz.....	7	Mary Loliger.....	27
Darryl Barrow.....	7	Christopher Pollard.....	27
Jeremiah Cordero.....	15	John Yungbluth.....	30
Nancy Hess.....	23		



Returning to Worship at Christ Church

As we enter the "new normal" in the time of COVID-19, new rules will be in place to ensure the safety of all during worship. Please be advised of the following:

- At the time of press, churches will only be allowed to operate at 25% capacity. Please review the weekly email updates for further guidance as to how many attendees will be allowed in the church each week, and how this will be coordinated.
- All who attend will be required to wear a face mask that covers both mouth and nose.
- Only a single entrance will be used.
- All attendees must keep six feet apart while in the building.
- Every other pew will be open.
- Only two or three persons will be allowed to sit in each pew; depending on the section. Families who reside in the same household will be allowed to sit together. Please follow all directions of the ushers relative to seating.
- The ushers will dismiss all attendees at the end of worship to avoid crowding.
- No bulletins will be used.
- No congregational singing will be allowed.
- The Café will be closed before and after worship.

These guidelines will change as we move through NYS's phases of reopening. We ask for your patience and understanding as we expect the situation to be fluid over the coming weeks and months.

Missions of the Month

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

Food Drive to Benefit Tigers Den Food Pantry

The Outreach Team will be holding a Food Drive at Christ Church on **Saturday, July 11 from 10:00 am-1:00 pm**. Please tell your friends.

Tiger's Den has requested the following items: Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Canned beans (no black beans), Pork & beans, Canned sweet potatoes, Canned fruit cocktail, Canned mandarin oranges, Tuna Fish, Cereal (no Cheerios), Canned chicken, Muffin mixes. No medications or expired food.

Members of the Outreach Team will be happy to take your items from your car and transfer them to another vehicle which will then deliver them to Tigers Den.

Funds for Seneca Street

During the Pandemic, Seneca Street UMC has been serving the community a balanced meal twice a week. Some days they have served over 200 meals at a time! In an effort to support this vital mission, the Outreach Team has decided to use a portion of the proceeds from our various sales. If you would like to further support this mission, please send a check to the church marked for Seneca Street.

Thank you for supporting the missions of our church and stay safe!



Phyllis Nicholson's first outing in 3 months! An outside visit to see her grandson's beautiful rhododendron in full bloom!



On May 30, our 37th wedding anniversary, John and I took a walk in Losson Park to find the tree that we, along with our then 7 year old son Alex, carved our names in. Knowing the general vicinity, we walked back and forth and were ready to leave when suddenly the sun lit up a tree in the distance! We walked over and there were our names " Mom Dad and Alex L 1993." An awesome moment!

-Linda Ladowski



Alex Juergens celebrated his 14th birthday by socially-distancing in the church parking lot on May 31!



**GOD DOESN'T LOVE US
GOD LOVES US ALL**



GOD MOMENTS

I was thinking that I wouldn't have anything of worth to contribute to the summer Caller until Monday evening, when on my way back from my evening walk with the dog, I came upon a bunch of neighborhood kids of varied ages and races, with bikes of different sizes and styles. The oldest youngster (a boy) had named himself the "leader" of the group and they were about to head out for a ride. I was intrigued because of what has been going on in the country recently related to race, and realizing that young people truly are color-blind! The adults gathered were chuckling about what I lovingly labeled the "bike posse"; one Mom was concerned about her little one not being safe as they were racing across the street, eager to get on their journey. I was reminded about my own childhood, when we didn't wear helmets, rode "no-handed" and didn't need to be concerned about racing cars possibly hitting us. Yet despite all that has changed in the world, I realized that thankfully, children don't. This was my God Moment.

-Sandy Cumming

This time of quarantine has reminded me that God is always at work and the hope of new life is always possible, even when reason says otherwise. On Easter Sunday, our lilac had more buds than ever. Three days later it snowed and kept



snowing off and on through Mother's Day weekend. The buds showed no signs of life and I was certain that they would not bloom this year. Unexpectedly, the buds began to show signs of vitality in mid-May and were in full fragrant bloom by Memorial Day weekend. It reminds us of the Resurrection story and that God sees beyond what our eyes



perceive. Never lose hope!

-Peggy Bermudez

Spiritual Formation and Stewardship Team

Thirstaid Bible Study via Zoom - **Rest**

Thursdays: July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 1:00 -2:00 pm

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

This summer we will be trying something new, a Thirstaid Bible Study via Zoom. No matter where you are, you will be able to join the conversation every Thursday in July from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Our theme for the 5 sessions will be **Rest**. Although we've all had more time at home in recent months, our time has not necessarily been restful. Stress, anxiety, uncertainty, and grief have taken their toll and we all need rest. There will be no study book or preparation. Simply join the conversation as we explore what the Bible has to say about rest and how we can renew our weary souls. A link for the Zoom Bible Study will be shared in the weekly update. We hope you will join this virtual gathering as we experiment with a new way to make connections and learn together.

Finance Update

The Finance Team would like to thank everyone for their strong support during these difficult times. Through May, we are ahead of budget for pledged income received!

The following steps have been taken, with Council approval, to ensure financial stability and continue paying our dedicated staff in full:

- Applied for and received \$23,400 in Payroll Protection Program funding;
- Took our annual \$25,000 Endowment Fund distribution in April rather than the normal 4th quarter distribution;
- Reduced operating expenses wherever possible, including a 50% reduction in shared ministry payments.

Our cash position remains strong and sufficient to continue operations for many months to come. We are blessed by your generosity and look forward to the day we can worship together again.



Class of 2020

Christ Church High School Graduates

Rebecca Lopez - Graduating from Clarence High School
- Plans to attend Duquesne University to study Nursing

Ryan Lopez – Graduating from Clarence High School as
Salutatorian—Plans to attend Northwestern University to
study Physics and Astronomy

Christ Church College Graduates

Conor Brown – Graduated from RIT, Magna Cum Laude

Brandon Miller – Completed his undergraduate studies at
Gannon University and received B.S. in Health Services
- Continuing Physician Assistant Master’s program at
Gannon University

Leanne Paddock – Graduated from Syracuse University with
B.S. in Accounting and Supply Chain Management
- Looking for a supply chain position in Buffalo

Nicole Sciolino – Graduated from Niagara University with
M.B.A. in Healthcare Administration
- Working full-time at Dent Neurologic Institute in the
Infusion Center



Class of 2020

Friends of Christ Church College Graduates

Katie James – Granddaughter of Bim & Marion Rowlands
- Graduated from University of North Carolina at
Greensboro with M.S. in Counseling and Education
Specialist degree in School Counseling
- Has passed exam to become National Certified
Counselor, is pursuing certification in California, where she
has accepted a position

Steven Fisher – Grandson of Cindy Fisher
- Graduated from Purdue University with B.S. in
Mechanical Engineering
- Working for Vanair in Michigan City, Indiana

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends
of those who have passed recently.

Bruce Phillips - February 24, 2020

Marion Chalmers - March 13, 2020

Bruce Burr - April 19, 2020

Fraser (Mitch) Mooney - April 30, 2020