

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) Davis

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 E-mail: Cumc350@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Office closed: 12/25, January 1, and January 18

**February—March 2021
Caller Deadline!**
Wednesday, January 13
to
**caller350@yahoo.com or
bbmitch@verizon.net**

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



Photo by Janelle Martin Davis

**December 2020
January 2021**



Nothing quite captures our imaginations and ignites our faith like this month and its two seasons of Advent and Christmas. From all the preparations and anticipations of the one to the consummation and adulation of the other, it truly is an incredible time of the year. Among the full calendar and cadre of ways to participate in these seasons, it is hymnody which provides the musical theme. When else can you find dedicated radio for seasonal music? These songs offer a great background to these seasons as a whole.

We begin with great Advent songs like "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," and "People Look East." These offer that perfect penitential, introspective, and reflective tone to this time of preparation. As we hurry and scurry about in the flurry of activity, they remind us to take the time to spiritually prepare, to look and focus our hearts and minds in the right direction. Are we ready for Christ to come? Is there room in our lives? Then, as we continue we sing carols about the place and circumstances of Jesus' birth. Hymns like "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Away in a Manger," and "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" set the scene in our imaginations for the nativity. Next, as we gather on that sacred night we sing "What Child is This," "The First Noel" and as we hold the light of Christ in our hands "Silent Night" as we consider the hope that is born to us and among us, encouraging us to share it. And the following morning, in the jubilation of all that has taken place, we sing out "Joy to the World" and "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

There is no question that this is an incredible time. May these hymns carry us through these seasons, helping us to prepare, set the scene, open ourselves to hope, and share the joy. May they stir our hearts, capture our imaginations, and ignite a new passion in our faith. They may provide the theme and background, but ultimately the witness of our lives is the true singing of their words.

People, look east! The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the heart and set the table. People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*

December Birthdays



Robert Paddock	3 *
Mary Parsons.....	4
Jean Ericson	5
Diane Klenk.....	6
Michael Keller	8
Dave Wolf.....	11
Geoff Hill.....	11
Carol Ann Maltbie.....	12
Betty Kreib	13
Marilyn Morris.....	13
Chris Smith.....	14
Amy Thormahlen.....	22
Lois Lewis.....	23
Paula Kreib.....	29



January Birthdays

Marie Miller	1
Phyllis Nicholson.....	1
Barbara Critoph	2
Tom Weaver	4
Guy Ferrelli	5
Mary Jane Shanley.....	7
Pam Lopez.....	9
Lindsey Darling.....	10
Bob Loesch.....	10
Matt Thormahlen.....	12
Millie Staley	16
Carol Teresi.....	17
Lucille Mooney.....	18
Nicole Sciolino	20
Robert Lovell.....	23
Elvira Gonzalez.....	25

December Anniversaries



Clem & Karen Arrison.....	December 2, 2000
Patty & Michael Keller	December 5, 1987
Peter & Patricia Zaleski.....	60 Years! December 23, 1960
Joseph & Carolyn Day.....	December 27, ?



We extend our deepest sympathy to Janelle Martin Davis and her family upon the death of her grandmother, Faye Martin, on November 9, 2020.



I cannot even begin to express the depth of my gratitude for all of the kind words and generosity shared with me for Pastor Appreciation Month. You showered me with cards, calls, emails, and messages of appreciation. I was overwhelmed in the most positive of ways. These now serve as an inspiring and encouraging resource for me in my service as your pastor. Thank you for these blessings.

Pastor Daven



Thank you for your financial generosity for Dave Wolf through this challenging time. We will be concluding our collection on his behalf on December 15. Any further support you wish to offer after that date can be sent directly to Dave Wolf.



ADVENT

Music and Meditation



Christ Church has offered a time during the seasons of Advent and Lent to quietly reflect and prepare. Currently this is a short, 30-minute candlelight service on Friday evenings beginning at 5:30 pm on 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, and 12/18 following the style of Taizé (pronounced teh-zay'). A Taizé service is a service of song and silence, prayer, and scripture that hopes to lead participants to contemplate and celebrate their relationship with God and with one another. Music repeats many times. It begins with a simple melody that is sung together and can remain that way, builds as it progresses, and/or employs the addition of instruments or soloist. All fits together, even simply experiencing the music as an observer. Texts are short and reflective. Taizé invites one to feel and interact with the readings and songs. Prayers are invitational and conversational to promote an experience of dialogue with the living present Christ.

Silence is intentional, opportunities to wonder or to consider the words or music heard. It is combined with a sense of the living presence of God in the flickering candles.

*Our hope is to continue to offer an in-person option if possible. All services will also be available via Live Stream through our YouTube channel and archived following the conclusion of that Live Stream.

Christmas Eve

On this holiest of nights, we gather to be inspired and immersed in song and scripture. Being together to hear the Lessons and sing the Carols is a key facet of celebrating God's gift in Christ. We face several challenges which will adjust how and what we offer this year. While we hope to offer an in-person option on Christmas Eve at 8 pm, we recognize the challenges of doing so with people's health and welfare in mind. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be available regardless of in-person option on our YouTube Channel via Live Stream and archived following the conclusion of the Live Stream.

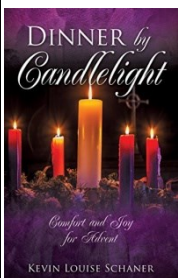


Spiritual Information Team
December

Advent Studies:

Monday Night Zoom Study (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 at 7 pm)
Dinner by Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent

by Kevin Louise Schaner



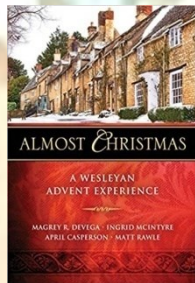
Christmas Is Coming! Feeling Anxious? Expect Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace this Advent. Rekindle your anticipation of Christ's birth with comforting conversation. This daily devotional is a collection of deeply engaging essays that provide not only food for thought during the pre-Christmas season, but also inspiration and hope for the future. Paperbacks are available through a variety of online vendors including Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. A digital version is available from Nook and Kindle.

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

Thirstaid Thursdays
December 3, 10, & 17 @ 1 pm

We will be connecting the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace to our Wesleyan heritage. *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience* explores John Wesley's encouragement to follow Christ wholeheartedly with the commitment we can make to Christ in Advent. In addition to this Thirstaid time, each week in Advent there will also be an opportunity to engage with *Almost Christmas* on our YouTube channel. The book is not required, but if you would like to purchase a copy, paperbacks are available through a variety of online vendors including Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. A digital version is available from Cokesbury, Nook, and Kindle.

Facilitator: Rev. Oskvig



Finance Update

We continue to be thankful for all who have faithfully kept up with your pledges for 2020.

We are still missing approximately 15 pledges for 2021 from those who have pledged in the past, which makes us \$24,000 short of meeting our 2021 budget. The Finance Team is currently working on the budget for approval in December and we will be unable to approve a budget not covered by the pledge amount required.

Thanks so much for your support and we hope to have all pledges in place as soon as possible. Should you need a pledge card, please call the church office (839-2460) and Janelle will be glad to send you one.

The Turkey Basket Contributions as of November 22 were \$455!

-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 or charitable annuity trusts, or IRA distributions.

As you set up your will, talk to your loved ones so 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.



NYS has created a color-coded system to indicate levels of COVID-19 with limitations imposed based upon color.

Our region had been in a 'yellow zone' which did not impact our

worship gatherings with already enacted policies including mandatory masks and physical distancing. However, our region has moved into an 'orange zone.' Our in-person gatherings for worship are now limited beyond those directly involved to just **20 people**. As long as we remain in the 'orange zone' those interested in attending in person **must** call the church office (839-2460) on the Friday directly prior to each Sunday between 10am - 2pm to reserve one of the 20 spots on a first-come-first-served basis. If our region moves into a 'red zone,' all in-person worship will be suspended. We continue to offer online worship opportunities via Live Stream on our [YouTube channel](#), which is archived following its conclusion. While our hope remains to have in-person opportunities for Sunday worship, Music & Meditation on Friday evenings (beginning **Friday, November 27**), and on Christmas Eve, we are committed to the health and safety of all people. We will follow all guidelines provided and strongly advise any who are anxious or feeling even slightly unwell to please stay home and worship virtually through this time.

Christ Church and YouTube Channel



We encourage everyone to Like & Subscribe to our YouTube Channel. This will help to alert you every time a new video or opportunity is added to that platform. Also, as we enter this season of Advent, we will have even more available in Advent Studies, devotionals, Music and Meditation, and Candlelight Christmas Eve worship. Don't miss out! Like and Subscribe today!

www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live

Spiritual Information Team

January

Thirstaid Thursdays

from 1:00 – 2:30 on Zoom

January 7 – February 11, 2021

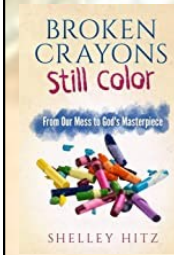
Broken Crayons Still Color

From Our Mess to God's Masterpiece

a study by Shelly Hitz

Facilitators: Diane Klenk & Peggy Bermudez

This book is available in paperback and digital editions from a wide variety of booksellers, including Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

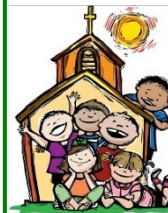


Exploring Sunday Scriptures: Tuesdays at Noon

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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM



The Children's Ministry Team will be providing Advent Family Kits to create their own unique craft in preparation for Christmas and in hope that there will be conversation and photos to come! The kits will be in the Church Office during office hours with the child's name on it. If the family is present during worship, the kit can be taken during that time.



United Methodist Women
Saturday, December 5, at 10:00 am

Virtual Christmas Coffee Gathering

(or Tea or Hot Chocolate)

Knitted Together for God's Good Works



*Make a cup of your favorite beverage,
take some time to chat with one another,
and listen to the story of Mary and Elizabeth.*

*Watch your e-mail and the Weekly Update
for a Zoom invitation.*



Least Coin and World Thank Offerings
are welcome and should be mailed to



Diane Klenk
227 Enez Dr.
Depew, NY 14043



Please make checks payable to UMW
and mail by **December 4, 2020.**

***UMW Pledge Cards for 2021 will be mailed in
December.***

Missions of the Month

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

Giving Tree



It's that time of year again for the **Giving Tree!** Each Christmas we collect gifts that various charities would like to receive to support their missions. This year's recipients include Gateway-Longview and the Family Justice Center.

Given the unique challenges that this year brings, we will only be collecting gift cards at this time.

Suggested retailers include: WalMart, Target, Amazon, Tops, and Wegmans. All gift card amounts will be accepted and are appreciated.

If you wish to participate, please purchase a gift card and submit it to the church office or Diane Klenk by the given deadline (deadlines vary by charity with Gateway-Longview's gifts needed first by December 6.) Please contact Diane (651-0236) with any questions. Arrangements can also be made for pickup of the gift cards if you are unable to bring them to the church.

Thank you and Merry Christmas from the Outreach Team



As an early Christmas gift, the Outreach Team has compiled some of their favorite Christmas recipes for you. Please look for them in your email.

***Thank you for your continued support of
the many missions of our Church.***