

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: 9 am –2 pm

Office closed: Monday, February 15

**April/May 2021
Caller Deadline!
Saturday, March 13
to
caller350@yahoo.com or
bbmitch@verizon.net**

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

The Caller



*Cover story on pg. 10
Photos from Tom Weaver*

February/March 2021



It was mid-Lent last year when everything came to a screeching halt. Since that time we have gone through so much in fluctuations of infection levels, issues pertaining to race and policing, a presidential election, holidays apart, and events at the Capitol to name just a few. If that doesn't just make your head spin

All of the limitations, the division, and these challenges are calling us back to our foundations. So much has figuratively and literally fallen apart, become like ash. That which hasn't, seems so close in how cracked and broken it feels, widening and dividing us ever further down different lines which we then superimpose on our faith. If ever there was a call to repentance, it is now. We need to turn away from ourselves, from all that has come to cloud our worship, such as politics and false notions of patriotism, and back toward God.

Join with me as we call a solemn fast, a holy Lent. May this be our time when we repent and believe in the Good News, begin to rebuild, let our faith inform our lives, and begin to fill the cracks with forgiveness and love.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*



Daylight Savings Time arrives Sunday, March 14th. Turn your clocks 1 hour



February Birthdays



March Birthdays

Barbara Burr	3	Marcia Snyder	1
Marion Rowlands	3	Gregory Yungbluth	2
Olivia Smith.....	14	Graciella Cordero	3
Donna Yungbluth.....	15	Michael Farley	3
Marilyn Welker	17	Clem Arrison.....	5
Laura June Merrill.....	17	Gregory Watson	7
Ben Bermudez	20	Brad Bermudez.....	8
Abigail Johnson.....	23	Andrew Lopez.....	12
Paul Staley	23	Joanne Gilbert	15
Viki Smith.....	25	William Morris.....	16
Linda Parete.....	26	Marshall Rhinehart.....	17
Michele Sciolino	27	Toni Neidel	18
Herb Wilber	28	Karen Arrison.....	19



No Anniversaries for February and March

<p>* Marcia Snyder</p>	1
Gregory Yungbluth	2
Graciella Cordero	3
Michael Farley	3
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

If you would like to add your birthday and/or anniversary to the list, please contact Janelle in the church office: 839-2460.

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Marcia Miller upon her death on January 6, 2021



We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Karen Phillips upon her death on January 13, 2021

Christ Church Helps



Many have heard the heartbreaking story of Kimberly Weston and her boyfriend Nathan Grammer, struck by a car on the evening of Christmas in Buffalo. Kimberly's wheel-chair, a necessity due to her cerebral palsy, was destroyed. With the help of Rev. Chris Wylie to orchestrate and coordinate the purchase of a replacement chair, Christ Church provided the resources using part of the Christmas Offering in addition to other

funds. In exchanged messages which thanked him for connecting us to the need and helping, he said, "I'm just grateful to help. I might have said it before but that's ministry. Just looking for opportunities to shine light."

Kimberly has now received the chair and is pictured here with her new chair!

Christ Church Members At Work



Cover Story

If you were wondering why you could now see all the words of the hymns, scriptures, etc. on the screen, with the cooperation of John Miller, Tom Weaver, Chris Sciolino, and the craftsmanship of Dave Mitchell, the cross above the altar has been resized to allow an unobstructed view of the screen.



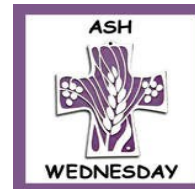
Music and Meditation

Each Friday throughout Lent, Christ Church will have a 30-minute service of Music and Meditation at 5:30 pm.



Available **in person and online** via the CUMC YouTube channel: www.YouTube.com/CUMCAmherst/live, it will follow 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 a soloist. All this fits together, even if 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.



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 sins 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.

**An Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7 pm on
February 17, 2021.**

SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM

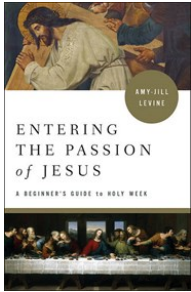
February and March

Lenten Study

Entering the Passion of Jesus

A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

By Amy-Jill Levine



"Dive deep into the history of the last days before the crucifixion. Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple."

"In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience."

Christ Church will offer two opportunities to participate in this study via ZOOM

Wednesdays, February 24 – March 31, 7:00 pm

Facilitator: Beth Reilly Brown

Thursdays, February 25 – April 1, 1:00 pm

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

The book is not required, but if you would like to purchase a copy, paperbacks and digital formats are available through a variety of online vendors including Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, Target, and Amazon.

COMING SOON



Book exploration videos with Dr. David Pliss

FINANCE UPDATE

We continue to be thankful for all of you who faithfully kept up with your pledges in 2020! We were able to meet all of our obligations, including the full payment of our Shared Ministries (Apportionments.) We also wish to thank you for your 2021 pledge commitments of \$194,828 which exceeds the Stewardship Committee's expectation of \$191,000.

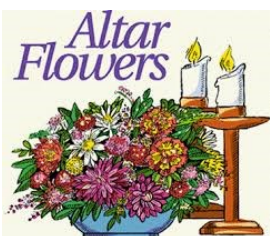
The Christmas offering, which was for Outreach, was a fantastic \$4,301. Part of this offering has already been used to pay for a new replacement wheelchair for the young lady who was struck by a hit and run driver and had her wheelchair destroyed on Christmas. Thank you all again.

- CUMC Finance Team





Christmas Eve 2020
Photo by Kathy Weaver



A new 2021 flower chart is located in the Family Room for those wishing to provide flowers for the Lord's Table on a given Sunday. If you are interested in beautifying the worship space with a floral arrangement in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion,

please sign up on the chart and a member of the Worship Team will be in touch. If you are not coming to worship in person at this time but would still like to provide flowers, please contact the church office (839-2460).

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.

www.youtube.com/CUMCAmherst/live



SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM

Thirstaid Thursdays
from 1:00 – 2:30 on Zoom



through February 11, 2021

Broken Crayons Still Color

From Our Mess to God's Masterpiece,
a study by Shelly Hitz

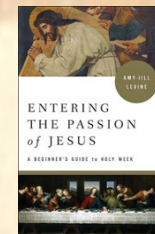
Facilitators: Diane Klenk & Peggy Bermudez

February 25 – April 1

Entering the Passion of Jesus

A Beginners Guide to Holy Week
by Amy-Jill Levine

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez



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.



We will no longer be gathering cancelled postage stamps, as the Lutheran Bible Society will not be collecting them anymore. Thank you so much for your support in the past!

We will continue to collect Campbell's Labels for Education for Gateway-Longview, as well as receipts from Dash's Markets. The Dash's tapes support Ken-Ton Meals on Wheels. Collection boxes are on top of the microwave in the church kitchen Thank you!!

**Christ Church United Methodist Women
Virtual Gatherings**

(watch the Weekly Update for Zoom links)

Thankfulness

Friday, February 19, 7:00 pm on Zoom

Facilitator: Toni Neidel, UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator



**Morning Coffee Gathering
Saturday, March 20, 10:00 am on Zoom**
Program TBA



Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women



Theme for 2021: Keepers of the Faith

**All Niagara Frontier District UMW events
begin at 10 am**



February 20: "So You Want to Talk About Race..."
Part 3: The School-to-Prison Pipeline



March 27: National Federation for Just Communities of WNY



Speaker: Rene Petties-Jones, President, NFJCWNY

This event will also include a Memorial Service.

*Both events will be held on Zoom. Contact Peggy Bermudez to
receive the link or phone number.
bradbermudez@hotmail.com or (716) 626-4897*

Outreach Team/Missions

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

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Outreach Team extends their sincere appreciation to you for your most generous gifts which were received in the Christmas offering. These gifts will benefit many people through the missions of our church.

We also wish to thank you for your overwhelming support of the virtual Giving Tree this year. Together we were able to make Christmas brighter for many people through the following organizations: Gateway-Longview, the Baby Café, the Family Justice Center, a family in need, and the Restoration Society.

UMCOR Hygiene Kits

The Outreach Team invites you to assemble Hygiene Kits for UMCOR during February & March! These kits will help people who have suffered due to natural disasters. The supplies can be assembled and placed in a large plastic gallon bag and then brought to church. We will collect them until UMCOR Sunday on **March 14, 2021**. A list of materials to collect and assembly instructions are available online (<https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/>) or contact the church office for further information.

***Thank you for your prayers and expressions of love and support
in recent months as we remembered the life of our niece Erin and
made decisions about the best care for Brad's
parents.***

***In Christ,
Peggy and Brad Bermudez***

