

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 Administrator
TBA

Minister of Music
Paul Staley

Financial Secretary
Doris Schanzlin

Custodian
Michael Andolina

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, July 5




**September/October 2021
Caller Deadline!
Friday, August 13
to
caller350@yahoo.com or
bbmitch@verizon.net**

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

The Caller

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June July August 2021



Just outside my office window will stand a place for anyone in need to get some food. The Outreach Team has dreamed, planned, and now will place a 'Little Free Food Pantry.' Such signs as this are our future hope and ambition to convert that small strip of land between the parking lot and the parsonage to grow

vegetables, offering healthy and fresh food to those in need. These are just two examples of living out one of the teachings of Jesus to feed the poor/hungry (John 21:17, Matthew 25:35, Luke 3:11).

These visible signs are examples of gospel living, dreaming big, and working outside of the box. I love the idea that what we believe in our heads and hearts, what we proclaim and celebrate within our worship, might be seen and experienced as our neighbors witness this taking shape on our grounds - from Peace Pole to Food Pantry. From the foot of the cross, we are led on a journey of faith through life, to meet and serve the needs of others and to discover God in our midst.

We do lots of wonderful things for so many people in so much need. We constantly are collecting towards various causes, take up offerings for others, and have opportunities for direct involvement.

I am not saying that this Little Free Food Pantry or future garden is any better than all those other ministries in which we are involved, but they are just ... different. There is something about this more direct interaction in maintaining or nurturing food for the hungry.

There is something about its visibility to our neighbors and community. This is all happening during the liturgical time known as 'Ordinary Time' marked by the color green. In the past, this time was known as Kingdomeide, and that may be more appropriate.

For there is nothing ordinary about these green Sundays. Rather these are the days and weeks of growth when we live into our faith. These are the days and weeks when from the foot of the cross, through the journey of a life of faith, we are led to meet the needs of others and discover God in our midst.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*

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
Donna Hammond.....	22
Sean Brown.....	23
Julie Sciolino.....	25
Pat Loesch.....	27
Ruth Munson.....	27
Bob Varian.....	27
Anne Merritt.....	28
Barb Mitchell.....	28

July Birthdays

Patty Keller.....	2
Pam Elberson.....	2
Leanne Paddock.....	3
Ann Burdette.....	4
Sharon Ferrelli.....	4
Katheen Cady.....	5
Peggy Nye.....	6
Frank Parette.....	11
Frank Willhauck.....	11
Tom Nye.....	14
Hannah Smith.....	16
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	Dave Bechtel.....	27
James Jeurgens.....	6	Sandy Cumming.....	27
Helen Peacock.....	6	Mary Loliger.....	27
Jeremiah Cordero.....	15	Christopher Pollard.....	27
Nancy Hess.....	23	John Yungbluth.....	30

If you would like to add your birthday and/or anniversary to the list, please contact the church office 839-2460 or Barb Mitchell 839-2435

June Anniversaries



Dave & Patti Bechtel	June 07, 1971
Woody & Jan Rhinehart	June 09, 1956
Scott & Viki Smith.....	June 15, 1985
Frank & Nancy Annunziata.....	June 19, 2009
Alan & Joan Lesswing.....	June 20, 1953
Greg & Donna Yungbluth	June 20, 1981
Charles & Joanne Gilbert.....	June 22, 1968
Daven & Lianne Oskvig.....	June 28, 2002

July Anniversaries



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

August Anniversaries



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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

The Children's Ministry Team extends their appreciation to families, children, and adults who attended our garden flag making activity on May 2. We are hoping to plan another creative activity for September. Our goal is to offer a monthly "bring a young person to church" activity instead of weekly Sunday school. The CUMC Education webpage will have new



content over the summer with more details. Please give feedback to the Children's Ministry Team by emailing Lisa Lawson (lgart@roadrunner.com) with photos, videos and artwork, plus creations from the website activities! Please give feedback to the CM Team if you created anything from the website!





When we welcomed Janelle Martin to our staff in November of 2013, we had no idea how essential she would become to the people of Christ Church. She has been the welcoming, melodious voice that answered the phone, even on hectic days. From creating bulletins and beautiful Power Points for worship, to producing weekly updates, to organizing the life of our church, to adapting to the leadership styles of four pastors – BJ, Darryl, Jim, and Daven – Janelle has met the challenges with grace, love, and humor. Administration wasn't

her only job, though. As Janelle has coordinated traveled to Uganda twice served as a wedding behind the scenes with



our Ministry Assistant, Make a Difference Day, with our mission team, planner, and assisted funerals, memorial

services, and receptions. Beyond that, she has become part of the Christ Church family by serving at Harvest Dinner, modeling in a UMW fashion show, and joining in renewal and laughter at women's weekends. Last September, we celebrated her upcoming marriage to Jeremiah Davis with a pandemic- style bridal shower in the church parking lot, and their ceremony was held in our sanctuary. As Janelle leaves the staff at Christ Church for the challenges and rewards of her new job, we offer our gratitude for all she has meant to Christ Church and our prayers go with her as she begins a new chapter in her journey. This is not good-bye, though. Janelle plans to continue the friendships she has made at Christ Church and to join us from time to time for gatherings.



United Methodist Women of
Christ Church
invite you to a Church-wide
BYOP
(Bring Your Own Picnic)
Sunday July 18, after Worship

(Rain Date: Sunday August 8th)

**Please Bring Your Lunch, Beverage, and
a Comfortable Lawn Chair**

Tables will be set up outside
Games and Activities for All Ages
This will be a time to relax, chat, and
have some fun!
Family and Friends are Welcome!

**To keep everyone healthy, appropriate
COVID-19 protocols will be in place.**



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

Finance Update

To date, we have received the following for Special Offerings:

Easter Sunday	\$1206
UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)	\$921
Native American Awareness	\$161
Golden Cross	\$135

Again, our thanks for your continued support of Christ Church!

- **The Finance Team**



**Cleaning
Crew**



**Spring
Clean-up**



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Mac Sabol upon his death May 4, 2021. He and Julianna, his wife, are past members of Christ Church and blessed us with their beautiful solo voices as members of our choir.



Since February 2009, Dave Wolf has been our custodian at Christ Church. He spent untold hours cleaning, repairing, clearing sidewalks, running errands, setting up for meetings and events, putting everything back afterward, and tending to countless other tasks that need to be cared for in a large and busy church building. Dave could also be found working the sound board for midweek gatherings, such as memorial services, and would rearrange his schedule to help out with evening and weekend events at Christ Church. He often helped community groups who use our building to find their way around and feel at home. Quiet, but friendly, you could always count on him for a good conversation when you had the opportunity to work side by side with him. Dave loves to talk about his family, his beloved cats, his church (St Paul's Lutheran in Eggertsville), and growing up in Amherst. If you haven't discovered this already, he is a history buff. He has sung in the Amherst Central Alumni Chorale and lent his singing talents to our Spooktacular Variety Show at Christ Church a few years ago to raise funds for missions. We are thankful for all the ways Dave cared for our building and, especially, the way he cared for people, making Christ Church a welcoming place. We have missed his presence at Christ Church since he became ill last August and pray that his healing continues.



We are excited to welcome **Michael Andolina** to the staff of Christ Church as our Custodian / Cleaner. 31 years old, Michael lives nearby in Cheektowaga near the Galleria. He has most recently been involved with construction, including with Christ Church's very own Dick Radel. Michael is mainly present at Christ Church in the mornings during the week.

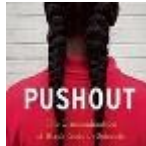
Upper New York Conference-United Methodist Women



Virtual Mission U July 22-24
Bearing Witness in the Kingdom
Living into the Church's Moral
Witness through Radical Discipleship



**Pushout: The Criminalization
of Black Girls in Schools**



**Finding Peace in
an Anxious World**



**Mission U studies are learning
opportunities for everyone!**

This year's virtual event is a great way to learn without the usual travel and expense.

A nominal fee will cover costs. Watch your e-mail and Weekly Update for details.

Study books are available in paperback and digital formats through a number of vendors.

Please contact Peggy Bermudez at (716) 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com with any questions .

CIRCLE NEWS



Circle of Joy will meet:

7pm on Thursday, June 24 at Diane Klenk's home to have a conversation about the book *I'll Push You* by Justin Skeesuck and Patrick Gray.

Also **10a mon Saturday, July 10** in church parking lot to carpool to Griffis Sculpture Park

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, June 8** at **1pm** at Donna Hammond's home, **82 Huntleigh Cir.** for our year-end lunch outing. **BYOL** (Bring your own lunch.) Beverages will be provided.

June Sermon Series

Notes from Rev. Oskvig

Scholar Walter Brueggemann published the book *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Anxiety* just as we really entered the pandemic crisis. Extended to me by a colleague, this book provided interesting Biblical insights, interpretations, and learnings applicable to our situation. I have introduced a little from it in other settings but have sought to find a way to share it more broadly. So, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in June I will use some of the passages and concepts highlighted by Brueggemann as a basis for our worship and a way to hear, in the midst of what we continue to endure, the Good News.

Summer Sermon Series

Back by popular demand is the Summer Sermon Series based on passages of scriptures submitted by you! These could be favorite and beloved scriptures, ones that confound and befuddle, or simply the challenge to stump the Pastor. Please submit suggestions to Pastor Daven by phone, mail, or email - revdwoskvig@gmail.com.



CUMC and the Reconciling Ministries Network



A team has formed to explore CUMC's joining the Reconciling Ministries Network. RMC works to advance justice and inclusion for all LGBTQ people in the United Methodist Church and beyond. Becoming a Reconciling Congregation would enable our Church to outwardly express our love and acceptance of all.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 7pm** in person in the Café and via Zoom. All are welcome to attend this meeting!

Please contact Brad Loliger at bradloliger@gmail.com with any further questions and for the link to the Zoom meeting.

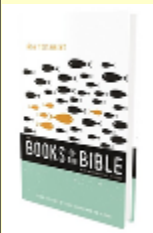
SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM

Want to shake up the way you read the Bible?

Take the New Testament Challenge

The New Testament Challenge is a simple but revolutionary idea:

What if you have a New Testament **with the books arranged in a disruptive yet insightful sequence**, and you are challenged to read it all the way through?



This is a 40-day reading plan which uses a special edition of the New Testament called ***The Books of the Bible, New Testament***. By reading this Bible, which arranges the books with each of the four gospels at the beginning of a group of related books, you gain insights and make connections between books in a way that is both revealing and fascinating. You will encounter God in a fresh new way!

Christ Church will offer two opportunities to participate in this study on Zoom:

Wednesdays, June 2-23, 7:00 pm

Facilitators: Beth Reilly Brown & Paula Kreib

Thursdays, June 3 -24, 1:00 pm

Facilitators: Diane Klenk & 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. Available for an in-person meeting at church (except June 22, June 29, July 6 and July 20) or on YouTube via our website (every Tuesday).

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

Missions of the Month

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

Exciting news.....



A little food pantry is coming to CUMC! It will be a custom made cabinet which will be located near the parking lot entrance of the church and will make available non-perishable items as well as hygiene items for those who need them. A little pantry is a small, weatherproof space into which anyone may place food available to anyone 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The pantry will act as an emergency food assistance gap-filler, will be open when traditional providers close, will serve those too ashamed to utilize emergency food assistance, and for those who do not qualify for means-tested assistance.

We will keep you informed of upcoming developments and needs as they occur.



Work in progress



Thank you everyone who contributed to the Hearts for the Homeless food drive at the end of April. Together we sent a large carload of food to help feed the homeless and to support Hearts for the Homeless and their mission.

Please remember that they continue to collect gently used clothing in the red receptacle in our parking lot.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Exploring the Scriptures-Noon (in person or on YouTube) UMW Board 1p	2 Feasting on the Word (on website) New Testament Challenge 7p on Zoom	3 New Testament Challenge 1p on Zoom	4 Books We Have Loved 11a	5
6 Worship 10a	7	8 Exploring the Scriptures-Noon (in person or on YouTube) Elizabeth Circle—1p	9 Feasting on the Word (on website) New Testament Challenge 7p on Zoom	10 New Testament Challenge 1p on Zoom	11	12
13 Worship 10a	14	15 Exploring the Scriptures-Noon (in person or on YouTube) Outreach Team 7p Trustees 7:30p	16 Feasting on the Word (on website) New Testament Challenge 7p on Zoom	17 New Testament Challenge 1p on Zoom SPR Team 7p	18 Memorial Service: Marcia Miller 10:30a	19
20 Worship 10a 	21	22 Exploring the Scriptures-Noon (on YouTube only)	23 Feasting on the Word (on website) New Testament Challenge 7p on Zoom	24 New Testament Challenge 1p on Zoom Circle of Joy 7p	25	26
27 Worship 10a	28	29 Exploring the Scriptures-Noon (on YouTube only)	30 Feasting on the Word (on website)	2021		

Annual Conference (virtual) June 17-19