

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
Julie LoTempio
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

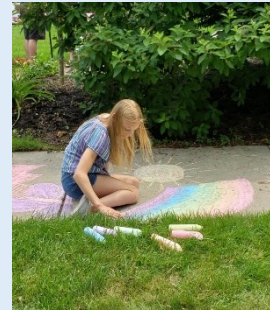
Office Closed Monday, September 6



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

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

The Caller



BYOP

Bring Your Own Picnic

July 18, 2021



September 2021



As we return from the relaxed realities of the summer, we do so in a tenuous period of 'now-and-not-yet' in the ever- evolving conditions of what are the best practices in keeping all safe and healthy. While this newsletter presents our hopes in 'Making Connections and Offering Opportunities in Faith, Love, and Service', we may again face the need to adapt our presentation and execution of these missions and ministries. This should not, however, delay the call to action that arrives with this month and the onset of fall. To this end, the epistle of James prompts us to action.

One verse that captures the essence of James' practical treatise on active Christian living is "... be doers of the word, and not merely hearers ..." (1:22.) Martin Luther took issue with James because he felt that the epistle leaned toward a 'works' theology instead of one that centered on faith/grace. In other words, Luther thought that the letter encouraged an understanding of gaining favor with God based on what one did/how one acted. The foundation of this *doing* in the epistle, however, is based upon having received God's grace, faith in God through Christ. While works get us no closer to God, because of what we believe we can do *no less* than act certain ways. Essentially James is seeking an attitude adjustment for believers who already know what they should be doing based on what they believe. He is saying, "don't just play church, pretending to be a follower of Christ or saying you are a disciple, but do it!" In other words, live up to and into the faith you claim no matter the conditions. This is why James states that faith without action is dead, and likewise that action without faith has nothing to steer it.

Let these powerful practical words fall upon open and receptive ears whatever be the realities we face. May our worship, ministry, and mission, whether in person, virtual, hybrid, or whatever new mode may arise by the movement of the Holy Spirit, not be empty rituals but the foundation of the motivation to live up to and into the faith we claim. It is time not just to play church or delay church, but *to do* and *to be* the church.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*

September Birthdays



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

September Anniversaries



Herb & Jane Darling	September 08, 1956
Tom & Kathy Weaver	September 08, 1984
Jeremiah & Michelle Cordero.....	September 12, 2014
Herb & Nora Townsend Wilber	September 21, 1990
Greg & Phyllis Maliken	September 22, 1979
Frank & Linda Parete	September 27, 1975

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

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Joe Day, his family and friends, upon the death of Carolyn Day on June 30, 2021.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Joan Lesswing upon her death on July 22, 2021.

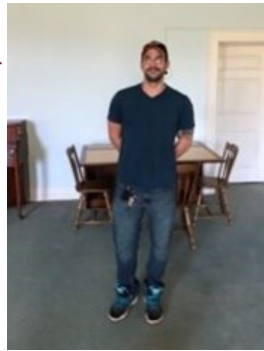
We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Shirley Downey upon her death on August 8, 2021.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Dennis Scaringi, his family and friends, upon the death of his brother Gay on August 8, 2021.



Welcome

Julie LoTempio
New Office Manager
(in the temporary office)



Michael Andolina
New Custodian



Thank you!

Thanks to our "resident painters"
Pat Noyes, Bob Lovell, and Ed Gilbert for all
they have done to spruce up our church.



THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS who have been mopping up the floods
in the Youth Hall in the basement. Flooding problems caused by
broken drain tiles outside have been occurring after heavy rains.



THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH



Spiritual Formation Team

Sundays after Worship (AOL):

Finding Our Faith in the Midst of Chaos (*Where is God When \$#@% Happens?*)

Keeping hope alive through personal, community, and global crises challenges our faith and belief systems. We'll consider current events, how they affect our faith, and where we see God at work in the midst of chaos.

Sundays at 11am in the Wesley Room beginning September 12th.

Exploring Sunday Scriptures: Join Rev. Oskvig in a conversation about the scripture which will be explored in the sermon on the following Sunday.

Tuesdays at Noon at Christ Church (safety protocols will be in place) and a recorded version will continue to be offered on YouTube at CUMCAMherst

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

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



How Happiness Happens:

Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations
by Max Lucado

September 23 – October 28

Facilitator: **Diane Klenk**

Books and Study Guides available through Christ Church



Children's Ministry Team

Welcome back to a new version of children's ministry (*FaithxPress*) at Christ Church. This will be for families with children to explore the scriptures with activities every month starting

in September. The theme is "Take a Walk with God." We invite everyone to Crafts Hall on September 19 at 11:00 after worship.

Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women

ANNUAL MEETING



Christ United Methodist Church

350 Saratoga Road
Amherst, NY 14226

Saturday, September 25, 2021

1:30 Doors Open

2:00 Business Meeting

3:00 Program

“Keepers of the Faith”

Speaker: **Rev. Vivian Waltz**, United Methodist Deacon
Director of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak
Center for Nonviolence

“**Sometimes Small Steps Get Us Further Along**”

****FREE****

Live-stream also available on YouTube at CUMCAmherst
If attending in person, RSVP no later than
Monday, September 20th to:

Peggy Bermudez
58 Gatewood Lane
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 626-4897

bradbermudez@hotmail.com



To keep everyone safe, COVID-19 precautions will be observed:

Please do not attend if you are feeling ill.

No food or refreshments will be served.

Please wear a mask.

Hand sanitizer will be available.

The business meeting and program will be held in the sanctuary.

Voting items and agenda will be sent via e-mail
prior to the meeting.

Offering baskets will be placed at the back of the sanctuary.

The offering is designated for the **SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak
Center for Nonviolence**. Checks made payable to
[Niagara Frontier District UMW](#)

COVID Restriction Update!

With changing guidance from the CDC, the Upper New York
Conference has advised that masks be worn by all individuals for
indoor gatherings.

FINANCE TEAM

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

Golden Cross: \$180

Peace With Justice: \$171

Our income has remained quite stable over the summer months and
we thank all of you very much for your support.

We received a special gift of more than \$16,900 for Capital
Improvements. The Trustees, working with the Finance Team, will
make sure the projects with the most need will be funded by this
amazing gift!

CUMC Finance Team

The September meeting of **Books We Have Loved** will be held in
the **Wesley Room at 11 am on Friday, September 10th**. This
meeting will be the start of our September to June
monthly get-togethers to discuss books each of us
has enjoyed over the previous month. We look
forward to seeing everyone on the 10th! As usual,
newcomers are always welcome.



“When you help others live better,
it’s your life that gets better.”



Check out the new **CARDS FOR CARING** selections in the cafe. Send
someone blessings for a great day!



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet at church to carpool to Niawanda
Park for a walk down by the river on Tuesday, September
14 at 1p. (weather permitting)



To Sing or not to Sing, that is the Question. Keep checking the
weekly updates to see what will be decided.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Saturday, September 18, 2021 9:00 am – noon

We will be gathering items for:



Non-Perishable Food Items
and Personal Care items



& Christ Church Little Free Food Pantry

Clothing, Shoes, Blankets



“Coats 4 Kids”

Coats, Hats, Gloves, Scarves, and Boots for Children
(gently used with working snaps and zippers)

School Supplies for Our New Neighbors:

New Backpacks	Hand Sanitizer (small)
Kleenex (small packs)	Unsharpened Pencils
Pencil Sharpener	Blue Pens
Zipper Pencil Bags	Composition Books
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper	1” Three Ring Binders
3 Subject Spiral Notebooks	Glue Sticks
Yellow Highlighters	Crayons
Colored Pencils	Folders with Pockets



Seneca
Street
Church

Team Activities:

Prepare a meal for the neighborhood

Crafting for a Cause

Make No-Sew Fleece Hats for local organizations



Document Shredding



Safely destroy documents containing
sensitive information.

Volunteer Sign-ups will be posted by September 1st.

Please bring your own lunch and join in a conversation at the
end of the event!

Mental Health Team

Caring Communities and “Creation Continues”


The UM Book of Discipline defines a Caring Community as a



congregation with a focus on mental health ministry. Mental Health is described there as a state of well-being. It's described as a state in which the individual becomes conscious of his or her own abilities. Mental health is described there as the realization of one's true identity as a being created and conceived in the

image of God (Genesis 1:27,) a being inseparable from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39.) How shall ordinary congregations become these, called for, mental health focused, “Caring Communities”? To help us think about an answer to that question, Fritz Kunkel's book “Creation Continues, A Psychological Interpretation of the Gospel of Matthew” takes the reader on a remarkable and helpful exploration. He helps the reader to see more clearly how the resurrection power of Christ can be traced like a rainbow in the rainstorms of life, through all our own trials, challenges, and crises, and everyone else's too. Kunkel's book takes us on a tour through Matthew's Gospel showing us how people and their crises are part of God's continuing creation. Kunkel shows us how in God's Creation, described in Genesis, we can see anew in Jesus, and now we see anew in us too. Kunkel's book is empowering and important for those who now find themselves in a struggle, or who are called to minister to those in crises.

In a series of creative videos with engaging narration and thought-provoking images, Dr. David Pliss guides us through Kunkel's book. With Kunkel's direction we discover the outer journey is not the whole picture, and see how so much of life's struggle takes place within us. Slowly we learn that caring communities come from ordinary congregations because being mere followers of Jesus is not enough. Creation continues, and we're a part of its movement, passing through the crises of our lives in the light of Matthew's Gospel. And as Caring Communities, we can learn to help others in the times of trial, pass through the crises of their lives, too, to become the integrated persons and the Beloved Communities God would have us be. The videos will be available on our YouTube channel: CUMCAmherst.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Feasting on the Word (on website)	2	3	4
5 Worship 10a	6  LABOR DAY Office Closed	7 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) UMW Leadership Team 1p Church Council 7p	8 Feasting on the Word (on website) American Association of University Women 6:15p Choir 7p?	9 Amherst Nursery School Parents' meeting 6:30p	10 Books We Have Loved 11a	11
12 Worship 10a AOL Finding Our Faith in the Midst of Chaos 11a	13 Deadline for Oct/Nov Caller	14 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) Elizabeth Circle 1p Finance Team 7p	15 Feasting on the Word (on website) Choir 7p?	16 SPR Team 7p	17	18 MADD (Make a Difference Day) 9-noon
19 Worship 10a Family Faith Journey 11a AOL Finding Our Faith in the Midst of Chaos 11a Greater Buffalo Youth String Orchestra 2:15p	20 Greater Buffalo Youth String orchestra 6:15p	21 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) Outreach Team 7p Trustees 7:30p	22 Feasting on the Word (on website)  Autumn Begins Choir 7p?	23 Thirstaid Thursdays 1-2:30p	24	25 Fraser (Mitch) Mooney Memorial Service 11a Niagara Frontier District UNW Annual Meeting 1:30p
26 Worship 10a AOL Finding Our Faith in the Midst of Chaos 11a Greater Buffalo Youth String Orchestra 2:15p	27 Greater Buffalo Youth String orchestra 6:15p	28 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line)	29 Feasting on the Word (on website) Choir 7p?	30 Thirstaid Thursdays 1-2:30p	