

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love, and service"

Worship 10 am

Education Hour – 11 am

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE

Pastor

Rev. Daven Oskvig

Office Administrator

Sarah Wachowski

Minister of Music

Nicholas Steltzer

Financial Secretary

Doris Schanzlin

Custodian

Michael Andolina

350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Phone: (716) 839-2460

www.christchurchamherst.org E-mail: Cumc350@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-2pm

Office closed Monday, April 10, and Monday, May 29



The Caller

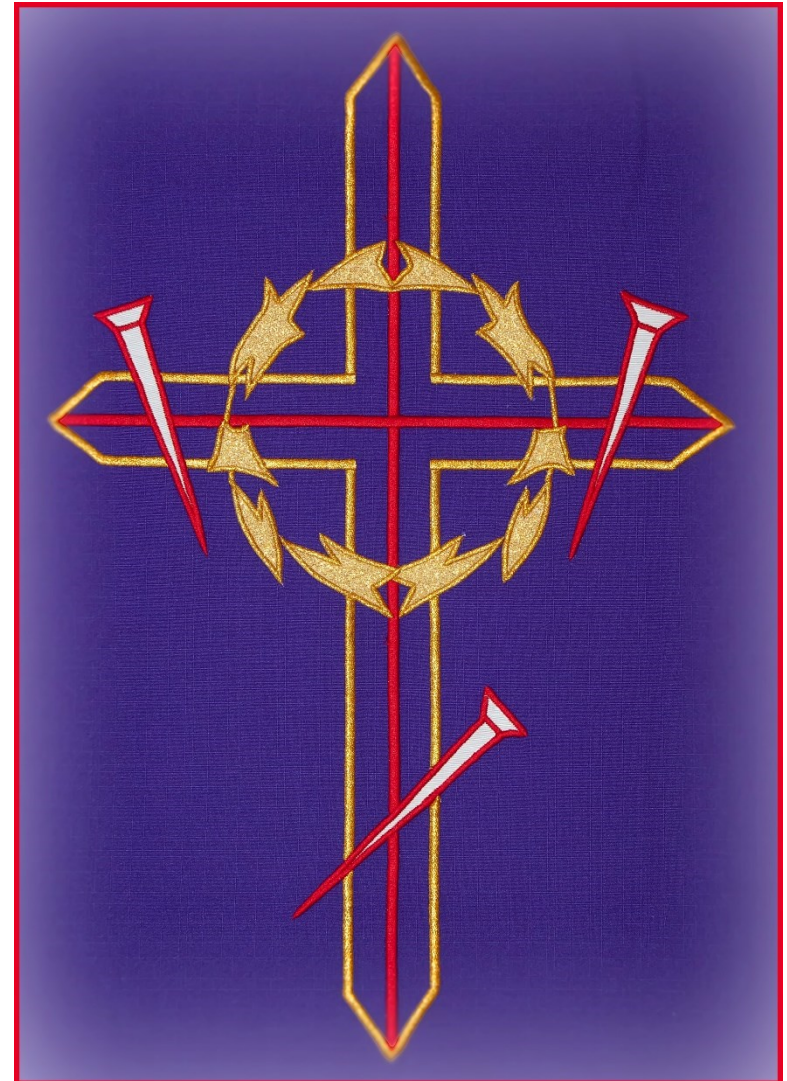


Photo by Ian Webber

June, July, August 2023
Caller Deadline:
Saturday, May 13
to
caller350@yahoo.com or
bbmitch@verizon.net

Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell
(716) 839-2435 or bbmitch@verizon.net

April/May 2023



As we celebrate the Resurrection the first Sunday of April. In the weeks that follow we are challenged to explore how far from the morning of resurrection we get before we return to 'normal.' Is it just a couple of miles down the road following worship, a few days later, maybe a little more than a week? Jesus, following that holy morning when the tomb was found empty, points toward a time of waiting (Luke 24:49). But this instruction is not to give time for safety to come, or the celebrations to be past, or for the pain and mourning to ease. In other words, this was not to give time to return to normal. Rather, this was a time of discernment, to move toward a new normal. As the apostles met, prayed, and stayed together trying to figure out what life would be like now, they needed time to explore what ministry would be like, what form it would take as they waited for the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was to get past what it had been like growing up or even when Jesus walked with them. Now would be unique to the present and future as Jesus was then. How would they help others hear the word of God in their lives and be open to it in their hearts for the transformation of their world?

Yet we often, in fear of the change that will come by following the Spirit and how that will be different than it has been, either turn away or simply get stuck in this waiting phase of our journey. This time of waiting, a time between times, is essential as we prepare for what lies ahead. But the Biblical narrative, and especially the account of the events following Christ's resurrection and the beginning of the church, is one of change. Think of how many people's lives are transformed and changed in the Bible, a history of a people changed by faith written down. This is our story. We are the authors of the next chapter. This is not a static and past-determined reality. Our chapter should not repeat what has come before, but be something entirely new as Jesus is embodied in us for our present. We must use this time to consider how we are being challenged to proclaim God's word in new and different ways, and while difficult, leave old ones behind. This will mean that things might sound different or look different which is uncomfortable. If

April Birthdays



Kathy Weaver	5
Charles Gilbert.....	6
Larry Burdette	10
Don Critoph	10
Mary Jane Nehrboss.....	12
Al Tolsma	13
Daven Oskvig.....	15
Drew Smith.....	21
David Lawson	22
Pamela Gibson.....	23
Doris Schanzlin	26
Benjamin Weaver.....	30

May Birthdays

Roger Johnson	2
Mary Ball.....	13
Herb Darling.....	13
Jordan Lawson	14
Kristen Darling	18
Rebecca Lopez	21
Ryan Lopez.....	21
Scott Smith.....	21
Sally Pollard	22
Ed Gilbert	23
Pastor Theva	24
Christopher Maliken	27
Jacob Rhinehart	28
Richard Radel.....	30
Alexander Juergens	31

April Anniversaries

Brad & Mary Loliger.....	April 7, 2018
Bob & Ann Lovell	April 29, 2006

May Anniversaries



Greg & Lynn Ramsey	May 4, 1984
Roger & Dede Johnson.....	May 10, 1986
John & Pam Lopez	May 21, 1994

If you would like to add your birthday and/or anniversary to the list, please contact the church office at (716) 839-2460 or Barb Mitchell at (716) 839-2435

We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Harriet Dokken, a past member of CUMC, who passed on February 1, 2023.

We also wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to Pamela Gibson upon the death of her mother Marjory Gibson on February 28, 2023.

we can help



Tiger's Den food pantry is running very low on inventory. The number of families relying on the pantry has been increasing each month and we could really use your help restocking our shelves! Requests for April and May include **rice, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, soup, and paper products.**

Thank you for your generosity.

Little Food Pantry



- Canned Fruit
- Canned protein: tuna, chicken, ham
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal Canisters
- Canned Soup
- Cooking Oil
- Toothpaste

Drop your items off in the bins in the Church Office Hallway.

Downsizing? Moving? Organizing?

If you find **books, puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs, or audiobooks**, please **donate them now** to the giant **Used Book Sale** made famous by the **Buffalo Branch of the American Association of University Women**. Proceeds from the sale fund scholarships and interest-free loans for women from WNY pursuing higher education, as well as community and national AAUW programs.



The sale will be **May 31-June 4** at a location to be announced. Before then the books are sorted into approx. 30



categories in preparation. Drop off books on **Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, (9 am to 1 pm) at 80 Earhart Dr. Ste. 4, Williamsville between Wehrle and Lawrence Bell**

Dr. Look for the Inducon Pk. sign. Ste. 4 is on the right side of Bldg. 80. For information speak to Karen Hoffmann or Julie Wisley, call 716-812-4008 or 716-832-4119, or email Buffalo.AAUW@gmail.com.



this is how we reach others with this Good News, then let us pray for the Spirit to give us confidence to undertake the change.

The gift of the Spirit will come. What will we do with it? Share it? Proclaim it? Reach others with it? Or walk away from it? Now is the time to prepare for the great awakening to God's love possibly by opening ourselves to where, how, and to whom we are being called. We stay, but as followers of the Risen Lord, we do not remain.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*

Holy Week Observances

Maundy Thursday

As we collaborate on Holy Week worship with the Williamsville United Methodist Church, we will gather in person for a Maundy Thursday Worship @ 7 pm on April 6, 2023, at Williamsville UMC 5681 Main St. which is also live-streamed on YouTube @wumctech1722.

Good Friday

Good Friday will continue the offerings of Music & Meditation again in collaboration with Williamsville UMC. The readings will align with the focus of Good Friday on the Passion with the candlelit contemplative setting, ideal for this introspective holy time.

Sabbatical Leave

The Lilly endowment National Clergy Renewal Program is a grant which provides an uninterrupted, extended leave for a period of renewal and reflection to the pastor and congregation for regaining enthusiasm and creativity in ministry. This represents our 3rd application for this program with notice of awards to be on August 31, 2023. Under the "Watch + Read" tab on the website in the Blog is a description of the program and includes the nature and scope of that program, along with the proposal. This would take place during the summer of 2024.



United Women in Faith

Easter Treats Fundraiser

Sunday, April 2, following Palm Sunday worship
Purchase Homemade Baked Goods for Your Easter Celebration!



All proceeds will benefit UWF Programs and Missions

Sugar & Spice Evening

Family History Night
Friday, May 19, 7:00 pm
"What's Your Story?"

Bring items that tell your family story.
Refreshments will be served. ALL are welcome!

CHRIST CHURCH UWF 2023



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sunday, July 16 – All Church Picnic (Rain Date: July 23)
Saturday, October 21, 2:00 pm - UWF Tea

PLEDGES TO UWF

Your pledges to United Women in Faith support missions for women, children and youth globally, nationally and locally. Pledges for 2023 are still being accepted. If you have not pledged already, please mail your pledge to Diane Klenk, 227 Enez Dr, Depew, NY 14043.



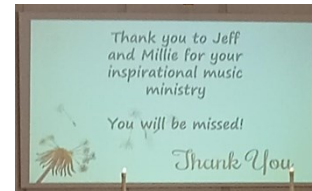
CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 11 at 1 pm.**
Skylar Schurr from **Hearts for the Homeless** will provide the program. Valari Zanghi is the devotion and dessert hostess. We will meet **Tuesday, May 9 at 1 pm in the church parking lot to carpool to the History Museum for a tour.**
Circle of Joy will meet **Thursday, May 4 at 7p** at the home of Peggy Bermudez.

A Note of Thanks...

Thanks to all of the members of Christ Church for your kind words, thoughts, prayers, and cards in December and January after the passing of our beloved husband and grandfather, Robert Hoak. The loss of a loved one is never easy, but It is so wonderful to be part of a church that cares so deeply for each and every person, especially at times of grief and loss.

-Linda Hoak & Brad Loliger



February 26,2023
Last Sunday
Thank you!



March 5, 2023
First Sunday
Welcome to Nic Steltzer!

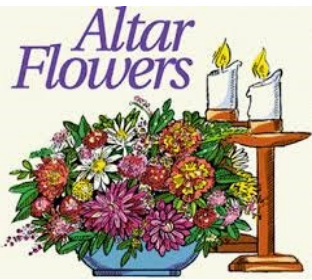
Baptism and New Members

It was a joy to celebrate the baptism of Robert Hendricks along with welcoming Alison, Brad, and Amelia Hendricks into membership recently. The whole family adds energy and vibrancy to worship and life at Christ Church which is blessed to have them.



Congratulations to **Janelle Davis** (former office administrator) and her husband, **Jeremiah**, as they await the arrival of their bundle of joy in June.





Is there an event that you wish to commemorate? Perhaps a loved one is having a birthday or anniversary? Would you like to honor the memory of someone who has passed? You can show your appreciation or your memories by dedicating our altar flowers to that person or event. There is a

calendar in the Family Room where you may select a special date by providing your name and phone number. Someone from the Worship Committee will contact you to get the information and later, to remind you of your date selection. You may choose the kind of flowers, the colors, the price, and the size of the bouquet you prefer. *God's beauty in flowers complements our worship.*

Remembering Your Church

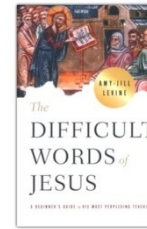
For many people, the ability to make a gift to their church in their will is a source of comfort and great satisfaction. They know that long after they are gone, the ministries of their beloved faith community will still thrive and grow, in part because of their generosity.

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, charitable annuity trusts, or IRA distributions.

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

Spiritual Formation Team

AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning



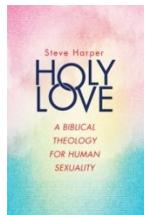
Difficult Words of Jesus by Amy Jill Levine
Sundays in April in the Wesley Room following worship
(no meeting Easter Sunday)

Sometimes Jesus taught things that we find confusing and contrary. Levine examines how instructions about hating your parents, selling what you own, referring to "your father the devil," and more have been understood over time, and can be interpreted within the context of the gospel.

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

Holy Love, a Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality

by Steve Harper strives to articulate the truth about the teachings of the Bible and Wesleyan tradition on human sexuality, making the case that biblical, Christian teaching is compatible with faithful, covenantal love and intimacy amidst all sexual orientations.



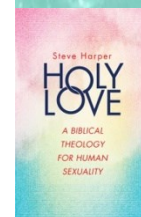
Sundays in May in the Wesley Room following worship.

Exploring Sunday Scriptures: posted on YouTube and an in person opportunity on Tuesdays at Noon

Join Rev. Oskvig in a conversation about the scripture 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

Thirstaid



Holy Love, a Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality

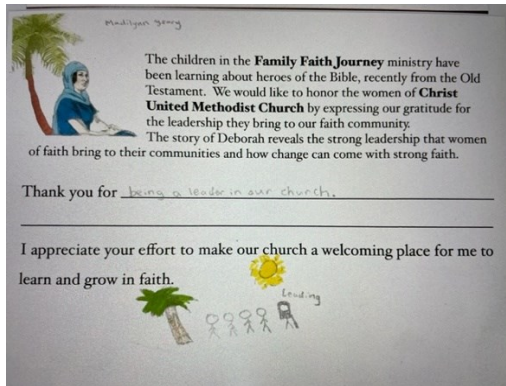
by Steve Harper strives to articulate the truth about the teachings of the Bible and Wesleyan tradition on human sexuality, making the case that biblical, Christian teaching is compatible with faithful, covenantal love and intimacy amidst all sexual orientations.

Thursdays in May from 1:00 – 2:30 pm on Zoom

Children's Ministry News



April—June 2023
New Testament Heroes
Note: No session on Easter
Sunday, April 9



From Church Council Leader Brad Loliger

Meet the Teams, Continued!

We hope you have been enjoying our moments before worship introducing the leadership teams for our many teams at Christ Church Amherst. More chairpeople will be telling you about their teams in the coming weeks; we hope you will consider joining a team in the future!

Reconciling Ministries Update

Christ Church Amherst is celebrating one year as a Reconciling Congregation! This means that we as a congregation are a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which is committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church. If you would like to learn more or would like to sign up to become a Reconciling Individual, visit rmnetwork.org or see Brad Loliger.

Worship Leadership

Would you be interested in participating in worship through reading scripture, leading the Call to Worship & Prayer for Illumination? Pastor Daven is compiling a list and schedule of those who have already done so and looking for all who are interested. The commitment would be 2-3x per year. Let Pastor Daven know if you are interested.

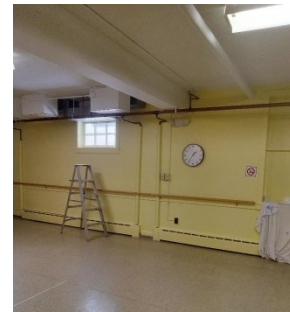
Finance Team Update

Your February 2nd Sunday, 2nd Offering was for Blanket Sunday and was a very generous \$468.

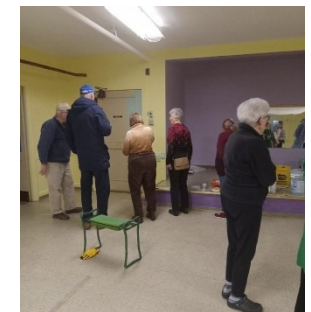
The March 2nd Sunday, 2nd Offering was for the Reconciling Ministries Network and was \$142.

Thank you all,
CUMC Finance Team

Sprucing Up Youth Hall



Thank you to Bob Lovell, Ed Gilbert, and Pat Noyes for being our "resident painters." We appreciate all the work you do for our church!



Members of Elizabeth Circle viewing the improvements and "helping" choose an accent color.

Lenten Season

Lent is a season of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days of Lent represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

Finance Team Update

The Finance Team is pleased to share the **year end financial performance** for the calendar **year 2022**

Income:

Total Contributions	\$225,512
Misc. Income including bldg. use	<u>33,952</u>
Total Income	\$259,464

Expenses:

Conference Contributions	\$ 37,741
Pastoral & Staff Salaries	151,571
Employer Taxes & Expenses	9,862
Administrative Expenses	7,210
Bldg. Grounds & Utilities	46,168
Other Expenses	<u>11,636</u>
Total Expenses	\$264,188
Excess Income/Expenses	\$ -4,723

Despite the impact of the Covid pandemic, the Church performed better than expected when compared to the 2022 budget anticipated loss.



The Finance Team wishes to share a summary of our **2023 budget** with you as a congregation member.

Income:

Contribution Income	\$226,747
Miscellaneous income and space use	<u>47,200</u>
Total Income	\$273,947

Expenses:

Conference Exp (shared ministries)	\$ 37,210
Pastor & Staff Salaries	162,713
Employer taxes & Expenses	10,572
Administrative & Supply esp.	6,775
Utilities & Building Maintenance	48,086
Teams, Christian Education & Ministry	<u>6,050</u>
Total Expenses	\$271,406
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 2,541

Stewardship Team

As we continue to look for ways to be better Stewards of God's world, we thought we would offer these new ways to **Recycle and Upcycle** those things which might otherwise end up in landfills.

Did you know that there are now several **Textile Recycling Bins (green bins)** located in and around our area?

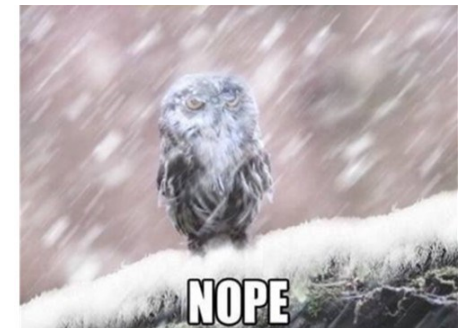
They accept all manner of clothing, shoes and boots, purses, backpacks, bedding, curtains, rugs, towels, and table linens. We chose 4 located in areas in which many of us live and shop:

- Campfire Grill, 3003 Walden Ave., Depew
- 770 Wehrle Dr. between North Forest and Union
- 4997 Harlem Rd. at Sheridan
- Sheridan and Evans in the Evans Plaza.

Did you know that Ladies of Charity, located at 1122 Broadway, operates a Thrift Shop which helps Refugees and those in need here in Buffalo? They are in desperate need of all kinds of home goods such as dinnerware, flatware, pots and pans, cooking utensils, glasses and mugs, small electronics (toasters, hot plates, hand mixers, coffee pots, lamps, clocks, radios) as well as bed linens, blankets and pillows. They are open M-F from 10-2:30 and you merely drive up and let them know you are there to donate items.

Please consider these opportunities as you start your Spring Cleaning. Or may be looking to downsize or just clean out some clutter!

Your planet thanks you..... 😊



Missions of the Month

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

Thank you!

Thank you for your generous support of our Souper Bowl Sunday soup sale. We hope you enjoyed the soup! Together we raised \$576 for local ministries!

Native American Ministries Sunday—April 23

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind us of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this Special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized as we celebrate their special voice in the United Methodist Church. An offering is taken on this day and is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences, and Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries, and communities. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology.

Helping Hands Lending Closet.

Did you know that we have a durable medical supplies lending closet? If you or someone you know is in need of a walker, wheelchair, shower chair, cane etc., you are welcome to borrow one from the closet. It is located near the main entrance of the church. If you have items that you no

longer need and are willing to donate, they may be placed in the lending closet at any time.



Missions of the Month

Hearts for the Homeless Food Drive

“Hearts” is in the process of building a mobile food pantry which will be ***situated in our parking lot*** Monday afternoons beginning late this summer. You are invited to a sneak preview on Tuesday, April 11 at 1:00 pm. Also, in anticipation of the opening of the mobile food pantry, we will be holding a Food drive on Sunday, May 21 from 12-2pm to help stock it.



Crafting for a Cause

You are invited to join us for a cup of tea and some friendly conversation while making a project to benefit others on the second Saturday of the month (April 8, May 13) from 9:00-11:00am. For more information or to let us know you are coming, please see Lee Watson or Diane Klenk.

Food Insecurity

With food prices continuing to rise, more people are finding themselves food insecure. Our Little Food Pantry and Tiger’s Den are both feeling the pressure. Please prayerfully consider bringing a gift of food with you to church on Sunday. Gifts for the pantry may be placed in the pantry or in the tote in the hall. Canned protein (tuna, chicken, ham, peanut butter) Oatmeal Canisters, canned soups, canned Veggies, canned fruit, pasta, toothpaste are needed for the Pantry. Gifts for Tiger’s Den may be placed in the tote by the coat closet labeled Tiger’s Den. Items most in need are cereal, soup, oil, coffee, and tomato products.

Golden Cross Sunday - May 14



A special offering will be received on Mother’s Day, May 14th, for pastoral care at Beechwood Continuing Care. Thank you for your generosity in providing supportive, compassionate spiritual care.