

# 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*  
**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**

**SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**(June 26 to September 6)**

**Monday & Wednesday 9am – 2pm**

**Friday 9am—noon**



# The Caller



**"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."**

# JUNE JULY AUGUST 2023



As I think of the three months which comprise this issue of the Caller, it brings a flood of memories from Iowa and PA Park Chaplaincy to picnics and pools . . . summer is a glorious time! Years of education set the tone for a rhythm to seasons and certain activities and memories within those seasons. No matter our age or stage of life, we carry that same pattern forward.

While we know that Jesus’ public ministry lasted around 3 years, it is not set to a particular season or time-of-the-year. It predated public education and was in a different time/culture/setting than our own, nonetheless I always tend to think of his ministry as largely being in the summer. Maybe it is because of the many episodes beside or on sea and lake, or the walking between villages that draws me to this conclusion. It comes as a curiosity that in our own faith journey, however, summer tends to be a time when we are less connected and involved, at least in the local church. Many of our ‘regular’ activities disband because of the absences and falloff in participation during these months. I know the cause is competing schedules as we seek to squeeze in the reunions, vacations, relaxations, and activities of the season. I wonder, though, if it might also be some sense of spiritual renewal. Like with Jesus’ ministry, potent encounters with God often come outside of the normal rhythms in settings near and far where yet again if we listen, we are taught. Yes, sometimes our call to follow happens in the midst of our work and vocations, but sometimes, perhaps more potently, it comes amid our leisure and relaxation. The point is that wherever we are, God’s grace is knocking on the door of our hearts and lives, waiting for us to answer.

So, I hope that we might all find the time to listen carefully, discern mindfully, and respond robustly in our encounters with the Living Lord wherever that may happen this summer!

*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 Willauck.....	10
Patricia Zaleski.....	12
Samuel Suggs.....	13
Laura Smith.....	17
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
Jean Peterson .....	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
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	Meagan Weaver .....	24
Erin Johnson .....	5	Chris Johnson.....	25
Phyllis Maliken.....	5	Dave Bechtel.....	27
James Juergens.....	6	Sandy Cumming.....	27
Helen Peacock .....	6	Mary Loliger.....	27
Nancy Hess .....	23	Christopher Pollard.....	27
		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 & Pat Bechtel .....	June 07, 1971
Woody & Jan Rhinehart .....	June 09, 1956
Scott & Viki Smith.....	June 15, 1985
Frank & Nancy Annunziata.....	June 19, 2009
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
Chris & Michele Sciolino .....	July 24, 1993

## August Anniversaries



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

## July at Christ Church

As we await an answer at the end of August to our reapplication for the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program which would take place during the summer of 2024, we are piloting some of the aspects of this proposal this summer. This includes an extended time of pastoral renewal and the inclusion of different voices and perspectives leading worship as we seek to live our vision of “Making Connections and Offering Opportunities in Faith, Love, and Service.” This will allow us to sample our ambitions for 2024 and to prepare for/navigate any of the challenges.

So, following strong encouragement from the SPRT, Pastor Daven will be spending the bulk of July away from his normal duties. This is not time off, but specific time for rest and renewal in ministry following such recent challenges as COVID 19, turnover in staff, the sudden death of Paul Staley, and the cancellation of Christmas Eve in 2022. He will be spending this time reengaging his spirit through activities which bring meaning and purpose while also compiling his midweek messages for potential publication as a daily devotional. He remains available for pastoral emergencies, particularly during the second half of this time.

Sharing the Good News with us in worship this summer will be:

June 25 - Peggy Bermudez, Lay Leader, Christ UMC

July 9- Karen Wehn, Instructor of Geology & Physics at ECC & Buffalo State University

July 16 - Deacon Dee Finch, Pastor Seneca St. UMC

July 23 - Brad Loliger, Church Council Chair, Christ UMC

July 30 - Rev. Diann Holt, Executive Director of Durham Baby Cafe & Minister at Durham Memorial AME Zion Church



**MADD (Make a Difference Day)**  
Scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd!

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM

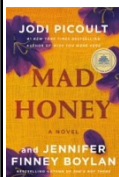
AOL and Thirstaid will not meet during the summer.

Please offer your feedback for Fall Studies, by responding to a team member with your choice from the following:

- Faith and Film
- Wesleyan History
- Bible or Book Study for living faithfully in challenging times

Team Members: Beth Reilly Brown, Janet Cook, Diane Klenk, Peggy Bermudez

### Summer Reading Picks from your Spiritual Formation Team:



**Mad Honey** by Jodi Picoult & Jennifer Finney Boylan

Reconciling Ministries Reading List

A riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves.

### The Wisdom of Morrie: Living and Aging Creatively and Joyfully

by Morrie Schwartz

A great companion to *Tuesdays with Morrie* or the perfect introduction to Morrie's thoughtful philosophies, filled with empathic insights, stories, anecdotes, and advice, told in Morrie's reassuring, calm, and timeless voice. Let The Wisdom of Morrie be your guide in exploring deep questions of how to live and how to love.



### The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

by Kim Michele Richardson

UWF Reading Program

Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, this is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.



Exploring Sunday Scriptures (will not meet in July): posted on YouTube and an in person opportunity on 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 (no postings in July) with Rev. Oskvig – posted Wednesdays on our website: [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org)

## Explanation and Activities of Groups on Monthly Calendar

### Bravo Workshop

This summer Christ Church is honored to host the Bravo Workshop, an International Chamber Music Workshop, July 17-23. This is an exciting week of immersion in chamber music study for outstanding middle, high school, and college violinists, violists, cellists, and pianists. Master classes with well renowned soloists, conductors, and teachers include JoAnn Falletta, Nicci Chooi, Jackie Galluzzo, as well as distinguished members of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Two concerts will be held during the workshop in the Sanctuary at Christ Church, on Wednesday, July 19 @ 7 PM and Sunday, July 23 @ 1 PM. Don't miss this incredible opportunity showcasing the exceptional talent of young people.

### Engineering for Kids

Again this summer Christ Church is hosting Engineering for Kids for three different weeklong camps. The ambition of Engineering for Kids is to tap into the natural curiosity of children which lends itself to science, technology, math, and engineering. Inspiring kids ages 4-14 to build on the innate desire for answers, they explore engineering concepts in a fun, hands-on way.

### Books We Have Loved Book Club

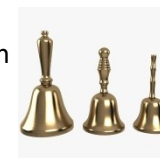
We will meet June 2nd at 11am in the Wesley Room for the last time before summer break. Throughout this past year, members have brought in a variety of books, including "Lessons in Chemistry," "The Personal Librarian," "The Measure," "The Monastic Heart," "Heaven



Changes Everything," as well as many others, both fiction and non-fiction. We look forward to hearing about all the books read over the summer when we meet again Friday, September 8, 2023.

### Handbells

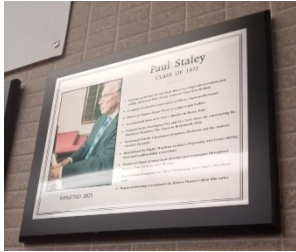
Our new Minister of Music Nic Steltzer is interested in exploring the possibility of expanding our music ministries to include handbells. We are looking to assess if there is an interest in participation in playing handbells before pursuing this further. If you are, please let Nic know!



## Congratulations



Millie with Paul's award



Plaque on the Hall of Fame Wall in Paul's honor at the school.

Photos by Sally Pollard

It is a joy that **Paul Staley** was inducted into the Kenmore East Music Hall of Fame on **April 21, 2023**.

Dear Friends and Staff at CUMC,

Thank you so much for all the thoughtful prayers, beautiful cards, comforting phone calls, and well wishes I received after I broke a bone in my foot in the early spring. Your caring and support really helped to brighten my days! I do hope to be out of my "boot" by June, if not before.

I also appreciate your helping me celebrate my 80th birthday after the church service on Mother's Day! Thank you to Daven for including it in Joys and Concerns, and also to my very thoughtful daughter, Marie Miller, for providing the delicious cake!

God Bless all of you ~

Love,  
Mary Ball



Dear Friends at Christ Church,

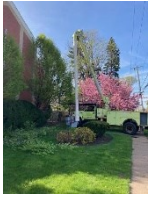
I would like to thank you for all the lovely cards and many nice get well wishes. Things are going well, I'm getting around fine and feeling comfortable in my new residence.

Many thanks in Friendship,  
Betty Kreib

## TRUSTEES UPDATE

Trustees Projects – in the works 2023 . . .

- Removal of old pine trees on Harlem Road side, first step in landscaping improvements
- Restore lawn and beds from sewer work completed last year
- Edge and mulch Celebration Garden
- Replace main sewer line at the Parsonage
- Rehab of chimney on the north side to stop water leaks in Sanctuary and basement classroom
- Steeple light replacement
- New computer for finance office



Photos by Tom Weaver

Spring cleanup day, May 6, "bagged" 19 lawn/leaf bags, 2 garbage cans and 1 full dumpster. Thanks to all who helped with the clean-up!



## MENTAL HEALTH TEAM



**Rock Bottom: Are We There Yet?**  
by Richard Kazmar

This book is a unique opportunity to witness the life of an opiate addict in her own words, her family's response to her addiction, and her eldest daughter's experience as the child of an addict. This book is intended to shed light on the effects of opiate addiction on addicts and families.

If you or someone you love is experiencing addiction, you are not helpless, you are not alone, and there is hope for recovery.

*A copy of this book has been placed in the Christ Church Library in the Mental Health section as a gift from Peggy and Brad Bermudez. It is the story of our niece, Erin, and her immediate family. Although Erin was not able to sustain her recovery and died of an overdose in November of 2020, it is our prayer that this book will empower others to embrace recovery and live a different story.*

## FINANCE TEAM

The April 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Offering was for Tiger's Den and was a very generous \$524. The Easter offering was \$863.

We received \$405 for UMCOR Sunday and \$435 for Native American Awareness Sunday.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Offering for the Buffalo 10 Scholarship Fund was \$411.

The Gold Cross Sunday offering was \$367.

Thank you all for all your very generous gifts!

CUMC Finance Team

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM

As we continue to look for ways to be better Stewards of God's world, we offer some interesting ways to do so as we move into the warmer months:

1. Choose at least one day each week when the meals you plan will be meatless; the animals will thank you!
  2. When you care for your houseplants, re-energize them with cooled water from cooking veggies, potatoes, pasta, or green tea; no wasted water and happy plants - a good combination.
  3. When you shop on-line check the "About" portion of the website before you buy; find out what the company is or is not doing to care for creation and justice. Look for B Corp and other companies that give back 1% for the planet.
  4. When you talk to family and friends about climate-related issues, focus on *solutions* more than problems.
  5. When you head to the beach, lake, or river for recreation, note the word is also re-creation. Look at the beauty God has provided and offer a prayer of gratitude. Look for signs of humanity being careless with nature; take gloves and a trash bag (preferably reusable) along with you and stash the trash.
  6. Consider investing in a Rain Barrel - capture rainwater that would otherwise run off lawns and paved surfaces carrying harmful pollutants like pesticides and oil, reduce the amount of stormwater discharging into local creeks and streams, reduce the total volume of rainwater entering sewer systems, helping to prevent combined and sanitary sewage overflows which add raw, untreated sewage and the pollutants into local waterways. They also provide you with water for your gardens, thus reducing your water bills.
- These are all small steps but each one reduces your individual carbon footprint, and that helps everyone! 😊



Needed items:

oatmeal, cereal, rice, granola bars, soup, and paper products

Thank you!

## Christ Church Little Free Food Pantry

Small Non-perishable Food items:

- Canned goods: fruit, veggies, soup, protein (tuna, ham, or chicken), spaghetti's
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Juice boxes
- Toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- **No Mac & Cheese**



Donations bins are located in the office hall.

Thank you for your support.

## VOLUNTEER



Coffee Hour

Volunteers

Help provide and serve refreshments for the Café after church service on Sundays. Sign up sheet is on a table in café.

## Greeters for Sunday mornings

Greeters are located in the narthex and at office door entrances prior to church. Contact Pam Lopez if interested.

## Liturgists

Read the scriptures on Sunday morning. If interested, contact Rev. Oskvig.



## Second Sunday, Second Helping Offering Schedule

Christ Church uses the second Sunday of every month as an opportunity to take up a collection for a cause that is not supported by our regular gifts and mission work. The following is our Second Sunday, Second Helping offering schedule for the summer. You will be able to place your donations in the baskets in Church, or you can contribute online via our website.

### June 11, 2023: The Emergency Formula Bank at Durham's Maternal Stress-Free Zone.



Durham Memorial AME Zion Church has organized a Formula Bank, which came into existence because of a grandfather who could not find formula for the grandchild he had received custody of, and his WIC card would not pay for formula that was recommended by the pediatrician, and he had no transportation to try looking at other stores. These facts, in addition to the ongoing formula shortage, has led to this current effort. In addition to cash donations on June 11th, please feel free to bring a donation of baby formula to Church, any brand or type will be acceptable.

### July 9, 2023: Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Food Pantry

Christ Church is partnering with Hearts for the Homeless to host their Mobile Food Pantry in our parking lot. Your donations on this day will help get the vehicle on the road, helping bring nourishment to those in need.



### August 13, 2023: Seneca Street United Methodist Church After School Program



Seneca Street Church is located in a neighborhood with limited resources and great challenges. Their long-running after school program provides a safe space for neighborhood children to go after school, work on homework,

and enjoy a snack until they can be picked up by their parents.

*Thank you in advance for your support of these wonderful programs!*




United  
Women  
in Faith




United Women in Faith of Christ Church invite you to a Church-wide Picnic  
**Sunday, July 16, after Worship**  
(Rain Date: Sunday, July 23)  
**Cheesy Chick Food Truck will be in our parking lot!**  
*Conversation! Games! Beverages & Homemade Desserts!*






Your support of the UWF Easter Treats Fundraiser resulted in \$372 for Missions supported by UWF. Your generosity makes a world of difference!







### CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Tuesday June 13 at 1p for our year end "picnic" at Donna Hammond's home, 82 Huntleigh Cir. (716) 844-8091. Bring a dish/dessert/snack to share and your own beverage (Donna will provide coffee, tea, and water.)

Circle of Joy Summer Gatherings  
Thursday June 8, 7p—Summer Reading ideas at Dede Johnson's  
Friday, July 7, 6p—Canalside Creators at Sunset  
Wednesday, August 2, 5:30p—Party of Nine at Banchetti

# Missions of the Month

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

## **Save the Date—Make a Difference Day- Saturday September 23**

Plans are underway for this year's Make a Difference Day. There will be several ways in which you can help out. The ProShred Truck will be here from 9-12. Crafting for a Cause will be there. Do you have an idea of what you would like to support this year? If so, please let a member of the Outreach team know.



## **Peace with Justice Sunday – Special Offering on June 4<sup>th</sup>**

Offerings for this special Sunday fund Conference, National, and International peacemaking ministries and grants that educate, equip, and act in support of Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Together, we spread the gospel of peace and encourage cooperation locally, in the United States, and globally.



## **The Bottle Bin Has Arrived**

By putting your returnable cans and bottles in the **Hearts for the Homeless bin**, you are supporting their mobile food kitchen, their food pantry, and their work in building relationships and sharing the love of Christ. The bin is located in our parking lot.



## **Hearts for the Homeless Food Pantry Express**

Coming soon to Christ Church will be the mobile food pantry. Beginning this summer or fall on every Monday, it will be serving local people in our church parking lot from 12:30 to 4:00. Volunteers will be needed to help distribute food. Please see a member of the Outreach team if you would like to help with this ministry. More information will be forthcoming as its debut nears.



# Missions of the Month

## **Little Food Pantry**

Please consider adding an item to your grocery list for our Little Food Pantry and bring it to church with you. The most needed items are: **Canned Fruit, Canned proteins: Tuna, Chicken, Ham, Canned Soups, Peanut Butter, Canned Veggies, Oatmeal Canisters, Pasta, Toothpaste and Toilet Paper.**

***Thank you!***

## **Annual Conference**

For the first time in three years, the Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is meeting in person. June 1-3 at Onondaga Community College just outside of Syracuse, it will conduct the business of our region as we look to navigate the current waters of denominational unrest. The theme is "Together! Living the Gospel. Being God's love." The business includes addresses from and the leading of business by our new episcopal leader, Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez, receiving reports from committees and leaders, and taking action impacting the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church in Upper New York. There are several worship services such as the Memorial Service and the Service of Ordination and Commissioning, and two learning sessions - one led by Rev. Trey Wince, President of Ministry Architects, & the other by Rev. Dr. Giovanna Arroyo, the General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Daven Oskvig, Brad Loliger, and Peggy Bermudez will all be in attendance. Please surround them with your prayers through this time. They will be sharing with Christ Church the work of the 2023 Annual Conference.



We wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Jane Shanley upon her death on April 12, 2023. A memorial service was held at Christ Church on May 20, 2023.