

# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

**Worship 10 am  
AOL –11a**

**TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE**

*Pastor*  
**Rev. Daven Oskvig**



*Office Manager/Ministry Assistant*  
**Sarah Wachowski**

*Minister of Music*  
**Nic 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, and Friday: 9am– 2pm**

**Office closed: 10/9, 11/10, 23-24**

**December 2023—January 2024**

**Caller Deadline:**

**Monday, November 13**

**to**

**bbmitch@verizon.net**

**Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell**

**(716)839-2435 or**

**bbmitch@verizon.net**



# The Caller



**Dreams for the Coming Year meeting on Sunday September 10, 2023  
Photo by Rev. Daven Oskvig**

# October/November 2023



These months of waning sunlight call us to long thoughts. As we walk the streets in these months, we smell those fires burning around us as the labor of daylight ends early in the early advent of evening. Maybe that's why there is more time for pondering our place in this vast world.

I happen to think that our deepest insights into the mystery of God happen in the long shadow of twilight and eventual starlight by the flickering glow of a fire in the hearth at this time of the year. We start to settle into a rhythm in these months of connection and commitment. Gone is the busyness of a month ago in the stability of this time only upset at its end by the beginning of a season of holidays. While there is a sense of conclusion in our natural surroundings, this offers for us a time and intention of celebration of God's blessings for what has been, as we also prepare for what will be. In the opportunities of these pages are options of such encouraging us to deepened connections to each other. I hope as you sit by hearthside on a quiet night, you will flip through all those ways that we are experiencing the bounty here at Christ Church as we are also called to a time of nurturing and growth, a dreaming for what will come next.

As a faith community seeking to live our vision of "making connections and offering opportunities in faith, love, and service," this is the perfect season for those long thoughts and the beginning of planning to follow where they are leading. Perhaps this is in renewed commitment and participation in ongoing ministries, trying something new like our exploration of faith & film with a showing of E.T., or maybe it is just gathering with others to dream together, meeting over a cup of coffee to discuss our hopes. Whatever and wherever, I pray you might let your thoughts wander over the opening hillsides and toward those dreams of an earth that reflects heaven as we seek to live and embody God's love to the world in Christ.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Daven*

### God Moments

Have you had a moment which just captured your imagination, made you slow down and appreciate something, an encounter which moved you? Some people call these "God moments" when an experience moves us and helps us to see more clearly. Pastor Daven tries to capture this through the Weekly Update and in Facebook messages. He is looking for others to share their experiences with him so that they can be included in one of those formats. Please reach out to him if you have something to share!

## October Birthdays

Brad Loliger.....	2 *
Janelle Martin Davis .....	3
Nicholas Darling.....	4
Peter Zaleski .....	8
Greg Maliken .....	11
Julie Wrisley.....	12
Janet Hill .....	27



## October Anniversaries

Matt & Amy Thormahlen.....	October 8, 1984
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## November Birthdays

Ian Johnson.....	10
Carol Corsaro .....	13
Grace Markello .....	14
Chris Sciolino .....	15
Audrey Johnson .....	16
Lynn Ramsey.....	16
Jim Beller .....	20
Sophia Swist.....	25
Alicia Bermudez .....	29
Sean Johnson .....	29
Amelia Oskvig .....	29
Diane Glenn .....	29
Sue Estee .....	30



## November Anniversaries

Ian & Nicole Johnson .....	November 14, 2014
Geoff & Janet Hill .....	November 21, 1970
Guy & Sharon Ferrelli.....	November 24, 1974
Al & Julie Wrisley .....	November 24, 1962
Jim & Sally Pollard.....	November 28, 1981

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Diane Dunbar (former CUMC member) following her passing on Saturday, September 2, 2023.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Robert (Bob) Varian following his passing on Thursday, September 7, 2023.





Dear Friends and Staff at CUMC,

Beginning over 30 years ago during his years of good health, my dear husband always enjoyed our church activities, especially the wonderful fellowship with many members of our congregation. He often remarked about everyone's friendliness and kindness.

Now that he is with our heavenly Father, I want to express my thankfulness for all the prayers, beautiful cards with their thoughtful messages, comforting phone calls, and kind offers of help which I received during the final days of Dick's illness, as well as after his passing.

I cherish and so appreciate all of your caring. May God Bless each one of you.

With love and gratitude,  
Mary Ball



I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, and calls during my long recovery. I never thought it would take this long to recover! I appreciate your kind thoughts so much. I am coming along slowly but surely. I miss you all and hope to be able to worship in person with you again soon.

Bless you all,  
Kay Barber



**Daylight Saving Time ends November 5. Turn your clock BACK 1 hour before you retire on Saturday, November 4th.**



## SPIRITUAL INFORMATION TEAM

### AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning



**Yours Are the Hands of Christ** by James C. Howell  
Sundays, September 17 – November 26<sup>th</sup>

in the Wesley Room following worship

Jesus didn't "become flesh" so we could *feel* different. He came to this world so we will *be* different.

Often our spirituality seems invisible and mute to a hurting world. Many of us simply internalize faith out of fear, feelings of inadequacy, or choice. A faithful response to discipleship's call, however, is both inward and outward.

Through Howell's study, you'll find ways to apply faith to your daily life and make evident your commitment to Christ. By considering all that Jesus did with his hands as a teacher, a healer, and a compassionate servant, Howell challenges readers to be the hands and feet and love of Christ in the world.

Facilitators: Rev. Oskvig, Beth Reilly, Janet Cook, Peggy Bermudez

### Thirstaid



**The Girl's Still Got It** by Liz Curtis Higgs

Thursdays, September 21 – October 26

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room

"Walk with Ruth as she travels from Moab to Bethlehem, certain of her calling, yet uncertain of her future. Hold Naomi's hand and watch love put the pieces of her broken life back together. And hang out with Boaz, their kinsman-redeemer, who blesses both women and honors God at every turn."

"Think of it as time travel without gimmicks, gizmos, or a DeLorean: a novel approach to Bible study that leaps from past to present, gleaning timeless truths that will draw you nearer to the One who knows you fully, loves you completely, and holds you close to His heart."

Facilitator: Diane Klenk

**Exploring Sunday Scriptures:** 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** with Rev. Oskvig – posted Wednesdays on our website: [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org)

Faith and Film: *E.T. – The Extra-Terrestrial*

Sunday, October 29, 1-4 pm

The Screening Room at the Boulevard Mall

880 Alberta Drive, Amherst, NY 14226



United Women in Faith

### Christ Church UWF Sunday and Children's Sabbath

Sunday, October 8, during worship



Guest Speaker:  
**Valerie Mendoza**  
of Restoration Society  
Children and Mental Health



### UWF Fall Bake Sale!

Sunday, October 22, following worship

Homemade Baked Goods for your Fall Celebrations!



FREE WILL offering for baked goods will benefit UWF Missions.



*If you would like to provide baked goods, please bring them wrapped and ready to go on October 22nd.*

*Thank you!*

### NIAGARA FRONTIER DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NETWORK OF LEADERS

Saturday, November 4, 2023 9:30 – Noon

Faith United Methodist Church

5505 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

As we look to the future, this morning is an opportunity for all to learn what's new and to share ideas as we carry on the legacy of our founders to continue our mission of caring for women, children, and youth.

Training will be available for local unit officers.

\*\*\* This is a FREE event \*\*\*

RSVP to Peggy Bermudez by October 29th  
[bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com) (716) 626-4897

### CIRCLE NEWS



Elizabeth Circle will meet at church on Tuesday, October 10 at 1p to decide the programs for 2024. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 7 at 1p for a service project to be determined.



Needed items:

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Sugar        | Pickles         |
| Cereal       | Canned Fruit    |
| Granola Bars | Dish Soap       |
| Juice        | Tomato products |



### Christ Church Little Free Food Pantry

Canned proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Rice, Ham)

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal Canisters
- Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- Juices
- Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper



\*donation bins are located in the office hall\*



### Coffee Hour Volunteers

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

### Greeters for Sunday Mornings

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

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Those who attended the Dream Session after Church Sunday, September 10th, heard many dreams put forth, dreams of connecting with other churches/people, holding informational meetings here about a broad matter of subjects, finding ways to share God's love in other parts of the city, to name just a few. We hope that those of you who couldn't stay have been doing some dreaming of your own and would share those with us going forward.

Our Stewardship Campaign will take place in October with the Letter/Pledge Card being mailed the week of October 16th. On Sunday, October 15th and 22nd, you will hear from two of our members how their dreams were realized because of our church community's support. Please carefully consider how our Church and its many programs have enriched your life and have allowed you to "Make Connections and Offer Opportunities in Faith, Love and Service", as you prayerfully consider your Pledge for 2024 as we continue to dream together.

### FINANCE TEAM

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Offerings are as follows:

Aug: Seneca Street After School Program: \$1,085  
Sept. Central City Café: \$220

There are special envelopes in your packets for a Thanksgiving Offering on November 19 and the United Methodist Student Day Offering on November 26.

Thank you all so much for your generous giving.  
CUMC Finance Team

### LEADERSHIP

Every year we look for those willing to share their time and talents serving in leadership at Christ Church. This past year each of our different Administrative and Ministry Teams shared the work they do on behalf of Christ Church hoping to inform and inspire those who might be interested in serving. We are now looking for those ready to step up and step into these roles for 2024. If you would be willing to serve, please reach out to Pastor Daven or Peggy Bermudez.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**The World Thank Offering** is a way to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Some women drop a coin in a box each day to give thanks for their daily blessings. This offering supports the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith's national office in the United States and around the world.

**Fellowship of the Least Coin** is a global, ecumenical prayer movement that links prayer and "least coins" as the least coin of each participant becomes a symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Coins offered from around the world signal our quest for peace, justice, and reconciliation. The offering of least coins is used for grants to special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, relief, and awareness building among women throughout the world.

**Please make checks payable to UWF and send your offerings to Diane Klenk, 227 Enez Dr, Depew, NY 14043 by *November 15<sup>th</sup>***

### RESCHEDULED:

UWF Tea will be held on Saturday, December 2,  
2 – 4 pm  
at Christ Church.



### Charge Conference

Our annual business meeting will be held this year on October 21 @ Trinity UMC on Niagara Falls Blvd from 1-3 pm. As these are regional gatherings of several faith communities, this business will be conducted as a Charge Conference, meaning that those voting on the matters of business will be limited to members of the Church Council of Christ Church. All reports will be made available to the congregation in advance of the annual meeting. This business will include:

Nominations Report, Clergy Compensation including Housing Exclusion, Report of the Pastor, Lay Speaker Annual Report, Trustee Election, Outreach & Volunteers in Mission Report, Safe Sanctuary Compliance Report, Accessibility Audit, Retired Clergy Report, and Parsonage Inspection Report.





September to November  
"God Is With Us"

Lessons will include selections from scripture describing how we experience faith in our lives.

Some lessons are:

Being a peacemaker, showing kindness, how to talk to God, giving happily to God, and how to show our faith.

Families and children are welcome to come after worship on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month. We will be located downstairs in the classrooms in the office wing of the church.



Paul Staley Memorial Concert  
Sunday, November 12, 2023  
At Christ United Methodist Church  
4p



Christ Church Choir, in collaboration with University Presbyterian Church, will present Faure's Requiem as a tribute to the faith and talent of our late Music Director, Paul Staley, who was intimately inspired by worship music. Encouraging broad participation, there is no cost to the event.

All are welcome!

**All Saints Day  
November 5**

Continuing the long tradition at Christ Church of honoring those members who have died this past year, as part of our All Saints Celebration in worship on November 5, 2023, families / friends are invited to light a candle in their memory. In addition, friends or family beyond the members of Christ Church who have died will be shared. If you will be lighting a candle or have a name you wish to uplift, please contact the Church Office by October 27.

# Missions of the Month

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

## **Make a Difference Day**

Thank you all who helped make Make a Difference Day a success. If you donated items, helped on a team, helped plan, set up/clean up or invited a friend.... Thank you!

## **Turkey Baskets**



Each year we partner with North Presbyterian Church and area churches to help feed 500 families at Thanksgiving. Each basket includes a turkey, 2 cans of vegetables, 2 cans of fruit, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, mashed potatoes, brownie mix, or dessert and optional beverage. We will be accepting complete baskets or individual items as well as cash donations. They will then go to North Presbyterian Church to be assembled and delivered.

## **Jericho Road**

Jericho Road is a Community health center that provides opportunities for the underserved, and marginalized to be healthy, educated, and whole in order to demonstrate the unconditional love of Jesus. More information can be found at [jrhc.org/programs/](http://jrhc.org/programs/)

## **Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will be returning in late November. Wish tags will be available for you to choose a wish and fulfill it by bringing the gift back to church by the requested date. There will be various ministries from which to chose.



## **Compass House**

Their mission is to provide runaway, homeless, and street youth with safe shelter and services through a voluntary and mutually agreed upon process in an environment that supports dignity, respect, and self reliance. They serve about 600 youth each year,

## **The Mobile Food Pantry needs YOU!**

Every Monday between the hours of 12:30 and 4:30 Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Food Pantry comes to the church to help feed the hungry. If you have an hour or more on a Monday afternoon and would like to help with this ministry, please see Toni Neidel.