

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Worship 10 am

AOL - 11am

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: office@christchurchamherst.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9am–2pm

Office Closed 4/1, 4/8, 5/27



June/July/August

Caller Deadline:

Monday, May 13

to

bbmitch@verizon.net

Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell

(716)839-2435 or

bbmitch@verizon.net

The Caller



Garden Walk in spring



April/May 2024



Too often we leave our faith at Easter. We stand outside the tomb and celebrate God's incredible act of love which forgives and the moments of grace where Christ is visible before us. But whether intentional or not, we fail to allow the gift of the Holy Spirit to fill us, move us, and lead us from there. We are frozen from moving beyond what is to what should be and what can be by God's grace.

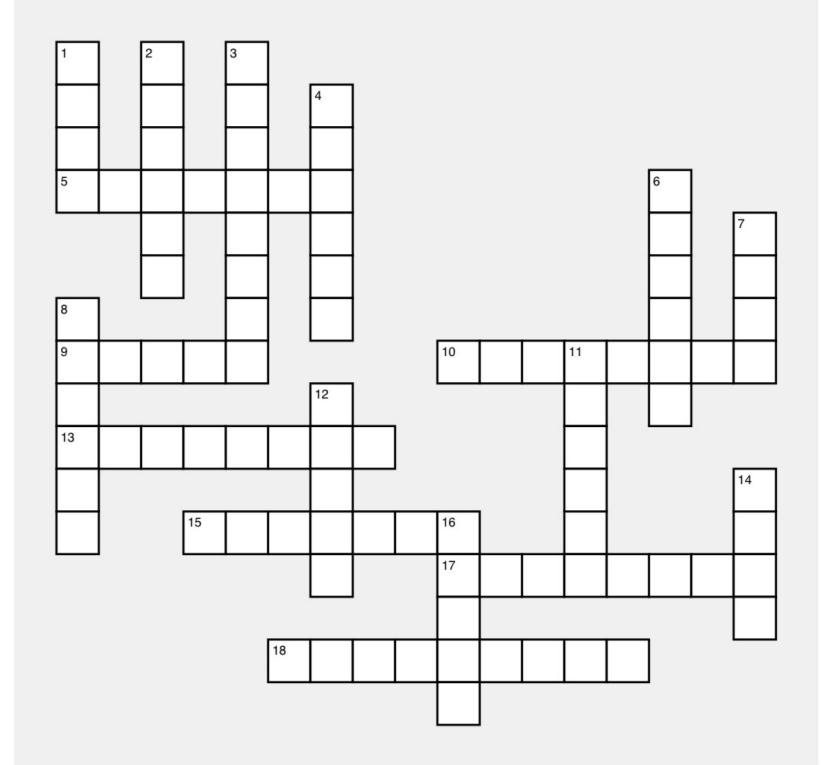
Perhaps like the disciples, who overcome by fear were held up and held back in Jerusalem after the resurrection, it is a fear that paralyzes us from moving beyond. To live by this faith, pro- claiming this reality, would undoubtedly mean changing lives as it did in theirs. It upsets the status quo and calls into question many of the prevailing policies and practices. But through the time leading up to Pentecost, the disciples continued to gather for worship, to pray seeking out guidance, and to synthesize the teachings of Christ. Then, despite their fear, filled with the breath of God they began to proclaim God's love and forgiveness. It is the language of resurrection they speak – the language of Truth and victory of love and goodness. And such language as that is, indeed, universal. Speaking out against evil and injustice and oppression and speaking for what is right and good and just and loving is something all can hear and understand. Yes, this will mean change in and to our lives. Yes, it will mean speaking out against what is and working actively towards what can be. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a gift of action and reaction to injustice in our churches, in our schools, in our governments, in our policies, in our nations, in our world. It is a commitment to work to create equity through policies and practices that are fair for all. It is the willingness not only to say and personally show, but to actively engage and do.

We all know that the world does not reflect the God of love which we celebrate in Jesus Christ and are led by in the Holy Spirit. Too many profit and gain off of practices and policies that are unfair and unjust. Some are filled, while others hunger; some have an abundance, while others have nothing. But just because that is the way things are does not mean that it is the way it should be, has to be, or always will be. We are gifted and graced with the Holy Spirit to speak up and speak out, to let God's breath fill our lungs and the winds of God's change compel us forward. Because, after all, we are a resurrection people who not only pray but believe that earth can and will truly reflect heaven!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*



Spring Crossword



ACROSS

- 5) They're usually found in beds
- 9) Time for showers
- 10) Gloom's opposite
- 13) Yellow spring flower
- 15) Day for diamonds and dreams
- 17) Shower apparel?
- 18) Monarch, e.g.

DOWN

- 1) Sport with tees
- 2) Fledgling plant
- 3) America's pastime
- 4) ___ egg
- 6) Eating outing
- 7) When spring ends
- 8) Vegetable plot
- 11) One of four in a year
- 12) Breezy
- 14) Flying toy with a tail
- 16) Verdant



Call/email the church office to get the answer key!



CUMC LITTLE FOOD PANTRY



Canned proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Rice, Ham)
Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Canned Soups
Peanut Butter
Oatmeal Canisters
Pasta/Pasta Sauce
Juices
Toothpaste
Toilet Paper/paper products



Canned Fruit	Cake/Brownie Mix
Canned Beans	Shampoo/conditioner
Cereal	Condiments
Pancake Mix/Syrup	Ramen Noodles
Crackers	Paper Towels
Granola Bars	Toilet Paper
	Tissues



YOU Can Make a Difference!



Volunteer—Mondays 12:30-4:30pm

Donate

SPIRITUAL INFORMATION TEAM

AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning

ALL CHURCH READ:

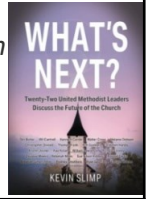
What's Next? Compiled by Kevin Slimp

22 United Methodist Leaders Discuss the Future of the Church

Sundays, April 14th – May 19th

in the Wesley Room after worship

Shared Leadership



Thirstaid

Brave and Beloved by Meredith Storrs

This study explores the wisdom and diversity of women in the Bible and offers insightful cultural context.

Thursdays, April 11th – May 9th

On Zoom – look for the link in the Weekly Update

Facilitators: Diane Klenk & Peggy Bermudez



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



Children's Ministry is continuing instruction in Bible Times Theater and will be held in the art room located in the Basement (rooms #20 & 21) in the office wing following worship, 11am - 12pm and continuing every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. The theme is "God Is With Us". All Are Welcome!

Missions of the Month

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

Native American Sunday, April 21st

This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world. Churches are encouraged to participate in this special offering. Together we empower local spiritual development and educate Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully.



Golden Cross Sunday, May 19th

A special offering will be received on May 19th for pastoral care at Beechwood Continuing Care. Thank you for your generosity in providing supportive, compassionate spiritual care.

Journey's End Refugee Services

For 25 years, Christ Church has partnered with Journey's End Refugee Services to welcome new arrivals to our community. The first family we sponsored arrived from Bosnia in March of 1999. This spring, we will again gather furniture and household items to set up an apartment for a family, providing a safe and welcoming place for them to begin a new life. Please watch the Weekly Update for information. If you have questions or furniture or household items to donate, please contact Peggy Bermudez at (716) 626-4897 or bradbermudez@hotmail.com.



April Birthdays



Kathy Weaver	5*
Stephen Mugal	6
Larry Burdette.....	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
Lisa Juergens.....	22
Sally Pollard	22
Ed Gilbert	23
Pastor Theva	24
Christopher Maliken	27
Annette Smith.....	27
Jacob Rhinehart	28
Richard Radel.....	30
Alexander Juergens.....	31



April Anniversaries



Brad and Mary Loliger	April 07, 2018
Bob and Anna Lovell.....	April 29, 2006

May Anniversaries

Greg and Lynn Ramsey	40 years	May 04, 1984
Roger and Dede Johnson.....		May 10, 1986
John and Pam Lopez.....	30 years	May 21, 1994
John and Dianne Glenn		May 27, 1998

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the families and friends of

David Pliss upon the death of his father **Harold Pliss** on December 29, 2023.

Marilyn Welker upon her death on February 3, 2024.

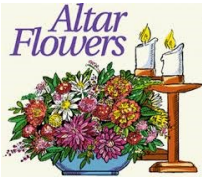
Charles (Chuck) Gilbert upon his death on February 25, 2024.

Arden (Al) Wrisley upon his death on February 29, 2024.

Donald Critoph upon his death on March 11, 2024.

Nancy Annunziata upon the death of her husband **Frank Annunziata** on March 14, 2024.

David Lawson upon the death of his father **David Lawson Sr.** on March 17, 2024



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. For the months of **April, May, and June of 2024**, contact **Lee Watson at (716) 837-0589 or lwatson60@roadrunner.com**. For the months July, August, September, October, and November of this year, contact **Marion Rowlands at (716) 688-5238 or mprowlands@aol.com**. There is also 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.



The ministry of the **Hospitality Team** is to make Christ Church a welcoming place for our congregation, visitors, and all the community groups that fill our building through the week. On Sunday mornings, the team coordinates the greeters who welcome all to worship at Christ Church and the Café (coffee and refreshments) following worship.

We need Greeters and Café volunteers for Sunday mornings.

Members of the team will be available to guide you. If you can help, please contact a member of the Hospitality Team: *Mary Ball, Barb Critoph, Donna Hammond, Pam Lopez, Toni Neidel, Kathy Weaver or Peggy Bermudez.*

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!



United Women in Faith

Saturday, April 13, 10:00 am

Breakfast Gathering \$5.00



Program: Compass House Executive Director Lisa Freeman

Hosts: Elizabeth Circle

ALL are welcome!

RSVP to Peggy (716)626-4897 or

bradbermudez@homail.com by April 8th

May – Keeping in Touch Visits

Sign up to visit members of our church family who are unable to attend worship. Share the story of your visit in the Café on Sunday, May 26, 11:00 am



Hosts: Christ Church UWF Leadership Team

Niagara Frontier District United Women in Faith

Saturday, May 4, 9:30 - Gift Day at Hamburg UMC

Watch your e-mail and the Weekly Update for more details and a list of needed items for local ministries.



CHRIST CHURCH UWF 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sunday, July 14 – All Church Picnic

Friday, September 27, 7:00 pm Sugar & Spice "Off the Wall"

Sunday, October 27 – Fall Bake Sale

Saturday, Nov. 16 – Breakfast Gathering - MoonCatcher Project



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle: Tuesday April 9 at 1p Rev. Daven Oskvig will provide program. Hostess is Diane Glenn.

Tuesday May 14 at 1p—To be determined

Circle of Joy: Thursday April 11 at 6:30p for a dinner gathering at Peg Bermudez's home

Thursday, May 2 at 7p at church to work on the MoonCatcher Kits

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Did you know?

Polystyrene (Styrofoam) is difficult to recycle both because recycling facilities aren't commonplace and you can't make it into new high-quality polystyrene.

Recycling one ton of paper saves **7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill and 4,100 kilowatt hours of electricity.**

You should re-use containers to reduce waste; the average child's school lunch generates **67 pounds of packaging waste over a year.**

Batteries can cause serious harm to human health and the environment when disposed of with municipal solid waste. Many companies and retailers will take your old batteries and properly dispose of them or have them recycled. (Home Depot, Lowe's, and Staples are required by NYS law to recycle certain batteries they sell; UB collects alkaline batteries which are the most commonly used: 1 Diefendorf Hall 220 Winspear Avenue.)

Twenty- six recycled PET plastic bottles equals a polyester suit; five recycled PET bottles make enough fiberfill to stuff a ski jacket!

According to US EPA about **40% of heavy metals** including lead, mercury and cadmium in landfills come from electronic equipment and discards. Some towns have curbside electronics pick-up and Erie County has collections at times throughout the year. Check with your town to see what they offer.

The US uses **100 billion plastic bags annually** consuming about **12 million barrels of oil.** Less than 1% of plastic bags are ever recycled. Reusable bags can help reduce the number of plastic bags you use. Wegman's stores recycle clean paper-free bags, packaging material and others; check their website for details.

According to the EPA, twenty percent of what goes into landfills is food. If you've got some small outdoor space, consider starting a compost bin or see if there are community options nearby to drop off your inedible scraps and peelings. Some towns have already created drop-off locations: Farmer Pirate Compost website will give you details, so consider this when you are dreaming of new ways to be good stewards of God's world. ❤️ ❤️

FINANCE TEAM

The 2nd Sunday Offering for January was for the Family Justice Center: \$60

The 2nd Sunday Offering for February was for the Buffalo 10 Scholarship Fund: \$267

The 2nd Sunday Offering for March was for Reconciling Ministries: \$225

We also received for:

Human Relations Sunday: \$88

Blanket Sunday: \$235

Thank you so much for your generous giving.

CUMC Finance Team

CHURCH COUNCIL

Second Sunday, Second Helping Offerings

At Christ Church, we are proud to collect Second Sunday, Second Helping Offerings each month to support community organizations aside from those who we usually support through our missions. Each month, Church Council chooses an organization to support. Here are two upcoming opportunities:

April 14, 2024 Eric County SPCA

May 19, 2024 Durham Maternal Stress Free Zone

CUMC "Books We Have Loved"



At our March meeting, Books We Have Loved book club had samplings of a diverse offering of books, including a beautiful biography of Audrey Hepburn, a book about writing "ethical wills" by Rabbi Steve Leder, and John Grisham's gripping book, "The Exchange". Two other books of fiction: "The Japanese Lover" and "The Pocket Wife" were brought in, as well as inspirational books written by Today Show anchors, Hoda Kotb and Savannah Guthrie. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 5th at 11am in the Wesley Room at church. May 3rd is the following meeting and the last meeting before summer break will be June 7th.

Newcomers are always welcome!