

# 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 SUMMER OFFICE HOURS STARTING 6/17

Monday, Wednesday 9am-2pm, and Friday 9am-Noon

Office Closed 6/10, 7/5, 7/10

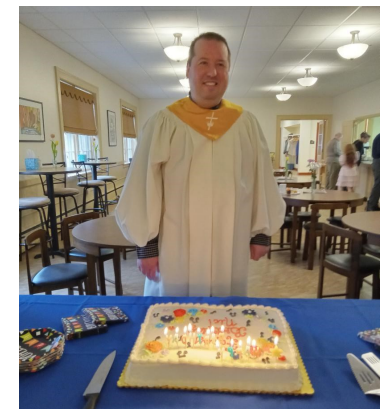


# The Caller



CELEBRATION!!!!

Happy Birthday to Daven 4/15) and Nic (4/29)  
Thank you for all your service to CUMC



September  
Caller Deadline:  
Tuesday, August 13  
to  
bbmitch@verizon.net  
Contact Barb Mitchell  
(716)839-2435 or  
bbmitch@verizon.net

# June/July/August 2024



When summer is months away, we find ourselves nostalgic for the season. We think of the long, warm days punctuated by seasonally specific activities, attire, and outlooks. It feels full of frivolity and fun. We find, however, once it arrives overcast by calendrical challenges. Weeks that once held so much hope are compressed and compromised in the realities of life.

Opportunities that seemed a foregone conclusion at the beginning become impossible to realize in the end.

Just after the summer last year we gathered to dream of our future together at Christ Church. We collected all of those to guide conversations on strategies surrounding them as we continue to discern how we live into our vision. It is slow, but careful and prayerful work that will continue to shape us as a faith community. I would like to believe and hope that we would begin to see and experience some of the first fruits of this work during this summer or just on the other side of it. As is the case individually, I know the likelihood of our best ambitions being sidelined. In the meantime, I challenge each one of us to consider what we individually can do this summer to live the vision of *'making connections and offering opportunities in faith, love, and service.'* While it is the guiding vision for this faith community collectively, each of us must find our own ways to live and express this vision with intentionality.

Maybe that means reaching out to someone we know very little or not at all for a cup of coffee or lunch (making connections); maybe that is finding one way to volunteer a little time once this summer in some capacity (offering opportunities / service); maybe it is reconnecting to a spiritual rhythm of worship, prayer before meals, or exploring scripture (faith); or maybe it is providing a meal or baking some cookies to ease the burden or brighten the day of another (love). Build them into the ambitions and plans of the summer that they may shape some of the days that lie ahead.

On the other side of these summer months, let us share our experiences of individually living this vision. We may just find that it reshapes us and our perceptions of the season as it sharpens the clarity of our vision. Imagine looking back at these months and the promise they held and all that was not withheld by God's grace!

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Daven*

## June Birthdays



## July Birthdays

Carol Gundlach .....	6	Patty Keller.....	2
Forrest (Woody) Rhinehart .....	6	Pam Elbersen .....	2
Karen Hoffmann .....	7	Leanne Paddock.....	3
John Lopez.....	8	Anne Burdette .....	4
Nicole Takac.....	8	Sharon Ferrelli .....	4
Charlotte Davis .....	9	Kathleen Cady.....	5
Lisa Lawson.....	9	Peggy Nye .....	10
Samantha Willhauck.....	10	Frank Parete .....	11
Patricia Zaleski .....	12	Frank Willhauck .....	11
Samuel Suggs.....	13	Tom Nye.....	14
Laura Smith.....	17	Hannah Smith .....	16
Donna Hammond .....	22	Debbie Laberta .....	20
Sean Brown.....	23	Kay Barber .....	21
Julie Sciolino .....	25	Dede Johnson .....	26
Pat Loesch.....	27	Greg Ramsey.....	27
Ruth Munson .....	27	John Miller .....	28
Anne Merritt.....	28	Brandon Miller .....	29
Barb Mitchell .....	28	Cindy Fisher .....	30

## August Birthdays

Valari Zanghi .....	1
Erin Johnson.....	5
Phyllis Maliken .....	5
James Juergens .....	6
Helen Peacock.....	6
Darryl Barrow.....	7
Meagan Weaver .....	24
Chris Johnson.....	25
Sandy Cumming .....	27
Mary Loliger .....	27
Christopher Pollard.....	27
John Yungbluth .....	30

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

**Jan Rhinehart upon her death on April 4, 2024**

**Mary Jane Nehrboss upon her death on April 23, 2024**





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



**CUMC  
 LITTLE  
 FOOD  
 PANTRY**



Canned Fruit  
 Canned Beans  
 Cereal  
 Pancake Mix/Syrup  
 Crackers  
 Granola Bars  
 Tissues

Cake/Brownie Mix  
 Shampoo/conditioner  
 Condiments  
 Ramen Noodles  
 Paper Towels  
 Toilet Paper

### June Anniversaries



Scott and Viki Smith.....June 15, 1985  
 Greg and Donna Yungbluth.....June 20, 1981  
 Daven and Lianne Oskvig.....June 28, 2002

### July Anniversaries

Chris and Laura Smith .....July 15, 2006  
 John and Marie Miller .....July 16, 1994  
 Tom and Peggy Nye.....**30 years**.....July 20, 1974  
 Darren and Sandy Paddock .....**50 years**.....July 20, 1996  
 Chris and Michele Sciolino .....July 24, 1993

### August Anniversaries

Warren and Donna Hammond..... August 09, 1969  
 David and Lisa Lawson .....**55 years**..... August 15, 1987  
 Robert and Patricia Loesch..... August 15, 1964  
 Bim and Marion Rowlands .....**60 years**..... August 15, 1964  
 Larry and Anne Burdette .....**60 years**..... August 16, 1958  
 Harley and Sue Estee..... August 21, 1993  
 Brad and Peggy Bermudez ..... August 22, 1981

### SPIRITUAL INFORMATION TEAM

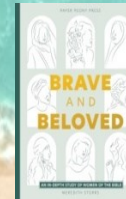
#### AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning

We're taking a break for summer – *See you in September!*

#### Thirstaid

#### Enjoy your summer!

We will resume in September with parts 3 and 4 of **Brave and Beloved** by Meredith Storrs.



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

**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)



United Women in Faith

#### Sunday, July 14 - All Church Potluck Picnic

After worship, we'll gather for a time of fun and fellowship. Bring your favorite picnic food to share. Sign-ups will be in the Café a few weeks before the picnic.

Come join the fun! **Everyone is welcome!**



#### CHRIST CHURCH UWF 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Friday, **September 27**, 7:00 pm Sugar & Spice "Off the Wall"  
 Sunday, **October 27-** Fall Bake Sale  
 Saturday, **November 16** Breakfast Gathering-MoonCatcher Project

# Missions of the Month

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

## Peace with Justice Sunday-June 16

This Special Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration intended to raise awareness that even in a world plagued by war and terror, violence and destruction, people of faith have a clear call to build peace with justice. As United Methodists, our yearning for peace must move us to act. An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support programs and ministries to educate, equip, and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities.

## 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. This summer we will set up an apartment for a family. There are sign up lists for household items in the Café. If you have furniture to donate, please contact Peggy Bermudez at (716) 626-4897 or [bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com). When we have a date for the apartment set up, we will need help with loading and unloading furniture, setting up, and organizing the apartment. Please watch the Weekly Update for the latest news.



## Save the Date - MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

**Saturday, September 7, 2024 9:00 am – noon**

The ProShred truck will be in the Christ Church parking lot from 9:00 am to noon for free shredding of sensitive documents. Watch the Weekly Update and the September Caller for lists of projects and items to be gathered.

## Summer Sermon Series

Back by popular demand is the Summer Sermon Series based on passages of scriptures submitted by you! These could be favorite and beloved scriptures, ones that confound and befuddle, or simply the challenge to stump the Pastor. Please submit suggestions to Pastor Daven by phone, mail, or email. [revdwoskvig@gmail.com](mailto:revdwoskvig@gmail.com)

## Music at Christ Church



Easter at CUMC 2024  
Choir with children  
Introduction of the chimes



Amherst Alumni Chorus  
Concert and Chorus of  
Amherst High School  
Students  
May 5, 2024  
Do you recognize  
anyone?





This coming June 18th, Christ Church will be partnering with Williamsville UMC to provide dinner, set up, clean, and serve for the **Impact Choir**, a visiting youth choir from VA. Concert will be held at Williamsville UMC. Please contact Minister of Music Nic Steltzer ([nsteltzer@yahoo.com](mailto:nsteltzer@yahoo.com)) if you are able to volunteer to help. All are welcome to enjoy the concert as well.

**IMPACT**  
INSPIRING MUSIC & PRAISE • ACCLAIMING CHRIST TOGETHER  
BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**In Concert!**  
Summer 2024

**Williamsville United Methodist Church**  
5681 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14221  
Co-sponsored by Christ United Methodist and Williamsville United Methodist

**Tuesday**  
**June 18**  
**7:00pm**

Burke Presbyterian Church • 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke, VA 22015 • [BurkePresChurch.org](http://BurkePresChurch.org)



In addition, Nic is looking for those interested in providing special music for worship services this summer. These are two good opportunities to get involved!

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Christ Church is proud to continue our tradition of **Second Sunday, Second Helping Offerings**, in which we come together as a congregation to support a variety of organizations in our community by taking a second offering on the second Sunday of each month. If you have suggestions of organizations that you think could use our support, please reach out to Brad Loliger ([bradloliger@gmail.com](mailto:bradloliger@gmail.com)) or any members of Church Council.

Here are the Second Sunday, Second Helping recipients for Summer 2024:



**June 9, 2024: Hearts for the Homeless** - Hearts for the Homeless is a non-profit organization that clothes and feeds the chronic homeless, poor, and needy.

Characterized by a profound spiritual motivation to share the Word of God, the program offers nourishing food as well as clothing, pertinent information regarding area services, companionship, and hope for the future. CUMC partners with Hearts for the Homeless to host their Mobile Food Pantry each Monday.



**July 14, 2024: Journey's End Refugee Services** - Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc. is a

Christian community-based organization with the mission of welcoming refugees without regard to ethnic origin or creed, and to assist them to become healthy, independent, contributing members of the community. CUMC is partnering with Journey's End to help settle a refugee family this summer.



**August 11, 2024: Seneca Street United Methodist Church** - Seneca Street UMC is a spiritual presence in the Seneca/Babcock area of Buffalo. CUMC has long

helped to support Seneca Street and their mission in this part of our community.

**SUMMER**

•ENJOY EVERY MOMENT•

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Denomination Update

As you have likely seen in the news, the 2024 General Conference of United Methodist Church recently took place in Charlotte, North Carolina. Amongst many pieces of business, the Church made changes to the Book of Discipline. As a result of these changes, United Methodist pastors no longer face potential penalties for being in a same-sex relationship or officiating at same-sex weddings, nor can they be compelled to officiate one.

During the afternoon session of General Conference's final day, delegates approved four changes to church law that together ended remaining bans related to homosexuality and to protect the rights of pastors to choose which wedding to perform or not to perform.

They also approved a change to the requirements that clergy practice "celibacy" in singleness—an addition made in 1984 that targeted gay candidates for ministry.

Instead, the delegates supported adding after the requirement of integrity in all personal relationships, "social responsibility and faithful sexual intimacy expressed through fidelity, monogamy, commitment, mutual affection, and respect, careful and honest communication, mutual consent, and growth in grace and in the knowledge and love of God."

There is much more to come, but there is a great sense of relief in the Church that we can move forward and grow together.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.unyumc.org> and <https://www.umnews.org/en/landing-pages/general-conference-news-and-commentary>



#### Did You Know—

As a member of CUMC congregation, you may attend any meeting of the Trustees, Finance, and Church Council as an observer?

### ***IMAGINE! An opportunity for Spiritual Growth*** ***(from Rev. Jim Pollard)***

John Wesley provided spiritual guidance to the Methodist Societies and class meetings of the Methodist movement. His "General Rules" for living of a disciplined Christian life include the following cardinal principles:

Do no harm

Do good

Attend to the private and public worship of God (paraphrased by Bishop Rueben Job as "Stay in love with God")

These three principles undergird the spiritual growth experience of connecting with other people and reflecting on our understanding of and relationships with people of other racial and ethnic heritage.

Rooted in Scripture and the tradition of Methodism, drawing on our life experience and reasoning together, the study, known as "Imagine No Racism," guides participants in examining the reality of systemic racism and focuses on the grace God gives us for responding to racism in our everyday world.

The study is a group process organized into 5 or 6 ninety-minute sessions, using a resource developed by the Commission on Religion and Race of the Upper NY Conference. Participants commit to attend all sessions, and enter into a covenant of non-judgmental, open discussions, sharing and reflecting together, in confidence with each other.

If you want to participate or have questions, please contact me at church, by phone (716-361-6222) text (716-361-6222) or e-mail ([impump21@aol.com](mailto:impump21@aol.com)). Indicate "yes, I'll participate", or "can we talk?" or "question" and leave contact information.

Hoping for at least 6 or more participants, I will convene the respondents to arrange the dates and schedule of class gatherings. Please let me know of your interest by **June 15**.



#### **CUMC "Books We Have Loved"**

On June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11a, Books We Have Loved will hold its last meeting before summer break. We will resume our monthly meetings on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Have a wonderful summer everyone!

## IMAGINE NO RACISM

The Upper New York Annual Conference's Imagine No Racism initiative developed in response to the Call to Action issued at the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference and a statement issued by the NEJ College of Bishops at that gathering. In response to the charge given by the College, Bishop Mark Webb created the Bishop's Task Force to Eliminate Racism. That Task Force, working in conjunction with the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR), sought the will of God in living into the mandate. Several key principles emerged that would guide the recommended response. First, the Upper New York Conference clearly needed training that raised awareness, expanded knowledge and developed skills for addressing racism in its many current manifestations. Next, to ensure that the conversations included the latest scholarship and best practices, CCORR would partner with the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR). Lastly, Upper New York (UNY) is a large conference with multiple challenges of racial and ethnic inequality within its boundaries. The conference approach is designed to empower individuals and local churches to discern how God is calling them to apply the new knowledge and skills in their lives and missions.

This Fall, Rev. Jim Pollard will be starting an Imagine No Racism training here at Christ Church. (For further information see Page 11.) We hope to invite members of other United Methodist Churches, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please see Peggy Bermudez or Jim Pollard for more information.

**GET!  
INVOLVED!**



Donate and Volunteer

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM

As we head into the Summer months and what might be a dry time, we wanted you to be aware of your "water footprint." Water is not just for drinking:

It's used to process your morning coffee as well as brew it.

It's in your beef as well as your beefsteak tomato.

It's used to make pants as well as paper.

Remember when watering your lawn, use a soaker instead of a sprinkler so as not to allow the water to run off the lawn, driveway, or sidewalk as it can take with it pesticides and other contaminants and carry them into the sewers which then run into our water systems. And water only as necessary!

The average Chinese uses about 185,000 gallons of water/year; the average Saudi uses less than 343,000 gallons/year; the average American uses almost 660,000 gallons/yr. YIKES!!

To find out what your water footprint is and how you can reduce it, visit [www.waterfootprint.org](http://www.waterfootprint.org).

## FINANCE TEAM

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Offering for April for the SPCA: \$148

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Offering for May for the Durham

Maternal Stress Free Zone: \$365

We also received for:

Native American Sunday: \$175

UMCOR Sunday: \$312

Thank you so much for your generous giving!

CUMC Finance Team



## CIRCLE NEWS

**Circle of Joy** will gather this summer for times of recreation, relaxation, and discovering our community. Events, dates, and times TBD. If you are interested in joining us or learning more, please contact Peggy Bermudez at 716 626-4897 or [bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com).

**Elizabeth Circle** will get together for a Pot Luck lunch on Tuesday, June 11 at Donna Hammond's Home, 82 Huntleigh Cir. at 1p.