

# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

**Worship 10 am**

**Education Hour 11am**

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

*Pastor*

**Rev. Daven Oskvig**



*Office Manager/Ministry Assistant*  
**Julie LoTempio**

*Minister of Music*  
**Nic Steltzer**

*Financial Secretary*  
**Doris Schanzlin**

*Custodian*  
**Michael Andolina**



**350 Saratoga Road, Amherst, NY 14226**

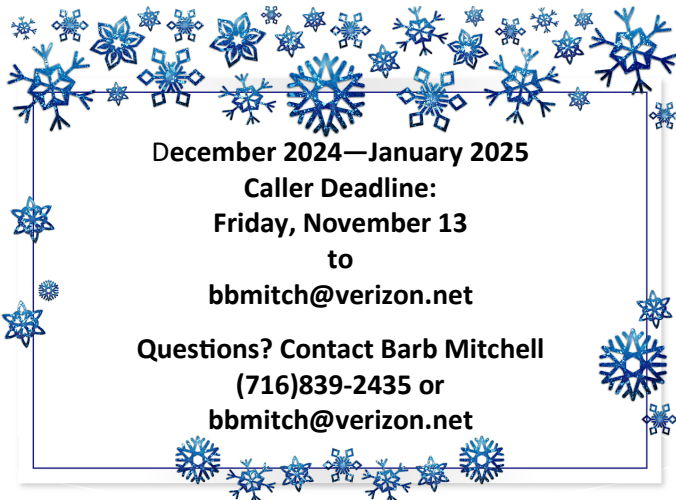
**Phone: (716) 839-2460**

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

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9am– 1pm**

**Office closed: 10/14, 11/11, 28-29**



**December 2024—January 2025**

**Caller Deadline:**

**Friday, November 13**

**to**

**bbmitch@verizon.net**

**Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell**

**(716)839-2435 or**

**bbmitch@verizon.net**

# The Caller



**Julie passing the  
torch to Sarah  
2020**

**Thank you Sarah—  
Best Wishes**

**Welcome Back  
Julie  
2024**



# October/November 2024



This wonderful month overflows with moments that recall the past, relish the present, and look towards the future. Whether it is through our football cheers, the abundance of harvest or the crisp temperatures, memories of the past rush to our minds simultaneously as new ones are created while the unknown of a winter looms on a gray horizon.

The same is true in our life together as a community of Christ, recalling the celebrations of the past as we journey together through the present with the Spirit's guidance toward a future of God's creation.

The greatest challenge is embodying a people of hope—not dwelling on past glories or present realities but being committed to work together to make this earth and our lives a reflection of heaven. This is what Jesus himself proclaimed through his words and ministry. He celebrated the past while journeying through the present in his public ministry that finally God's people and God could be united through grace and forgiveness to work for a future of love and hope. He personified not the way it had been or even the way it was, but the way it should be as he shared his life with those whom society had cast off and abandoned. Through the simple act of hospitality and inclusion, a completely systematic reevaluation and revision of what should be central in life was made. It would no longer be fear and anxiety over what could be, but the hope and love of what can be.

So, we have a choice—live in fear of what could be on that gray horizon and so do nothing OR as a community of Christ seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as we journey together in what can be. Jesus taught us to pray for it. The prayer of our hearts must match the words of our mouths and the actions of our hands. Let us work together as a church toward that bright and glorious future of hope and love as we 'make connections and offer opportunities in faith, love, and service.'

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Daven*

**Children's Ministry**  
**"God's Community"**

October 6 & 20  
November 3 & 17

11am-Noon  
Story Room 20 and Art Room 21



**October Birthdays**

- Brad Loliger ..... 2
- Janelle Martin Davis..... 3
- Nicholas Darling ..... 4
- Peter Zaleski..... 8
- Grace Modney Steltzer ..... 10
- Greg Maliken..... 11
- Julie Wrisley ..... 12
- Janet Hill..... 27



**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



**October Anniversaries**

- Matt & Amy Thormahlen ..... **40 yrs** ..... October 8, 1984



**November Anniversaries**

- Ian & Nicole Johnson ..... November 14, 2014
- Geoff & Janet Hill ..... November 21, 1970
- Guy & Sharon Ferrelli..... **50 yrs** ..... November 24, 1974
- Jim & Sally Pollard..... November 28, 1981





Journey's End  
SPCA  
Tools  
Clean up Harlem Rd

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2024



Seneca Street UMC  
Tigers Den/CUMC Food Pantry  
Bicycles  
Shredding

## Seeking Partners in Ministry

In September, the Church Council voted to seek out partners for collaboration and ultimately consolidation in ministry. This is recognizing that we have reached a critical moment in viability and ultimately ministry vitality in this current paradigm of autonomous and siloed ministry. We seek to be proactive and not reactive looking back at not only our own but other faith communities' histories of times which included more robust staffing, filled worship services, frequent baptisms, and daily programming to name just a few. We feel strongly that the vitality that once was can return not as it was but in a renewed and different capacity as a result of merging.

We know that such conversations are difficult and always come with those so wedded to particular spaces that they are often stifled before they can even begin or by the time it is truly needed it is too late. They, for example, require an honest and open sharing of budgets, worship statistics, and assets. We, however, are seeking to look ahead to the great and glorious things God has yet in store in ministry for us all.

This would be a lay led process employing a transition team curated from participating faith communities who would work with the retained consultant to create a plan and corresponding timeline. We know that these conversations and the potential change raise anxiety. Please surround this with prayer as we seek not to look at endings, but new beginnings as we are a people of resurrection faith.



## A MESSAGE FROM BRAD LOLIGER, CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Christ Church and look forward to the future in 2025 and beyond, please feel free to reach out to myself, or any of the leaders of our many teams with ideas you have for how we can collaborate with other churches and congregations in our region. We are coming out of a period of great denominational upheaval, and now is the time to take concrete steps to see our church through to the next stage. We always welcome input; feel free to reach out to me on Sundays or email me at [bradloliger@gmail.com](mailto:bradloliger@gmail.com).

**SPIRITUAL INFORMATION TEAM**

**AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning**  
**Braiding Sweetgrass, Indigenous Wisdom,**  
**Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants**

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

**Sundays, October 13 – November 24**

**In the Wesley Room following Worship**

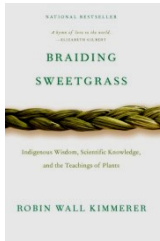
At this time of year, we celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day and move through a season of harvest and Thanksgiving.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is a botanist and a professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.

Weaving together storytelling, indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge, she engages readers in exploring our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

Books available for \$11.00



Needed items:

- Soup
- Crackers
- Pasta
- cereal
- Mac & Cheese
- Spaghetti Sauce

**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



*Thirstaid*

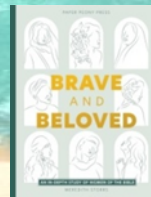
**Brave and Beloved** by Meredith Storrs (Part 2)

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

**Thursdays, September 19 – November 21, 1:00 pm**

On Zoom – look for the link in the Weekly Update

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)



**NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**9AM—1PM**



**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 entrance prior to church. Contact Pam Lopez if interested.

Thank You!

It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to Christ Church and move on to the next chapter of my life. My last day will be Friday, Sept. 13th and as my time winds down here, I want to take a moment to thank everyone for a wonderful 2 years! It has been a true joy to be able to work with every single one of you. I've learned so much and gained invaluable experience – not just professionally, but personally as well.

I will miss you all!

~Sarah

"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."  
Numbers 6:24-2



Bryce Douglas Ferry born August 13, 2024  
to Josh and Stephanie Ferry,  
Grandson of Mark and Janet Fisher, and  
**Great Grandson of Cindy Fisher**



Aubrey Patricia Loliger born September 16, 2024  
to **Brad and Mary Loliger**, and  
**Great Granddaughter of Linda Hoak**



United Women in Faith

### UWF Fall Bake Sale!

Sunday, October 27, 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 27th. Thank you!*

### Christ Church UWF Breakfast Gathering

Saturday, Nov. 23, 10:30 am

#### MoonCatcher Project



The MoonCatcher Project makes reusable, washable menstrual management kits called Mooncatcher Kits for distribution to girls around the world, keeping girls in school and helping them to achieve their educational goals.

Hosts: Circle of Joy

Cost :\$5.00

*We will receive the Least Coin Offering, World Thank Offering and pledges for 2025 at this gathering.*

### UPPER NEW YORK CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Annual Meeting October 19, 2024, 9:30 AM

#### THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD

*Biblical Women: Claiming Justice for Ourselves and Our Children*  
Fairport UMC, 31 West Church Street Fairport, NY 14450

Mission project - Books for kids preK-12.

Registration: \$20.00 includes lunch

**RSVP to Peggy Bermudez by October 5th**

[bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com) (716) 626-4897

### NIAGARA FRONTIER DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

#### NETWORK OF LEADERS

Saturday, November 9, 2024, 9:30 – Noon

**Amherst: Trinity United Methodist Church**

711 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst, NY 14226

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 November 1st**

[bradbermudez@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbermudez@hotmail.com) (716) 626-4897

# Missions of the Month

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

## Make a Difference Day

Thank you everyone who helped out on Make a Difference Day on September 7<sup>th</sup>! Whether you made a donation, helped with the Shred it Truck, received donated items, cleaned up Harlem Road sidewalks, cooked a meal for Seneca Street or sewed mats for the SPCA, together we made a difference! Thank you!



## Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Food Pantry

Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Food Pantry needs your help. Please prayerfully consider helping for an hour or more on a Monday afternoon between the hours of 12:30pm and 4:30pm when the mobile food pantry is parked in front of Christ Church. Volunteers welcome and encourage shoppers and assist them in selecting and bagging groceries. If you can help with this ministry please see Toni Neidel.

## Christ Church Free Little Food Pantry

Our Little Food Pantry is doing its job and needs your continued help in continuing to offer sustenance and hope to our neighbors. Please consider adding an extra item to your grocery list and bring it to church with you next week.

The current needs are:



**Canned Fruit**  
**Canned Soups**  
**Oatmeal Canisters**  
**Pasta/Pasta Sauce - no mac & cheese please**  
**Canned proteins: Tuna, Chicken, Ham**  
**Toothpaste**  
**Toilet Paper/Paper Products.**

**Canned Veggies**  
**Peanut Butter**  
**Juices**

*Thank you to all who participate in this ministry!*

## FINANCE TEAM

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Offerings were as follows

August for Seneca Street UMC Ministries: \$260.

September for the Family Justice Center: \$243.

We received \$367 in donations for Make A Difference Day.

CUMC Finance Team

## MESSAGE FROM FINANCE TEAM CHAIR

On behalf of the Finance Team, I wish to give you an update regarding our progress year to date. As of the end of August our expenditures are approximately \$5,000 under budget. All our committee chairs have been careful to keep their spending in line with the Church's needs and the budget for the functions they are responsible for. The collections we have received from our members appear to be below budget, however we know that some of our members give more of their pledges close to the end of the year.

I fully expect that we will end the year on budget. I wish to thank our members for the support they continue to provide to our mission and our church. Our members live our values and allow us to fully care for our ministry.

As we reach the latter part of the calendar year I want to give you a couple of suggestions. Several months ago, when I updated my personal will I included monies for Christ United Methodist Church. Each of you may wish to discuss how you may wish to recognize our church in the longer term.

You, like me, may be required to accept "Required Minimum Distributions" from our retirement accounts prior to the end of 2024. I find it convenient and tax efficient to have some of the RMD funds provided directly to CUMC in lieu of accepting them personally. You may wish to discuss this option with your tax advisor in the next month or so.

If you have questions about our financial status, please reach out to me or any member of our Finance committee.

Thank you,  
Bob Lovell

## CIRCLE NEWS

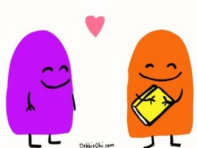


Elizabeth Circle will meet at church on **Tuesday, October 8 at 1p** to decide the programs for 2025.

Next meeting is **Tuesday, November 12 at 1p** to make prizes for Asbury Pointe Bingo.

Circle of Joy will meet **Saturday, October 5 at 10a** to travel to Tift Nature Preserve.

Nex meeting is **Thursday, November 7 at 7p** at church to sew MoonCatcher kits.



Do you love to read?

Perhaps you'd like somewhere to go once a month?

Maybe you just want something of your own?

At "Books We Have Loved" book group you'll find recommendations for books you may enjoy reading.

You'll also find people who not only share a love of reading, but also share their lives over a cup of coffee/tea.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your friends!

" Books We Have Loved" meets the first Friday each month at 11 am in the Wesley Room.

## HOSPITALITY TEAM

### Last Sunday Café Buffet

Beginning Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, on the **Last Sunday** of every month we will enjoy a **Café Buffet**. Members of the Hospitality Team will make the coffee and **YOU are invited to bring your favorite baked good or morning snack to share** as we gather in the Café after worship. Thank you in advance for your generous hospitality!



**Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 3rd. Turn your clock back 1 hour before you retire on November 2nd.**



# Missions of the Month

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

## World Communion Sunday Special Offering - October 6

Fifty percent of your gift funds scholarships for undergraduate or graduate students of color pursuing ordained ministry. Thirty five percent of it funds training grants for worldwide inclusion, diversity equity and access Fifteen per cent funds leadership development grants in communities around the world.

## UM Student Day Special Offering - November 14

This Special Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration focused on the value of education. We honor this day by giving generously to support scholarships like The Gift of Hope Scholarship. By supporting our students now, we contribute to community transformation and leadership empowerment, building future leaders.

*Thank you for your continued support of the many missions of our church.*

## "Tenors" Anyone

If you enjoy singing, please consider joining the choir and lending your voice to our Worship. **All voices are welcome** (especially if you are a tenor, baritone or bass! 😊) We meet every Wednesday from 4:30 to 6pm in the choir room or in the sanctuary. Join us for some music and fun.



Choir Picnic  
August 28, 2024 at  
Chestnut Ridge Park



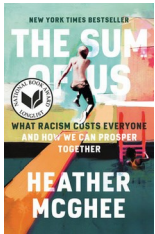


We have been invited to join with the other churches of our area in a community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24, 2024 @ 5 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (4007 Main St., Amherst 14226). This site was chosen to encourage and collect food/canned goods for the Tiger's Den Food Pantry (TDFP) that night with the service as a conclusion. The hope is to encourage each of our respective church communities to walk/deliver reusable TDFP shopping bags to local residents inviting neighbors to fill them and return them that night (or they can be picked up!).



### ***An Invitation to share in an "all church read" in October***

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Us and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee



After years of experience as a public policy researcher, Heather McGhee left her job and took a 3 year journey around the US to explore "the hidden costs of racism to us all." Her book, which was long-listed for the National Book Award, is her report of her journey filled with stories of her experiences and findings. And it is inspiring in its conclusions and hope for the future.

If you decide to read the book, you will be asked to participate in a series of 3 ninety minute discussion sessions, dates to be set in consultation with the readers, using a study resource provided by the United Methodist Board of Church & Society. Each session includes scripture reflection, along with discussion of the chapters of the book.

Discussions will be led by Rev. James Pollard.

Books will be available at the church or you can order from Amazon. Cost \$11.00.

### **ALL SAINTS**



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 3, 2024 families/friends are invited to light a candle in their memory. In addition, friends or family beyond the members of Christ Church will be uplifted in worship. If you will be lighting a candle or have a name you wish to uplift, please contact the Church Office by October 25, 2024.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

We recognize during this **75th year of ministry** that we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us envisioning how this church and its people could impact the world. As in the past, so today the embrace of Christ Church with a clean, safe, and welcoming site is instrumental to meeting needs. The ministries and partnerships of Christ Church reaches 20+ groups serving over 1,000 / week through educational, spiritual, mental, and physical opportunities. Thank you to all who have supported our ability to continue to offer such transformative experiences. We can only accomplish what we do through the generosity of all. God has yet greater things in store! For us to carry and grow them into the future will require the support of all.

During the month of October, a letter which includes a pledge for 2025 to continue the living into of our vision as a Reconciling Faith Community of 'Making Connections and Offering Opportunities in Faith, Love, and Service' will be mailed. Please prayerfully consider and return a pledge by November 3, 2024, that our ambitions for this coming year may be dedicated alongside our celebration of the legacy of the saints of the past. As we celebrate the past, we move toward the future!

### **Paul Staley Memorial Concert Sunday, November 24 at 7pm**



The second annual **Paul Staley Memorial Concert** will be held at Christ Church. The choir will be performing "**Gloria**" by **A. Vivaldi**. David Bond will be our special guest performing selections on the organ as well.

The concert will be free of charge and open to the public.