

## 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*

**Kyanah Nichols**

*Minister of Music*

**Tim Smith**

*Financial Secretary*

**Doris Schanzlin**

*Custodian*

**Dan Wagoner**

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

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

**www.christchurchamherst.org E-mail: cumc350@gmail.com**

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-2pm**

*Office Closed July 4*



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



# The Caller



**Years of Faith, Love & Service**

**Christ amherst®**

# June/July/August 2025



On the Christian Calendar, there is a time-between-times, that period post-resurrection yet pre-Spirit reception. As Jesus ascended the instruction was to use this time for preparation and discernment. We begin this summer period in that time, as also we move to beyond it with the beginning of Spirit-time. We remember this through the familiar story of Acts 2:1-21 and those who heard and understood each in their own language on that morning of Pentecost. The challenge, however, is for us not to let this event be simply an historic remembrance and retelling. We must ask what are the different 'languages' we are being called to speak the Good News of Jesus Christ in so that others can know his saving grace?

We have tried, as an example, as we live into our vision of 'Making Connections and Offering Opportunities in Faith, Love, and Service' as a Reconciling Congregation to reflect a sense of the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in language that is inclusive allowing others to hear God speaking. As we hear the familiar story again this year, we continue to be called and stretched and opened to new directions, new languages, and new ways by the Holy Spirit to reach a world desperate to see and feel the boundless love of God. Recently the United Methodist Church unveiled a new vision, "to form disciples of Jesus Christ, who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections." As we honor and celebrate 75 years of rich, transformative, and courageous history, even more we are being encouraged to press forward to reach those who do not yet know God. This summer provides the perfect time to prepare ourselves for this spiritual adventure as we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and look to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in all the varied ways and languages for our times, to step forward in Christ's mission with faith and courage. Let us pray for the possibilities and embrace the mission!

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Daven*

## June Birthdays



Carol Gundlach .....	6
Forrest (Woody) Rhinehart .....	6
Karen Hoffmann .....	7
John Lopez .....	8
Nicole Takac.....	8
Charlotte Davis .....	9
Lisa Lawson.....	9
Samantha Willhauck.....	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
Anne Merritt.....	28
Barb Mitchell .....	28

## July Birthdays

Patty Keller.....	2
Pam Elbersen .....	2
Leanne Paddock.....	3
Anne Burdette .....	4
Sharon Ferrelli .....	4
Kathleen Cady.....	5
Peggy Nye .....	10
Frank Parete .....	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
Erin Johnson.....	5
Phyllis Maliken .....	5
James Juegens.....	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 family and friends of Sarah Steltzer, wife of Nic Steltzer and mother of Grace, upon her death on May 18, 2025.



**Happy Summer!**



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.*

### Last Sunday Café Buffet

**You**, the members of the congregation, **are invited to bring your favorite baked good or morning snack to share** as we gather in the Café after worship the last Sunday of each month. Thank you in advance for your generous hospitality!

## June Anniversaries



Scott and Viki Smith.....	40 years	June 15, 1985
Greg and Donna Yungbluth.....		June 20, 1981
Daven and Lianne Oskvig.....		June 28, 2002

## July Anniversaries

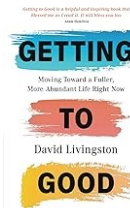
John and Marie Miller .....	July 16, 1994
Tom and Peggy Nye.....	July 20, 1974
Darren and Sandy Paddock .....	July 20, 1996
Chris and Michele Sciolino .....	July 24, 1993

## August Anniversaries

Warren and Donna Hammond .....	August 09, 1969
David and Lisa Lawson .....	August 15, 1987
Robert and Patricia Loesch.....	August 15, 1964
Bim and Marion Rowlands .....	August 15, 1964
Harley and Sue Estee.....	August 21, 1993
Brad and Peggy Bermudez .....	August 22, 1981

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM

### AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning



**Getting to Good** by David Livingston  
(*Moving Toward a Fuller, More Abundant Life Right Now*)  
**Sundays through June 15 (no class on June 1<sup>st</sup>)**  
in the Wesley Room following worship  
Facilitator: Peggy Bermudez

**After a break, AOL will resume in the Fall**  
**Enjoy your summer!**

### Thirstaid

**Enjoy your summer!**

We will resume in September with new opportunities  
for learning and spiritual growth.

**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)



Our last Sunday until fall will be June 15. Rehearsals will resume in September on Wednesdays at 6pm. Enjoy your summer!!

### Children's Ministry



**1st and 3rd Sunday of every month 11a-Noon**  
**Story Room 20 and Art Room 21**  
**Last instructional session until fall will be June 1st.**



# Missions of the Month

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

## Summer Food insecurity

Many children in Western New York who rely on free or reduced-price school meals may be left without sufficient food during the summer months when schools are closed. During the school year, 25,000 students receive free breakfast and 29,000 students receive free lunches across Buffalo Public Schools. You can help be a blessing to families this summer. Here are some ways to help:



## 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 help in continuing to offer sustenance and hope to our neighbors. Please consider adding an extra item to your grocery list and bringing it to church.

**The current needs are:**

<b>Canned Fruit</b>	<b>Canned Soups</b>	<b>Peanut Butter</b>
<b>Canned Veggies</b>	<b>Oatmeal Canisters</b>	<b>Cereals</b>
<b>Pasta/Pasta Sauce</b>	<b>Juices</b>	<b>Toothpaste</b>
<b>Canned proteins: Tuna, Chicken, Ham</b>		
<b>Toilet Paper/Paper Products</b>		

*Thank you for supporting these vital ministries!*



Ted Anderson, Marv Krieger, Drew Heitzenrater, Dee Finch, B.J Norrix, Jim Pollard, Darryl Barrow, Daven Oksvig



Amelia Hendricks receiving her Bible

A Special Thank You to Rev. Daven, Paula Kreib, Peg Bermudez, Sally Pollard, Sandy Cumming, and Julie LoTempio for their hard work organizing the 75 Year Anniversary of CUMC. And thanks also to all of the families that participated in the service.



Before  
FLAMES  
After



Gluten Free Too!

## What's Happening at CUMC



Jen Ellis placing the last puzzle piece from Handful of Hobby-ists. Puzzles will be continuing in the Family Room/Parlor so have fun whenever you are here



Mother's Day Café Crew  
Thanks to Herb, Bob, and Brad



Easter 2025



Goodbye Julie Lo Tempio  
and  
to you and your family.



Welcome to Kyanah Nichols  
our new Office Administrator



Esther Kirdani (former CUMC member)  
presenting a program of French Fashion  
Dolls to Elizabeth Circle, May 13



Tiger's Den is in need of the following items:

Juice (bottles or juice boxes)

All tomato products

Cereal

Granola bars

During the summer months, the amount of donations we receive at Tiger's Den is drastically reduced. However, the need for food increases during the summer when children are not in school to receive meals. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated and go a long way.

## Hearts for the Homeless

is accepting returnable bottles.

Each can/bottle donated will contribute

**8.5 cents** to help their missions.

Bins are located on the north side of the Christ Church parking lot\*



## Peace with Justice Offering - Sunday-June 15

The United Methodist Church uses this day to speak out for peace and justice. We renew our commitment that to live into our mission of transforming the world, we must prioritize collaboration among nations, work to reduce the use and need for weapons, and foster just, equitable and durable solutions to the root causes of conflict.

Contributions to this offering support programs that witness to God's demands for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world. Fifty percent of the funds raised stay within the Upper New York Annual Conference to enhance and support local social justice ministries and Fifty percent support national and international peacemaking ministries and grants.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

**Saturday, September 27, 2025**

**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 to support ministries and organizations in our community.





### Sunday, July 13 - 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 2025

Sunday, July 13, Church-wide Picnic

Sunday, October 26, Fall Bake Sale

Saturday, November 15, 10:00 am Breakfast Gathering – MoonCatcher Project



### Niagara Frontier District UWF for 2025

July 24-26 – Mission u at Camp Asbury, Silver Lake, NY

Saturday, September 20, 9:30, Annual Meeting at Agape UMC, West Seneca

Saturday, November 8, 9:30, Network of Leaders at Asbury UMC, Getzville



### United Women in Faith Social Action Project

Christ Church UWF Is gathering used Crayons for **The Crayon Initiative**. The Crayon Initiative sorts old crayons, melts them down, and remanufactures them in a bright, clean, paper-free form. The new crayons have a unique design—large and three-sided, not round—so they're easy for kids to grip and can't roll off hospital trays.

Free crayons are sent to kids in hospitals all over the country. Studies show that art therapy can reduce heart rates, improve cognition, release endorphins and alleviate stress. And most young patients take the crayons home with them as the happiest part of their stay. **John R. Oishei Children's Hospital in Buffalo participates in the Crayon Initiative.**

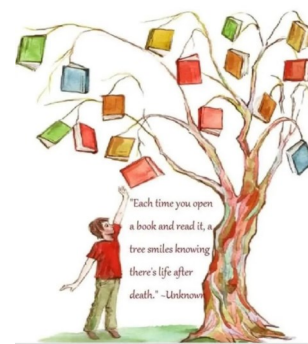
**Please look for collection boxes at Christ Church and bring some joy to hospitalized children and the planet!**

## 2nd Sunday, 2nd Helping Offerings:

**June 2025:** To Support Rev. Chris Wylie. Rev. Wylie is an ordained United Methodist Elder serving and living outside of Buffalo, NY. He is in need of a specialized wheelchair, as he is a person living with cerebral palsy. Our hope is to collect enough money to bridge the gap so he can obtain this new wheelchair.

**July 2025:** FeedMore WNY: FeedMore WNY houses both Meals on Wheels and the Food Bank of WNY. FeedMore's mission is to offer dignity, hope and a brighter future by providing nutritious food, friendship and skills training to our Western New York neighbors in need. FeedMore WNY believes that to solve hunger, we must acknowledge that the struggle against hunger, poverty, injustice, and hopelessness are one and the same. We envision a future in which all are treated with dignity, food access and equity are recognized as human rights, and every person is empowered to have hope and thrive. CUMC hopes to support FeedMore in light of threats to funding.

**August 2025:** Buffalo Toronto Public Media: BPTM is your local public media station, serving the communities of Western New York and Southern Ontario. BPTM operates public television stations, including WNED-TV (PBS Channel 17), WBFO-FM (NPR Radio), and WNED Classical 94.5 FM. As a community-supported alternative to commercial media, they provide the knowledge you need to make informed decisions, access to the arts, and a platform for meaningful dialogue and storytelling. As CUMC has always demonstrated a commitment to the arts, it is our hope to support BPTM in light of threats to funding.



The Book Group will meet on Friday, June 6, at 11 am. We love hearing about what you're reading—science fiction, mystery, historical fiction, beach reads, you name it. Get book suggestions, maybe even pick up a book from group member or from the Church Library or the reading racks located in the Cafe.

The book group takes a break for the summer months and will resume in September. Make a tree smile. Read a book!

## FINANCE TEAM

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday offerings were as follows:

March - Reconciling Ministries Network: \$285.

April - Journey's End: \$339.

May- Durham Maternal Stress Free Zone: \$238.

We also received for:

Easter Offering: \$991.

Native American Awareness: \$168.

UMCOR Sunday: \$291.

On June 15 there is an offering envelope in your packet for the Peace with Justice Offering.

We received \$200 in gifts for our Little Food Pantry located at the sidewalk entrance to our parking lot.

Thanks to you all for your generous giving.

CUMC Finance Team

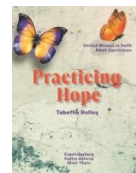
## STEWARDSHIP TEAM

We will be starting a new project over the Summer to attempt to find another way of removing some of the items that end up in landfills further pressuring these facilities. We will be collecting Expanded Polystyrene which is a specific form of Styrofoam but must be clean (no labels/stickers, tape, glue or cardboard) and free of any food or drink. Items are collected at Thermal Foams on Kenmore Avenue in Tonawanda where they are shredded into small granules to be reincorporated into new molded polystyrene products. They will accept shape-molded electronics packaging, protective packaging for shipping furniture and Food/Drink shipping coolers. (no personal use coolers) They DO NOT accept items labeled #05 PP, Takeout containers, Polyethylene foam, (used in furniture and bedding), flexible foam (think eggcrate mattresses) or packing peanuts. We hope you will join with us as we all work toward being better Stewards of God's World with which He has entrusted us.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### SINGLE BOARD CONCEPT

CUMC is currently exploring a change to our organizational structure, in which the Trustees, SPRT, and Finance would be merged into one Leadership Team, allowing our membership to be less bogged down in administrative tasks, and freed for more missional work. The Church Council will be exploring a trial run of this framework over the summer, with more details to come in the fall.



## Mission u 2025

July 24-26

Asbury Retreat Center, Silver Lake, NY

Study Leader: Rev. Dr. Robin Blair



**Practicing Hope** by Tabitha Holley focuses on the resurrection appearances of Jesus and the example of early Christian communities as we explore what it means to practice hope in God, even when things seem to be falling apart.

**ALL are welcome! Please watch your e-mail for more details.**



## CIRCLE NEWS

**Elizabeth** Circle will meet at 1pm for our Pot Luck Lunch at Donna Hammond's home, 82 Huntleigh Circle.. Bring a dish to share and Donna will provide beverages.

**Reminder: September will be our annual Walk in the Park on Tuesday, September 9th.**

**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.



To Our Christ Church Family,

My sons and I are deeply moved by your love and support during David's struggle with cancer and his death. The many cards with their heartfelt messages helped sustain us. The many inquiries as to how we all were coping were so kind. The sight of many of you at his service has helped us through this grieving process. Thank you all for your generosity. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring church.

Sincerely,

Beth, Sean, and Conor

## Our New Staff



We have welcomed 3 new additions to our staff since March. Tim Smith, our Minister of Music, Dan Wagoner, our custodian, and now our new Office Manager, Kyanah Nichols. Please introduce yourself to them, if you haven't as yet, and let them know you appreciate their work and look forward to working with them.