

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 (until 9/14/2025)

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

Monday, Wednesday , Friday 9am-2pm

Office closed Monday, September 1



The Caller



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TO



September 2025



**October/November
Caller Deadline:
Saturday, September 13
to
bbmitch@verizon.net
Contact Barb Mitchell
(716)839-2435 or
bbmitch@verizon.net**





Slowing Down Time

We can often feel as though the time has slipped through our fingers like sand at the conclusion of a season. As years pass, it can even feel like the minutes, hours, days, months, and years are speeding by at an ever increasing pace. I read recently that this phenomenon is amplified in an absence of new experiences. When we learn something new or travel somewhere new, we break this cycle of repetition and once again discover that time seems to slow down.

The beginning of a school year can bring a wave of nostalgia as we reflect on each year school, our teachers, the anticipation, the new clothes / shoes / supplies, the new time in our education beginning. Combine that with the many 'new' experiences we have as children and adolescents and it is no wonder that we feel that time moved so slowly then. Through the words of the prophet Isaiah, God said "See, I am doing a new thing; now it springs up" (Is. 43:18). We know that trying, learning, and doing new things is good for our brains and bodies. It is also good for our spirits and faith. I encourage you as we begin this fall to do a new thing. For example: lend your voice to the choir, get involved in a spiritual development opportunity, volunteer your time in mission like with the Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Food Pantry, help out with fellowship following worship, greet at one of the entrances on Sunday, or learn how to run the livestream to name but a few. Try something new and rediscover the joy of spending time with God.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*



September Birthdays



Jane Darling	3	Jonathan Miller	19
Pastor BJ	5	Sandra Paddock.....	20
Lianne Oskvig.....	7	Beth Reilly Brown.....	20
Bim Rowands.....	9	Hildegard Webber	20
June Gilbert	10	Lisa Malpica.....	24
Nancy Annunziata.....	16	Nora Townsend Wilber	24
Jim Pollard	18		

September Anniversaries



Herb and Jane Darling	September 8, 1956
Tom and Kathy Weaver	September 8, 1984
Herb and Nora Townsend Wilber.....	35 years September 21, 1990
Greg and Phyllis Maliken	September 22, 1979
Frank and Linda Parete.....	50 years September 27, 1975

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in the Caller, contact Barb Mitchell at bbmitch@verizon.net or (716) 839-2435 or contact the office (716) 839-2460.

If you would like to receive the Caller or weekly updates via e-mail, contact the church office.



Congratulations to Danielle (Keller) & Jeremy Mazurski on the birth of their daughter Josphine Mae Mazurski on August 8th. She is the granddaughter of Patty and Michael Keller.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Patty Bechtel and family upon the death of her grandson Daniel Bechtel in August, 2025.

Next issue of the Caller includes October and November and deadline for information to be sent to bbmitch@verizon.net is Saturday, September 13th.



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



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



CUMC LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

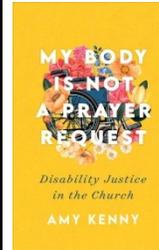


Donate and Volunteer

SPIRITUAL INFORMATION TEAM

My Body is Not a Prayer Request

By Amy Kenny



As Christ Church celebrates our 75th Anniversary with automatic doors that will make our building more accessible and welcoming to all, this book offers a timely exploration of the church and disabled people. “Much of the church has forgotten that we worship a disabled God whose wounds survived resurrection, says Amy Kenny. It is time for the church to start treating disabled people as full members of the body of Christ who have much more to offer than a miraculous cure narrative and to learn from their embodied experiences.”

Books will be available through Christ Church.

There will be two opportunities to participate in this study:

Thirstaid – beginning on Thursday, September 11, 1:00 pm

In person at Christ Church

Facilitator: Diane Klenk

AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning -Starting Sunday, September 14

following worship, in the Wesley Room

Facilitator: 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

1st and 3rd Sunday of every month

11a-Noon

Story Room 20 and Art Room 21

Our focus this season is on

Faith in Action

Hope to see you there!





United Women in Faith

Christ Church UWF 2025

Sunday, October 26, Fall Bake Sale

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



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!

Niagara Frontier District United Women in Faith Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 20, 2025



Agape UMC, 2846 Seneca Street, West Seneca

9:00 a.m. Doors Open, Registration, Continental Breakfast

9:45 Worship, Keynote Speaker, Business Meeting

Speaker: Matti Stamm – Mission of Peace



Registration: \$10.00 due to Peggy Bermudez by September 7

stream available on YouTube: @agapeumchurchofwestsenecan5809

Summer at Christ Church



Parade attendees June 1, 2025



Circle of Joy at Darwin Martin House
June 17, 2025

Lisa Lawson was the docent!



All Church Picnic July 13, 2025

Too hot to be outside, except for a few brave souls →



Choir Pool Party/Picnic August 10, 2025



Minister of Music

Unfortunately our Minister of Music, Tim Smith, will be leaving the staff of Christ Church in mid-September. An unexpected opportunity has come to Tim which is too good to pass up. We immediately started the process of searching for Tim's replacement and hope to have someone in place very soon.



The choir would like to thank Tim for his musical leadership (both organ and choral), friendship, and good sense of humor. We truly appreciated his time and effort at every rehearsal and Sunday service. Sadly, we say goodbye and wish him only the best on the new step he is taking.

Thank you, Tim.

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: Peggy Bermudez, Toni Neidel, Mary Ball, Barb Critoph, Linda Hoak, Kathy Weaver for Café and Pam Lopez for Greeters.

Reminder: Last Sunday of each month is Congregation Café Buffet where YOU, the members of the congregation, are invited to bring your favorite baked good or morning snack to share.



CIRCLE NEWS

Elizabeth Circle will meet at church at 1p on Tuesday, September 9 to car pool to Niawanda Park for our annual walk by the river.

Circle of Joy will meet at church on Thursday, September 11 at 7p. We will be making cloth napkins.



FINANCE TEAM

The 2nd Sunday offerings were as follows:

The Rev. Chris Wylie: \$269

Feed More WNY: \$508

PBS: \$314

The June 15 offering for Peace with Justice was \$145.

There is a special offering envelope for October 5, which is World Communion Sunday.

We have received gifts to date totaling \$11,725 for the 75th Anniversary Door Fund. There is also a Memorial of \$6,015 dedicated to the Door Fund.

Thanks to you all for your generous giving.

CUMC Finance Team

2nd Sunday 2nd Helping Offering for September

September 2025: Make a Difference Day at CUMC: Our Annual Make A Difference Day is taking place on Saturday, September 27, 2025. This is our chance to get outside of the church building and serve our neighborhood and community, by partnering with various organizations. As usual, we will be offering a free shredding truck for folks to have confidential documents destroyed. Our 2nd Sunday 2nd Helping Offering for September 2025 will be used to offset the cost of the rental of the shredding truck, so that we can provide this resource free to the community.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our 2nd Sunday 2nd Helping Offerings!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Community Service Projects

Asbury UMC Handbag Ministry

Filling handbags with essential items for homeless women:

gently used handbags

tooth brushes

toothpaste

deodorant

hand cream

combs

hair brushes

scarves

gloves

hats

socks



Compass House

preparing brunch at their site with residents
Start time is 11:00 a.m.

Crafting for a Cause

Stitches of Love (stuffed bears for first responders to give to kids)



Harlem Road Clean up

Make our community
A welcoming place.



Seneca Street Church

preparing a Community meal

to be served on September 28th



Food Insecurity

We will be gathering non-perishable food items for:

Tiger's Den Food Pantry

Christ Church Free Little Food Pantry

Seneca Street Church



Non-Perishable Food Items

Journey's End Refugee Services

Basmati Rice

Pasta and Tomato Sauce

Macaroni and Cheese

Cereal



Administrative Changes

We explored the concept of a single board which would have consolidated several administrative teams (SPRRT, Finance, Stewardship, Nominations, Trustees, & Church Council) into one single team.

Ultimately we decided that this was not the right direction for Christ Church at this time. Using guidelines in the Discipline, however, we are planning to resize and restructure some of our administration in the following ways beginning in 2026.

The duties of Nominations will be overseen by the Church Council. SPRRT will reduce to 5 at-large members. Finance will continue, but conduct meetings 30-45 minutes prior to Church Council with membership dictated by the Discipline and removing at-large members. Stewardship will be folded into Finance. Meetings will maintain a minimum of 4 annually, one per quarter, with more held only as needed.

Journey's End Celebrates 40 Years



We maintain a long-standing, 26 year partnership with Journey's End of WNY. This October they are celebrating 40 years of servicing refugees in Buffalo and Western New York. With such a milestone, they are holding a 40th Anniversary Celebration, which also serves as their primary fundraiser of the year. During that celebration, which will be held on October 23, 2025 at the Atrium @ Rich's, our very own Brad and Peggy Bermudez will be honored for their volunteerism! Please consider attending to help support Journey's End of WNY and to celebrate Brad and Peggy Bermudez. More information will be following.

Journey's End Summer Camp

(Mustard Seed Migration Grant from UMCOR where volunteers from Christ Church participated)



STEWARDSHIP TEAM

After this exceedingly hot summer I'm sure many of us are looking forward to cooler days and especially nights so we might actually be able to sleep! I encourage you to find new ways to engage with Nature while finding new ways to care for our planet. Here are a few suggestions:

Take a walk/hike in one of our beautiful local parks and take with you a bag and a pair of gloves; when you come across some litter, and trust me you will, pick it up and dispose of it properly when leaving.

Instead of raking leaves which in most places probably go to the landfill, choose to mulch them with your lawnmower. This adds nutrients back to the soil and may even make your lawn look better next Spring!

Engage with your local, State and Federal lawmakers to see where they stand on issues related to the environment and make your feelings known. We all have a stake in what happens to this place we call home going forward.



Fall is also the time when we start dreaming and planning for another year of programs, Making Connections and Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love and Service. Consider starting now to ponder and pray about how you can make a difference in the life of Christ Church Amherst as we look forward to our Stewardship Campaign later this year. As always, we thank you for your steadfast support in this endeavor.



Life is just a series of obstacles preventing you from reading your book.

Books We Have Loved- Book Group

Meets on the First Friday each month, 11:00 am
Meets in the Wesley Room

How many books did you read this summer?
1? 5? More?

Join us on Friday, September 5, at 11 am. Enjoy a beverage and morning snacks and talk about what you've read, or what you hope to read, or just listen to the conversation about books and get some recommendations for your next read.

Everyone is welcome...even if you read 0 books! 🙋

Saturday, September 27, 2025 9:00 am – noon

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Clothing, Shoes, Blankets

Matthew 25: Ministries

clean, empty, recapped,
label and residue-free

Plastic Pill Bottles



Colored Glass Bottles

will be gathered for recycling
(colored glass is not recycled
by the Town of Amherst)

The Crayon Initiative

used crayon are recycled
into paper-free 3-sided
crayons and given to
hospitalized children



Wheels for Workers 716

Used Bicycles and Bike Parts
Refurbished bikes to provide
Transportation to jobs

**Additional information for recycling and reducing landfill waste
will be provided on Make a Difference Day.**

Document Shredding



**Safely destroy documents
containing sensitive information.**

Volunteer Sign-ups will be posted in the Family Room

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p  Office Closed	2 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line)	3 Feasting on the Word (on website) <i>Zumba 6p/Barre 7p</i> Choir 6p	4 <i>Mainstage Studios 4p</i>	5 Books We Have Loved 11a	6 <i>Zumba 9a</i> <i>Mainstage Studios 9a</i>
7 <i>Worship 10a</i> <i>CUMC Kid's Place 11a</i> Council 11:15a	8 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p UWF leadership meeting 10a Trustees 7p	9 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) Elizabeth Circle 1p	10 Feasting on the Word (on website) <i>NCWC Lunch 9a</i> <i>Roswell Grief Support 6p</i> <i>Zumba 6p/Barre 7p</i> Choir 6p	11 ThirstAid Thursday 1p <i>Mainstage Studios 4p</i> <i>English Gardener 5:30p</i> Circle of Joy 7p	12	13 <i>Zumba 9a</i> <i>Mainstage Studios 9a</i> Deadline for October/November Caller
14 <i>Worship 10a</i> <i>AOL 11a</i> <i>2nd Sunday 2nd Helping: MADD</i>	15 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p Finance Team 7p	16 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line)	17 Feasting on the Word (on website) <i>Zumba 6p/Barre 7p</i> Choir 7p?	18 ThirstAid Thursday 1p <i>Mainstage Studios 4p</i>	19	20 <i>Zumba 9a</i> <i>Mainstage Studios 9a</i> Niagara Frontier District UWF Annual Meeting 9:30a
21 <i>Worship 10a</i> <i>AOL 11a</i> <i>CUMC Kid's Place 11a</i> SPRT 11a	22 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p 	23 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) Hospitality Team 7p	24 Feasting on the Word (on website) <i>Zumba 6p/Barre 7p</i> Choir 7p?	25 ThirstAid Thursday 1p <i>Mainstage Studios 4p</i>	26	27 <i>Zumba 9a</i> <i>Mainstage Studios 9a</i> MADD Make a Difference Day 1-4p
28 <i>Worship 10a</i> <i>AOL 11a</i> Café Buffet 11a	29 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p	30 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line)				