

CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

Pastor: Rev. Wendy Morrison Youth Pastor: Matt Morrison Choir Director: Larry Kent Secretary: Leslie Coe
April/May 2020

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From the Desk of Bishop Mark J. Webb

"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." -2 Corinthians 3.5-6

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." -2 Corinthians 9.8

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4.19

Dear Friends,

We prepare to enter Holy Week amid the continuing reality of life, changed, and interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These indeed are days unlike any most of us have experienced in our lifetime.

The same could be said for those who witnessed and traveled with Jesus from the parade of Palm Sunday to the reality of an empty tomb. The events of Holy Week were a rollercoaster of experiences and emotions for those following Jesus. From highs, to lows, and back to highs again, the one constant in that journey was the reality of who Jesus was, his dependence upon God, and his utter willingness to surrender his will for the glory of God and the purpose of God's will. Jesus found in trusting God, he had all that he needed. As we follow Jesus, we find that He is sufficient, and as we trust Him, we too have everything we need to live out our call as disciples of Jesus Christ.

I have been blessed by the testimonies and witnesses of God's people in Upper York trusting that truth. Through unprecedented days, you have been the Church in expected and unexpected ways. I want to thank the clergy of Upper New York for your outstanding leadership as you trust that God is sufficient.

I want to thank the laity of every congregation for your response to the needs around you and participating in ministry as usual and in new forms. You are witnessing to your trust in the adequacy of Jesus. Thank you for being the Church!

While we know God did not cause the events we are experiencing, I have no doubt that God is not wasting these days. God is using this season to draw us closer, to renew us, and to help us reimagine the ways in which we can be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus Christ in the world. I pray that we will continue to be open, first to what God desires to do in us and then, how God desires to use us in the lives of others in offering the good news of Jesus in word and deed.

There are people around us and even we ourselves who are struggling with fear, anxiety, and hopelessness. Individuals have been infected with the coronavirus and are struggling physically. Families are dealing with separation from one another, with some experiencing the grief that comes in the death of a loved one. Our world is begging for good news! Our neighbors are looking for hope and promise of a better day. We know the one, we claim to follow, the one who is the answer to all those yearnings - his name is Jesus Christ! What an opportunity we have to let others know about the sufficiency of God through Jesus.

I hope you will continue to do whatever is necessary to support one another, as clergy and laity. Stick together, look out for one another, build one another up, and encourage one another all you can. I encourage you to continue to offer to God what God has given to you, by supporting your congregation with your tithe and offering. Mail your tithe to your church or sign up for electronic giving. The needs continue in your congregation and community- the resources God has given you are a piece of what is necessary to meet the needs. Thank you for your faithfulness in returning to God what God has given to you.

I also want to thank you for honoring and following the directives to not hold in-person worship currently. As disappointing as it is to not be able to gather with one another physically during Holy Week, your willingness to worship online is a gift of love to one another and your community. Our top priority must be the safety of those we have been called to serve among and with. We will gather together again in person, but for now, thank you for your creativity and participation in online worship and gatherings.

I am praying for you and I will continue to pray for you. We want to assist you and your congregation in any way we can in this season of life and ministry. If you have a need, please let your District Superintendent know or reach out to me or another Conference staff person. While we can't promise to always have the exact resource you need, we can walk beside you and help you to discover what God has already given.

When those early followers of Jesus experienced the events of Holy Week, they had in their mind a definition of life that would be found in following Jesus. By the time they got to the empty tomb, that definition had changed. It

moved from an earthly focus to an eternal one. It moved from sufficiency found in power and authority to sufficiency found in service and submission. In just one week, Jesus changed it all! From a parade to an empty tomb, Jesus trusted and demonstrated the sufficiency of God and now invites us to do the same.

As we move from Palm Sunday to Easter, as we travel through these different, difficult, and uncertain days because of the coronavirus, may we encounter our God who proclaims while seated on a donkey, reclining at a table, hanging on a cross and emerging from a tomb - I am sufficient - I am adequate - I AM ENOUGH!

Believe it and then go tell someone else about it!

With gratitude and love,

Bishop Mark
J. Webb

Pastor's news

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let me say what a blessing it is to be serving at Camden UMC! Thank you for all of the support and encouragement that you have passed to me and my family. It helps us to keep a positive attitude during these trying times.

Please, also share your gratitude to Leslie. She has been key in keeping the communication going. I apologize for all of the emails (the best way to get information out), but be grateful that you are not getting all that Leslie is receiving from me. It has been a lot.

I pray that you are all well! Please reach out if you have any needs that we might be able to help with. Even if you don't think we can help, please still let us know. You never know what the power of God can do in the midst of darkness.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." We are doing everything we can to keep everyone connected. Please take advantage of these opportunities and share with others as you receive the emails. We want to keep encouraging one another and building our faith in God.

Anything that is sent out for Zoom has an option to call in. This means that as long as you have a telephone, whether landline or cell phone, you can call in and hear everyone that is on this meeting, and except for Sunday services, talk and join in on the conversations.

We have continued the majority of our regular schedule, just not in person. We have Bible study on Wednesdays at 6pm (on Zoom) and Sunday worship service at 11am (on Facebook live and Zoom). We will still have our game night this Saturday, April 18th at 4pm through Zoom.

I have also added a meeting on Thursdays 6-8pm. This meeting is for both Camden and Cleveland. We just connect together on Zoom, talk, share our concerns, update each other of where we are/what is going on, and laugh together. You can come in when you want and leave when you want. We have really enjoyed this time together.

At this point, we are unsure about the 200th anniversary. We will still have it! We don't know right now if we will be able to have it on the date we had originally scheduled. We should be able to determine this by the end of the month or early May.

Please continue to stay safe, stay home! Continue to connect with one another through any means you are able without having physical contact. Continue to connect corporately through the many opportunities that are provided.

Blessings,
Pastor Wendy

Church Office News

The Church building is currently closed for all use until we are cleared to return, this is to provide safety to the general public. The church office hours at this time are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1-3pm with extended hours as able. However, they are not at the church building. The secretary is not working at this time on Tuesday and Thursday (This is to ensure the serving of Food Pantry clients). Pastor Wendy continues to work on Wednesdays and Fridays, from home. You may call the church cell phone 315-225-6259 or e-mail the office at: camdenumc@centralny.twcbc.com. If no one answers the cell phone please leave a message and we will call you back (we can receive text messages as well). The secretary has this phone with her every day.

If you would like to dedicate our worship bulletins to loved ones please check with the secretary to book the date. **April 26, May 3, 17, 24, & 31 are currently available.** The minimum suggested donation is \$6.60 for a Sunday; dedications still appear on digital bulletin. If you would like to dedicate a hymn to loved ones for one of our worship services, for a donation, please check with the office for the date and to pick the hymn.

The deadline for the **June** newsletter is Wednesday, **May 6, 2020**. If your group has news for the newsletter, please let the office know.

Leslie Coe,
Church Secretary

Volunteer Schedules

We are not able to meet together in person at least through April 30, 2020, in compliance from Governor Cuomo and Bishop Mark Webb.

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request that needs to be shared, please contact the office (phone 315-225-6259 text as well; email: camdenumc@centralny.twcbc.com) and we will start the prayer request both by email and by phone. The office will contact Winnie Dunn so she can contact those wishing to be called, by phone.

Worship Planning

Our next Worship Planning meeting will be April 19th following the church service at 1:00pm. We are not able to meet in person so we will meet through Zoom to plan the services. Please feel free to join us as we work to put our faith in action to make disciples in all the world. The phone number to call in is: 1 929 205 6099. The meeting ID is: 946 5680 3918

Youth News

Remember to wash your hands. If you feel sick, try to stay away from other people. Call people that you miss, and check up on loved ones. Some thrive in being alone, but for others this is very difficult for them.

Matt Morrison

In response to federal guidance on COVID-19

To be in alignment with the federal guidance shared on Mar. 29 that large gatherings of people not be held until after Apr. 30, the Upper New York United Methodist Center will continue to be closed to the public until at least after that date. At this time, Upper New York Conference employees are also working from home in compliance with the mandate from the New York Governor's office that 100% of the workforce to stay home.

In response, to the federal guidance, Upper New York Conference leadership is highly recommending that churches avoid gathering in person until after Apr. 30 as well. It is asked that you make the health and safety of church members and the communities you serve a top priority. This starts with not gathering in-person, but there may be much more that can be done. Consider contacting your local public health department to see if there are ways to partner.

If you need any support with technical or creative needs such as online Bible studies/meetings, live streaming worship, or online giving please call (315) 898-2012 or e-mail COVID-19response@unyumc.org . Simply share what support you are seeking, and someone will promptly get back to you.

Adult Study News

Sunday Morning:

SEEKERS adult study group will meet again on Sunday morning, from 9:45-10:40 in the Library Lounge, when we are able to meet together again. We use the "Upper Room daily Disciplines" each week and have discussions of what we have learned through the week. All are invited to join us on our journey through life via the Bible.

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves and Fishes is meeting from 6-8:00 for a time of fellowship, prayer requests, prayer and study discussion through Zoom. We are reading and discussing the small books of the Bible. Come join us! If you don't have a tablet, or a smartphone, you can still join us by calling in. If you want to join us, contact the office cell phone at 315-225-6259 or Pastor Wendy at 315-832-8640 and we will help get you set up.

American Red Cross Bloodmobile News

There is always a need, more so now. The American Red Cross continues to protect those giving as well as those receiving blood. If you are donating, be advised you will need to wear a mask to give. If you are healthy and able, please seriously consider donating.

The next Bloodmobile will be **May 4, 2020 from 1:00-6:00pm** at Camden UMC, in the fellowship hall. Our goal for May is 33 pints. Come help exceed the goal. All blood types are always welcome.

Rapid Pass allows you to complete the reading material and the questions the day of your donation, but before you arrive. This will allow for more donors by speeding up your registration process. Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass to learn more.

Please help by sharing the gift of life, the need is always present. The cost to you is about one hour of your time.

April 26th is Native American Ministries Sunday

Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, equips Native congregations—like New York's Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregation—to worship and serve as only they can.

This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give. Our Giving Allows Native Americans to Encounter, Worship and Serve Jesus. When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Food Pantry News for February 2020

Dear Church Family,

Here is the Food Pantry report for February. Due to many bad weather days, our client count was only 64 families, total individuals were 210 and we gave out 3,150 meals.

We had a nice selection of fruits and vegetables like apples, oranges, grapes, green bell peppers, and russet potatoes. The tables were full and colorful. Those that did come also got strawberry yogurt and drinkable yogurt for their children.

*...our client count was only 64 families, total individuals were
210 and we gave out 3,150meals.*

Your generous giving was 151 items and \$58.00.

Thank you once again for your loving support.

The Food Pantry Clients and Staff

The Camden Area Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 12:30 pm, and Tuesday evenings from 6-7 pm.

Please **call 315-335-4615** to schedule an appointment for food and or donations, as we are operating **by appointment ONLY**. If you do not have access to a phone, please stop by the Food Pantry at 12:30 on Tuesday or Thursday to make your appointment for the following week.

The hours to call for appointments are:

Monday- 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30-5:30pm

Tuesday- 10:00am-12:30pm and 6:00-7:00pm

Wednesday- 10:00am-12:30pm

Thursday- 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30-5:30pm

Friday- 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30-5:30pm

Saturday & Sunday- 1:00-5:00pm

Food Pantry News for March 2020

Dear Church Family, it has been a busy month.

The food pantry report for the month of March is that we served 126 families, consisting of 158 children, 227 adults, and 39 seniors for a total of 424 individuals. The total meals given out was 6,360.

The Food Bank provided us with peppers, apples, and juices.

...we served 126 families, consisting of 158 children, 227 adults, and 39 seniors for a total of 424 individuals. The total meals given out was 6,360.

Due to the Coronavirus, we had some changes in the way we served our clients. The way was changed, but the amount of food we gave out was increased. Work had to be done in shifts, limiting the amount of our work staff. The entire staff worked and is still working many hours as items need to be packed ahead of time for clients.

We had a blessing given to us in the food category, thanks to Karl Keil! We received chocolate milk, regular milk in gallons, buns, small juices and snacks (like chips) and lettuce along with lots of apples. This all came from our schools.

Also we were and are extremely blessed with the relentless work done by “young” pantry staff members, including our own Leslie Coe, who heads up the “Magnificent Seven.” Amen & Amen

Our church giving for the month of March will be in the next newsletter.
Thank you.

P.S. This report was written from the sidelines,
by yours truly Diane Hertweck

The Camden Area Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 12:30 pm, and Tuesday evenings from 6-7 pm.

Zoom Meetings/Worship Services

Anyone with a phone, (home, cell, smart, or basic) can take part in church meetings and worship services. For each meeting or service you will place a phone call, enter the meeting ID followed by the “#” key, and follow the directions (for a worship service the “#” key again).

If you have a tablet, computer or smartphone with a camera you can watch services and interact with others. You will need to download the app or program and sign up for an account (all free). When ready to join a meeting or service you will click “Join a Meeting”, type in the meeting ID, and password (if needed). You will need to choose how to hear the audio and determine if you want to use the camera or not (using the camera means others can see you, and you can see others).

If you need help you can ask Leslie (315-225-6259) or Pastor Wendy (315-832-8640). We enjoy getting together with all that we can. We encourage you to join us.

Financial News

Dear Camden UMC Family,

I pray that each of you are safe and remaining healthy through this National Pandemic challenge.

While our church family has not had, what we now know more than we ever realized, the wonderful opportunity to get together in church each Sunday, we still are a close church family.

To continue to support thru this Pandemic, all of the aspects of our church family we each need to find ways to provide our church financial offerings.

Hard to believe but when we reviewed financials at our church's administration council meeting last night we are already nearly \$5,000 behind last year's offering.

Please try to help if you can. The good Lord wants us to succeed and I know you do.

Thank you and God Bless.
Karl Keil Finance Committee

Options for tithing

We have a few options set up to continue giving to the church. Your financial support is still important while we are not meeting in person. We hope that some of these options will be helpful to you.

Our first option is to mail your offering to the church. Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 104, Camden, NY 13316. We are checking our mail regularly, so your offering will be collected and counted on a regular basis.

The next option is available through your personal bank. You can set up an automatic payment through your bank, or you can choose when you want an offering to be sent. Through this option your bank will print a check and send it to the church (P.O. Box 104, Camden, NY 13316). This is available routinely with banks, not just at this time.

The last one that is set up is through electronic giving. We now have a link on our Facebook page and our website to "give now". This option allows you to use a credit/bank card or directly from your bank account. You can choose from a drop down menu for where you would like to give. You are also able to add another transaction at the same time. This allows, for example, you to give to the "general budget" and "Benevolence".

We are waiting expectantly for when we will worship together in the church building, with your ongoing support.