

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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June 2020



CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

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

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Pastor's news

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At least eight times in the book of Psalms we see the words, "How long Lord?" Maybe you have been asking that. Maybe you have shouted that to God through this pandemic. How long, Lord?

I pray, that while we are weary of being in this pandemic, that you have taken opportunities to strengthen your relationship with God. I pray that you have taken some time to see the good and beautiful things that God is doing through this.

I write this the Tuesday before Pentecost. Pentecost is one of my favorite celebrations in the church. I am a bit sad that we will not be together in person for this day, but I am excited to see what God will do when He sends another Pentecost. One church I served this day was a huge celebration. My first year at the appointment, on Pentecost we had a baptism, five confirmed in Christ and two that transferred their membership. This added to the Pentecost celebration.

I realize that some may have no idea what I am talking about when I say Pentecost (I understand! I did not grow up in church and learned what Pentecost really was well after seminary). Pentecost was the beginning of the Christian church. It was the first time that believers in Christ were called Christians. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were

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in the upper room praying, when the Holy Spirit came. Acts 2 tells us it was like “tongues of fire” which is where we get the saying, “the fire of the Holy Spirit”. Jesus promised that when He left, He would send the Holy Spirit to guide His people. Acts 2:41 says that about three thousand were added to their numbers that day. Could you imagine about three thousand people in our community coming to know Christ as their personal Savior in one day? Do it again Lord.

This is the same God we serve, and He can do it again! Do you believe He can? I am excited to see what God will do in our church in the coming year. Are you? We have such an opportunity to start afresh! We already knew that some of what we were doing was not working to bring people to Christ. We have a wonderful opportunity to re-vision, to re-imagine, to re-launch our church for God!

We already know that some of what we did has to change due to the guidelines to keep everyone safe. What are some other things that God might be asking us to change? What are some things that God is asking us to do? Are we listening? Are we willing to change? Are we willing to follow God’s leading?

As we plan to re-open our building, we need to plan re-launching our church in our community. What will this look like? I pray that you will consider joining us in the planning process. We need to focus on safety first, so that will be our first priority, then we will focus on re-launching!

We currently have the date for in person worship beginning June 28th, but please remember that this is not a firm date. We will be meeting once a week to plan how we will meet the guidelines. It is more than just social distancing and wearing a mask. That is the individual responsibility when in the building, but we need to prepare the building to be safe for everyone just like businesses do. We will keep you informed of where we are in the planning process during my weekly emails and we will also keep you informed of a definite date as we get closer.

Please let me know if you would like to help in this planning process. We will also have opportunities for people to share their opinions and ideas as well. Please also contact me if you need to talk or have any needs I might be able to help with.

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. **June 7, 14, & 21 are currently available.** The minimum suggested donation is \$6.60 for a Sunday; dedications still appear on digital bulletin, and can be printed for you if you are interested (when able to be back in the office). 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 **July** newsletter is Wednesday, **June 10, 2020**. If your group has news for the newsletter, please let the office know.

Leslie Coe, Church Secretary

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Volunteer Schedules

We are not able to meet together in person at least through the end June 2020, in compliance from Governor Cuomo and Bishop Mark Webb. There are requirements that we need to meet before we can meet in person. If you are interested in helping to prepare our building please reach out to Pastor Wendy (wendymorrison.church@yahoo.com) or the church at camdennymc@gmail.com so we can keep you posted on what is happening. The guidelines can be found at the following sites:

CDC Guidelines:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html?utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=88391390&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9M5-BzBkpOGbjS8X5MzFI7bIDNaqtqmmLxPXcLdkoI3xEXFIK3IYS2wAyxSdC3FqnyfBHxIUeGYOLD9x0FiT4FmWO4OLKpBkKhYNv3oCihIJnNokg&_hsmi=88391390

UNY Conference Guidelines:

https://www.unyumc.org/images/uploads/Reopening_Guidelines_UNY_Churches.pdf

Game Night

Our youth pastor, Matt Morrison, is currently offering weekly game nights on Saturday afternoons at 4:00 pm. These game nights are through Zoom video and are scavenger hunts. The past scavenger hunt themes have been: a straight scavenger hunt, Disney, riddles, cartoons, and the most recent Bible stories. These game events have been so much fun, and all are welcome to join us. The Zoom meeting ID to participate is: 997 8509 7485.

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 June 14th following the church service at 1:00pm. We are not able to meet in person therefore 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

We've been away from each other for over 3 months, not seeing each other in person. Instead, we have been using Zoom and Facebook live to keep in touch. Although it's not the same, it has helped us to stay connected. We have used Zoom to start a weekly game night including both churches and people from the community. Each week, we have been doing Scavenger Hunts but with a different theme including Disney, riddles, Bible stories and Cartoons. Although the game nights are not largely attended, those who do attend enjoy them just the same. We are planning to do them every Saturday afternoon at 4 if people are still interested in participating. Other games via Zoom have been considered but trying to get the details together have been a challenge.

We are excited about seeing everyone in person in the near future, although a date has not been established yet. Until then, stay safe, healthy, and sane. Enjoy time with your families and the beautiful summer weather.

Matt Morrison

Adult Study News

Sunday Morning:

SEEKERS adult study group will meet again, when we are able to, on Sunday mornings, from 9:45-10:40 in the Library Lounge. 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. The Zoom phone number to call in is: 1-929-205-6099. The meeting ID is: 994 2770 8987. 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 American Red Cross collected 32 pints of blood, exceeding the goal, at the May 4th blood drive. Thank you for supporting and donating!

The next Bloodmobile will be **July 6, 2020 from 1:00-6:00pm** at St. John the Evangelist Catholic church in Camden. Our goal for July 6 blood drive 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.

June 7th is Peace with Justice Sunday

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give. Your Giving Makes Possible the Proclamation of Christ's Peace. Will you continue to support Peace with Justice Sunday? Will you empower local Christians—in Pennsylvania and Arizona and Liberia—to build the kingdom of peace that Jesus ushered in?

In Jesus' inaugural address, standing in his home synagogue in Nazareth, he detailed his game plan,

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

Through your giving good news is proclaimed to—and experienced by—the poor.
Thanks be to God!

Food Pantry News for April 2020

Hello my dear church family,

The food pantry report for the month of April is as follows.

We had 69 families consisting of 87 children, 102 adults, and 43 seniors. A total of 232 individuals and gave out 3,480 meals!

We believe our numbers of our clients are down due to the money they received from the government for our current crisis, plus the fact that fewer people are leaving their homes. We continue to be open during our normal hours and take clients by appointment only. They just need to call 315-335-4615 (below are the hours to call).

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A total of 232 individuals and gave out 3,480 meals!*

We are taking every precaution to keep a safe and sanitary premises. We box items according to family size and pack refrigerated, freezer, and produce when clients show up. Apples were the main produce for the month of April.

Our church family has been giving mostly monetary gifts totaling \$750.00 for April. Thank you kindly for these gifts of love for our clients.

May God bless and keep you safe and well during these times.

I miss seeing you all in church and hope we will all be together soon. I hope you had a wonderful Mother's Day. This probably should be in May's report but I needed to get it out to you now.

Love and thanks from the Camden Food Pantry, staff and clients, for all you do to keep us going strong.

Also, please remember with prayers our wonderful volunteers.

Written by 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.

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 during normal Pantry hours:

Tuesday- 10:00am-12:30pm

Thursday- 10:00am-12:30pm

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.

The following is the Meeting IDs for the repeat Zoom events. If calling in the phone number is the same for all meetings (this number is for those in New York) and it is: 1-929-205-6099. Starting with Sunday morning worship services.

Sunday Worship Services

Cleveland UMC, 9:00 am, ID: 923 6377 3838

Camden UMC, 11:00 am, ID: 965 4260 5671

Bible Studies

Tuesday 10:00 am Cleveland UMC Bible Study: 952 0017 6190

Wednesday 6:00 pm Camden UMC Bible Study: 994 2770 8987

Currently on Hold: Churches Gathering open discussion and sharing with both churches

Thursday 6:00-8:00 pm: 976 3576 7327

Family Game Night (Video Zoom only)

Saturday 4:00 pm: 977 8509 7485

Here are alternate phone numbers based on your location:

1(312)626-6799 Chicago; 1(301)715-8592 Germantown; 1(669)900-6833 San Jose; 1(253)215-8782 Tacoma;
1(346)248-7799 Houston

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 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.