

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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October 2020



CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

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

Inside This Issue

- 1-2. Pastor's News
- 2. Office and Building News
 - 2. Prayer Chain
 - 3. Youth News
- 3. Worship planning
- 3. Seekers Study Group
- 3. Ladies Fellowship
- 3. Christmas Bazaar
- 3. Online Worship Services
 - 3. Harvest Dinner
- 3. Loves and Fishes Study & Game Night
 - 4. Bloodmobile
- 4. Food Pantry- July & August
 - 4. Food Pantry Hours
 - 4. Brickwork Project
- 5. Tithing
- 6. Calendar of events, Prayer List- October

Pastor's news

Hello Friends,

Welcome to Fall! This is my favorite time of year. I love to see the colors change, the cooler temperatures.

Fall also brings thoughts of Thanksgiving, which then lead to thoughts of Christmas (yes, I'm going there already). This is by far my favorite time of year!

This year has brought so much change and perspective to so many of us. And we have yet another thing to consider...what will the holidays look like in the church this year?

As of now, our regulations all remain the same as they were when we opened for in-person worship on July 12th. While we hope and pray that these regulations will ease up soon, we have to begin to plan as they are right now. This means that we cannot have Advent and Christmas Eve services the way we always have.

I don't want us to think of it as another thing that is taken away and get discouraged. I want us to think of ways that we can make this season special. Let's get excited!

Newsletter 1

We have an amazing opportunity to do something different! We need to remember that Christmas is not about us, it is all about God, His love for us! So much love that He sent His Son, Jesus to us! What are some new ways we can celebrate Jesus this year? How can we share the love of Jesus with the Camden community this year?

Matt, Leslie, and I have joined some webinars to glean some ideas from others, but I want to hear yours as well. Please send us ideas to make Christmas special this year.

We will definitely have an online service in some form for Christmas Eve. I also want to find a way to do something in the community. Let's get excited about celebrating Jesus in a special, meaningful way!

Blessings,
Pastor Wendy

Church Office and Building News

The Church building is slowly reopening. Headstart has started. Headstart has a few requirements that need to be in effect for them to continue to use our building. During the week the back door is only to be used by Headstart. At all times the lady's bathroom is only open for Headstart use. Because of this and our own guidelines, the men's room is to be used by all others using the church. Our bathroom requirements include sanitizing after each use. If you use the bathroom there are disinfecting wipes provided in the bathroom stall and on the window sill. Please wipe the surfaces used.

The sanctuary needs to be left untouched from the last person leaving the sanctuary on Sunday morning (Usually Dan Coe) to the first person in on the following Sunday morning to get set for worship (Dan Coe). This is the allowed recommendation for churches so that we do not need to use harmful cleaning agents on wood surfaces. The last person leaving the sanctuary on Sunday morning will tie ribbon or rope on the sanctuary doors. Please do not undo this during the week. If this is not able to be done, we either have to clean the sanctuary with damaging products every Sunday morning or no longer meet in person.

The church office hours at this time are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1-3 pm with extended hours as able, the secretary is working from home. 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 camdennymc@gmail.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 near her every day.

If you would like to dedicate our worship bulletins to loved ones please check with the secretary to book the date. **October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 8, 15, 22, & 29 are currently available.** The minimum suggested donation is \$6.60 for a Sunday; dedications still appear in the 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 **November** newsletter is Wednesday, **October 7, 2020**. If your group has news for the newsletter, please let the office know.

Leslie Coe, Church Secretary

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: camdennymc@gmail.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.

Youth News

We will begin Sunday School in person on Sunday, October 4. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall so we have enough room to practice social distancing and be able to do fun activities. Each child will have their own station to do their projects. For the month of October, we will be Fall/Harvest/Halloween themes each week. We are still looking for people to volunteer to assist in the Sunday School class. The more volunteers we have, the bigger the rotation will be.

We have decided for this Holiday Season, to sponsor a few families in the Camden area, in lieu of Samaritans Purse or Red Bird Mission because of the cost and due to Covid-19 restrictions. More details to come soon.

A survey will be coming out soon to help us decide on the best day and time to start up the Game Nights on Zoom again. The survey will be sent via email. Please keep an eye out for this survey as it has other information on it as well.

We are in the planning stages for a Pop Up Christmas Pageant. This will be held on Zoom and be a combined effort of Cleveland and Camden congregations.

Stay safe, healthy, and keep your eyes focused on The Lord.
Pastor Matt Morrison

Worship Planning

Our next Worship Planning meeting will be October 18th following the church service at 1:00 pm. The dates for the rest of the year are November 22nd and December 20th. They are all on the third Sunday of the month.

Seekers Study Group

The Seekers group will be starting October 4th at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. They use the Our Daily Bread devotions "Disciplines".

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship meetings are postponed until further notice.

The Christmas Bazaar

Due to concerns about the Coronavirus, this year's Christmas Bazaar is postponed until 2021. We look forward to being able to hold it in 2021.

Online Worship Services Sunday Afternoon

Online Worship on Facebook Live or later and Zoom at **2 pm** Meeting ID: 965 4260 5671 To call in using Zoom dial: 1-929-205-6099 followed by # and as prompted.

Harvest Dinner

We will be having the Harvest Dinner this year. It will be take-out only, two choices of pie, pumpkin or apple. The cost is \$15.00. If you would like tickets many members of the church have tickets to sell, or you may call 315-225-6259 to set up a time to get your tickets.

Loaves and Fishes Bible Study and Game Night

Pastor Wendy and Matt are working on setting up both the Bible Study and Game night again. We are looking to start in the first few weeks of October. If you are interested in taking part in either or both of these events please speak with Pastor Wendy, Matt or take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D9K22KB>

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 **November 2, 2020, from 1:00-6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall in Camden United Methodist Church. Our goal for November 2 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.

Food Pantry News for July & August 2020

Dear Church family,

We continue to serve our clients on an appointment basis. This provides the opportunity to keep our clients and our staff safe during this time of health concerns related to Covid-19. We will continue this through the fall and winter season especially as cold and flu season becomes prevalent.

We noticed a slight increase in clients in these two months. In July we had 44 households made up of 51 children, 69 adults, 20 seniors for a total of 140 people. We gave out 2,100 meals. In August we had 60 households consisting of 67 children, 96 adults, 40 seniors for a total of 203 people. We gave out 3,045 meals.

We continued to receive produce from Ruth Norton and the Cluster of Produce community garden. We were blessed to receive many green leafy vegetables such as Kale, Swiss Chard, and Beet greens. We have received leeks, Summer squash, Zucchini, and many fresh herbs including mint, sage, chives, and thyme.

*We had 44 households for a total of 140 people in July.
In August we had 60 households for a total of 203 people.*

Our church giving for July was \$105.00 and August was \$100.00. Our clients thank you for your donations that help us provide the items we give out.

Thank you for your continued support for our community.
The Clients and staff of the Camden area Food pantry.
Submitted on behalf of Diane Hertweck.

Food Pantry Hours

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** Tuesday- 10:00 am-12:30 pm or Thursday- 10:00 am-12:30 pm to schedule an appointment for food and or donations, as we are operating **by appointment ONLY**. Please leave a message with your name and number if we do not answer. 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. Thank you!

Brick Work Project

The brickwork on the church building was completed at the end of September. We have borrowed money to pay for this work. If you would like to help cover these costs please feel free to give regularly or a one-time gift. Every little bit will help to cover this project. You can give through our normal means see below. Please designate any giving that is specific to the brickwork as such.

Options for tithing

We have a few options set up to continue giving to the church. Your financial support is still important whether in person or virtually. We hope that some of these options will be helpful to you.

Our first options are 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 regularly. The next option is similar, giving through your 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.

If you are joining worship in person you can leave your offering in the plates either at the back when entering or the front as you leave.

The next 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”.

The newest option is Text to give. The following is an explanation of how Text Giving works and how to get started:

- Your organization will be assigned its own unique 10-digit mobile number from your local area code to use with your text-to-give account. It's important to note that this number is unique to you and is not shared with any other customers. Your donors will be able to save this number to their phone's contact list for easy access!
- To donate, your donors will text an amount to your unique mobile number.
- The first time a donor texts your text-to-give mobile number, they will receive a response text from our service prompting them to register via a secure registration link. This link will load a secure registration portal that is completed through the donor's mobile browser and will assign their mobile number to your organization. It will also allow them to provide the credit/debit card number or bank account they would like to use for text giving.
- Donors will get a text confirmation that their donation and registration were successful.
- Donors who text donations and donate online (or through the mobile web interface) will have all of their history tied to their account.
- The next time the donor wants to text a gift, they simply text the amount to your number! Their payment information is stored securely within our service, so there is no need for the donor to re-type payment information every time they give via text.
- Text donations are NOT settled by their cellular service carrier. Text donations are processed and settled by your existing account with us. These transactions will settle in the same manner and speed as your online donations.

The Camden United Methodist Church has set up Text giving. The number for text to give is 315-522-6229. Feel free to use this as an additional way to support the church.