

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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November 2020



CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

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November 2020

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Pastor's news

Hello Friends,

We are quickly moving to the end of 2020 and into the holiday season. Things will look significantly different in all of our lives this year in the midst of COVID. Things will look different in the church as well.

This past Sunday (November 1st), we celebrated All Saints Day. This year, we did a slide show with music and sharing names and pictures of those who have gone before us. We will spend some time giving thanks the Sunday before Thanksgiving. And then on November 29th, we begin Advent.

We will still have all of the advent services each Sunday. If you are joining us online, I will include the Advent lightings in that service, if you would like to light your own candles at home. If you want to participate in this way at home, but are in need of candles, please let us know as soon as possible and we will figure out how to get you some.

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Christmas Eve service will be different this year as we will not be able to have everyone in the Sanctuary like years past. We are still working out all of the details for the service, but we are planning to have a shortened service outside in the parking lot. This will allow us to still have a candlelight service. Since we will be in a much bigger, open space, if we stay 12 feet apart, we will also be able to sing a couple of well-known songs like Silent Night and Joy to the World. We will still have an online service as well, but I have not set a time for that yet. We are collecting the gallon milk jugs if you have any available. We just ask that they are cleaned out. We are putting them in my office until Christmas Eve. We will have more details about this service as we get closer.

In saying all of this, please remember that the plans are dependent on us being open. We are seeing an uptick of COVID cases, so we need to be prepared to go completely online if necessary. I want to draw your attention to two things. First, the webpage <https://forward.ny.gov/> The governor has set up a color-coded system if the COVID cases rise in an area. Currently, we are not in a hotspot cluster, so we continue what we are doing now. On this webpage, you can put in your address and it will let you know, so no guessing. If we were to move to a yellow, we would need to have 50% maximum capacity. I believe we are already a bit less than that in order to maintain social distance, so nothing would change for us if we were in a yellow zone. If we move to an orange zone we need to have 33% maximum capacity or no more than 25 people, whichever is less. If we move to a red zone, we need to have 25% maximum capacity or no more than 10 people, whichever is less. Looking at these numbers, if our area is in the orange or red zone, we will need to move to online services only and likely no in-person meetings.

The second, if the weather is bad or questionable (we are moving into winter), we will cancel in-person worship, BUT we will have online worship that day (so not completely canceled). If we need to make the decision to change to online either due to the weather (only online that day) or due to the coding mentioned previously (online until the coding changes), we will announce through email, Facebook, and our phone blast. If you do not check your email regularly and/or are not on Facebook, but want to be sure you get these messages, please contact Karl Keil so that he can add your phone number to our phone blast. You will receive a phone call with a recorded message from myself or possibly Karl to let you know any changes or upcoming things.

Lastly, I want to give a big thank you for all of your support even through these difficult times. You have given in so many ways, through your time, talents, and treasures. You have continued to give your tithes and offerings and have given to the building fund for our brickwork project. Thank you for all of this. Overall though, our collections are down significantly from previous years. If we continue this pattern, we will struggle to continue the ministries we are currently doing. Would you consider what you might be able to give? Could you increase your giving by 1-5%? Every small amount adds up. Please pray about this.

As always, if you need anything, please reach out. I can be reached through my email wendymorrison.church@yahoo.com or my cell phone at 315-832-8640.

May you find joy through Christ as we enter into this holiday season.

Blessings,
Pastor Wendy

Laity Reserve Dec. 2 for Time with Bishop

The Laity of Mohawk District are invited for time with Bishop Webb 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Dec. 2, through a virtual (over the internet) gathering. If you cannot participate from home but are willing to travel to take part, while observing COVID-19 protocols, contact Pastor Wendy, Leslie, or Mohawk District Office. Please reserve this date on your calendars.

Youth News

The Camden youth have decided to adopt 2 families this year locally, meaning both families will come from the Camden School District. The schools are working with us on suggesting the families. Once we have a list of items together, we will provide that information to the church. We will have a sign-up sheet on Sundays so people can see the complete list and decide what they want to help with. We are looking to have a deadline on Sunday, December 6th, so we can pack the items and get them to the families in a timely manner. So far we know we will need hygiene items, some school supplies, and non-perishable food items.

We are also discussing options for what the youth can do for Christmas on a Sunday. We are hoping to be able to put something nice together for this Christmas Season.

We continue to do Game Night on Friday nights at 7 PM via Zoom video, the meeting ID is: 994 8229 3713. This is the link for game night: [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#). This is open to all ages and would love to have more families participate.

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

Upper Room Daily Devotionals

Because your church subscribes to *The Upper Room* daily devotional, they are offering additional resources (free of charge). The resources available are as follows: (items in blue are active links, or you can copy the web address into a web browser)

- Morning Prayer with The Upper Room via [Facebook Live](#) (<https://upperroom.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b5f1dafae8900da3ef72c04d&id=b776bc2dc3&e=7347b90477>), every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11 a.m. (CT). These guided prayer experiences are archived so you may join us at your convenience if you miss it live.
- [Resources for Spiritual Wellness in Anxious Times](#). (<https://upperroom.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b5f1dafae8900da3ef72c04d&id=fc133ce533&e=7347b90477>) For navigating the pandemic, this link makes available to you a robust list of timely practices—for individuals and families as well as your faith leaders. Included are digital devotionals, videos, eCourses, podcasts, etc., all of which can be accessed and distributed free of charge to everyone in your congregation.
- [A PDF File of the November/December issue of *The Upper Room*](#) (<https://upperroom.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b5f1dafae8900da3ef72c04d&id=61ec0eb8c2&e=7347b90477>) is available to our standing order churches. Because you are a paid subscriber, we want to provide this service to you since we realize many readers are currently reticent or unable to pick up their copy of the devotional guide because of the virus or closed church office. We encourage you to freely share with everyone in your congregation as a gift.
- [Resources for the Spiritual Work of Overcoming Racism](#) (<https://upperroom.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b5f1dafae8900da3ef72c04d&id=f6dce95561&e=7347b90477>) For addressing the spiritual virus of racism that continues to tear our society apart, we're compiling and adding more content each week to this list of helpful resources. Included is my blog which sets the context for the formational work of anti-racism—*Reaching In, Reaching Up, Reaching Out: The Spiritual Work of Overcoming Racism*.

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship meetings are postponed until further notice.

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 and other delicate 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 camdennyumc@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. **November 8, 15, 22, & 29, December 13, 20, & 27 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 **December** newsletter is Wednesday, **November 18, 2020**. If your group has news for the newsletter, please let the office know.

You probably have noticed that the newsletter has been late the past few months. I am disappointed in this. I thank you for your patience and support.

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: camdennyumc@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.

Worship Planning

Our next Worship Planning meeting will be November 22nd following the church service at 1:00 pm. The date for December is December 20th.

Seekers Study Group

The Seekers group are meeting at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. They use the Our Daily Bread devotional "Disciplines".

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.

Loaves and Fishes Bible Study

We are doing a study titled "Breaking Free from Fear". We read a few scripture verses and dig into them and discuss parts of them and what we can learn about fear and the love of God through scripture. We meet Wednesday evenings through Zoom. The Zoom time is at 6pm. And the meeting number is: 965 9213 0014. We look forward to learning with you.

Game Night

Our game night has started. We meet on Friday evenings at 7pm for themed scavenger hunts. Matt gives us items to find in our homes that are clues to the answer. This is a great time to get to know others we don't get to know regularly. Game night is open for youth and adults and for both churches. There are participants from both churches each week. Game night is through Zoom video. The meeting ID is: 994 8229 3713.

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 **January 4, 2021, from 1:00-6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall in Camden United Methodist Church. Our goal for the January 4 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.

Harvest Dinner

Our Harvest Dinner was a great success again this year. Thank you to everyone for their help and support by cooking turkeys and pies, selling tickets, running food, and your thoughts and prayers. Without your support there wouldn't be a dinner.

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.

Food Pantry Hours

The Camden Area Food Pantry (Located at 84 Main Street. Use the parking lot behind main street) 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!

Ad Council

The Ad Council will meet November 12 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. Please get your information to the office ASAP so it can be shared before the meeting.

Food Pantry News for September 2020

Dear Church family,

Our families were blessed in September with fresh plums and cherries from the Food Bank. Our clients enjoyed them very much.

We continue to see an increase in clients coming for food. We had 73 households made up of 89 children (ages 0-18), 150 adults (ages 19-64), and 27 seniors (ages 65+) for a total of 266 individuals. We were able to give out a total of 3,990 meals to these families.

We had 73 households made up of 89 children (ages 0-18), 150 adults (ages 19-64), and 27 seniors (ages 65+) for a total of 266 individuals.

For September our church gave \$160.00 and 4 items. Thanks to your generosity we were able to help these families in our community. Our families continue to be blessed by the generosity of our church and community. Thank you.

The Clients and Staff

of the Camden Area Food Pantry.

Submitted on behalf of Diane Hertweck.

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.

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- 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.

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