

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

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January 2021

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Pastor's news

2 Corinthians 5:17 says: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! This is always a good verse to start off the new year. Especially this year! It is a reminder that the past is the past, let's start fresh.

The reality, God gives us each new day to start afresh. In Lamentations 3:22-21, we receive this reminder: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Let's not beat ourselves up over past mistakes. Instead, let us turn to God, seek His guidance, and follow His leading. The new year is an opportunity to turn over a new leaf, start afresh, put the past in the past, and move forward.

Many have mentioned the struggle of getting into a routine of daily Scripture reading and prayer, which is extremely helpful and important to do daily when we are following God. You will find information in this newsletter about a new app called Everyday Sanctuary. This can be used on your phone, tablet, or computer. Our church will be one of the early adapters for this app, so please share your feedback as well so that I can share it with the creator. This app is free and will have a 5 minute time with God each day through the month of January. The app will then go completely public on February 17th (Ash Wednesday). I used this app in the fall. It is a great way to have a time of focus on God. It is accessible (I used it on my phone, so had it available wherever I went).

Another option (in addition to this app or separate) is to go to Bible.com or download the Bible app. This is through YouVersion. I use this on a daily basis. They have a daily story that includes a Scripture, a video, a written devotion, a question, and prayer. They also have thousands of devotional plans to choose from, whether you want to read the whole Bible in a year, focus on a specific book of the Bible, or a specific topic, something you are struggling with (maybe anxiety, depression, addiction, fear). Using the app for this, again, makes it accessible wherever you are (I use this on my phone as well).

A third option, if you do not like using electronics for devotions or do not have that ability, is to use Our Daily Bread or The Upper Room devotionals. These are available online as well, but we have printed copies in the office. We can mail them to you, drop them off at your house, or set up a time to meet you.

With the resources available, there is no reason for us NOT to spend time with God on a daily basis. You will never find the time in the busy schedules that we all hold. You need to just set a time and be sure to take the time with God. Maybe setting an alarm would be helpful as a reminder that this is the specific time you have set for God.

Let us make this year great by starting with our relationship with God!

God Bless,
Pastor Wendy Morrison
Camden United Methodist Church &
Cleveland United Methodist Church

Everyday Sanctuary

2020 was an extraordinary year in which our everyday life radically changed. This year our faith has needed to come home, far more than ever before because we've needed **faith, hope, and love** more than ever before.

Romans 12:1 says, "Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering." (MSG)

Although our lives have been far from ordinary, in 2021 our church is excited to help you **bring faith home every day** through Everyday Sanctuary. **Everyday Sanctuary** is a free daily 5-minute faith practice that uses presence, prayer, scripture, and gratitude to connect busy people to God every day. Everyday Sanctuary is free and can be downloaded through your mobile app store.

You can know God every day in your ordinary and extraordinary life. This year let's take our everyday life and place it before God and make some Sanctuary.

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship meetings are postponed until further notice.

Regular Worship Services

We began fully online worship on December 13th. Our Service is currently through Zoom and Facebook at 11:00 am each Sunday. We have a new Zoom Meeting ID for this service. The phone number to call remains the same, **1-929-205-6099**. The **NEW** meeting ID is **942 2344 2772**. If you have any questions please feel free to call the church cell phone at 315-225-6259, if I do not answer, please leave me a message with your name and number and I will return your call.

A Note from Marion Scoville

Apparently, a little bird spread the news of my monumental day in December, as I received such warm wishes from my church friends.

I have been a member of this church for so many years! I can still hear my mother saying “I was a Methodist born, a Methodist bred, and when I die I’ll be a Methodist Dead!” Now I am also declaring those same words!!

I miss my church family, but am thankful for the “go-to-church-by phone” privilege.

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts of me.
Marion Scoville

Youth News

Our youth had a very successful December with a few projects. The first was to make and send cards to those who have not been in church during this year with the guidance of Janice Alvord. These cards brought smiles to many faces.

The other successful project was to adopt a local family for Christmas. Thanks to the generosity of those in our congregation they were able to wrap many, many gifts to be given to this family. With the help and guidance of Racheal Keller this family was able to receive this Christmas blessing.

Thank you for all of your support of the youth this year. We look forward to new projects in the coming year.

We will start up Game Night on Friday nights at 7 PM via Zoom video after the start of the year. 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. Game nights are scavenger hunts through your home. The hunted items are clues to figuring out the answer. The themes vary from movies, songs, places, riddles, etc. This has become a great time of fellowship, laughter, and fun. Come join us!

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

Worship Planning

Our next Worship Planning meeting will be January 17th following the church service at 12:00 pm. The next worship planning date is February 21st. We are currently meeting through Zoom. If you are unable to meet through Zoom, you are welcome to send your thoughts and suggestions to Pastor Wendy or Leslie.

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.

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 January/February and November/December issue of *The Upper Room* is available at (<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*.

Christmas Poinsettias

This year we did flower decorations a little differently. We offered people to dedicate a paper poinsettia to loved ones. We will share pictures of the beautiful flowers so all can enjoy this tradition with a new twist. The outcome is a beautiful board of flowers. Please find the picture at the end of this newsletter.

Seekers Study Group

The Seekers group is not meeting at this time. However since they use “The Upper Room Disciplines A Book of Daily Devotions” you are able to participate if you would like. The books are available through Cokesbury as well as other book sellers.

Loaves and Fishes Bible Study

We will continue a study titled “Breaking Free from Fear” after the first of the year. 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 6:30pm. And the meeting number is: 965 9213 0014. We look forward to learning with you.

Game Night

Our game night will start again after the beginning of the year. 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.

Church Office and Building News

The Church building is open for some groups. We are not currently meeting in person for worship. One group that is coming in is the American Red Cross for their blood drive on January 4th. Headstart is currently working remotely, at least until January 19th (same schedule as the school district). This is subject to change. 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 (Locks are scheduled to be used when Headstart is not in the building. Because of this and our own guidelines, the men's room is to be used by all others using the church. A lock is due to be installed so that when in use it can be locked on the inside. 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 after use.

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. **January 24, & 31, February 7, 14, 21, & 28 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 **February** newsletter is Wednesday, **January 12, 2021**. If your group has news for the newsletter, please let the office know.

Leslie Coe, Church Secretary

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.

Note from Diane Hertweck

Happy New Year! I'm feeling much better. Thank you for all your prayers.

I'm spending the winter and maybe longer in Rochester with my son and daughter in law. I'm well cared for and loved.

Food Pantry News for November 2020

Dear Church family,

Our families were blessed in November with fresh plums, carrots, oranges, sweet potatoes, and apples from the Food Bank. Toward the end of the month, we received many squash types (spaghetti, Hubbard, acorn, and butternut) Our clients enjoyed them very much.

We decided, this year, to give out another Tops Market gift card to our clients around the Christmas season. We usually give a gift card around Thanksgiving only because we know that the Rotary usually provides Christmas baskets in conjunction with Toys For Tots. We recognize that this year has been very different for all of us and that there are more concerns for insecurity. We have been able to provide food to our clients through the Foodbank, community food donations, and financial donations, as well as these gift cards. Our clients continue to be blessed by the generosity of our community and our church.

We had 73 households made up of 104 children (ages 0-18), 136 adults (ages 19-64), and 28 seniors (ages 65+) for a total of 268 individuals.

We saw an increase in clients coming for food in November. We had 73 households made up of 104 children (ages 0-18), 136 adults (ages 19-64), and 28 seniors (ages 65+) for a total of 268 individuals. We were able to give out a total of 4,020 meals to these families.

During November our church gave \$219.00 and 17 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.

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!

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. *Newsletter 6*
- 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.

