

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PO BOX 104
CAMDEN, NEW YORK 13316

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CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

Pastor: Rev. Wendy Morrison Youth Pastor: Matt Morrison Secretary: Leslie Coe
February 2021

Inside This Issue

1. Pastor's News
2. Pastor's News Con't.
 2. Ladies Fellowship
2. Regular Service Information
 2. A Note from Tom Fanning
 2. Prayer Chain
 2. Worship Planning
3. Youth News & Game Night
 3. Upper Room Devotionals
 3. Seekers Study Group
3. Loaves & Fishes Bible Study
4. Church Office and Building news
 4. Bloodmobile
5. Food Pantry news for December
 5. Food Pantry Hours
 6. Tithing
7. February Calendar and Prayer list

Pastor's news

Hello everyone,

As you may know, just over a week ago, I sent out a survey to see how everyone felt about reopening. The results of the survey were almost split down the middle with a few more saying wait a bit rather than opening. This was the same result at both churches.

Last week, watching the numbers on the Forward NY website, the numbers for Oswego and Oneida County were coming down, but still a bit high. They were about where they were when we closed in December. I will continue to check throughout the weeks to come. They are continuing to come down.

With all of this information, taking into consideration the numbers, the survey results, and the comments that were shared on the survey, we are going to be waiting a bit longer to open. We will set a **tentative date to reopen on Sunday, February 21st**. This is the first Sunday in Lent. I say tentative because, if the numbers begin to climb, or if we have another spike within our communities, we will wait longer.

We will not have an Ash Wednesday service as there is no way to safely do ashes. We may do something creative for Ash Wednesday and if you have any ideas, please share them. As long as we are able to remain open, we will have to plan something creative for Easter Sunday as we will likely have too many people in service to be in the sanctuary.

We will go back to a 2 pm online service when we open for those who can't come or do not feel comfortable coming. This service will be on Zoom (we will have a new meeting ID when this happens), Cleveland UMC Facebook, and Camden UMC Facebook.

Please understand that when we open, we will still have to follow all of the same precautions that were in place prior to this current closure. We will have to maintain a 6-foot distance, wear masks (may be removed once seated, but ready to put them on if someone approaches you), and no singing (this is a state mandate. If we are to sing, we have to be 12 feet apart and wear mask the whole service). We will still have the check in to keep track of who is in the building and sanitizer throughout the building.

I know that some will not be happy with this decision, but please understand, these decisions are not easy ones. There is a lot to weigh, a lot to consider, and lots of numbers to take into account. Please be patient and kind.

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

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship meetings are postponed until further notice.

Regular Worship Services

We remain fully online for worship. 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 Tom Fanning

Thank you for your outpouring of love and support for me and my family when my sister Diane passed away. Your cards, food, care and love helped to make this time comforting.

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 February 21st following the church service at 12:00 pm. The next worship planning date is March 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.

Youth News and Game Night

We have been enjoying 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 we 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 for participants from Cleveland and Camden. Come join us!

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 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*.

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”. We will be starting a new study mid February “Spiritual Warfare: Overcoming the Enemy”. 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.

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 March 1st. Headstart is currently back in the building. 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. Because of this and our own guidelines, the men's room is to be used by all others using the church. A lock is 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 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. **February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 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 **March** newsletter is Wednesday, **February 10, 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 **March 1, 2021, from 1:00-6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall in Camden United Methodist Church. Our goal for the March 1 blood drive is 33 pints. Come help exceed the goal. All blood types are always welcome. Our January 4 Blood Drive had 24 donors, 2 first time donors and collected 26 pints. Thank you for your gift of life.

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 December 2020

Dear Church Family,

We were blessed with many donations from the community during December. We had a generous donation of various squash from a local gardener.

We continued to give out Tops gift cards. We made sure that our clients received a total of two cards during this winter and holiday season. We recognize that this past year has been tough on everyone, especially those with food insecurity.

We had 76 households made up of 89 children (ages 0-18), 132 adults (ages 19-64), and 28 seniors (ages 65+) for a total of 249 individuals.

Our clients have been blessed by donations from our church as well as the Camden community. Since we stopped meeting in person for worship, there was an increase in financial donations and a decrease in donated items, in the month of December. You gave 6 items and \$710.00 in December. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Many of the financial donations you give help to purchase items that are non-food items like baby diapers, hygiene products, shampoo, bar soap, laundry soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. We sometimes forget that these items are important for the continued health of people.

We served 249 total individuals from 76 households. The households were made up of 89 children, 132 adults and 28 seniors. We provided 3,735 meals to these families.

We continue to serve by appointment only. Which helps to keep our clients and staff safer with minimal physical interaction with many people. We count on our schools to determine if it is unsafe to venture out in this season of winter. Having appointments keeps people home because we can call our scheduled families and let them know not to travel. We are able to help people with referral information while we are scheduling their appointments and include it in the boxes that are specifically packed for them.

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.