

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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April 2021



CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

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

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Pastor's news

Hello Friends,

Last month we hit the year anniversary of the pandemic. I am proud of everyone for sticking with it, for learning new technology, and staying connected to God and to each other. It has been a difficult year for everyone. While we are seeing some easement on some of the restrictions, we still need to remain safe. The guidelines for churches have remained the same. Even though we know that some things have forever changed, we still long for the day when we can meet in the church in a "normal" way (singing, shaking hands, hugging, sharing in meals, etc.). The time is coming. I don't know when, but we will celebrate when it does!

Leslie and I have been taking a class together through the District. We want to begin sharing and implementing some of the ideas from this course. This is not just another program that we do for a time and then it sits on the shelves. We are using resources from this course to form a team to implement ways to move the Camden UMC forward together in one mission in the community. In the coming weeks and months, we may approach some of you to join this team. Regardless if you are on this team or not, we still need everyone's help. In the coming months, we will be sending out surveys. Please participate in these surveys. They will be short. These surveys will help us to determine the steps that we need to take as we move forward. We will share more on this the Sunday my family is back from vacation, on April 18th.

Newsletter 1

I am also looking to start membership classes at the end of April beginning of May. I will be sending information out over email, but if you do not have email and are interested in becoming a member of the Camden UMC, please let me know and I will be sure to get you the information a different way.

In the meantime, the beginning of April will be busy. Holy week begins today (as I write this) with Palm Sunday. Thursday, April 1st, we will have a free soup drive-thru for Maundy Thursday and then an online service (Zoom and Facebook) at 8 pm watching The Towel and the Twelve, which is a reenactment of the Last Supper. Friday, April 2nd we will have an in-person Good Friday service in Cleveland at 6 pm and an online service (Facebook and Zoom) at 8 pm. In both services, we will be watching A Memorial Service for Jesus. The Mohawk District Leadership Team has recorded this. It is very moving!

On Easter, we will have a Sunrise Service in Cleveland at the lake by the gazebo at 6:30 am (sunrise is at 6:37 am). This will be in person and on Cleveland Facebook live. Our Easter service will be at our regular time, 11 am, however, it will be outside to allow us to be safe, spread out to the 6' social distancing, and not have to turn anyone away. We will also sing. If the weather is cold, rainy, or snowy, we will shorten the service.

We will still have an online service for Easter as well, BUT it will be at DIFFERENT TIMES. For those who normally join through Zoom, I will record the Easter online service on Saturday at 7 pm. You are welcome to join me. That recording will then be posted on the Facebook page for those who join that way. So, there will not be a Facebook live on Easter, just click on the post and it will bring you to the video.

On Zoom for all of our online services, we are using the Sunday Online Worship link and code that has been the same since the beginning of lent.

The link is: <https://umcom.zoom.us/j/94670476396>

The meeting ID number is: 946 7047 6396

If you are calling in, the number to call is: 1 929 205 6099

My family will be on vacation following the Easter services through April 11th. We will still have in-person worship on April 11th, but there will NOT be online worship that Sunday.

In the middle of April, there is a possibility that our meeting numbers will change for Zoom. We have had a grant for the last year from UMC Communications that allowed us to have Zoom for free. This grant expires on April 19th and we have not received any word of them renewing it. When I set up the account again after this, I am not sure if it will save all of the current meetings we have. We will send out an email if there are any changes. If you do not receive email, please let us know that you will need the information so we can call you.

I pray that everyone has a blessed Holy Week and Easter Season!

God Bless,

Pastor Wendy Morrison

Camden United Methodist Church &

Cleveland United Methodist Church

Regular Worship Services

We are now meeting in person and online. Our online Service is currently through Zoom and Facebook at **2:00 pm** each Sunday. The current Zoom Meeting ID for this service is **946 7047 6396**. The phone number to call remains the same, **1-929-205-6099**. If the meeting ID changes, we will send out the information as soon as we know by email. 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 a message with your name and number and I will return your call.

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship meetings are postponed until further notice.

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 on April 18th following the church service at 12:00 pm. We will finalize Easter plans and work on April worship services. We will be meeting in person unless we need to change this. If you are unable to meet, you are welcome to send your thoughts and suggestions to Pastor Wendy or Leslie.

Youth News and Game Night

We are meeting on Sunday mornings during worship for Sunday School. Social distancing and safety precautions are adhered to. All youth are welcome to join us!

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](#). Again **If** the meeting ID needs to change we will send you an email with the new information. 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

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 **May 3, 2021, from 1:00-6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall at the Camden United Methodist Church. Our goal for the May 3 blood drive is 33 pints. Come help exceed the goal. All blood types are always welcome. Our March 1, 2021 Blood Drive had 28 donors, 2 first-time donors, and collected 28 pints. Thank you for your gift of life.

Rapid Pass allows you to complete the reading material and the questions on 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.

Seekers Study Group

The Seekers group will be meeting in person again starting April 11th at 9:40 in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to meet with us. We use "The Upper Room Disciplines A Book of Daily Devotions" you are welcome to participate if you would like. The books are available through Cokesbury as well as other booksellers.

Loaves and Fishes Bible Study

We have started a new study "Spiritual Warfare: Overcoming the Enemy". This is about a 40-minute study each week. We meet Wednesday evenings through Zoom, at 6:30 pm. And the meeting ID is: 965 9213 0014. We look forward to learning with you.

Church Office and Building News

We continue to meet in person for worship as well as through Zoom and Facebook. Headstart is currently back in the building. 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 at 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. **April 11, 18, & 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30.** 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 pick the hymn.

The deadline for the **May** newsletter is Wednesday, **April 14, 2021**. If your group has news for the newsletter, please let the office know. If you are interested in helping to produce the newsletter, please let the office know.

Leslie Coe, Church Secretary

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!

Food Pantry News for February 2021

Hello Church Family,

We served 41 households made up of 53 children, 65 adults, 21 seniors for a total of 139 individuals and 2,085 meals were provided to our neighbors.

We served 41 households made up of 53 children, 65 adults, 21 seniors for a total of 139 individuals.

We have continued to be able to offer farm fresh eggs to our clients, along with store eggs. Our clients have enjoyed having this as an option.

We were able to get venison from the Food Bank of CNY on our February truck as well as large bags of animal crackers. We were able to give these out to some of our large families. We have also been able to get frozen shrimp, bison, and lamb on this truck. We have many families that have been able to enjoy this variety of meat.

Our Church giving for February was 5 items and \$116.00. Our neighbors have been blessed by your love of them.

Thank you for your continued support over the years.

Thank you from 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 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. For guidance in text giving contact the church secretary.

Upper Room Daily Devotionals

Because our 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 March/April and January/February issues of *The Upper Room* are 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*.