

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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May 2021



# CAMDEN UMC NEWSLETTER

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

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## **Pastor's news**

Hello Friends,

Let me first say thank you for your commitment. It has not been an easy year (and that is an understatement). But many of you have remained faithful in so many ways with your time, talent and treasures. Thank you! Thank you for continuing your faith in God and not losing hope.

We will begin to see more activity soon! Leslie and I have been taking a class together since September. From this class, we will be forming a team to implement ways to move the Camden UMC forward together in one mission in the community. Leslie and I will be speaking to some to join this team with us. We also have ways for the whole church to be involved as well. In a couple of weeks, we will be sending out some questions. We have another set of questions a couple of weeks after that. The team will then take these answers to begin their work. As we have more questions for the whole church, we will send them out. So, be on the lookout soon through your email and/or at church for our first questions. I will be looking at ways to do this both online and through paper. I understand that not everyone has online access or would rather use a piece of paper than do something online. If you are a person that would prefer paper forms but is not attending church in person yet, please let Leslie or me know that you would still like to participate in these so that we can get you the forms.

I am also looking to start membership classes. I apologize if I have already said this and you have been waiting for information. The Lenten season was busier and more time-consuming than I had expected it to be. In the next couple of weeks, I will get a questionnaire out to see who is interested and determine a start date.

While we are beginning to see more activity I want to remind everyone that we still have precautions that we need to follow. Please always arrive and leave with a mask on. You may remove your mask once you are seated, but be ready to put it on if you are getting up or if someone approaches you. We still need to maintain 6-foot social distancing. We are still unable to sing unless we are 12 feet apart AND still wearing a mask. These mandates have been set by New York State based on the CDC guidelines. The Upper New York Conference has asked us to follow these mandates. I have signed off with the state and the conference that we would follow these guidelines in order to be open for worship and services.

I understand that it is frustrating and we are tired. I am there with you! I know that we are watching things open up and not see many changes for churches. However, here is the reality of the situation. What has changed for churches is capacity. This, however, has not affected us, so we do not notice it. It has not affected us because, in order to maintain 6-foot social distancing, we were already at the lower capacity given to churches when re-openings began. Our capacity level will not change as long as we are asked to maintain 6-foot social distancing. Here is another point of reality... EVERYONE is still to keep 6-foot social distancing. EVERYONE is still to wear masks while indoors. EVERYONE is to remain 12 feet apart with a mask in order to sing. These are the rules for EVERYONE still, however, just like everything else in life, some choose to not follow the rules. We will continue to follow these rules. As these ease up for everyone, I will follow those easements as well.

I would encourage you if you see a headline of an article that says there are changes, please read the article. Many times, these headlines are misleading. I have had people approach me after the headlines of "those who are vaccinated do not need to wear a mask", "social distancing has changed to 3 feet", and I am sure that I will hear again, "we no longer need to wear a mask". The reality of all of these headlines: Those who are vaccinated do not need to wear a mask in small, private gatherings with others who are vaccinated; 3 feet social distancing ONLY applies to students in school while they are sitting in a classroom at their desk. The newest CDC guideline about mask-wearing is that you do not have to wear a mask OUTSIDE while walking, running, biking, but still wear one in crowds while outside.

We are seeing changes, but they are slow. We cannot rush it and risk more outbreaks. We need to follow the guidance. Thank you for your understanding!

Don't lose hope. We are seeing light. We are seeing the glimpse. And don't lose sight of God who is still in the midst of it all.

God Bless,

Pastor Wendy Morrison

Camden United Methodist Church &

Cleveland United Methodist Church

### **Regular Worship Services**

Our Zoom information has not changed. Our online Service is currently through Zoom and Facebook at **2:00 pm** each Sunday. The Zoom Meeting ID for this service is **946 7047 6396**. The phone number to call remains the same, **1-929-205-6099**. 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: 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.

## **Worship Planning**

Our next Worship Planning meeting will be on May 16<sup>th</sup> following the church service at 12:00 pm. We will be planning the June worship services. We will be meeting in person unless we need to change this. If you are unable to meet in person, you are welcome to send your thoughts and suggestions to Pastor Wendy or Leslie.

## **Youth News and Game Night**

Sunday School is going well, although we have been low in numbers, they are learning a lot. We studied unusual ways God spoke to people through Scripture. We did a small study on unknown Easter facts. We are currently working on personal beliefs and comparing them to the Apostle Creed.

Anyone willing to help periodically with Sunday School is encouraged to do so. Please contact Youth Pastor Matt (Matthew.Morrison78@yahoo.com), as we are out of the habit again and are currently not compliant with Safe Sanctuary guidelines. We need 2 non-related adults in the room during Sunday school.

We celebrated a year of online Scavenger Hunts on Zoom a few weeks ago. Game Night is 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

## **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](http://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 is meeting in person again at 9:40 am in the Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings. 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 to continue using 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 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](mailto: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. **May 2, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, & 27**. 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 **June** newsletter is Wednesday, **May 12, 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 March 2021**

Hello Church Family,

We served 40 households made up of 91 children, 66 adults, 20 seniors for a total of 132 individuals and 1,980 meals were provided to our neighbors.

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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 continue to get venison from the Food Bank of CNY with our truck order. We continue to get frozen shrimp, bison, and lamb on our Food Bank truck. In addition to these items, we were able to get fresh apples and baby carrots. We also ordered Dried blueberries and canned plums. The dried blueberries were a huge hit, the plums not so much. We also were able to get grapefruit juice on this truck.

Our Church giving for March was 21 items and \$134.70. 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. Your bank will print a check through this option 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*.

## Ad Council Minutes March 25, 2021

Administrative Council- Special Meeting with Trustees and Finance

March 25, 2021 6:30-8:00

Attendance: Pastor Wendy Morrison, Jeri and Charles Norton, Howard Brooks, Nancy Taskey, David Duerr, Karl Keil, Leslie Coe, and Tom Fanning. Also present via Zoom: Ed and Lynette Rood and Janice Alvord

### Trustees:

Dave Duerr shared infrastructure problems that have surfaced since last summer.

- A major water leak came from a pipe for our heater. There is a 1960's rubber gasket in the pipe that, after so long, gave way and the water was coming out of the pipe. Several of these pipes throughout the building still have the same sort of gasket as this pipe that caused the water leak. Some have already been replaced by Snell through the years. Dave is getting an estimate from Snell as to how many still need to be replaced to prevent a similar issue and what the cost would be.
- Another water issue is the pooling of water on the roof. If this is not taken care of, we will have roof leak issues. Per Dave, "There's a lake up there."
- Some front windows in the sanctuary have water problems in the glazing.
- Our sewage system clogged. When professionals unplugged it (45-minute job) he saw that some old piping is starting to break down and should be replaced before it causes more expense and severe problems.
- Most of our light fixtures are 1960's with old ballasts; replacement parts are no longer available.
- Men's bathroom needs to have one urinal replaced.

- Church grounds will receive new landscaping and plantings this year. Carter Keller is taking on this project for his Eagle Scout badge.
- Our kitchen gas stove needs parts for the burners.
- Head Start is investing heavily in many upgrades to their rooms, also painting the hallways in that wing. Much will be done during spring break in April.

Wendy mentioned the graffiti etched into the glass of the side door. We don't know the source or time of the vandalism and don't yet have an estimate of the cost for repair/replacement. At the bottom of the door, and depending on the angle of the sun, it is not very visible. This project can be postponed for a while.

Bathroom locks have been installed. The men's bathroom will remain open 24/7 for anyone's use. The door can be locked while in use for security purposes. The women's room will remain for Head Start use only (and should be locked on Sundays) until COVID restrictions are lifted, which is an unknown time frame.

#### Memorial Fund:

Tom suggested our church plant a tree on our grounds in memory of Lorraine Storey. There is Memorial Funds money to help pay for it. Someone suggested maybe that can tie into Carter Keller's Eagle project.

#### Finance:

Karl shared the current status of church finances.

- Giving is way down, presumed largely due to COVID disruption of attendance in church. Operating at a deficit.
- We still have a \$40,000 debt to Community Bank from the loan for exterior brick repair. That requires a \$200/month payment for interest alone, more to reduce the debt. We have to pay it off to be free to address other issues, per Karl.
- Historically we kept \$30,000 on hand in reserves for an emergency. That is down to only \$12,000 now.
- All bills are paid at present.
- He presented a review of the budget including utilities. For several years our income and attendance have been on a downward trajectory. Just before COVID, we had a sense of optimism.
- Belinda Brown, the new custodian since January, is paid \$20/hour. We share her cost with Head Start. She reports to Mike Waterman.
- Our current situation is not sustainable.

Discussion followed. We need to restore fellowship, people need to return to church. Some people are "attending" online/Zoom services, but the numbers and giving are way down, much less than before COVID, not sufficient to meet our church needs.

All are urged to seek solutions. Suggestions included: Members returning, New people coming, and Increase giving.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeri Norton, Recording Secretary