

SPIRIT



WORSHIP DIRECTORY:

8AM BELOVED (CHAPEL)

9AM TRADITIONS (SANCTUARY)

11AM ARISE! (ECC)

www.facebook.com/cumethodist www.twitter.com/cumethodist 11:30am Sunday Radio Broadcast on KOLM (1520 AM)

www.youtube.com

"Christ United Methodist Church Rochester MN"

Table of Contents

Pastor's Pen - 1

CUMC Announcements - 2

Annual Meeting
New Years Opportunity
Warming Shelter

Children & Youth Ministry - 3

Faith → Life Schedule & Offerings - 4-5

Third Sunday Forum
6-Week Connect Groups
Ongoing Connect Groups

Congregational Read

Ministries - 6

UMW Winter Tea

Knit One, Pray Too

Garden Ministries Thanks!

Thoughts from the Staff - 7

Connections Coordinator Grace

Notes from Nancy

Ministry Updates - 8

Immigrant Rights Coalition

Facing America - 9

Tree of Life - 9

Pastor's Pen with elizabeth macaulay, lead pastor

Happy New Year!

Christmas Eve gave us the opportunity to welcome nearly 1,000 people to share the light of Christ Jesus. I am deeply grateful to all the musicians, ushers, greeters and staff who made such powerful welcome possible. Christ UMC has so much to share, and we do it with joy. The offering taken to support the Community

Warming Center totaled \$5,403.12 (at the time of printing this newsletter) and will provide shelter and warmth for those who are without home.

Having experienced so much, it feels challenging to turn to January and the power of a new year. Savoring is called for!

We'll kick off the new year with Sparkle Sunday. Epiphany Sunday celebrates the magi's journey to the Christ Child. We will celebrate the power of light and guidance by breaking out sparkly attire. Please come to church decked out in your glitziest garb. Sparkles help us to celebrate the promises of those - including our own selves - who follow stars and holy promptings.

We are launching a new worship and sermon series entitled "Why Jesus?". It will be based on our all-church read, "The Universal Christ" by Father Richard Rohr. Beginning January 12th we will explore Rohr's thoughts on how the presence and teachings of Jesus are transformational in the here and now of our lives.

On January 26th we will celebrate the ministry shared through 2019 and look toward the year 2020. Following the 11:00 service we'll gather for a Casserole Throwdown. We'll share a potluck meal at 12:15 followed by a snappy time of reporting ministry and sharing the budget and leadership roster for 2020. There will be prizes for Casseroles brought - Categories are: Most colorful hot and most colorful cold casseroles (some people call them salads, but for the purposes of this theme we'll call them cold casseroles), wildest combo casserole (hot and cold) and most quintessentially Minnesotan hot and cold casseroles (we are maybe talking jello, here). Some churches have dreadful, dull annual meetings. Not here! We play and celebrate and lean into what God will dream with us.

What I want to say is thank you. Thank you for the ministry that happens every day of the week.

Thank you to the creators of Saturday Noon Meal feast and fellowship opportunities.

Thank you to van drivers.

Thank you to Thrift on Fifth volunteers who share hospitality and clothing- and scholarships for children.

Thank you to Thrive teachers, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors who bless families every day.

Thank you to the best church staff a pastor could hope to work with.

Thank you to all who come to this church for worship and soul food.

Thank you to ushers.

Thank you to sound and slide and recording technicians.

Thank you to office volunteers and stuffers and pew straighteners.

Thank you to the Fine Arts crew who dress this space for beauty.

Thank you to musicians and readers and worship leaders.

Thank you to CU Wednesday and other fellowship opportunity hosts.

Thank you to those who visit hospitals and care facilities and homes.

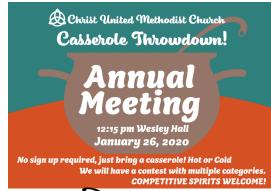
Thank you to Sunday school teachers and small group leaders.

Thank you to all I have forgotten to thank who make this ministry sing with power.

Happy New Year to all. Give thanks for the lessons and light of 2019. And join me in praying that God will continue to unleash grace and blessing through this church we love.

~ Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Glabeth



Annual Meeting

This year we're having a "Casserole Throw-down!"

Bring a casserole (cold or hot) on Sunday the 26th!

We'll gather to eat at 12:15pm following the Arise service. Here we will review 2019 and hear reports.

We will have a contest (see categories in Pastor's Pen).

Competitive spirits and hungry bellies are welcome.



New Year Spirit!

This year marks a new decade and an election year, so it's a great opportunity to make a difference in your community. You can make your New Year's resolution a commitment to get outside of yourself and help others. Plus, it's a lot of fun; you get out what you put into your efforts.

Here are some volunteer opportunities to get you started:

In the church

Thrift on Fifth - Sort and sell donated clothes in Rochester's most affordable thrift store.

Greeters - Welcome people to the 9 o'clock service and staff the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings.

Ushers - Serve at the 9 and 11 o'clock services on Sundays.

Saturday Noon Meals - Prepare and serve a hot meal to the hungry in our community.

Transport - Drive people to church – we need drivers for the church bus and the Sikati family.

Community Food Response - Help fill the food needs of Rochester residents.

General A/V Help - Help with the sound and visuals at the 9 or 11 o'clock services on Sunday mornings.

Sunday School Teachers - Hangout with the kids during the 9 or 11 o'clock services on Sundays.

Lay Visitors - Call on homebound CUMC members once a month.

Parish Ministers - Call on members going through life challenges to provide spiritual support.

Maintenance – *handiwork around the church as needed*.

In the community

Rochester Community Warming Shelter - Staff the warming shelter and serve the homeless during Rochester's coldest months.

Family Promise – Provide food, shelter, and loving support for families without shelter.

Rochester Interfaith Immigrants Right Coalition - The local interfaith group launches a fund to provide legal services for residents of Olmsted County in ICE detention.

If you are interested in any of these areas of ministry, contact our Connections Coordinator at grace@cumethodist.com and she will connect you with volunteer groups.

Temperatures are dropping in our fair city and many of our homeless community members are struggling to find safe and warm places to spend the evenings.

Fortunately, the Rochester Community Warming Shelter opened in mid-December just across from the Government Center in Downtown Rochester. It is be run by Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota and will be staffed during open hours. They are currently looking for community partners who can provide volunteers approximately twice a month. Volunteer shifts take place overnight between 8pm and 8am. The hours may be unappealing, but the need is great.

Please email me at <u>grace@cumethodist.com</u> if you would be interested in volunteering with the Rochester Community Warming Shelter on behalf of Christ United Methodist Church or have questions about volunteer opportunities through the church.

2

Children's Ministry

On Sunday, December 15th, much screaming (of the happy variety) took place as youth careened down Judd Hill

> for the Youth Christmas Party. It's amazing how much you can learn about a person as each of you fly down a hill glazed with ice. CUMC teens christened





the Sikati family on their first sledding experience. Only mild collisions took place and concluded with laughter. We ate pizza, drank highly caffeinated soda, and exchanged white elephant gifts. Somewhere in the middle, we spontaneously burst out into The Chicken Dance.

Youth Ministry



December 18th was our Confirmation Christmas Party. Parents painted shaving cream "Santa", Abby Siems was the most excited to pelt her son Matthew with cereal, Royce and Claire Ruter won the contest with 67 fruit loops and Joel and Andy Ott placed 2nd with 59. The most popular white elephant present included a Santa Bear, an elephant and two ½ pound Reeses Cups. The best gift of





the evening, however, was watching busy families slow down long enough to laugh with one another.

What a blessed way to celebrate Christmas!





Sparkle Sunday! January 5 - Make sure to wear your sparkliest outfits to church! We'll jingle jangle into the new year together!





You and your team of secret agents have broken into the mansion of a reclusive billionaire, where many of your fellow agents have gone missing. You have 60 minutes to find out what secrets he is hiding, learn what happened to your fellow agents, and escape before he returns...





Thanks for all your support with our lefse sales! We sold out of 600 lefse in 17 minutes! This month, on January 12th, be sure to grab caramel rolls fresh from the oven following the first Service Project service. All proceeds benefit our mission trip to help low-income families in Kentucky.

Interested in attending ASP July 3-10? Email sam@cumethodist.com.

Leader Meeting: 6:30 Sunday, January 12th at Sam Evans' home

Save the date: January 18/19 Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend event: Details coming soon. Email sam@cumethodist.com for information

Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

Third Sunday Forum - January 19th, 10:10 AM Hamline Room - "Homeless Families in Rochester" Representatives from Family Promise and Rochester School District (This is a follow up to The Landing MN forum in November)

Thank you to Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Nancy for their leadership of the Saving Jesus and Interfaith classes held at Charter House last October and November. Your leadership is deeply appreciated!

Sunday Classes - All Are Welcome, No Registration Required

Inquiring Spirits – After the 9:00 am worship (except for Third Sunday Forums), Room 145 Contemporary Issues – After the 9:00 am worship (except for Third Sunday Forums), Room 146 Chewing on the Word – 12:00 pm in the Commons. Everyone is invited for a light lunch and conversation around each week's scripture and message.

Connect Groups for Jan/Feb

Sign up & info for Winter Groups Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 in the commons

<u>CUMC Charter House Spiritual Formation</u> • Topic: <u>Living Fully, Dying Well</u> • Host: Rev. Nancy Wheeler Handlon • Time: Every other Wednesday at 10:00 – 11:00 am, January 15 - March 25 • Place: Charter House, First Floor Conference Room

This study will cover chapters in the book on Living Fully, Theology of Aging, Getting It Together (legal, financial, medical decisions), Dying Well and How Then Shall We Live by Bishop Reuben Job. Group will include discussion, questions, prayer, Bible study, and watching video clips.

Participant book is available for \$10.00 at the first meeting or at Christ UMC office. Reading the first chapter before January 15 is suggested. Pre-registration is recommended in the church Commons December 29 or January 5 or through the church office at 289-4019. All are welcome; you do not need to be a resident of Charter House to participate.

<u>CUMC Shorewood Group • Host:</u> Rev. David Mead • Starting mid- January

<u>Dinner Club • Hosts: Marjie Blaisdell and Mary Schmidt • Time/Place: Groups will decide their time and place of meeting</u>

Join this popular group to meet new friends and "catch up" with old ones while sharing a meal in homes or restaurants.

<u>Gardening Ministry •</u> Host: Mary Schmidt • Time: Activities will be announced as needed • Place: CUMC Grounds

Help care for CUMC's piece of the Earth. Bring your own gloves and gardening tools if you have them. Contact Mary at oronocombs@yahoo.com if you are interested in being notified of opportunities to weed, mulch, and plant!

Have You Met Job?: A Bible Study • Host: Rev. Cooper Wiggen • Time: Sundays at 10:10 am, February 2 - 23 • Place: Mettam Conference Room

Theme is searching Job's laments, Job protests, Job becomes.

<u>Knit One Pray, Too • Host: Marjie Blaisdell • Time: Wednesday mornings 10:00 – 12:00 • Place: CUMC Fireside Room</u>

Get together with others to knit prayer shawls, hats and mittens and other items to donate.

<u>Pie Making</u> • Host: Tracy Jones • Time: Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, January 14, February 11, and March 17 • Place: CUMC Kitchen (lower level) • This group is limited to 8 – 9 members

Whether you love to bake or have never rolled out a crust, let's get baking in the church kitchen. Pie is great for the soul!

<u>Congregational Read Discussion Group •</u> Host: Grace Glover • Time: Wednesdays at 6:00 – 7:00 pm, January 15 – February 19 • Place: Fireside Room

This group will be reading and discussion the all church read, "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr. Books are available for purchase for \$15.00 in the church office. Also available online from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and the Center for Action and Contemplation.

<u>The Shack</u> • Hosts: Bob and Karen Heistand • Time: Sundays at 6:00 pm, January 26 – March 1 • Place: Heistand's home

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack, the main character, gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.

Ongoing Connect Groups

2:00pm - Monday - Women's Discussion Group/Fireside Room

<u>11:00am</u> – *Tuesday* – Men's Discussion Group/CUMC Library

1:00pm - Tuesday - Covenant Discipleship Group/Fireside Room

8:30am – 2nd Wednesday of each month - Breakfast Fellowship - Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center - New members are always welcome to drop in; no age group designation, no registration required, come and leave as your schedule permits.

7:30am – Thursday – Men's Coffee Group/Room 145 - All men are welcome to drop in for a cup of coffee and spontaneous dialogue; no registration required.

8:30am - Thursday - Covenant Discipleship Group/Family Room

4:00pm - Thursday - Women's Group/Fireside Room

10:00am – 2nd & 4th Friday – Women and the Sacred/Fireside Room

Congregational Read A book selected by clergy that everyone is invited to read individually or in a Connect Group. Sunday Worship, January 12 – February 23, will follow the themes found in this book. The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe – Richard Rohr

Drawing on scripture, history and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. "God loves things by becoming them," he writes, and Jesus's life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God – except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet. "

Anyone who strives to put their faith into action will find encouragement and inspiration in the pages of this book." - Melinda Gates

Child Care is available every Sunday and for weekdays and Saturdays upon request

A Thank you card CUMC received from Minnesota Power and Light! (MNIPL)



Christ Methodist Church,

Theink you so much for your support as a sestaining congregation! Next it of applicate you thinking of is and your commitment to interfaith chimake postic. So much progress has been made thanks to your contributions and he are excited for the year to come! We look formed to seeing you at future events and happy holidays!

- Jayda Pareis

MAPL Office Manager

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00 to Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light on 09/03/2019. We are honored to partner with you to build transformative power and bring the lights of people's unique gifts to addressing the climate crisis. As a Sustaining Congregation, your support provides an essential foundation for the interfaith climate movement.

Together we are building an inspired movement for a just transition to renewable energy, thanks to your support. Your gift:

- Grows the climate justice movement through powerful interfaith gatherings and adult leadership programs.
- Promotes a vision of 100% access to renewable energy through our Just Solar and community solar programs.
- Supports faith leaders in bringing a clear moral voice directly to public officials on key climate policies.
- Empowers youth through leadership development, outdoor exploration & creative arts.

On behalf of our staff, board, and volunteers, thank you!



The United Methodist Women of Christ United Methodist Church invite you to:

"Blooms in January" Tea

Saturday, January 11, 2020 2-4 pm

Enjoy the beauty of Spring at the Christ United Methodist Women's Blooms in January Tea, Saturday January 11 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the church Commons. Learn about how you can get a touch of Spring in your home in January by forcing bulbs. Enjoy scones, savories, sweets and tea while in fellowship with friends. See Deedee Odell for ticket availability. Hope to see you there!



Knit One, Pray Too

The knitting connect group presented 5 prayer shawls and 20 pocket prayer shawls to Pastor Nancy. Earlier 20 Pairs of mittens were presented to Christmas Anonymous.



Photo from left to right - Sandi Gordon, Rev. Nancy Wheeler

Handlon, Aobanya Bileca, Daphne Soleil, Marjie Blaisdell, Karen Fields.

Missing for the photo are Nancy Currier, Sue Dripps and Joyce Sharp.



Thank You!

Garden Ministry coordinated the purchase and placement of the decorative winter planters for the front entrance to the church. We would like to thank Teresa Anderson, Kathy Davis, Gail Flanders, Linda Hyde and Dianne Thomas for funding the purchase and helping to bring a touch of Christmas and nature to our front entrance.

You Are Invited
All are Welcome.
What: Fellowship Breakfast
When: 2nd Wednesday of

EVERY Month

Time: 8:30 A.M. Where: Charlies Restaurant

We would love to give you a warm welcome

Do you know someone who may be interested in learning more about the church and how to connect with others? We offer monthly "Meeting Christ Church" coffees at which our pastors will meet with

people and introduce them to CUMC and the United Methodist denomination. Join us the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Fireside Room following the 9:00 service. Childcare is available upon request! The next Coffee is January 12, Contact the church office at (507)289-4019 or (email@cumethodist.com) if you have questions or would like more information.

Have an article for the *New Spirit*? **Please submit it to <u>oliver@cumethodist.com</u>** by the 3rd **Wednesday of the month.** Late articles may be very tiny or invisible. Thank you and happy writing!

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office and ask for the pastor on call. Let us know this is an urgent need. If you need a pastor after hours or on weekends, please call the church office and listen to the message on the machine for the phone number of the pastor on call. Then call them directly. Remember that we do not know you are in the hospital unless you contact us. Thank you.

Do you remember the first time you came to worship at this church? I do.

I was attending the Arise service at 11 o'clock as part of the Young Adult Mission to Guatemala. I was lucky enough to already know church members and staff through the mission trip, but that's rarely the case. Going somewhere new where you may not know people can be pretty intimidating.

People are drawn to churches for many different reasons. We see visitors for the Mayo Clinic searching for the nearest Methodist church, families looking for connection and community in Rochester, folks who are new to town, and people who are struggling and hoping someone will walk through that struggle with them.

These people wander through our doors every Sunday. I do my best to find them and welcome them, but I can't do it alone. When you see people who may be new to church - or even new to you - make them feel welcome here. Greet them and ask their names. Get to know them. Make small talk even if it's clumsy and awkward because making awkward small talk is often preferable to standing clumsy and awkward and alone in a group of people who already know each other.

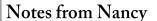
You don't have to be a part of the greeters and welcome center team or an usher to practice hospitality at this church. Each person here adds to the vibe of our church.

Feeling like an outsider is a common reason that people do not return to a church after visiting, so let them know that they are welcome here. They belong.

After all, aren't we all just seeking belonging?

Grace Glover

Connections Coordinator



Have you had a chance to meet all the Parish Ministers? We are fortunate to have five caring individuals who have felt called to visit you when you are in the hospital, in a rehab facility or at home. They have received many hours of training for this special ministry of reaching out to support you in life challenges.

Please welcome them if they call on you in person or call you to see how you are doing. They want to provide care for you by visiting if you would like a visit. You always have the choice to say no thank you.

It could be that they call you from home or from their cell phone. They will always identify themselves and that they are calling on behalf of Christ Church. If you have any questions, call the church and we will let you know who may be calling you. The Parish Ministers take turn making calls.

Remember that if you want a visit from a Parish Minister or one of the pastors, you need to let us know. The hospitals do not notify and so we can't visit unless you tell us. Please let us know if it is urgent and if you want us to bring communion or anointing. You need not be a member to request a visit.

Our Parish Ministers include: Linda Youlden, Rev. Kitty Burbo, Stew Swanson, Jeff Ward and Rev. Kendall Hughes. They serve under the direction of Pastor Nancy, Minister of Congregational Care.

Linda is a retired Mayo Clinic nurse. She and her husband Denny have been members for 23 years. She sings in the choir.

Rev. Kitty Burbo is a retired UCC minister who has been a part of Christ UMC for a couple of years. She has served as a local church pastor and as a Mayo chaplain. She preaches regularly at our 8:00 service.

Stew Swanson was a banking executive and is now retired. He and his wife Carol are now co-leading the Saturday Noon Meals program. They joined Christ Church 22 years ago.

Jeff Ward is retired from the Respiratory Therapy Faculty at Mayo. He and his wife Julie Bjoraker have a hobby farm. He volunteers with a free clinic. They joined 16 years ago.

Rev. Kendall Hughes is newly retired as a prison chaplain, most recently at the Federal Medical Center. He and his wife Faye Anne live in Stewartville. They have been a part of Christ UMC for three years.



In an effort to be good stewards of our earth we are moving away from disposable dishes. If it can't be served on a napkin, we ask that all congregation members join in caring for our environment by using church dishes.



There is a great opportunity to share the grace and love of Christ in this church through transportation assistance for those that need some help getting to CUMC. The church bus is not large enough to hold the number of people needing assistance getting to church. A few of us have been helping the Yangya Sikati family get to church to worship Sunday & Wednesday since May, shortly after their arrival in

Rochester Immigrant Rights Coalition

In 2020, the Rochester Interfaith Immigrant Rights Coalition (RIIRC), Rochester Sanctuary Coalition will hold their monthly meetings the 4th Thursday of each month at CUMC at 7:00 pm in Room 145. That meeting will be following by the monthly meeting of the Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense (SMIILD).

The RIIRC is currently involved in discussions of municipal ID, fundraising for the SMIILD legal defense fund, educating service clubs and faith communities about immigrant justice issues, and considering other immigrant community needs (notably, paying for bonds for local people in ICE detention). RIIRC is made up of members of immigrant community organizations and local faith communities. The Sanctuary Coalition was formed to facilitate volunteers and supplies related to hosting a person in sanctuary. We (1st UU and Peace UCC) have come close a couple of times to having someone in sanctuary, but so far have not hosted anyone. The Sanctuary Coalition is made up of people who have volunteered to serve immigrant needs and are considering three additional avenues, including accompanying people to immigration court hearings, becoming trained immigration court observers, and sponsoring an asylum seeker.

SMIILD is organized exclusively for charitable purposes related to immigration justice. The SMIILD Board is made up of ten people representing seven faith communities and three immigrant community organizations. We have entered into a contract with Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and The Advocates for Human Rights, currently on cases for two immigrants who had been in ICE detention. People can get involved in RIIRC and/or the Rochester Sanctuary Coalition by attending a meeting and joining the deliberations and/or by volunteering to serve.



Thrift on Fifth is now open every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. We are ready to accept clothing anytime, just bring them to the normal drop-off location. Thank you for your generosity. Together we can help this community thrive!

Store Hours Wednesday: 4pm-7pm Saturday: 9am-12pm Sunday: 9am-12pm



Did you know?? You can sponsor our radio broadcast ministry! It's \$55 to get your special occasion announced on the radio before the CUMC service broadcast. Whether it's honoring an anniversary, or remembering loved ones who have passed on, this is a perfect way to tell the world about that special something. You can sign up in the commons right next to the office, or by emailing oliver@cumethodist.com



GALLERY 405



We are hosting Joe Burns' exhibit *Facing America* until the end of January. Every portrait has the story of the immigrant it depicts. More information about Joe and this exhibit at https://joetburns.com



























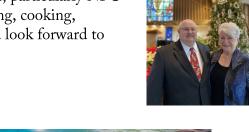




The CUMC Tree of Life: Living, Celebrating, & Remembering With You

Welcome New Intentional Disciples!

Sandi and Craig Gordon! Craig's interests include NFL, particularly NFC-North, and Big Ten Football and basketball. Sandi enjoys knitting, cooking, gardening and walking. They feel blessed to be in Rochester, and look forward to becoming part of the CUMC family.







Kayla Mia Williams
Baptized at Christ UMC December 15, 2019
at our 9 o'clock Traditions worship service

HIn Memoriam H



Ron KingApril 13, 1936 ~ December 22, 2019



John Keckhafer
August 8, 1946 ~ November 27, 2019

Christ United Methodist Church 400 Fifth Avenue SW Rochester, MN 55902

Phone: 507-289-4019 Fax: 507-289-3648

E-mail: email@cumethodist.com

Non Profit Organization

U S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rochester, Minnesota
Permit No. 5

Return Service Requested



Annual Meeting

12:15 pm Wesley Hall January 26, 2020

No sign up required, just bring a casserole! Hot or Cold

We will have a contest with multiple categories.

COMPETITIVE SPIRITS WELCOME!