

400 5TH AVENUE SW
ROCHESTER, MN 55902
507 289 4019
EMAIL@CUMETHODIST.COM
WWW.CUMETHODIST.COM

October 2020

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace, In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT

A graphic illustration of a blue car with its trunk open, decorated with orange and green string lights. The trunk is filled with Halloween-themed items, including pumpkins, baskets of candy, and a bowl of popcorn. The background is orange with a repeating pattern of white ghost silhouettes and the word "boo!".

TRUNK
or
TREAT

Sunday, October 25 02-3pm

Christ United Methodist Church
400 5th Ave SW Rochester, MN 55902

Join us for online worship every Sunday at 9am
[facebook.com/cumethodist](https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)

KOLM (1520 AM)
www.youtube.com

"Christ United Methodist Church Rochester MN"

Pastor's Pen

WITH ELIZABETH MACAULAY, LEAD PASTOR



"In a real sense all life is interrelated.

All [humans] are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be . . .

This is the interrelated structure of reality."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We are "tied in a single garment of destiny."

"As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen." (Old Doxology)

It is a cruel sort of irony that while our nation and world seem intent upon maximizing fractures, the things that unite us have been disallowed by pandemic realities.

Oh my friends, how I miss singing with you. How I miss praying together and looking into your eyes as we share the blessing of communion together. How I miss sharing laughter and tears and the great rolling sound of the organ and the voices of our children singing and squirelling during worship.

Sharing breath together is such a powerful reminder of the commitment we make to weave a garment of destiny that is blessing for all.

We aren't able to do that for a time.

So we breathe and remember who we are in other ways.

In the body of this newsletter you will read about the ways we hope you will connect and re-member.

As we steel ourselves for the public maligning and stew of nasty that this election is cooking up, we must be diligent about feeding our souls.

Here at Christ UMC we are leaning into living *Another Way* (book by Lewis, Williams and Baker). We believe that being Jesus followers means that we will work for the good of all. Being Jesus followers also means that we will work for the good of our God-blessed selves.

So I am saying this, beloveds in Christ:

- **Vote.** Use the power you have to shape this nation we so love.
- **Pray.** Every day, begin and end your day with conversation with God. You can join us for our 8:00 PM prayer services offered nightly on our Facebook page or find a time of silence and light in your home.
- **Give thanks.** Every day find blessing. Name it and hold it to your heart.
- **Pay attention** without being overwhelmed.
- Find kindred spirits, **trust in goodness**, and speak your truth without wielding it as weapon.

God is in this with us. The hopes we carry in our hearts will be bread for this journey.

Jesus came that we might have life, and have it in abundance and share it in abundance and weave community together through a sense of abundance.

Give thanks for the ways you proclaim your belief that we are called to live and love in the way of Jesus.

God bless and keep us all.

Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Elizabeth

Volunteer Spotlight!**Volunteer Opportunities**

Ushers - Ushers are responsible for directing traffic and worship materials at our drive-in worship services every other week.

Youth Ministry Support – The youth meet at 7 on Sundays for an hour to discuss scripture, play games and reflect on the week. Meetings are currently on Zoom and facilitated by Grace Glover and adult volunteers.

Small group hosts - we are finding new ways to build and be community in the era of COVID. Hosts will offer groups or classes around the subject or theme of their choosing and coordinate meetings. This is an excellent way to share your passions and meet people at church.

**Thrive Fundraising**

Thrive has continued to provide excellent childcare through the pandemic. This has allowed Thrive employees to remain fully employed and essential workers a safe place to send their kids while they are serving as doctors, nurses, and grocery store clerks. The need for childcare remains.

The Thrive Scholarship Committee will indeed be holding a fundraiser this year, but it will take place in December. This gives us time to plan a COVID safe fundraiser without interfering with stewardship in November.

All Saints Day will be observed November 1.

We will honor the members and friends of Christ UMC who have died since the last All Saints Day. Families will be contacted to send in a photo of their loved one(s). Names will be read in the service and a rose delivered to families living in the Rochester Area.

Note that this is the day daylight saving time ends.

**Thanks for the flatbed**

We here at CUMC want to give a huge thank you to Pete Schuller and Erwin Riehl, and to Dave Lucas for allowing us to use their flatbed trailers that have made Parking Lot Worship possible!

Christ UMC has a brand new website!

If you regularly peruse our website you might have noticed a **BIG CHANGE!** We have given the entire website a facelift. It's still under construction, so as we finish arranging the pages, and making it as good as it can be, let us know what you think! Can you find what you need?

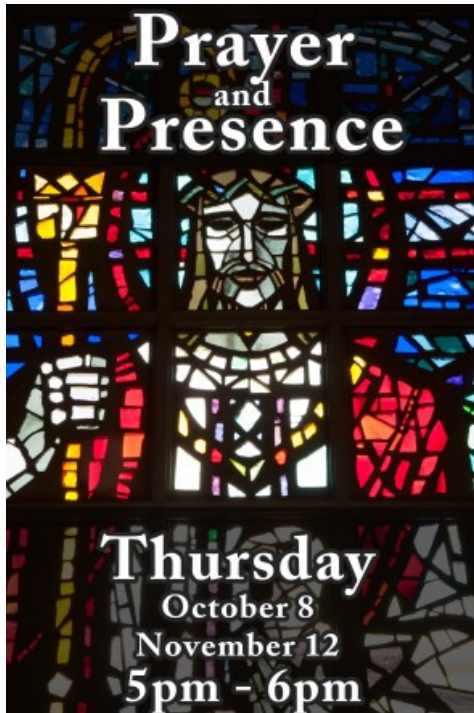
Trunk or Treat might look a bit different this year

As of now, we are still planning on having Trunk or Treat on October 25th from 2-3pm this year!

We're in conversation around the safest way we can facilitate trunk or treat this year. The CDC has released guidelines around Halloween practices, and we're keeping a close eye on that as to stay safe and have fun! Keep an eye on the Fresh Spirit and worship videos and we'll be sure you know the latest information!

**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 each alternating between in person and on Zoom. This month we will meet after **Parking Lot Worship on October 11**. Childcare is available upon request! Contact the church office at (507) 289-4019 or (email@cumethodist.com) if you would like more info.



You are invited for **Prayer and Presence in an open house format** Your church will be open and your sanctuary will hold you and your prayers. Masks are mandatory in the building. Social distancing will be practiced. **5-6pm**

October 8 & November 12

Upcoming Parking Lot Worship Dates

October 11 (Communion)

October 25 (Trunk or Treat)

We Need Your Input!

we sent a survey to our email list (which we would love for you to be on!) We need to know how YOU feel about returning to limited attendance in-person worship. Contact Jenny@cumethodist.com or call the church office with any question, or to have the survey re-sent.



To the Members of Christ United Methodist Church,

On behalf of O'nika's Angels we are writing to thank you for your generous giving during the donation drive held on June 27 and 28. Your donations went to support a community of people in South Minneapolis who are experiencing extreme hardship due to COVID 19 and a period of civil unrest. These donations were distributed through a non-profit organization called Urban Ventures that distributes food and supplies to families in need throughout the Twin Cities.

Through the support of people like you, O'nika's Angels has been blessed with donations that have so far totaled over \$16,000. In addition to this our organization was recently awarded \$15,000 through a Hennepin County COVID 19 Cares Grant.

We have also partnered with the United Way for their Action Day 2020 that provides backpacks full of school supplies to local students of all grades. O'nika's Angels was grateful to be able to give supplies for 12 backpacks for middle and high school age students.

O'nika's Angels is also working with a Hennepin County probation officer to assist young adults with their community service hours, in the hope that they will learn the importance of community service by helping others.

On September 12th the Angels will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children. The food that is prepared and packed at this non-profit organization is distributed worldwide.

We are truly grateful for everyone's continued assistance and prayers. We believe we are all God's Angels and with these Angel wings we hope we can help all people in need rise above their current situations.

Thank you,

Onika Nicole Craven, Sarah Healy, Angela Linder and Rachel Aug

P.S. This is truly a "mustard seed" story. What started as a "word of mouth" effort to respond to the needs of others has grown into a 501c3 nonprofit that continues to grow!

Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry

Youth are meeting for Sunday school at 7pm on Sunday nights via Zoom. We play a game, discuss scripture and reflect on the week. It's the perfect time to wrap up your weekend and meet with your church friends. Email grace@cumethodist.com for the link.

ASP Appalachia SERVICE PROJECT®

Appalachia Service Project - There will be an ASP info Meeting on Sunday, October 4th at 7pm on Zoom. Appalachia Service Project is our annual high school mission trip. Students in grades 9-12 (school year prior to summer) are invited to go to rural Kentucky where we spend a week building homes and fellowship. We are also welcoming 2020 high school graduates since they missed their senior year trip due to COVID.

ASP's mission is to make homes warmer, safer and drier for those. ASP also welcome high school students and chaperones from other churches or community groups to join, so bring your friends! Email grace@cumethodist.com to get the link.

Fall FESTIVITIES
 October 11, 2020
 After Parking Lot Worship
 Join us in then Labyrinth for **Fall Festivities!**
 Leaves ~ Pumkins ~ Snacks
FUN



Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 25 0:2-3pm
 Christ United Methodist Church
 400 5th Ave SW Rochester, MN 55902



Children's Ministry is in full swing!

Children's Bells and Wonderful Wednesdays on Zoom. If you're interested in joining our Wednesday night programs, contact Kari@cumethodist.com for bells, or Jody@cumethodist.com



Knit One Pray, Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell ~ **Place:** Knitting at home at this time on WebEx ~ **Time:** Wednesday 10am – 12noon
Contact Marjie at mablaisdell@gmail.com to receive a link to the WebEx meeting. The group is knitting prayer shawls and scarves and hats for winter.

Men's Coffee Group

Host: Dick Estry ~ **Place:** On Zoom ~ **Time:** Thursdays at 8:00 am
Whether you are a long-time member, new to CUMC or looking for a fellowship group, you are invited to join for coffee and conversation. To receive a Zoom invite just email Dick Estry at rk.stry@gmail.com.

NEW: Young Adult Book Group

Hosts: Rev. Gary Lueck and Grace Glover ~ **Place:** On Zoom ~ **Time:** Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
The First Love Story examines how the story of Adam and Eve set the tone for sexuality and relationships for thousands of years. In this astonishing reexamination of their lives, Feiler has taken one of our culture's most fundamental stories and reimagined it for our time, dispelling centuries of conventional wisdom to present history's most famous couple in a dazzling new light. At a time of discord and fear over strength of our social fabric, Feiler releases civilization's first couple from the box they've been trapped in for generations and shows how they can once more be role models for unity, reconciliation and love.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89263842291>

Ongoing Faith Formation Groups

As cooler weather sets upon us, small groups of less than 10 are able to schedule a meeting by contacting Jenny at jenny@cumethodist.com or (507)289-4019 ext. 202

10:00 am – Monday – Women's Book Discussion Group/Meeting at church

11:15 am – Monday – Men's Book Discussion Group/ Meeting at church

1:00 pm – Tuesday – Covenant Discipleship Group/Zoom

8:30 am – Thursday – Covenant Discipleship Group/Zoom

4:00 pm – Thursday – Women's Group/Zoom

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

Congregational Read

This is a book selected by clergy that everyone is invited to read and discuss via Zoom. A selection of days and times will be offered by several hosts; possibly a Saturday morning of fellowship and learning with your cup of coffee. This book will be the focus of the October sermon series.

Another Way: Living and Leading Change on Purpose S. Lewis- M. Wesley Williams-D. Grinenko Baker

Are you ready for change? In this book you will encounter a set of four practices that help individuals and communities lead lasting change for good, rooted in the deep places where the soul resides.

"Another Way shows us how to move forward into an uncertain future, able to respond to challenges with heart and mind and the dynamism necessary to thrive together." Barbara A. Holmes, President Emerita, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

IT'S NOT TOO LATE: You can register for your preferred group on line at <https://www.cumethodist.com/>.

Click on "Get Involved" then "Faith→Life."

Sunday, 6:00 pm, September 20 – October 25; Hosts: Dick & Kathy

Tuesday, 5:00 pm, September 22 – October 27; Host: Rev. Cooper Wiggen

Tuesday, 7:00 pm, September 22 – October 27; Host: Al DeBoer

Thursday, 1:00 pm, September 24 – October 29; Host: Aileen Williams

Saturday, 10:00 am, September 26 – October 31; Host: Karen Heistand

Watch the Wednesday Connections/Fresh Spirit email and the New Spirit newsletters for updates on offerings as they become available! Also type in [cumethodist.com/connect-groups](https://www.cumethodist.com/connect-groups) into the search bar for a complete listing and registration information.

Garden Ministry

CUMC's Garden Ministry Planning Team will be working with Trustees this Fall to make a 5-year plan for CUMC's grounds and gardens to include a vegetable garden for SNM, pollinator gardens, rain gardens and environmental landscaping. Environmental landscaping is about the design of urban landscapes in a way that benefits the natural environment by saving energy, conserving water and providing food and habitat for wildlife. We would like to invite all of you who have interest and/or experience in gardening and learning about or teaching others about natural landscaping to join us by contacting Mary Schmidt at oronocombs@yahoo.com or Grace at grace@cumethodist.com.



In the past 4 weeks, we have cleaned weeds out of most of the beds and prepped the area around the new wall by the Wesley House for pollinators which will be transplanted from the yard behind the garage. We want to thank the following their help this past month: Jean Abels, Jenna Benson, Kathy Davis, Kathy Estry, Kim Fedderson, Carolyn Heyne, Tracy Jones, Deb Jensen, Kathy Lawson, Lois McGuire, Chris Mueller, Mary Schmidt. Please join us and note the change in time for the Fall season:

Every Thursday through October, 9:30 – 11:30 am – Weather Dependent

2nd Saturday of month, 9:30 - Noon, October 10, November 14 (wishful thinking!)

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women of Christ Church, thank you for stepping forward during this COVID time when we can no longer meet to do our fund raising. Our third quarter Mission Giving has been sent. The fourth quarter will be sent on schedule. Again, thank you.

Our Mission Giving has changed during this global health crisis. We are continuing to ensure the well being of retired missionaries and deaconesses to supporting soap making, mask making and food distribution internationally and national mission institutions like Emma Norton.

Giving ensures mission work around the world. Our gifts to mission supports the belief that our faith, love and action with God will create a better future through us.

Thank you

Kathy Lawson (treasurer) and Deedee Odell (president)

UMW's Just Energy for All 101 3-part Webinar Series: Join us to learn more about the why and what of United Methodist Women's Just Energy for All campaign as well as how your UMW unit, district, or conference can be involved. Each webinar will include a presentation, break-out sessions, and an opportunity to connect with other UMW members and people of faith. Join us Oct 22nd, Nov 5th, and Nov 19th at 7 pm ET. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/umwregister>



Big Changes at Thrift on Fifth

There is a change in leadership in the Thrift on Fifth ministry! Bobbi Nichols (pictured left) has passed the leadership torch to (from right to left) Dotti Loutfi, Kathy Lawson, and Pam Lund. Stop by one of their upcoming Sidewalk sales **October 3 & 17 from 9am til Noon**, and support this ministry. Thrift on Fifth continues to support Thrive Scholarships. Thank you to all the Thrift on Fifth team for this incredible ministry.

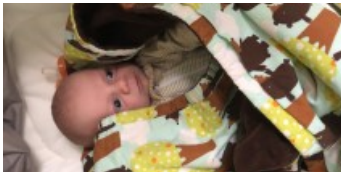


The CUMC Tree of Life: Living, Celebrating, & Remembering With You

Welcome New Intentional Disciples!

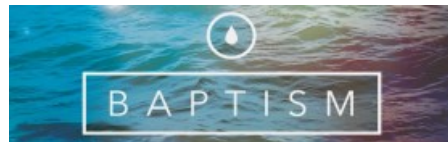
9/13/20: Steven and Jackie Robie Steve & Jackie, and their son Jay, relocated to Rochester from Plymouth, MN. They moved to be close to their daughter Alaina, son-in-law Patrick, and newborn grandson Calvin. Steve & Jackie also just retired, Steve from General Mills as a research engineers and Jackie from being a teacher at Blake school. They are transferring from Messiah UMC and are happy to join and participate in the life of CUMC.

9/27/20: Nicole Kennedy Neth Nicole moved with her husband Bryan from North Carolina. Before NC she lived in FL for 20 years so she is still adjusting to MN winters! She has a PHD in Civil and Environmental Engineering and can spend hours talking to you about environmental concerns. They recently welcomed their baby girl, Vera, into the world in June 2020 and greatly enjoy being her mama! The Neth family is excited to raise their baby girl in the Christ UMC community and get involved in the fun activities.



Welcome to the World!

Oscar Alden Boehmer, born August 21 to Kasey and Jeff Boehmer.



Vera Lea Neth born June 15, 2020. Daughter of Nicole and Bryan Neth.

Charlotte Louise Jacobson born October 4, 2019. Daughter of Samantha and Andrew Jacobson.

In Memoriam



Burton Ramaker

January 19, 1932 ~ August 26, 2020

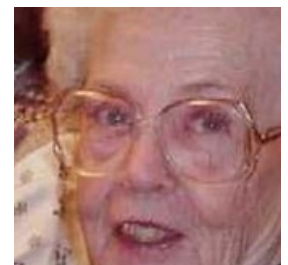
Angelyn Seaquist

June 8, 1915 ~ August 14, 2020



JoAnn Hoffman

September 1, 1935 ~ September 9, 2020



Christ United Methodist Church - Finance Report

We continue to weather the disruption caused by the coronavirus in much better financial and, I hope you will agree, spiritual condition than we would have expected early in the year. Through August we had received gifts of over \$537,000 well above our pre Covid-19 budget projection of \$499,500. Our net income after expenses was \$162,776; we had expected this to be -\$30,866 due to the normal summer slump. Thank you!

Operating Budget Summary – August 31, 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving	\$537,268	\$499,500	\$ 37,768
Total Income*	\$822,347	\$690,833	\$131,514
Expenses **	\$659,571	\$721,700	-\$ 62,129
Net Income *	\$162,776	-\$ -30,867	\$193,643

* \$75,500 of the Total and Net Income positive variances is due to recognizing forgiveness of our PPP loan (see below)

** Our total 2020 expense budget is \$1,101,114; we expect to end the year well under this figure primarily due to savings associated with staffing.

Assets and Liabilities

At the end of August the church had cash and other liquid assets of \$825,286 of which \$486,173 was unrestricted, enough to fund 5.4 months of budgeted expenses. Our objective is 3 to 6 months.

Liabilities were \$339,114 of which \$314,984 was in restricted accounts set aside by the Leadership Board for specific missions and projects; \$71,119 in the Capital Campaign account, \$54,661 in the Makinen Bequest account, \$86,140 in Trustee restricted accounts managed by the CUMC Foundation (the Foundation's total portfolio at the end of 2019 was \$694,000), and lesser amounts in 35 other accounts. The church has no long term debt.

THRIVE! Scholarships

Through August the church had contributed \$16,652.60 for THRIVE! Scholarships from direct donations, Thrift on 5th, bread sales, etc. We have accumulated an additional \$8,892 which, along with income received by the end of September, will be sent to Thrive in October.

Transform Capital Campaign

We have one remaining Transform project to complete, a more accessible and inviting nursery. As reported above, we have about \$71,000 available in the Capital Campaign account and have \$162,000 in outstanding pledges which we expect to receive by the end of this year. Planning and preliminary cost assessment work is underway; construction will begin when we are confident of funding.

Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) Loan

As previously reported CUMC received a PPP loan of \$75,500 from the SBA in April. We have met the conditions for the loan to be forgiven and are awaiting process guidance from the SBA before submitting our application.

Please contact Dick Estry (288-5938, rk.stry@gmail.com) with questions or comments.



From the Caring Ministries Team

One of the most meaningful experiences as a follower of Jesus can be to visit with a person going through a difficult time and providing a listening presence in the name of God.

We invite you to consider joining the caring ministry teams in an educational and vocational event taking place via Zoom on November 6 from 6-8 pm and November 7 from 9-11 am and 12-2 pm. We are particularly hoping new people will join us and decide to be involved as caring visitors from Christ Church.

We encourage those with a compassionate heart and a gift for listening to come to The Caring Church Program November 6 and 7.

Current Parish Ministers, other clergy and Pastor Nancy will serve as leaders. All Lay Visitors and Members of the Summer Calling Team are encouraged to attend as well as new people interested in learning more about Lay Pastoral Caring Ministry. Please contact Pastor Nancy for more information.

Registration by November 1 is strongly recommended. Please call or email the church office.

Please note that you will need a smart phone or device with the zoom app downloaded on it. Also, zoom instructions are available online.

The Caring Church Program Schedule

Friday 6-8 pm

- Welcome
- Game
- Parker Palmer Circles of Trust Touchstones

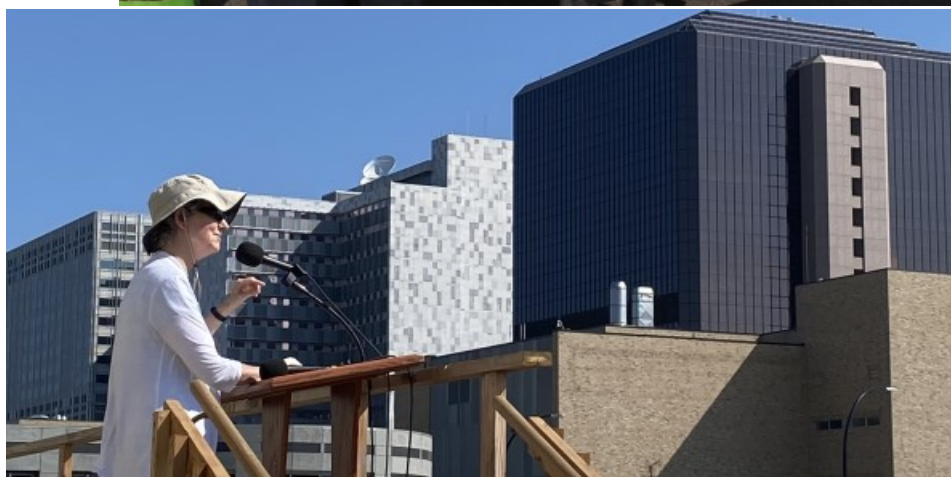
Saturday 9-11 am

- Welcome
- Reasons for Lay Pastoral Care
- Listening
- Making a Visit
- Tools: Scripture-Prayer Shawls

- Game

Saturday noon – 2 pm

- Topics: Grief-Hope
- Commitment
- Blessing



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400 Fifth Avenue SW
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Phone: 507-289-4019
Fax: 507-289-3648
E-mail: email@cumethodist.com

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