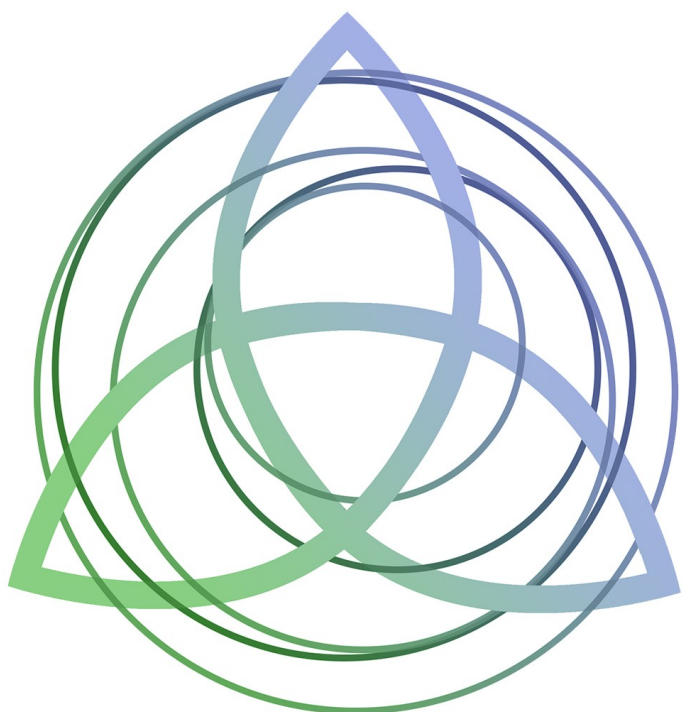


400 5TH AVENUE SW  
ROCHESTER, MN 55902  
507 289 4019  
EMAIL@CUMETHODIST.COM  
WWW.CUMETHODIST.COM

November 2020  
**CHRIST**  
METHODIST CHURCH  
**UNITED**  
Grace, In The City

**THE NEW**

**SPIRIT**



**Nothing Can  
Separate Us**  
from the love of  
God in Christ Jesus

**Christ United Methodist Church  
November 2020**

Join us for online worship every Sunday at 9am  
[facebook.com/cumethodist](https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)  
Archived on Youtube & on our website  
[https://cumethodist.com](https://www.cumethodist.com)

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

"Christ United Methodist Church Rochester MN"

# Pastor's Pen

WITH ELIZABETH MACAULAY, LEAD PASTOR



I have a practice of asking confirmation students to memorize scripture. I ask them to choose something that has meaning for them and commit it to memory.

I want for each student to have something to grab for when they are afraid or feeling beleaguered by life.

I find myself grabbing for scripture and music and poetry and the splash of color outside my windows during these pandemic days.

I am so very grateful for the comfort of the story that is mine to live: God is present.

November is a powerful and poignant month. It is a month of remembering our many blessings. And, November is the month we practice Thanks Giving by committing our financial support for our church.

We begin November by naming those in our congregation who have died in the previous year. Saying names and beholding faces keeps us aware of the cloud of witnesses who are eternal companions. We'll share that service knowing that each of us carries losses and gratitude.

On November 4th Pastor Nancy and I will gather in the sanctuary with our Principal Organist, John Varona. The election will have concluded. Results may not be known. What we DO know is that we are in need of healing after the barrage of fear-stoking endured. We will go live at 7:00pm to pray and hear scripture and light candles. We are a people who follow the teachings of the Prince of Peace. We will pray for peace. Please join us on Facebook at 7:00pm or on our church web site after 8:00pm.

Watch your mail! As a part of our stewardship campaign, we're excited to share the good news of how this church is in ministry before, during and (oh, it will be so grand!) after pandemic.

On November 22nd we will celebrate commitment to our ministry. We'll then offer a drive-thru to-go meal. Stay tuned for details. We'll do this safely and we'll have fun.

And finally, November ends with the beginning of Advent. Again, watch your mail!!!! We are sending you an Advent surprise in order to bring church into your home.

We are all trying, aren't we?

We are trying to live and love in the way of Jesus.

Whatever it is that helps you to remember God's promises and presence, grab for it!

Please know that your church is here to support and companion you.

May you know yourself to be richly blessed,

*Pastor Elizabeth*

Pastor Elizabeth



## Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!

During this pandemic season we are called to remember:

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

During the month of November we will give thanks for the ways we come together.

Nothing can separate us.

### Mark Your Calendars For:

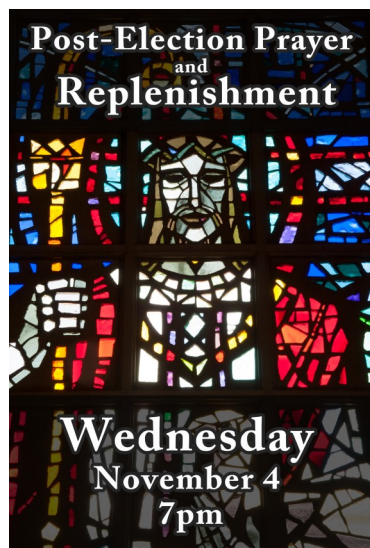
**November 1** - All Saint's Sunday 9am **online**

**November 4th** - Healing and Prayer service following the election - 7pm **online**

**November 22nd** - Dedication of Pledges (9:00am **online**) and to-go Celebration Dinner - 10am (Drive-Thru)

**November 29th** - First Sunday of Advent - Watch your mail for a surprise!

All services will be recorded and shared via Facebook ([facebook.com/cumethodist](https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)) or on our website ([cumethodist.com](https://www.cumethodist.com))



### Post-Election Prayer Service Online

"Are you tired? Worn out?... Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life." Jesus. Matthew 11: 28 *The Message*

Join Pastors Elizabeth, Nancy, and John Varona as we pray for peace and replenishment post-election.

We will live-stream from the sanctuary at 7:00pm. We will pray, hear scripture and be ministered to by John Varona on the organ.

Pray for peace. Join us online at:

<https://facebook.com/cumethodist>

### Meeting Christ Fellowship on Zoom - Sunday November 15 at 10am

"Meeting Christ" is an opportunity for people who are new to the CUMC community to converse with clergy and staff to learn more about who we are as a church while the church gets to know them. It's the next step toward membership and getting involved. If you'd like to learn more about who we are and what we do contact our Connections Coordinator, Grace Glover by emailing [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com).

### Request for Emergency Contact Information

Please send us your emergency contact information. We keep it in our secure database to use in case we lose touch with you. It is so easy to move, change a phone number or an email address and forget to notify the church. Likewise, persons who go into the hospital or a care facility often desire a call from the church, but have not notified the church of their location. We often "lose" members who move from place to place receiving medical care. When we have an emergency contact we can call that person and find out where you are, with your permission.



Have you followed Thrift on 5th on Facebook yet?

Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/thrifton5th> for updates and special announcements.

COVID 19 cases are rising in Minnesota, so we are not holding sales at this time.

We are also not taking any donations at this time, no exceptions please.

If you have questions, call our message line at (507) 289-4019 ext 294 or email [thriftonfifth@cumethodist.com](mailto:thriftonfifth@cumethodist.com)



Volunteer Spotlight!



We are currently undergoing a conversion from ballast operated lighting to LED throughout the church and I am looking for volunteers to help complete this process. This will lower the cost of lighting and help us become a more eco friendly facility. I will work directly with all volunteers to help guide the process and ensure safety for all if you are interested you can email me at [kent@cumethodist.com](mailto:kent@cumethodist.com) with your availability.

There is also painting and carpentry work that needs to be done.

Skills needed basic electrical, painting, carpentry

Thank you and look forward to hearing you.

- Kent Nymann Building Manager

Zoom Coffee Hour

Join us every week immediately following worship as we share a cup of coffee and discuss topics around the service that just concluded. You can find the zoom link in the weekly Sunday Reminder email right near the top of the page. See you over coffee!



The Thrive Gala is going digital this year!

There will be a week long celebration of Thrive from December 7-12 with different themes each day and a grand finale on the 12<sup>th</sup> via Facebook. Be sure to check back each day for a daily feature and an opportunity to give.

Thrive Christmas Ornaments will be available for a donation. They make a great gift for family and a necessary addition to your own Christmas tree. Email [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com) for info on how to get yours!

Current Phase: Orange



NEW COVID Guidelines from the Conference

As of October 27, 2020, the MN Annual Conference has dialed back their COVID 19 Guidelines to the Orange Phase. In his letter, he described this phase as “dark orange”.

*“...we are turning the dial on our phased re-gathering plan back to orange. Doing no harm, acting for the common good, and protecting the most vulnerable among us is how we love our neighbor. What this means: I’m asking you to limit your in-person gatherings to 10 people or fewer while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. Group gatherings have been the most significant source of the spread of COVID-19 in recent weeks. We have the power to help change the trajectory of this pandemic.”* -Office of Bishop Bruce Ough

What this means for CUMC:

- No in person events or prayer services
- Prayer and Presence November 12th is cancelled
- If you need a book, call the office to arrange for delivery
- Please do not stop by the office without arranging an appointment

All of these precautions keep our church family safe. We care about you and are here to answer any questions: Call (507) 289-4019.

## Children's Ministry

### Wonderful Wednesdays with Miss Jody and Miss Karla

5:00-5:30pm Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

5:30-6:00pm Grades 3-5

It has been so fun to connect over Zoom. We have been exploring God's creations and stories of faith. Every lesson begins with a mystery item in the Wonder Box that connects to the bible story. I love it when we share our wonders, discoveries, and connections with each other. Another thing I love is when we get to sing with Miss Karla. Our theme for November is Blessings. We will not meet on Wednesday, Nov 25.



**Fall Festival** On Sunday, October 11 we had a Fall Festival in the Labyrinth. It was a beautiful fall day, and we had many families join in the fun! We created pumpkin creatures, tossed pinecones, scooped up floating apples, ironed leaves, and guessed how many candy corn were in the jar. Special thanks to Shaun Wysocki for helping.



## Youth Ministry

Hello Middle Schoolers,

As I write this from my office, it's SNOWING! The pattern of the labyrinth is slowly disappearing under the grey sky and big white flakes. And snow always makes me think of Christmas, so

let's make sure our book club book has us in the right mood.

Let's read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. We will meet on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom starting next week (Oct 27): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89263842291>

Please let me know if you will be participating and if you need a copy of the book. I will have it mailed to your house. - Grace Glover

High Schoolers discovered their enneagram types and we concluded that our results sounded about right. Up next we will discuss the Clifton Strengths which help us to understand our unique gifts and put them to work. High School meets on Wednesdays at 8:30 on Zoom. Email Grace for more info.

The Youth Leadership Team is meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm on Zoom to discuss programming and how we can support our youth during these challenging times.

At a time when our young people are carrying out their life – their schooling, socializing and often their extracurriculars from behind a screen, feelings of isolation and uncertainty are common. We want to be sure that they have the sense of community from their church. If you are interested in being a part of the youth leadership team, please email [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com)



### ASP registration is OPEN

Go to our website or email [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com) for registration.

*Read Naomi Kennel's testimonial on Page 9*

Youth Registration: <https://forms.gle/oMsgiFomRDVhzYk88>

Adult Registration: <https://forms.gle/yUMMDUtwbV3pWqam9>



## Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings ~ Fall 2020

The Faith→Life Team is making plans for the winter session, so “keep a lookout” for new classes, forums and connect groups! We always welcome ideas/topics that are of interest and also those interested in hosting a group; contact Kathy Estry at [rk.stry@gmail.com](mailto:rk.stry@gmail.com) or Grace Glover at [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com).

*“We need people in our lives with whom we can be as open as possible. To have real conversations with people may seem like such a simple, obvious suggestion, but it involves courage and risk.”*

~ Thomas Moore

### Third Sunday Faith→Life Forums Offered via Zoom

We are offering forums that cover a wide range of relevant topics and are given by insightful guest speakers. There will be a 30 minute presentation followed by an interactive Q&A. No registration required. Join by clicking on the Zoom link provided in the Sunday worship reminder the day of the forum.

#### “Advent is Coming - What Will Your Advent be in the Time of COVID?”



**November 15, 10:00 AM** ~ Facilitated by Aileen Williams

In this year of pandemic we don't have the range of possibilities in making plans for the month of December. Difficulties in traveling and gathering with extended family and friends during the Christmas season requires that we find new ways of making the season meaningful. What will you make of Advent this year?

Through films, presentations and discussion learn ways to enrich Advent in this most unusual year.

Join the Third Sunday Forum on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at 10:00 am on Zoom following the Coffee time after the 9:00 worship service.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93756830363> Dial in Phone Number: + 1(312)626-6799

Forums are archived at: [youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn](https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn)

#### With Appreciation – Thank You!

We say thank you and applaud those who volunteered their time and talents to facilitate, lead, and host the many groups we offered through the technology of Zoom, Facebook and other social media during our summer and fall sessions. Because of their talents and willingness to try new ways we were able to safely stay connected as a church family that cares for each other

*Jenny Cordry – Director of Operations*

*Oliver Books – Director of Communications*

*Grace Glover – Connections Coordinator*

*Joel Charlson – Contemporary Issues*

*Ken Bauman – Monday Men's Group*

*Gwen Scilley – Monday Women's Group*

*Aileen Williams – Covenant Discipleship Group*

*Dick Estry – Men's Coffee Group*

*Ted Colescott – Covenant Discipleship Group*

*Gail Flanders – Thursday Women's Group*

*Rose Kliewer – Women and the Sacred Group*

*Rebecca Harrington, Mary Schmidt, Aileen Williams, Tom Williamson – Third Sunday Forum*

*Nicole Nfonoyim-Hara & Stephanie Low – Circle of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color*

*Mary Schmidt – Garden Ministry*

*Ed Shafer & Hank Kliewer – Inquiring Spirits*

*Marjie Blaisdell – Knit One, Pray Two*

*Rev. Cooper Wiggen – Book Discussion Groups*

*Al DeBoer – Book Discussion Group*

*Karen Heistand – Book Discussion Group*

*Kristen Hanson – Book Discussion Group*

*Kendall Hughes – Third Sunday Forum*

*Kathryn Gardner – Third Sunday Forum*

*Dr. Lisa Kirkland – Third Sunday Forum*

*Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay – Covenant Bible Study*

## Part 2 of Pastor Elizabeth's Covenant Bible Study Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm Starting November 11

Registration is required. Please call the church office at 507-289-4019 or email [jenny@cumethodist.com](mailto:jenny@cumethodist.com) to register. Books are available for \$18 in the church office. Part 2 (Living) focuses on how the community lives out their covenant in faithful love – how it's applied to actual relationships in everyday life. For more info about this Bible study go to [CovenantBibleStudy.com](http://CovenantBibleStudy.com)

### Ongoing Sunday Classes

#### Contemporary Issues

**Host:** Joel Charlson ~ **Time:** Sundays at 10:00 am ~ **Place:** On Zoom

Each Thursday Joel emails participants the week's topic from *Wired Word*. Scripture verses and critical questions related to the topic lead to in-depth discussions that apply to how we live our daily lives.

If you are interested in joining the class email Joel Charlson ([joel.charlson@gmail.com](mailto:joel.charlson@gmail.com)) to receive the weekly *Wired Word* or just join via this zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941> on Sunday morning at 10:00!

#### Inquiring Spirits

**Hosts:** Ed Shafer and Hank Kliever ~ **Time:** Sundays 11am ~ **Place:** Zoom

Reading is not required and new participants are always welcome. For further information contact Gwen Scilley at [scilleys@charter.net](mailto:scilleys@charter.net)

### Connect Groups

#### Knit One Pray, Too

**Host:** Marjie Blaisdell ~ **Time:** Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon ~ **Place:** Knitting at home on WebEx  
Contact Marjie at [mablaisdell@gmail.com](mailto: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 ~ **Time:** Thursdays at 8:00 am ~ **Place:** On Zoom

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.etry@gmail.com](mailto:rk.etry@gmail.com).

### Ongoing Faith Formation Groups

10:00 am – Monday – Women's Book Discussion Group/Zoom

11:15 am – Monday – Men's Book Discussion Group/ Zoom

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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday – Women and the Sacred/Zoom

"I was encouraged by a friend to join a small group and am so glad I did! We have wonderfully thoughtful discussions about books we've read and authors we have watched and listened to on videos. I feel my depth of friendship and understanding has grown so much... well, that was like discovering hidden treasures!" - Linda Youlden

**Congregational Read** This is a book selected by clergy that everyone is invited to read individually or in small groups and discuss via Zoom.

***All Earth is Waiting: Good News for God's Creation at Advent*** Katie Z. Dawson

*All the Earth is Waiting* invites readers to explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy and peace with the heavens and earth in mind. Each chapter in this Advent study offers reflection/discussion questions, a prayer and a weekly focus encouraging readers to engage in a specific act of creation care. Good for individuals, small groups and families in preparation for the coming of Christ.

**Books are available at the church office beginning November 9. Cost: \$6/book**

Watch the Wednesday Connections/Fresh Spirit email and the New Spirit newsletters for updates on offerings as they become available! Also check out [cumethodist.com/get-involved/connect-groups](http://cumethodist.com/get-involved/connect-groups) for a complete listing and registration information.



**Greetings from Thrive!** While the church is mostly closed, Thrive continues to be a busy place during the COVID pandemic. A few updates to share with all of you!

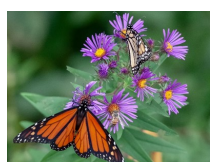
Thrive turned 2! We have grown from 5 children up to 56 children enrolled and have grown our staff from 5 to 19! We are excited to continue to grow and add more children to our program in the next few months. It has been fun to watch all of our classrooms open up and have

the rooms filled with little ones learning and growing! Our Family Resource Center threw us a party to celebrate our 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday! Each family received a party in a bag that included everything they needed to have a birthday party at their home! A big thank you to True Smoke BBQ for helping us provide a yummy dinner for our families!

As with all businesses, COVID has changed how we operate at Thrive. We have created a COVID plan that contains all of our health and safety protocols as they pertain to keeping our families safe from COVID. It is filled with guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and is reviewed by both families and staff. Even with our heightened health and safety practices, Thrive is not immune to COVID. One of our families did test positive for the virus which caused some of our classrooms to be required to close for 14 days. The good news is the family had very mild symptoms and recovered quickly and the virus did not spread at Thrive. Our health and safety practices kept it from becoming an outbreak. We are thankful to have staff and families who all work together as we navigate the COVID pandemic.

Thrive was recently notified that we were awarded \$25,000 from City of Rochester COVID-19 Nonprofit Relief Grant Program! This program is funded by the CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) Act and is overseen by the Rochester Area Foundation. We are so thankful to live in a city of generous people that hold a special place for non-profits. As we navigate through this pandemic, we know that it takes an entire community to get through all of this. Thank you to the Rochester community for being there for Thrive!

As we wrap up 2020, our motto at Thrive is to stay healthy, stay positive and keep moving forward! We wish the same for each of you!



**Garden Ministry** We want to thank all those who have helped with garden ministry this year. Their willingness to mask up and/or social distance while coming out to enjoy the fresh air with others in the church gardens has been so appreciated. Those who have contributed time, materials and/or tools to garden ministry this year are: Jean Abels, Teresa Anderson, Jennifer Benson, Annette Burt, Kathy Davis, Dick Estry, Kim Fedderson, Gail & John Flanders, Deborah, Aaron, Aidan & Andrew Gross, Carolyn Heyne, Linda Hyde, Deb Jensen, Julie & Andy Kennicut, Kathy & Del Lawson, David Lucas, Gary Lueck, Bill McGuire, Suzi & Chris Mueller, Steve Robie and co-leaders Kathy Estry, Tracy Jones, Lois McGuire and Mary Schmidt. We also want to thank those from Leadership and staff for their support (Dick Estry, Seth Hara, Diane Ilstrup, Dave Lucas, Chris Mueller, Pastor Elizabeth, Grace Glover, Kent Nymann) and the Memorials Committee for granting funds for the Courtyard pollinator garden - remainder of which will be planted Spring 2021.

Please watch for announcements about Garden Ministry opportunities starting in April of 2021 and plan on joining us. Thank you.





## News from UMW

Members from the Thursday Quilting group assembled and quilted a red, white and blue quilt in January of this year. The quilt was a donation for the annual Emma Norton dinner – silent auction held each year in April as a fund raiser for the organization. However, due to the COVID pandemic this spring, plans are to donate the quilt for the 2021 event. Emma Norton is a UMW supported organization located in the St. Paul area that provides supportive services and housing for women and their children who are homeless or are risk of becoming homeless and managing mental illness as well as chemical dependency. In 2019, 83% of the individuals who lived at Emma Norton Residence for six months or more increased their independent living skills, a step forward that will make their next steps that much easier. UMW will continue to ask the CUMC membership for assistance in providing housing supplies as these families move to independent housing.



~ MaeBelle Erickson



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



**Calla James El-Sabawi** Born June 12, 2020 and baptized on October 25th 2020

Daughter of Ellen Louise McMahon and Bassim Rashad El-Sabawi



**Congratulations to the Third Graders and Confirmation Student who received their Bibles on October 25th!**

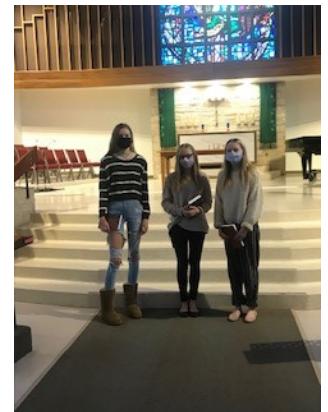


### Third Graders

Grace Dunn  
 Kelly Evans  
 Bentley Kirkham  
 Savannah Knotts  
 Shaun Larsen  
 Emma Lehman  
 Jonah Westfall  
 Kayla White

### Eighth Graders

Avery Cannon  
 Katarina Larsen  
 Evita Hansen  
*Not pictured:*  
 Bri Bowman  
 Braden Grossbach  
 Sam Katzenberger



## This All Saint's Day we are honoring the memory of:

*Charles Pagenhart* 3/9/1940 ~ 10/26/2019  
*James Holtz* 3/11/1926 ~ 11/19/2019  
*Ronald King* 4/13/1936 ~ 12/22/2019  
*Donna Geerdes* 12/14/1931 ~ 1/28/2020  
*Barbara Winter* 7/22/1928 ~ 1/31/2020  
*Patricia Hein* 3/2/1936 ~ 2/13/2020  
*Dorothy Combs* 9/9/1931 ~ 3/26/2020  
*William C. White* 9/8/1925 ~ 4/3/2020  
*Ardys Bartel* 1/20/1938 ~ 4/16/2020  
*Wayne (Otis) Houser* 1/29/1929 ~ 4/16/2020  
*Lorraine Wondrow* 8/23/1927 ~ 4/22/2020  
*Barry Woodle* 8/4/1940 ~ 1/13/2020

*Lucille Tonkin* 12/30/1925 ~ 4/24/2020  
*Dr. George Morrow* 11/13/1925 ~ 5/5/2020  
*Richard Wheeler* 12/21/1937 ~ 5/7/2020  
*Jane Sutter* 2/17/1924 ~ 5/27/2020  
*Eunice Glarner* 6/21/1926 ~ 6/15/2020  
*Lynn Peters* 6/13/1961 ~ 6/22/2020  
*Richard Mahler* 1/20/1923 ~ 6/29/2020  
*David Spavin* 5/21/1962 ~ 7/25/2020  
*Gale Hill* 12/25/1925 ~ 8/24/2020  
*Burton Ramaker* 1/19/1932 ~ 8/26/2020  
*Angelyn Seaquist* 6/8/1915 ~ 8/14/2020  
*JoAnn Hoffman* 9/1/1935 ~ 9/9/2020



## Hopeful Earthkeepers

CUMC EarthKeepers meets monthly on Zoom. If you would like to find out more about EarthKeepers or attend a meeting, please contact Mary Schmidt at [oronocombs@yahoo.com](mailto:oronocombs@yahoo.com).

Here are some Creation Care Tips from UM Creation Justice Movement.

COVID continues to upset our lives and now our traditions. As you plan for Thanksgiving, what has been the usual will likely need to be different. Go back to the words, “thanks giving,” to reshape your observance. Develop a gratitude list. As you make an entry, give thanks to God for that blessing in your life. Regularly reread your record of God’s bounty and find peace in it despite the disruptions swirling around you.



Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends. They too will be missing being with you. Find ways to connect without emissions. Try a gathering via Zoom with all your usual celebrants. Planning ahead gives everyone a boost knowing that the day is coming. Sure, it’s not the same. But it’s possible. And uplifting! (Consider setting a less traditional time to avoid an internet rush.)

Scan your lists of friends and family for ones who are alone due to COVID. During the holiday season, reach out. You can Zoom, do Facetime, create a video, send an email or card, write a note, or make a phone call, minimizing emissions. If you have been doing a gratitude list, you may have awakened to a new sense of the blessing those individuals have been to you. Now is a good time to express your thanks to them.



CUMC has always been an integral part of the Christmas Anonymous Program. This year the Christmas Anonymous board started working on a Covid 19 Christmas Anonymous Program in August. Our program would need to change to meet the needs of Olmsted county families having financial difficulty. We knew that CUMC would not be available.

Christmas Anonymous now has a plan of action to service our families.

- The store will be a drive-up store located at the old Toys-R-Us building at Apache mall. Gift bags will be pre-packed for each family, based on age, sex and clothing size.
- On-line application will be available on our website after October 15<sup>th</sup>. With many of social service agencies working remotely applications cannot be handed out to families.
- We will not have a donation store this year. We continue to accept monetary donations for our program.
- Our KTTC toy drive will be done on-line; with KTTC and Target working together. This event will take place the week after Thanksgiving. Please watch for details on KTTC station.

Volunteers are still needed: loading and unloading of items in storage, packing food boxes at Channel one, packing the gift bags, distributing the bags to the vehicles of our families. Cleaning up the Toys-R-Us building. We are working with Olmsted Public Health, to make sure that we are following Covid 19 safty guidelines. Please check our website: [ChristmasAnonymous.org](http://ChristmasAnonymous.org) to sign up for our many volunteering positions.

We are thankful for the Toys-R US building to accommodate our program this year. Olmsted County Public Health for guiding us through the process that is needed to have a safe Christmas Anonymous Store. The social service agencies, public schools and other organizations that will continue to work with families helping them sign up for our program.

Christ United Methodist has always and will continue to be an integral part of Christmas Anonymous. We hope to be back at the CUMC location in 2021 to service families.

~ Judy Plank

*Poinsettia Order Form*

Please fill in the form below if you would like to share a poinsettia plant with others this Christmas season. You can place this form in the offering plate or turn it into the church office. Each plant is \$15. The deadline for poinsettia orders is end of day December 7th. Please indicate below if you wish to pick up the poinsettia after 1pm on December 28th, or if you would like to have it delivered to a homebound or bereaved person. *Thanks for supporting this ministry of caring to our homebound and bereaved members.*

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ plants x \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ .\_\_\_\_

Please deliver to a homebound or bereaved member.

I will pick up after 10AM on December 28th.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Notes from Nancy

Check out the back cover to register for the Caring Church Conference! We are encouraging members to extend kindness and caring as a witness to our Christian faith. While much in this world is loud and insistent on its own way, the way of Jesus is to love God and love neighbor.

Did you know we have over 100 members who are homebound? We have a similar number of persons who are bereaved. Quite a few members are experiencing challenging times. One of the ways we show love of neighbor is by making phone calls and the rare visit to persons who are sick, bereaved or homebound. The Caring Church Event is a training and educational event to strengthen peoples' gifts for making these caring contacts. If you are interested in being involved in caring ministry, please contact Pastor Nancy for information.

We would like to continue the tradition of having poinsettias decorate the sanctuary for our online worship services and then for delivery to our homebound and bereaved members and friends. Particularly this year, the gift of a plant from our church will brighten the lives of those who receive them. You may purchase a plant for \$15 in honor or in memory of someone. Please mail your check labeled Christmas plant along with the form above or purchase online <https://cumethodist.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/47/responses/new> by Dec 7. If you would like to help with the plants (phone calls ahead of time or delivery after) call Judi Berg for more info.



So far I have gone on ASP two times, each being a vastly different experience. However, the most memorable to me was the relationship my team built with our homeowner Melissa during my first year on the trip. Because of cultural boundaries, I didn't expect to have much in common with Melissa. But upon being welcomed into her home, I discovered our shared love; dogs. Melissa had a tiny Chihuahua named Angel who weighed no more than 5 pounds. Whenever we entered the home, Angel would immediately start jumping on and licking us until we gave her attention. My team and I could barely pry ourselves away from that dog to work on the house's siding and bathroom floor! I spent hours holding Angel in my lap and talking with Melissa about woodchucks and her famous dumpling soup. Angel bridged that gap of differences with Melissa which allowed us to connect and have genuine conversations to broaden our perspectives, heighten our appreciation for our contrasting lives, and recognize our common humanity. Pretty soon, Melissa was eating lunch with us and lent my team a huge knife to cut a watermelon without even seeming vaguely concerned. Of course we told her it was for a watermelon, but the point is that we learned to trust each other and become a welcoming ASP family. Even though a team of Minnesota high schoolers and a Kentuckian have different life stories, we were able to bond throughout the week and learn about each other's history and values, and ultimately become friends. And it all started with a tiny dog named Angel.

~ Naomi Kennel

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# The Caring Church; A Spiritual Growth Virtual Event

November 6th, 2020 6-8:00PM &  
November 7th 9-11 am, 12-2PM

Free & Open to All

Presenters: Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Nancy, Grace Glover,  
Rev. Kendall Hughes, & Rev. Karen Heistand

**Join our virtual Conference!**

**Agenda:**

**Friday:** Spiritual Formation and Caregiving

**Saturday:** The Call for Caring in the Bible, Deep Listening Skills, Best Practices for Caring Visits

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Nancy by emailing [Nancy@cumethodist.com](mailto:Nancy@cumethodist.com)

**Register here:** <https://cumethodist.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/46/responses/new>