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March 2023

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT



Join us for worship every Sunday at 9am & 11am In-Person or Online

[Facebook.com/cumethodist](https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)

[YouTube.com/ChristUnitedMethodistChurchRochesterMN](https://www.youtube.com/ChristUnitedMethodistChurchRochesterMN)

Office Hours M-F 9am-5pm & Sunday 9am-12pm | 507-289-4019 | [cumethodist.com](https://www.cumethodist.com)

Pastor's Pen

 WITH PASTOR JENNY

Lent:

Who is Jesus?

This year we'll move through the season of Lent focusing on the question "Who is Jesus?" Our Sunday morning worship will focus on the "I am" statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John and our Sunday evening Bible study will use the book *Jesus Revealed* by Matt Rawle to delve deeper into these metaphors and images. They include:

I am the Light of the World (2/26)

I am the Bread of Life (3/5)

I am the Good Shepherd (3/12)

I am the Vine (3/19)

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (3/26)

I am the Resurrection and the Life (4/2)

Our Lenten devotional includes daily reflections, images and journal prompts about Jesus and is available in hard copy or by email (contact samantha@cumethodist.com to sign up) and we hope it will be also helpful tool to guide you through these weeks.

Lent is a great time to try out a new practice or take on a spiritual discipline, and the topic of Jesus' identity is one with ample room for reflection and learning. Jesus is obviously a central figure in our faith and yet Jesus' identity and life have led to a wide and diverse theological expression that hasn't always been fully reflected in our faith tradition. This season we pray that Jesus will be revealed to you in new ways that enrich your faith. And that the community of Christ UMC that bears the name of Jesus will continue to be a living, creative and vibrant embodiment of Jesus' love right here in Rochester.

Peace,

Pastor Jenny



Lenten Small Group

Join one of our pastors on Sunday nights in Lent
(**Feb. 26, Mar. 5, Mar. 12, Mar. 19, Mar. 26 and April. 2**) for our Lenten small group series using the book *Jesus Revealed* by Matt Rawle. We'll meet in-person in Room 145 and Zoom

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88937131963>).

Each gathering will include discussion, Bible study and a short video. Books are available for purchase for \$12 in the church office but are not required for participation.

Lenten Organ Concerts

Please join us Tuesdays at 12:15pm beginning February 28th for our Lunchtime Organ Recitals, featuring Lenten prayers written by various composers including Liszt. These are sure to please! The dates are **February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 4th**. Join the livestream on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist> or Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/@christunitedmethodistchurc1891>.

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Worship in Wesley Hall

April 6th at 5:30 pm

Good Friday Crosswalk in downtown Rochester:

April 7th at 12:00 pm at CUMC

Good Friday Worship with Chancel Choir

April 7th at 7:00 pm

Youth Easter Lock-In: Saturday April 8-April 9

Easter Sunday:

9am Traditions Worship, 11am Arise Worship
Caramel Roll Sales & Egg Hunt through the morning

Click [HERE](#) for a digital copy of the Lenten Devotional


 Children's Ministry

&


 Youth Ministry

CU Wednesday Meals

Thank you to everyone who has helped prepare and serve meals on Wednesday nights. Each week we feed between 45 and 70 people. During this time there is laughter, chaos and connection. These meals bless our bodies and spirits. We still have open Wednesdays in March, April and May before we take a summer break. Please chat with Amanda if you have a group that would like to serve.

Children and Youth Ministry Updates

During February our children and youth leaned into the church worship theme of stories of biblical families. In Club 6-7 and youth group we reflected on some of the challenges of families and how Jesus knew what it was like to be misunderstood and caught in the middle of family arguments. On Super Bowl Sunday we practiced our "Martha" skills and made sushi and fresh spring rolls in the church kitchen. It is quite possibly the first time our church kitchen was used as a sushi school!

Two family events in February brought our families and church family together. Sledding at Ironwood Springs was nearly injury free and saw a 4 year old and a 44 year old overcoming fears. Our night out at the Workshop was fun for all.

During Lent our Sunday School, Kids with Purpose, Club 6-7 and Youth Group will be asking the question "Who is Jesus?" Our schedule in March is much more stable than it was in February! We will take a pause for Spring Break March 31-April 9. With Holy Week and RPS Spring Break overlapping, we will plan a few special events for children and youth but it will not be as robust as our offerings are in other years. **There is a Lock in on Saturday, April 8 to welcome Easter.**

March

- 1 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday
- 5 (Sunday) Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- 8 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday
- 12 (Sunday) Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- 15 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday
- 19 (Sunday) Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- 22 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday
- 26 (Sunday) Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- 29 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday

Children & Youth Cont.

April

March 31-April 9 Rochester Spring Break. **No CU Wednesday, Sunday school or Youth Group**

Maundy Thursday (April 6)
Dinner (6:00) and Worship (7:00)

Good Friday (April 7)
Worship 7pm

Saturday (April 8)
Youth Lock In and ASP Caramel Roll Prep Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday (April 9)
ASP Caramel Rolls & Egg hunt between services

Summer Events Are Filling up!

Chat with Amanda Larsen for questions about these opportunities!

June 11-16 Christ Church at Northern Pines

June 19-23 Children's Hero Hotline Vacation Bible School and Youth Hero Academy

July 1-10 Appalachia Service Project

TBD Young Christ Church kids at Northern Pines

August 3-7 Christ Church in the BWCA <https://tinyurl.com/yc89zkw7>

TBD Church Camping at Whitewater State Park

We need volunteers!

We need **volunteers** for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights! Please help us offer a safe and welcoming space for all of our children and youth. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/wintervols>



Earthkeepers Update

It has been a busy month in St Paul as our legislature is working on passing significant bills to help Minnesota support our land, people and economy. Our partners Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light and Isaiah, have organized hundreds of people around climate change and paid family medical leave. Last week the 100% clean energy bill was signed into law by Governor Waltz. The process of gaining the necessary votes resulted in some concessions that weaken the bill-- but it is a start and building clean energy for Minnesota. You can [read about the law here](#)

United Women in Faith

We celebrated United Women in Faith on Sunday, January 29th. Lelaini Gibbs Henry was our guest speaker. Deb Jensen received the Mission Recognition Award. The Women's Choir sang, women ushered, greeted and served cookies. It was a wonderful day of women being present and fulfilling their roles as leaders in the church.



You are invited to the United Women in Faith Tea. Our theme is *Tea at the Palace* on April 29th. The time is 2pm to 4pm in the Commons. The cost remains at \$20 per person. Tickets will be on sale in the Commons on Sundays April 2nd and April 16th.

The palace encourages all guests to wear festive hats. Fascinators, cocktail hats, and derbies all welcome. Rumor has it that online stores have positively scrumptious selections for under \$10. "How will I ever choose?" you might be wondering. Get one for every outfit. A lady can never have too many hats. Wear your favorite to the palace and invent an occasion for the others.

The present is a present so be presentable for it.

Have questions or would like to help? Ask the committee: Marjie Blaisdell, Kathy Lawson, Deedee Odell, Jane Schmidt, Mary Schmidt, Daphne Soleil.







Saturday Noon Meals

The Saturday Noon Meal Program has continued to enjoy being back at the church in Wesley Hall - serving our guests in-person. We are now serving 40 to 45 guests each Saturday. Our guests enjoy the meal and fellowship with each other.

Thank you for our volunteers. The St. Francis Girl Scout Troop volunteered on February 4 and enjoyed preparing and serving the meal to our guests. It was such a great experience for our guests. We continue to welcome new volunteers - thank you! We also appreciate our community partners with regular food donations - Channel One, People's Food Co-op, Salvation Army, Community Food Response, and The Thrive Family Resource Center.

In November 2022, the SNM program was audited by Channel One. A requirement from this audit was the need to have a trained Food Safety Manager at CUMC. Kathy Lombardo completed this course and passed an exam in February 2023 - which now provides CUMC with a certified Food Safety Manager.

If you are interested in volunteering for the SNM program - please contact Kathy Lombardo at 507-398-2686 or via email at kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of the SNM mission program.

Kathy Lombardo



CUMC Vegetable Garden

As we move closer to gardening season, I will provide information regarding our gardening ministry.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the Vegetable Garden program – please contact Kathy Lombardo at 507-398-2686 or via email at Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com



Caring Ministries

Christ United Methodist Church

From The Ministry of Congregational Care

Did you know that we have had a Service of Healing in our United Methodist Book of Worship since 1992? That's over 30 years!

Yet many of us aren't familiar with the prayers and the process of anointing for healing of body, mind, spirit and relationships.

We offer anointing in congregational worship services as well as for individuals in homes, care facilities and hospitals. Prayer, laying on of hands and anointing with oil have a long history of being used for healing. "The New Testament records that Jesus healed the estranged and sick and sent out his disciples on ministries of healing. James (5:14-16a) calls us also to pray for and anoint the sick that they may be healed." (Book of Worship)

It's also important to note that we believe "All healing is of God. The Church's healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives us through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of ones' health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness." (Book of Worship)

If you have questions about anointing or if you want to have a pastor or care visitor anoint you, please contact the church office. You may also request communion and/or a prayer shawl.

Pastor Nancy Wheeler Handlon

Visits in the Hospital

Reminder that if you would like a Pastor or Care Visitor to visit you in the hospital you need to notify the church office. In case of emergency, there is always a pastor on call day or night. After business hours just follow the prompts for the pastor on call.



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

"For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."

Matthew 18:20

March Faith-->Life Forum

Every third Sunday (except December) we offer forums given by insightful guest speakers that cover a wide range of relevant topics. *Registration is not required.* You can join in-person or by clicking on the Zoom link provided in the Sunday worship email reminder the day of the forum.

"Juvenile Restorative Justice"

March 19, 2023, 10:00 am - In-person Wesley Hall and on Zoom

Presenters: Kendall Hughes and Abe Kamara

Three Rivers Restorative Justice

Minnesota SF55 and its companion bill, HF 46, for the establishment of an Office of Juvenile Restorative Justice were introduced in the 93 Legislature (2023-2024) this past January. Successful passage of the bill would mean every county in Minnesota would be served by at least one juvenile restorative justice program overseen by the new office.

At this forum we will learn more about juvenile restorative justice practices and what an Office of Juvenile Restorative Justice would mean for programs in our area.

Previous forums are archived at:

<https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn>

Click on our playlists tab, then, "Faith to Life"

Sunday Classes

Contemporary Issues

Host: Joel Charlson

Time: Sundays at 10:00 AM

Place: In-Person (Room 146) and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?pwd=VXFEK3I6UVRWeFRObzRjeGR5VUImQT09>

If you are interested in joining the class, email Joel at joel.charlson@gmail.com to receive the weekly *Wired Word* or join us on Zoom.

Inquiring Spirits

Hosts: Hank Kliewer and Ed Shafer

Time: Sundays at 10:15 AM

Place: In-Person (Room 145) and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82253693720>. Group members suggest theological topics or books of interest to study. For further information contact Ed at shaferchurch@hotmail.com.

Faith → Life: Cont. Classes

Meeting God

Hosts: Ken and Elaine Bauman

Time: Saturday, March 25 at 8:30 – 11:00 AM

Place: Fireside Room

The second session in a 3-part series will reflect on spirituality as relationships, values, and life purpose. Coffee and a snack provided. RSVP Ken Bauman (klbauman@gmail.com).

Jesus Revealed

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 PM, March 5, 12, 19, and 26

Place: In-person in Room 145 and on Zoom

This is a small group Lenten study using Matt Rawle's book, *Jesus Revealed*. The class will include discussion, Bible study, and a short video. Books are available for purchase for \$12 in the church office but are not required for participation.

Connect Groups

View a complete listing of groups and classes with more information at:
cumethodist.com/faith-life

Breakfast Fellowship

Hosts: Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson

Time: March 8th at 8:30 AM

Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center

CU Wednesdays Crossroads

Hosts: Pastor Jenny and Pastor Kirkland

Time: Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Place: Education Conference Center (ECC)

Contact Pastor Kirkland with any questions

Dinner/Lunch Club

To learn about the Dinner/Lunch Club contact Marjie Blaisdell at mablaisdell@gmail.com

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: March 19th at 4:00 – 6:30

Place: Contact Brian for location

Interested or want further information? Contact Brian at bkwebbus@gmail.com or Millie at 608-212-9706.



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

Knit One Pray, Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

Time: Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Place: WebEx

Contact Marjie at mablaisdell@gmail.com to receive a link to the WebEx meeting.

Men's Coffee Group

Host: Dick Estry

Time: Thursdays at 8:00 AM

Place: In person (Room 145) and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503377386?pwd=czVQNzlxTTE1eHdvdmgzZIBXdmsxZz09>

Contact Dick at rk.stry@gmail.com for further information.

Tea and Tacos

Host: Armanda Vanderheiden

Time: Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18 at 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Place: Narthex

A scared and safe space for women of all generations, backgrounds and beliefs to do life together. Childcare available. No need to register; drop-ins welcomed.

Saturday, March 25 the group will meet for Chalk Art at church 4:00 – 6:00 followed by dinner at Victoria's 6:30 – 8:30 PM. All Women welcome. Childcare available upon request.

Theology on Brew

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Thursday, March 9th at 6:30 PM

Place: Tap House West

Contact Pastors Jenny and Kirkland with questions.

Lent 2023 / All Church Read

Lenten Focus:

I Am Statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John

Join one of our pastors on Sunday nights (4:00 – 6:30 PM) during Lent for a small group series using the book, *Jesus Revealed*, by Matt Rawle. We'll meet in-person in Room 145 and have a Zoom option available. Each gathering will include discussion, Bible study and a short video.

Books are available for purchase in the church office for \$12 but are not required for participation. Contact Pastor Jenny with any questions.

Watch the Wednesday Connections Email, the Sunday Worship Reminder Email, and the Sunday Bulletin for updates on offerings as they become available! Also check out cumethodist.com/get-involved/faith-life for a complete listing and more information about classes and connect groups.

In Memoriam



Adele Marie Spavin

October 13, 1933- February 8, 2023



Richard Melvin Humphrey

March 20, 1935- February 13, 2023

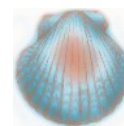


Walter Allen Bencoter

Welcome
New Members

Joined on 2/5/23

Sandra Galuska, Ella Hanson, Garrett Hanson



Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

Esme Colleen Bechly

daughter of Chance Warren John Bechly &
Aliesha Beth Bechly on January 29th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Communion Sunday 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Jesus Revealed Small Group 4:30pm Youth Group	6 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	7 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:15pm Lenten Organ Concert 1pm Covenant Group	8 8:30pm Breakfast Fellowship 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU WEDNESDAY 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	9 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Connect Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6:30pm Theology on Brew	10 10am Women & the Sacred 10am Rug Hooking Group	11 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 8am Foundation Meeting 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos 10am Walter Benscoter Visitation 11am Walter Benscoter Memorial Service 12pm Walter Benscoter Luncheon
12 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 9:30am Girl Scout Cookie Sale 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Jesus Revealed Small Group 4:30pm Youth Group	13 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	14 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:15pm Lenten Organ Concert 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters 7pm Thrive Board Meeting	15 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU WEDNESDAY 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	16 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 8:30am UWF Circle 2 10:30am UWF Circle 8 1pm Women's Connect Group 1:30pm Ruth Circle Meeting 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6pm Leadership Board Meeting 7pm UWF Circle 4	17 9:30am UWF Book Group	18 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
19 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Third Sunday Forum 11am Arise Worship 12pm ASP Info Meeting 4pm Hand & Foot Card Group 4:30pm Jesus Revealed Small Group 4:30pm Youth Group	20 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	21 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:15pm Lenten Organ Concert 1pm Covenant Group	22 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU WEDNESDAY 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	23 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Connect Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal	24 10am Women & the Sacred 10am Rug Hooking Group	25 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 8:30am Meeting God (Fireside) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 11am Public Education Listening Session 4pm Tea & Tacos Chalk Art 6:30pm Tea & Tacos Dinner (Victoria's)
26 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Youth Group 4:30pm Jesus Revealed Small Group 4:30pm Youth Group	27 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	28 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:15pm Lenten Organ Concert 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters	29 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU WEDNESDAY 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	30 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 9:15am Care Visitors 1pm Women's Connect Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal	31	

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