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March 2019

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace, In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT

Practice Makes (im)Perfect



Lent Devotional Series

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"

Pastor's Pen WITH KATY LEE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

This is a tough beginning to March.

We are still quite snowed in, plowing into what is traditionally our snowiest month in Minnesota (spring break shoveling!) Physically going to school seems to be “soooo 2018.” Just getting around or getting life done feels extra challenging. As of right now there is “Mt. Methodist” in our parking lot, a giant snow mountain taking up about 15 parking spots.



And, the United Methodist church seems to have lit a match in the gas-filled room of General conference delegates, causing an explosion of debate and hurt and an uncertain future.

This is the perfect way to start Lent.

Often when the world is painful we try to make the struggle go away as soon as possible. We eat all the sugar we can find, pour a drink, check the phone, turn on the television, or start Google-ing furiously looking for answers that help us feel better. (You can find any opinion on the internet if you look hard enough, either to convince you all is well, or else to tell you that the tiny scratch on your hand is cancer.) We are reactive. We are ready to end the discomfort, NOW.

What Lent is about is exploring the discomfort. Resisting that impulse to jump from problem to quick-fix, and sit in the struggle to find the best way forward.

You have probably heard of or seen the Japanese practice of “kintsugi” before, as our Lenten-series photo demonstrates. This is the practice of fixing broken pottery with precious metals, a part of the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, which calls for seeing beauty in the flawed or imperfect. It is about highlighting the fractures, not hiding them. The gold is a gorgeous reminder not only about restoration, but also that preserving worthwhile objects takes work. To keep functional we have to continually polish and protect and restore and repair, because entropy reigns and anything neglected will move towards dust and disintegration. A bowl is not a bowl forever unless we take good care and practice intentionality towards it.

Walk through Lent with us, won't you? We will help you find some habits and practices that will help you find your way through discomfort and into restoration. Slowly. Imperfectly. But you won't be alone.

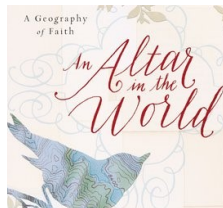
What's next for the United Methodist Church:
a reflection and discussion after General Conference



March 3rd • Sanctuary • 10:15am - 10:50am

DO YOU KNOW UMCOR?

UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief and will be the focal point of a Special Sunday Service in March. When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many of us feel the call to help but are at a loss as to what we can actually do to help. UMCOR Sunday is the day for congregations around the globe to help. And when the next crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond. On this Special Sunday on March 31, 2019, our generosity as a church covers the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations received throughout the year directly to relief efforts.



We will be sending out a daily Lenten devotional again this year, with the theme, "Practice makes (im)perfect." The way we live our lives is not alongside our faith or in spite of our faith: how we live IS our faith. We cannot separate the church and the world, our bodies and spirits. So in all of the messiness we are exploring this Lent the tangible practices that help us grapple with faith in our lives. We are asking anyone who would like to contribute to the Lenten devotional to answer the following question: "What is your "altar in the world"? Where have you experienced God outside of church walls? What external practice has formed your internal sense of faith?" Join us on this 40-day journey! If you are not on our email list sign up today by emailing us! Email@cumethodist.com



Wednesday - March 6
7:00 - 8:00AM - Chapel
Stop in for Ashes
7:00PM - Sanctuary
Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday we will be doing something new! **March 6, from 7-8am we will be offering a pit-stop for ashes.** Join us in the Chapel, all are welcome. Ash Wednesday Service will be at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary on the same day.



Save the Date: VBS is coming to CUMC this summer in a new form. We will explore the theme of "EveryBODY Matters" and God's all encompassing love for humankind (of all kinds!) We'll do VBS in the evening this year to be able to include as many children as we possibly can. Mark your calendars 6-8pm on June 24-27, and keep an eye out for signups coming soon!



Welcome to our new custodial team!

On the Left: Ruben Torres will be our new weekend custodian! Be sure to say hi on Sunday, and welcome him to the CUMC Family!

On the Right: Adam Nymann has stepped into the role of evening custodian to help with all the goings on in our building during the week.

If you ever need help in the building, these gents have you covered!



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

3rd Sunday Forum - March 17, 10:15 AM – Hamline

Conquering the Odds - Habibo Haji, RN-BSN, Author

Habibo Haji, author of Conquering the Odds: Journey of a Shepherd Girl, will tell us her amazing life story of growing up in a primitive African village and journey as an immigrant to the United States. What makes her a remarkable woman is her ability to transcend difficulty, find opportunity in hardship and adapt quickly to new surroundings. Because of her unyielding determination, she has succeeded in life and can be an inspiration to us all. A compelling story you won't want to miss!

Faith→Life Offerings

Classes: Financial Peace University - Mondays, February 4 – April 8

Congregational Read

An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor - Groups are discussing this congregational read. Pastor Katy is preaching on practices that Barbara Brown Taylor says are meant to teach people what it means to be fully human. If you would like to join the discussion with a group, contact Kathy Estry at rk.stry@gmail.com or email@cumethodist.com.

Connect Groups

Decluttering, Downsizing, Etc. - Tuesdays, March 5 – March 19

Exploration of Racial Issues - Sundays, March 3, 17, 31 and April 7

Lydia Project - Wednesdays, March 6 – April 3

Pie Night - Monday, March 18

Find times, meeting locations, and descriptions of these groups and register on the church website: cumethodist.com/connect-groups, emailing email@cumethodist.com, or in the church office.

We are in need of comfortable chairs/love seats, end tables and lamps, for our expanded group space in Rooms 135 and 136. If you would like to donate any items you can contact the church office or Kathy Estry (507-288-5938).

Child Care is available every Sunday and for weekday and Saturday Groups and Classes Upon Request



We had a WONDERFUL time at the Valentines dance, and are looking forward to the first annual Leprechaunathon, where you will be able to build leprechaun traps and go on treasure hunts, all in the name of food security. We will be participating in Minnesota Foodshare, and unveiling, filling and decorating our own TINY PANTRY! We are a part of recycling another little pantry that was hit by a car around town.



As you can see it needs a little love. You will have the chance to help paint, decorate and bless this little gift for our little city in the name of little leprechauns and GREAT LOVE!



We have two events that are specifically for helping us all better support and take care of our children. See the invitation on page 8: you will get to hear from our in-house scholar Ray Hansen (spotted in choir just last week!) as well as nationally renowned scholar Victor Vieth. Childcare will be available.



Winter is staying full in our youth ministry department, as you can see from the pictures. We tried a new thing with the high school mission trip to Kentucky: a pre-trip RETREAT! If you have gone on ASP over the last 37 years you know it needs a lot of preparation. Instead of multiple meetings over many months, we are simplifying, and took the whole crew out to Hennepin Ave UMC for an overnight retreat for training and the team reveal. We had ice cream, built community, and only had two ankle injuries (sigh). We appreciate all you prayers and look forward to seeing you at the Hosanna brunch this Palm Sunday!

The snow has been pretty disruptive to church this month. But our tech savvy youth and Pastor Katy had the answer. ONLINE CONFIRMATION! On February 20th we live streamed confirmation, and you could see how the families (and pets) were able to digitally participate. Want to check out the lesson? Head to the CUMC Youth Facebook page!



youth nite @ bowlocity
saturday, march 9

don't forget your sock!

bowling
+
laser tag
bring 10\$
and a friend
meet @ 6 pm @
Bowlocity

What does

love

look like?

#QUAD

GOALS

Confirmation Gathering: March 1-2, 2019

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral Camp Koronis

Boy Erased
March 31, 4-6 pm

A free film viewing with panel discussion and popcorn @ Christ UMC, 400 5th Ave SW

Boy Erased is a film that tells the story of a teenage boy's process of self-discovery as a gay man that is forced to participate in conversion therapy after coming out to his conservative Christian parents. The screening will be followed immediately by discussion that will center on bioethics of sexuality and gender, effects of psychological trauma, and supporting the LGBTQ community.

Christ United Methodist Church
Creating committed Christ followers for the transformation of the world.



United Methodist Women

UMW Sunday was held Sunday, February third. During the service the following people we awarded special mission recognition pins and certificates for their gift of ministries with women, children and youth. Dick Odell, Tracy McCray and John Iverson were honored. We thank them for all their hours of volunteering at Christ United and the community. Aileen Williams followed with a reflection on the UMW mission, and how their organization helps people around the world.

Muffin Mania II is coming soon! The UMW Sunday Circle will again host Muffin Mania on Sunday, March 18, starting at 8:30 and running until noon. We will have a variety of sizes and types of muffins available for purchase from 8:30am until noon. Come to church hungry and enjoy a marvelous muffin (or 2) for breakfast and buy some extras to take home!

All money raised will be donated to Project Legacy. Project Legacy provides support to youth ages 17-24 who are refugees, homeless, formerly gang-involved or recently incarcerated allowing them to transform their lives and become contributing members of the Rochester community.



Upcoming UMW Events:

UMW Birthday Celebration -Evangel UMC, March 21, 1:00 pm – All are welcome!

UMW Spring Rummage Sale - May 9, 10, &11



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

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

Volunteers Needed - Audio Technician

We need your help in running the 9:00 AM worship service. We are looking for volunteers who want to learn how to run the sound system in the CUMC sanctuary. All training is provided. Volunteers will learn how to set up microphones for vocal and instrumental performances, how to run the sound system during the 9:00 AM service, and how to edit the 30 minute radio broadcast that runs on 1520 AM at 11:30 AM each Sunday. Please call Joel Ott at 507-226-1115 or email joelott@outlook.com if you are interested.

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 March 10. Please contact the church office at 289-4019 or by email to email@cumethodist.com if you have questions or would like more information.



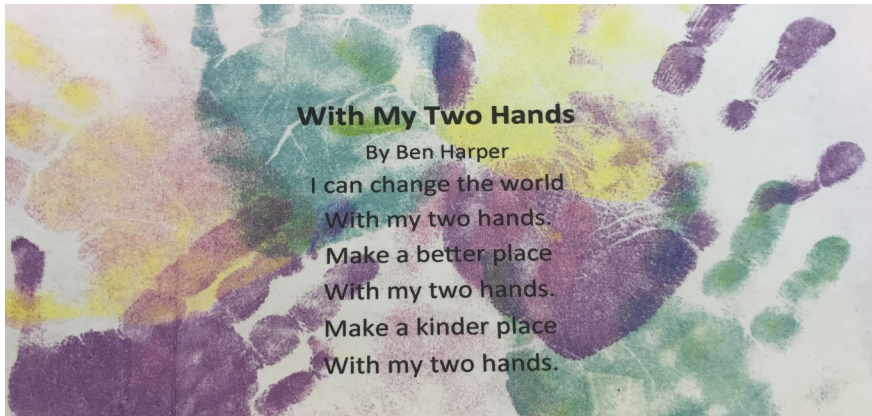
February 17-23 was Random Acts of Kindness Week and the preschool children and their teachers at Thrive enjoyed every moment of it! It was a week filled with being kind to others, showing love for people who help us and surprising strangers with a token of kindness.



The group started the week by preparing for all of the fun! There were cupcakes to be baked, handprints to be painted, cards to be made and tissue paper flowers to be created. It was a messy, creative and fun process to watch everything come together.

The preschoolers bundled up and walked down to the fire station to deliver cupcakes and thank the fire fighters for all of the help they give to others. They got to spend some time at the station and even got to sit in a fire truck! They stopped by the Food Co-Op next to spread some more kindness by passing out cards that they had made. The cards certainly brought smiles to many faces and one woman told them, "You made my day and I'm going to keep this forever!" The rest of the week the preschoolers surprised the other teachers with cards, cupcakes, tissue paper flowers and even ventured upstairs to the office to deliver some kindness as well.

It was a beautiful week to watch. Teaching children kindness is important, and we sprinkled kindness all week with all of those around us!



“It is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o’clock on Sunday morning.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Race is not an easy topic and many of us are afraid of saying the “wrong thing.”

So we stay silent.....and silence doesn’t help.

To this end, we are bringing a series of discussions about race to the table at CUMC. We believe that church is exactly the right place for this work to proceed and we hope to provide a space where people feel brave enough to explore the topic together.

Each set of discussions is composed of 6 sessions. Our session themes are:

- *Race and the Criminal Justice System*
 - This fall we used the book, “The New Jim Crow,” as a background for our work. Pastor Kendall Hughes, newly retired chaplain at the Federal Medical Center, led us in these discussions.
- *De-centering Whiteness*
 - Our winter discussions are being held on February 3, February 17, March 3, March 17, March 31, and April 7. This discussion is bringing up a lot of emotion. We are unpacking terms like “white privilege,” “white nationalism,” “white supremacy,” “white complacency,” “white fragility,” and “white guilt.” It is being led by Kristin Perry, instructional coach.
- *Race and Poverty*
 - We intend to use the book, “Strangers in Their Own Land” by Arlie Russell Hochschild for our spring session. Nicholas Wysocki, professor in the Department of Education at Winona State University, and Bobbi Nichols, psychologist, will be leading these discussions.

Each discussion is designed to “stand alone,” so that participants are encouraged to attend as frequently as possible, but will not feel lost if they are able to attend only sporadically.

Nicole Nfonoyim-Hara has developed a website that we hope to use as a resource in the future for broader influence. The Rochester Racial Justice Toolkit and other resources are listed on the CUMC website (cumethodist.com) under the tab, “Social Justice.”

It has been a highly collaborative process and we have been encouraged by congregational interest and participation so far.

We invite you to join us for the remainder of the winter and spring discussions whenever you can!

Seth Hara – Kendall Hughes – Nicole Nfonoyim-Hara

Bobbi Nichols – Kristin Perry – Nicholas Wysocki



Claiming Our Voices: Rochester Community Meeting with Senators Senjem and Nelson
 Sunday March 3, 1:30-4pm St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church (1114 3rd St. SE, Rochester)

During this state legislative session, ISALIAH is holding “in-district meetings” all across MN where we invite our state legislators to meet with their constituents in their communities centered on their stories, concerns, and policy issue priorities grounded in our faith agenda (<https://is.gd/ClaimingOurVoicesAgenda>). Rochester area state senators Senjem and Nelson are both crucial to passing policies such as Paid Family Leave, Protecting and Expanding MNCare, Drivers Licenses for All, and 100% Clean Energy that will build the multiracial beloved community and an economy where we can all thrive. Accordingly, leaders of our local Rochester ISALIAH group have organized an “in-district meeting” with Sens. Senjem and Nelson, and both have accepted the invitation! Please spread the word so your members can share in this experience and be invited to put their faith into non-partisan political action in your community!

News from Hopeful Earth

CUMC has committed to Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL) to become a sustaining member and enroll in a 1 year congregational certificate program, *Be the Spark: Climate Justice Congregations*. *Per MNIPL*: "This year long process will help you and your community gain the focus, resources and support that can help galvanize your faith community into committed climate action. Join a growing number of faith communities doing the same, joining together across many faiths raising a collective voice and driving concrete projects for faithful action on climate justice."

What is MNIPL:

"MNIPL is an interfaith community co-creating a just and sustainable world. We work in partnership with faith communities to build transformative *power* and bring the *lights* of people's unique gifts to addressing the climate crisis.

At MNIPL we work to **build the interfaith climate movement** in Minnesota by empowering faith communities across the state to take action that is authentic, effective, and energizing in their context.

We do this in two ways: **leadership development programs** and **action opportunities** that provide tangible ways to make an impact. We believe that it's not enough to offer people opportunities to take action on the issues they care about. Instead, we believe leadership development and organizing training empower individuals to build a movement capable of creating a just and livable climate for the human and more than human world."

Immigration Support Update

Legal defense funds are needed for undocumented residents of Southeast Minnesota and Olmsted County! Undocumented immigrants with legal council are 10 times more likely to be granted legal residency than those without. It is estimated that the undocumented population of Southeast Minnesota is 5,800 of which 2,800 live in Olmsted County.

Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense (SMIILD, a group of churches and immigrant support organizations) working through the Diversity Council is hoping to raise \$50,000 in church and private donations. Local units of government will be asked to support \$50,000. Grants are being written for another \$50,000. If \$150,000 is raised, roughly 3/4 the cost of an attorney for legal services and related brochures and services will have been met.

CUMC's Mission and Social Justice committee has voted to match member donations for the first \$1000 raised and another donor has offered to match the next \$1000. Donations must be made to CUMC with a notation for Immigrant Legal Defense. Please consider a donation.

Reminder: March 17th Sunday Forum at CUMC hosts Habibo Haji who will tell her story of determination; Conquering the Odds: The Journey of a Shepherd Girl. Don't miss it!

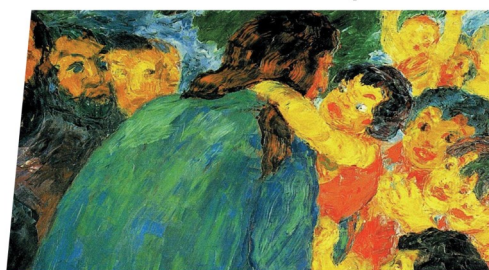
For further details on SMIILD and to follow immigration support planned action, please send your email address to Larry Segar - HilltopLG@Yahoo.com

Protect Our Children • Face the Future with Confidence
Join us for two powerful and free workshops



Estate Planning Guide

Who Will Take Care of the Children?
 6:00pm - 7:30pm • April 3 • ECC
 Free Child Care Available



On This Rock

A Call to Center the Christian Response
 to Child Abuse on the Life and Words of Jesus
 6:00pm - 8:00pm • April 10 • ECC
 Free Child Care Available

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

Save the Date: Afton State Park Group Camp - August 2-4

Pastor Elizabeth will be leading an all-church camping retreat to share experience with and teach the lessons on the power of wilderness. The theme of the renewal leave was “Wilding” and this camping retreat will be a hands-on lesson of the themes and ideas brought forth through Pastor Elizabeth’s renewal leave. An all-inclusive, all ages, no tech, tent-only camping trip! Keep an eye out on the CUMC Facebook page, and on the weekly worship bulletins for how to sign-up!



March 11 | 7:00 - 9:00pm | Stewartville High Schol PAC

Free Documentary Screening

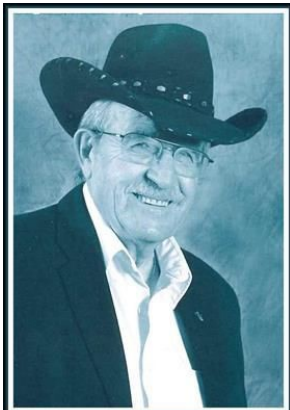
SCREEN AGERS



The film empowers kids to best navigate the digital world and provides practical resources to help them do it. Brought to you by REACH Stewartville Monday, March 11th 7-9pm Stewartville High School Performing Arts Center 440 6th Ave. SW Stewartville, MN 55976 Questions? Email: james.parry@ssdtigers.org

Parents are encouraged to bring their middle/high school children with them, as we feel students need to be a part of this important conversation

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



In Memoriam

Lowell Arnold
November 24, 1933
~
February 3, 2019



Thanks from Rochester's Federal Medical Center

“Dear Reverend Macaulay:

I am writing on behalf of the staff at FMC Rochester and would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to you and your congregation for the food donations and for serving as a donation site. Your generosity during the unprecedented 35-day government shutdown was greatly appreciated. The staff at FMC Rochester have received an overwhelming amount of support from individuals, businesses, and organizations from Rochester and the surrounding communities. The support we received and continue to receive as we carry on our law enforcement mission of protecting society while faced with uncertainty and anxiety is very much appreciated. [...]

Sincerely,

David Paul - Warden”



Notes from Pastor Nancy

Congregational Care at Christ UMC is for members, friends and guests. These Caring Ministries are for all whom God brings to our awareness whether in our building or out in the community of Rochester or out into the world.

We believe prayer is the foundation of Congregational Care.

If you have a prayer request, we ask you to consider one or several of the following options: Prayer by the pastors, the Prayer Chain, and/or prayers listed in the bulletin. The Prayer Chain consists of members who pray for all for whom they receive requests. The request is given by merely passing along the first name of the person(s) needing prayer. Please notify the office of your request.

Want a visit in the hospital? Please note that you need to contact us or have a family member or friend contact us to tell us that you are in the hospital and want a visit. We no longer have access to names of people who are hospitalized.

Those in town for medical care - Pastors and Parish Ministers are available to provide spiritual support such as prayer, communion, anointing and holy listening. Please contact the church office to request a contact.

Want to talk to a pastor? Please contact the office to make an appointment with one of the pastors

Have a Pastoral Emergency? During business hours, please call the office. There is always a pastor on call. After hours and on weekends, please call the office and listen for the phone message which will have the phone number of the pastor on call. Then call that number to reach the pastor on call.

Want to serve in Congregational Care? Training is provided for the following Ministry Teams:

- **The Prayer Chain** passes along the name of the persons requesting prayer and pray for them daily.
- **Lay Visitors** call on homebound members once a month or more.
- **Parish Ministers** call on members and friends of Christ UMC facing a major life challenge such as job loss, divorce, addiction, serious illness, death of a loved one. They receive extensive training and meet once a month with Pastor Nancy

Communion Ministry: Coordinate and Provide Communion for the three Sunday morning services and for homebound communion.

Memorials and Living Gifts Committee oversees thanking those who give memorials and living gifts to CUMC as well as approves funding requests for undesignated gifts. They also keep records of gifts.

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Non Profit Organization

U S. POSTAGE
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Return Service Requested

Leprechaunathon

CUMC
10-11:30am
March 16th

**Trapping Leprechauns
& Treasure Hunting**

Bring food for Minnesota Food Share!