



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

March 2020

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace, In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT



Risky Business

Lent 2020

WORSHIP DIRECTORY:
8AM BELOVED (CHAPEL)
9AM TRADITIONS (SANCTUARY)
11AM ARISE! (ECC)

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

"Christ United Methodist Church Rochester MN"

Table of Contents

Pastor's Pen - 1

CUMC Announcements - 2

Easter Events

Donation Tree

Quiet Room

Volunteer Spotlight

Children & Youth Ministry - 3

Re-you-nite

ASP Happenings

Transform Follow Up - 4

Where We Love - 5

Coral Arts Concert and Awareness Event

Faith → Life Schedule & Offerings - 6, 7, 8

UMW News - 8

United Theological Seminary Event - 9

Notes from Nancy - 10

Tree of Life - 11

Social Justice Film Series Pt 2 - 12

Easter Flower Order Form - 13

UMCOR Sunday - 13

Pastor's Pen

WITH ELIZABETH MACAULAY, LEAD PASTOR



March is a capricious month. Coming and going, lion or lamb, March is witness to the changeability of life. With so much that is unknown, where is surety to be found?

As followers of The Way we believe that the teachings of Jesus give us opportunity to learn the heart of God.

Here at Christ Church we are committed to sharing the teachings of Jesus in all seasons.

All of March we will be in the season of Lent.

Lent is a time for us to consider what it means to follow Jesus into places of sure pain.

As a church we are reading together Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. Dr. Levine is a Jewish scholar who finds power and meaning in the teachings of Jesus. As we enter the passion of Jesus shared through the scriptures often read during Holy Week, Levine invites us to consider what it is Jesus risked in order to teach us the ways of life.

Considering what Jesus risked leads us to the question:

What are we willing to risk?

Week by week we will read Levine's book and consider during worship how it is Jesus risked reputation, anger, challenge, rejection, loss of friends and temptation. Through Jesus we learn that living in his way means being willing to live with the tension involved in risking.

What is it in the teachings of Jesus that calls you to move from the center of comfort into the wilderness of risk?

Pick up a book in the office, join a small group, read on your own, and join in the Jesus story of risk.

Also during Lent we invite you to read the daily devotional created by the writing and heart gifts of this congregation. We asked people to reflect on how it is God shows up in their lives. Our prayer is that each day of Lent you too are called to be on the look-out for holiness in your own life.

Give thanks; believers, agnostics, doubters, and all of God's beloveds.

As the uncertainties of our national and denominational lives play out, trust the grounding of God's presence.

In the midst of chaos, God created all that is and called it good.

That creation continues yet.

Blessings be yours during this season of Lent.

Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Elizabeth

Save the Date Easter is on the Way!



Easter 2020
Maundy Thursday
April 9 ~ 7pm Sanctuary
Good Friday ~ April 10
Ecumenical Service ~ 12pm Sanctuary
Worship ~ 7pm Sanctuary
Celebrate Creation Party
April 11 ~ 10am Commons
Easter Sunday
April 12 ~ 9 & 11am Sanctuary

Celebrate Creation PARTY

April 20

**10am - 12pm
East Lot**

Christ UMC

**400 5th Ave SW
Rochester, MN**

Games and Snacks!
Meet cool animals!

Free Party! Fun for
the whole family!



Donation Tree

During the month of February we will have a "Giving Tree" in the commons area decorated with Hearts of Grace. Each of the Hearts of Grace will contain various dollar amounts that can be given to help with the financial needs to pay back the cost of the plane tickets that enabled the Yangya Sikati Family to come to the United States. The Division of Migrations and Refugee Services of Catholic Charities provides a "loan" to initially cover the cost of the airfare, which must be paid back starting six months after moving to the USA. The cost of airfare for this family of eight is roughly \$15,000. Please make your check out to CUMC and list "Sikati Family" in the memo of your check. Sharing the Grace of Christ United Methodist Church, one heart at a time.

We refreshed the quiet room! If you aren't familiar, we have a room in the upper floor of our sanctuary that was built to create a comfortable and quiet environment during service. It hasn't seen much use in recent times, but we've refreshed the space in hopes of utilizing the space.



Volunteer Spotlight!



There are so many ways to volunteer through CUMC and serve our community. Each month we will feature some of these opportunities and the people who perform them, so you can get involved.

Coffee Host – *Sundays 8:30am - 11:00am* Keep the coffee service stocked and ready during services. It's a great opportunity to see and serve the many worshippers at our church. Contact Jenny Cordry at jenny@cumethodist.com *Note: you would not serve every Sunday but choosing one Sunday a month or a month out of the year would be appreciated.*

Grounds Crew – Help keep up the outdoors space around CUMC. Contact David Lucas at 2dlucas47@gmail.com *At your availability during warmer months.*

Prayer Chain – Pray for members of our community when they need additional love and support. Contact Jan Bolton at (507) 269-4034 *Daily, on your schedule.*

Flowers – Deliver flowers to homebound members of our community after Christmas and Easter. Contact Judy Berg at judiberg@charter.net *Following Christmas and Easter.*

Communion – Prepare communion on Sunday mornings and put it away after the service. Contact Linda Hyde at howlin70@gmail.com *Sundays before and after the 11 o'clock service or the first Sunday of the month for the 9 o'clock service.*

Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry

Tweens: In February we began to have programming for middle grades on Wednesday evenings after supper at 6pm. Youths in grades 5-7 can join Grace for games, conversation, and enrichment activities.

Sunday school and Nursery: A big thank you to all the volunteers who make each Sunday meaningful for our children. By being present with them, you provide love guidance and support on their spiritual journey. If you are interested in volunteering in a Sunday School Room or our Nursery please contact our church office. We love adding people to our Sunday school team.

CU Wednesday: CU Wednesdays are fun for all. It is a great way to get involved in music and faith formation programs, meet the other families, and grow in the life of the church. We invite you to come Wednesday nights to our potluck supper (5:30-6:15 pm) for food, fellowship, and fun. See our website for a listing of our Wednesday night classes and rehearsals.

Middle School/High School Boundary Waters Adventure! The Boundary Waters Trip will take place this year from July 19-24. Group camping for the first night, three days canoeing in the boundary waters, then ending back at group camp sight. More info in next months Spirit!

Google Classroom

CUMC Youth has a Google Classroom set up for people in grades 6-12 and the code for it is 4dqlbww



A loving and inclusive statewide event for youth of all orientations and identities in the name of Christ.



Re-You-Nite 2020
April 17-18, 2020

7-12th Graders from all over Minnesota

At Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis
55410

Cost: \$20 per person

6:00p Friday, April 17-9:00p Saturday, April 18

Find registration and payment at the bottom of this page.

RE-YOU-NITE

I hope youths in grades 7-12 will join me at a state-wide event for youth being held at Lake Harriet UMC on April 17 - 18.

(info) <https://www.lakeharrietumc.org/re-you-nite/>

Re-You-Nite is offered to give opportunities to hear from young adult leaders and to mix it up with other youth from around the state. We would car-pool up and spend the night at a local UM church and then motor our way back on Saturday.

Why? Because the United Methodist Church is a diverse and powerful justice organization. The voices of youth are crucial in these days of change and growth.

Who? Youth grades 7- 12 and adults who will help chaperone and drive.

Please let Grace Glover know that you are interested. Her email is grace@cumethodist.com



We're sending out a variety of reminders/updates to everyone. Please take time to read these. If you have any questions please contact Tricia, or the CUMC office.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- Ticket sales for Brunch - March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th - YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS.
- Caramel Roll Fundraiser Sale March 8th between services
- Sponsorship Sundays - May 3rd, 10th, 17th
- ASP Trip will take place July 4th - 13th
- ASP Sunday will be July 19th

Hosanna Brunch

April 5th

Tickets on Sale 10am in the Commons
Sundays March 8, 15, 22, & 29

Proceeds offset cost for

Appalachia

SERVICE PROJECT®



It is with a deep sense of gratitude for the people of CUMC that we can report that all Transform projects have been completed and that we have paid off the line of credit loan we have been using to bridge project expenses while pledge income has been coming in during the past two years.

You may recall that early in the Transform planning stages our consultant advised us based on interviews with church leadership and congregants that we could expect pledges in the neighborhood of \$750,000.

The preliminary estimates for our top priority projects (THRIVE!, Sanctuary and Good Sheperd Window upgrades, and 8 new exterior window panels) came to \$800,000. We also wanted to replace the remaining 8 window panels, add a handicapped accessible restroom, renovate the ECC restrooms and upgrade the Wesley Hall kitchen. This added another \$288,000 and since it was early in the process we anticipated unforeseen costs of \$100,000, bringing the total to \$1,188,000.

So we set ourselves a stretch goal of \$1,250,000.

We received pledges of \$1,490,000. You are awesome!

In addition, prior to the campaign the Leadership Board had committed \$110,000 in undesignated bequests to the project and in the time since the pledge phase of the campaign ended we have received other gifts and grants of \$115,000 bringing total potential funding to \$1,715,000.

After taking into account contingencies for uncollectible pledges and unanticipated construction costs we settled on a budget of \$1,385,000 including planning and fundraising costs, leaving us about \$180,000 in uncommitted funding.

What have we accomplished?

- THRIVE! has been up and running in a beautiful space for more than a year and is financially self-sustaining. They have over 50 children and enrollment is growing. 14% of families and 27% of children receive some level of tuition assistance, another tribute to the generosity of this church.
- 16 energy efficient exterior window and door panels have been installed replacing the original single pane panels.
- We have a new highly efficient HVAC system in the education wing that services THRIVE! and the classrooms above.
- The Wesley Hall kitchen has been upgraded to serve THRIVE!'s and the church's needs. Air conditioning will be installed this spring.
- The Good Shepherd Window has been repaired and protected.
- A projection system has been installed in the sanctuary
- A handicapped accessible restroom has been installed in the ECC hallway.
- The other two restrooms in that hallway have been refurbished.
- Along the way we have performed extensive asbestos abatement in the lower level.

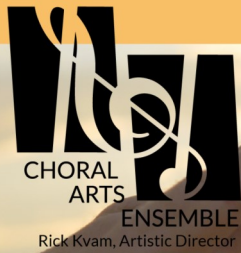
Where are we?

Through January pledge and other income has been \$1,493,000 and expenses have been \$1,477,000. The cost overruns are primarily associated the HVAC upgrade from original plans, the Good Shepard Window repair and asbestos abatement.

Outstanding pledges (due by Dec. 31, 2020) are over \$235,000. There are projects waiting in the wings that the Leadership Board will prioritize and present to the congregation when we receive these funds.

To summarize:

- Transform projects are complete.
- Our loan balance is zero.
- We anticipate additional gifts that will be used for projects prioritized by the Leadership Board.



HOME -
WHERE
WE LOVE

Saturday, March 21
Free-will donation Meal at 6:00pm
Choral Arts Event at 7:30pm
Christ United Methodist Church
400 5th Ave Rochester MN 55904

Tickets at www.ChoralArtsEnsemble.org

"Where we love is home – home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts." ~ Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Celebrate in song all that home means in support of **Family Promise** and **The Landing**, and in coordination with Rochester Mayor Kim Norton's initiatives to eliminate homelessness.



and stubborn challenge, and we are so grateful for all the work that is being done to meet that challenge! I hope you can join us that evening (each group will receive at least two comp tickets to the performance), so we can promote your efforts!

Thanks so much,
Rick Kvam - Choral Arts Ensemble - Rochester, MN



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 8. Contact the church office at (507)289-4019 or (email@cumethodist.com) if you would like more info.

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



March 15, 10:10 AM Hamline Room "What Next? General Conference 2020"

Pastor Elizabeth will give an overview of what will be happening at the United Methodist Church General Conference in Minneapolis, Tuesday, May 5th – Friday, May 15, 2020.

The theme of the conference is taken from Psalm 46 . . . "And Know That I am God."

This theme is meant to be a touchstone for remaining centered in God's grace and also a guide for delegates' interactions at the assembly.

Bishop Bruce Ough, as host for the 2020 General Conference, gave the sermon for the opening worship at the pre-general conference briefing held in Nashville on January 22-24, 2020. If you would like in-depth information about what will be happening go to:

resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020.

Thank You, Thank You!

What would we do without the willingness of those who volunteered their time and talents to facilitate, lead, and host the many groups we offered at CUMC during our winter session? A heartfelt thank you to all who make our church a welcoming and safe place to "Connect"!

Ed Shafer, Hank Kliever, Judy King – Inquiring Spirits

Joel Charlson – Contemporary Issues

Grace Glover, Susie Hanson – Chewing on the Word

Ken Bauman – Monday Men's Group

Gwen Scilley – Monday Women's Group

Aileen Williams – Covenant Discipleship Group

Warren Wong – Men's Coffee Group

Ted Colescott – Covenant Discipleship Group

Gail Flanders – Thursday Women's Group

Rose Kliever – Women and the Sacred Group

Grace Glover – Congregational Read: The Universal Christ

Marjie Blaisdell – Knit One, Pray Too

David Mead – Shorewood Group

Rev. Nancy Wheeler Handlon – Charter House Spiritual Formation

Rev. Cooper Wiggen – Have You Met Job?

Pie Making – Tracy Jones

Marjie Blaisdell and Mary Schmidt – Dinner Club

Bob and Karen Heistand – The Shack

Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson – Breakfast Fellowship

Ongoing Sunday Classes

All Are Welcome – No Registration Required

Inquiring Spirits – After the 9:00 am worship (except for Third Sunday Forums), Room 145

Contemporary Issues – After the 9:00 am worship (except for Third Sunday Forums), Room 146

Chewing on the Word – 12:00 pm in the Commons. Everyone is invited for a light lunch and conversation around each week's scripture and message.

Breakfast Fellowship - Wednesday, March 11 at 8:30 am at **Charlie's Restaurant**

You are always welcome to drop in - a great way to connect with old and new friends.

New Connect Groups for Spring - - Starting March 1st

There are many ways to "CONNECT" with others at Christ United Methodist Church.

You can see the complete listing of Faith→Life Groups and register online at

www.cumethodist.com/connect-groups

Faithful and Inclusive: The Bible, Sexuality and the United Methodist Church

Hosts: Inquiring Spirits and Contemporary Issues ~ Facilitated by Rev. Cooper Wiggen

Time: Sundays at 10:00 am, March 22, 29, April 5, 19, 26

Place: Hamline Room

A 5-week video and discussion study that explores how United Methodists can be completely faithful to the authority of Scripture and fully inclusive of LGBTQ people. Rev. Rob Fuquay is the author-presenter of the study. He is the author of several published biblical studies and the pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Gardening Ministry**Host:** Mary Schmidt**Time:** Beginning the first of April you will be contacted as activities are scheduled**Place:** CUMC Grounds

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

Knit One Pray, Too**Host:** Marjie Blaisdell**Time:** Wednesday mornings 10:00 – 12:00**Place:** CUMC Fireside Room

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

Movie Night**Host:** Social Justice Team**Time:** First Friday of the Month, 6:30 pm**Place:** Educational Conference Center

NO need to sign up, just drop in! **FREE** admission and **FREE** popcorn!

Panel discussion will follow the movies

March 6: “*Suffragette*” A 2015 film about women’s suffrage in the United Kingdom.

April 3: & May 1: info coming soon!

Planning for Retirement 1.0**Host:** Dianne Thomas, M.B.A., LUTC Graduate**Time:** Mondays at 6:30 – 8:00 pm, March 9, 16, 23, April 6, 20, 27**Place:** Mettam Conference Room

It is never too early or too late to plan for your retirement. Whether you’re 25 or 55, this class is for you! Singles and couples are welcome, and child care is provided upon request.

Retire Inspired by Chris Hogan is the book that will be used to transform the way you think about your future and teach you how to make smart decisions now to help you live your retirement dreams. Two significant things to take away from this study: 1) planning for financial security in retirement, *and* 2) how you want to spend your time in retirement. For the curious, the 8th wonder of the world will be unveiled during class! Dianne’s career covered pensions, insurance, long-term disability, annuities, financial planning and strategy. She has a passion for sharing why planning for retirement should begin early, be continuously updated, needs to be independent of any marketing or sales influence, and why it’s important to think about what inspires you.

Songs of America**Host:** Joel Charlson**Time:** Wednesdays at 6:00 – 7:00 pm, March 4 – April 8**Place:** Mettam Conference Room

This study is based on the book, *Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest, and the Music that Made a Nation*, by Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw. Come listen to some songs of America and talk a little about what you have heard and read. The music is a mix of periods, styles and viewpoints. In some ways it will be more like a gathering of friends than a class.

Whole Food Plant Based Lifestyle**Hosts:** Mary Schmidt and Daphne Soleil**Time:** Thursdays at 6:30 – 8:00 pm, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 16 and 23**Place:** Room 135

Plant based foods have both health and environmental benefits. We will explore how to incorporate more plants into our meals, learn about corresponding self-care and planet care strategies, and share with people on a similar journey of discovery. We’ll explore using media, speakers, discussion, and local resources.

Lenten Congregational Read

A book selected by clergy that everyone one is invited to read individually or in a Connect Group. Sunday sermons during Lent will follow the themes found in this book.

Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine

Jesus' final days were full of risk. He risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume.

In this book, Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Entering the Passion of Jesus is available for purchase in the church office for \$10.00 or as an ebook.

Forums

March 15: "What Next? General Conference 2020"

Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay

April 19: "Outrageous Justice"

Rev. Kendall Hughes

May 17: "Hopeful Earth"

Rev. Cooper Wiggen

Summer Series: June 21, July 19, August 16 - Richard Rohr Series

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

Watch the Sunday bulletins, Fresh Spirit email, and the New Spirit newsletters for other offerings as they become available!

News from UMW



The Spring United Methodist Women rummage sale will be Friday and Saturday, April 17th and 18th. Look for more information in the April New Spirit. Please note that Rummage Sale item drop-off **DO NOT BEGIN UNTIL APRIL 6** as we need the stage in Wesley Hall clear for the Appalachia Service Project Hosanna Brunch on April 5th.

March 19th will be the all city UMW Unit meeting with Rev Kendall Hughes as the speaker. One of the UMW Social Action Campaigns is "Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration". Rev Hughes is a retired chaplain from Leavenworth Federal Prison and Rochester Medical Facility with vast knowledge on this topic. We will begin with coffee in the Commons followed by Rev. Hughes speaking in the ECC. We will meet on Thursday, March 19th, at 10am at Christ United Methodist Church. Please join us, bring spouses and friends.

Muffin Mania 3 is coming soon! The UMW Sunday Circle will again host Muffin Mania on Sunday, March 22, 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.



UMW Quilters Donated 28 handmade quilts to Saturday Noon Meals guests February 15. More info on the next page.



UMW Quilt Project

The UMW Quilters are a group of women who meet year round on the Second and Fourth Thursday of each month to craft high quality quilts which are then donated to various charitable organizations. They began quilting in the 1980s. Last year they gave away 137 quilts of various sizes, and this year (2020) to date they have donated 53 (and it's only March!)

Donations have been sent to Salvation Army, Charter House, Red Cross, the Women's Shelter, and most recently the guests of Saturday noon Meals right here at Christ UMC.

The Quilters are always looking for new members, or fabric that would be suitable. For more information call the church office at (507)289-4019 and we can connect you!



UNITED
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE TWIN CITIES

Education for Transformation

MAR
24

The Christian Art and Practice
of Reconciliation in Divisive
Times

Tickets at:

[https://tinyurl.com/
UTS-event-2020](https://tinyurl.com/UTS-event-2020)

Is the church called to reconcile political rifts caused by impeachment proceedings? What should our response be when politics divides The Church and our communities? Has American Christianity become "antinomist" in our pursuit of prosperity and power? How will we heal this pain? United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (United) and Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) invites you to a panel discussion on "The Christian Art and Practice of Reconciliation in Divisive Times" on Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. at United, 767 N. Eustis Street in St. Paul. This event features Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung, MCC executive director and author. Rev. Dr. DeYoung's talk will include respondents United professors Rev. Dr. Carolyn Pressler, Hebrew Bible, Rev. Dr. John Lee, professor and director for spiritual formation, Rev. Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis, professor and director for social transformation, and **United alum Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester.** Registration is \$10 per person. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is limited to 100 people. Please register by March 17th.



A Letter from The Hands Without Boundaries Foundation

I would like to thank the Methodist Church leadership and community for the opportunity I was given to talk about my initiative Hands Without Boundaries Foundation - HWBF with its mission of assisting orphan, widows, and other victims of conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my native country. All past donations have been used for various work including paying for orphans school fees, supplies and uniforms, financing widows' self-sustenance mini-projects, building school bathrooms, and the like. Should you want to help our initiative in this noble charity mission, use one of this way to get the help to us:

1. Issue your check to HWBF and mail it to Hands Without Boundaries Foundation, 4685 Ruby Lane NW, Rochester MN 55901
2. In case you will need a tax deduction for your donation, issue your check to Social Good Fund/HWBF and mail it to the same address as above.
3. For more information about our initiative and online donation, go to <http://hwbf.azurewebsites.net/index> our temporary browse

In all cases, you will receive a receipt and thank you note.

Again thank you and may God bless us all.

~ Bernrad Mpagazihe, HWBF Founder

Notes from Nancy

Fun facts about the church van

It holds 12 riders, one driver and two wheelchair riders. There are five wonderful drivers, 19 potential riders, and assorted walkers held in place with bungee cords. The route to and from church takes about two hours to complete.

The number of potential riders has grown in recent years, whereas the number of drivers has not; a potential area of service to the church, hint, hint. You need to be healthy, have a short physical (which the church pays for), have a good driving record and a cheerful personality. Contact Stew Swanson or Kent Nymann for more information.

Allene Shipman calls riders each week to see if they would like a ride on Sunday. She then notifies the driver so s/he can plan the route. Thank you Allene.

One driver remembers the two previous vans. Della Goodman used to be the caller some 18 years ago. She rode shotgun in that first van. The second van had wheelchair accessibility. Orville Kirkham made use of that feature. He was very attentive and would let the driver know when the light turned green. Riders and drivers are glad to have a newer van. The previous one had some problems.

There is a great sense of belonging on the church van. The people know each other and tease each other. They enjoy the ride and the friendship. One rider calls her friends on Sunday mornings to make sure they are awake. The riders like watching the change of seasons. They celebrate birthdays, if given enough time to prepare! Several riders sit together in church.

All are very grateful to the amazing drivers who give of their time each Sunday morning. Drivers are: Stew Swanson, Glenn Roberts, Nancy Carrier, Patrick Hokanson and Del Lawson. They tell me driving the van is a joy and a privilege.

Each month one of our Parish Ministers is on call.

They check the chaplain's list at Mayo Hospitals. They make hospital and home visits at the direction of Pastor Nancy. People who are sick, grieving, or have other needs for spiritual support and care receive visits. For the month of March Kendall Hughes will be serving in this role.

Please contact the office for a visit. (507)289-4019



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!

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



There is a great opportunity to share the grace and love of Christ in this church through transportation assistance for those that need some help getting to CUMC. The church bus is not large enough to hold the number of people needing assistance getting to church. A few of us have been helping the Yangya Sikati family get to church to worship Sunday & Wednesday since May, shortly after their arrival in Rochester. They have chosen CUMC as their church home. It is a family of eight, so it usually requires two vehicles to bring them to church for worship. Please consider helping with this ministry. This page on Sign Up Genius was created so that people can easily sign up to help. All the pertinent information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/CUMCDriver>



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



*Aubrey Ann Nelson was baptized
at the 9am Traditions Service February 23rd*

Welcome New Intentional Disciples!



Hannah Hobbs ~ Hannah Hobbs is originally from Iowa and now works as a program manager for Bear Creek Services.



Ann Ballard ~ Ann Ballard and her two sons, Zak and James, join us from Hamline United Methodist.



Melanie Swift & John Stafford ~ John Stafford and Melanie Swift moved to Rochester from Nashville TN in 2017. Melanie is a physician at Mayo Clinic. John is a former history teacher who now writes fiction. Melanie enjoys knitting, canasta, serendipity, and whimsy. She is perpetually on the lookout for people who like to laugh. John loves board games and all things Canadian. They share a mutual love of dogs, classic movies, and good books. They are very appreciative of the warmth and kindness shown by the folks at CUMC.



Jennifer Benson ~ I have been to a lot of school, traveled, studied, and lived in many lands but is finally in a safe place to look on God's creation and ask 'why?'. I love to laugh a lot and smile and make the mundane sparkle.

In Memoriam



Barbara Winter

July 22, 1928 ~ January 31, 2020



Donna Geerdes

December 14, 1931 ~ January 28, 2020

Social Justice Film Series Part 2

Suffragette is our second film screening as part of a monthly series of movies and discussion around various Social Justice issues.



Friday, March 6 ~ 6:30pm ~ ECC
Christ United Methodist Church
Discussion with the League
of Women Voters to follow
Free Movie ~ Free Popcorn

ALL ARE WELCOME

Presented by: CUMC's Social Justice Film Series
400 5th Ave SW ~ Rochester MN

Easter Flower Order Form

Each plant is \$15 and the deadline is March 30th. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the church office. (If you put it in the offering plate, please keep it separate from your offering.) Our goal is to deliver 55 plants. Thank you for supporting this blossoming ministry!

Please print this information clearly.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ # _____ plants x \$15.00 = \$ _____ . _____

Please deliver to a homebound or bereaved member.

I will pick up after the 11am service on April 12.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Would you like to deliver plants to homebound and bereaved members?
Please contact the church office (507.289.4019) by March 30. Thank you!



UMCOR Sunday ~ March 22

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The UMCOR Special Sunday is on March 22, and we want to remind you that even though writing a check or putting cash in the offering doesn't feel exciting, you really ARE making a difference.



GIVE US COURAGE TO ACT IN
WAYS THAT DEMONSTRATE
JUSTICE AND MERCY.



Your donations to UMCOR on this Special Sunday help:

- Refugees in Clarkston, GA earn a living wage and get job training. (read the full story here: <http://www.umcsgiving.org/impact-articles/meeting-a-knead-in-atlantas-refugee-community>)
- Deliver food, water, shelter, and long-term recovery assistance to help many of the 68.5 million people displaced by war, persecution, and natural disaster. (read the full story here: <http://www.umcsgiving.org/impact-articles/coming-home-tragedy-and-hope-in-iraq>)
- Distribute relief kits to those in need following the U.S. hurricanes of 2017. (read more here: <http://www.umcsgiving.org/impact-articles/changes-to-umcor-relief-supply-kits-empower-communities>)

There are countless other stories about seeing God's work in action through UMCOR. We want you to know that it is something we can do together to help give relief and spread God's love throughout the world.

Your gifts on UMCOR Special Sunday underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific project will go toward that mission, not administrative costs.

This is such an important gift and one that we can do together. **Let's make a difference, together.**

Christ United Methodist Church
400 Fifth Avenue SW
Rochester, MN 55902
Phone: 507-289-4019
Fax: 507-289-3648
E-mail: email@cumethodist.com

Non Profit Organization

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

Return Service Requested

A graphic for the Easter 2020 event schedule. The background is a scenic view of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a bright sun low on the horizon and its reflection on the water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged rocks. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a drop shadow.

Easter 2020
Maundy Thursday
April 9 ~ 7pm Sanctuary
Good Friday ~ April 10
Ecumenical Service ~ 12pm Sanctuary
Worship ~ 7pm Sanctuary
Celebrate Creation Party
April 11 ~ 10am Commons
Easter Sunday
April 12 ~ 9 & 11am Sanctuary