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CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace, In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT



Grace in the City

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 ELIZABETH MACAULAY, LEAD PASTOR



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1: 3 - 5 (Paul, missing his people!)

Dear Kin in Christ,

Oh how I miss you!

I miss you dropping by the office and meeting in small groups and I miss the sound of your laughter and I miss the wild extravagance of being able to visit in your homes or hospital rooms and keenly I miss your presence in the three services of worship we share here every Sunday.

We are the Body of Christ in a fully uncharted way.

We continue to witness to hope and healing and grace.

In this edition of the Spirit you will hear from many voices. Together we are seeking to maintain strong connection. We want you to know that our staff is continuing their powerful ministry, our worship is reaching over 1,000 people a week, and our nightly prayer services at 8:00 PM have touched thousands as well. Please consult the information in this Spirit to access the many ways we are seeking to stay connected.

We are blessed with a strong caring ministry. The roster of church members has been parsed into groups and each person should be receiving a phone call weekly to check in. If you do NOT receive a call, please let the church office know at 507-289-4019.

We have time. We have time in ways we have not ever had time. We have time with our children, we have time with our thoughts, and we have time to develop practices that will sustain us through these days.

In this edition of the Spirit is a letter from our bishop with a request that we refrain from gathering in worship until after May

10th. We will abide by this direction. As our bishop says, Easter is not dependent upon the smell of lilies (although really, it is challenging to imagine Easter without that smell). Holy Week and Easter will be celebrated here at church through song and prayer. We are aware of the needful power of resurrection faith in ways we little imagined a year ago.

We will sing the power of God's presence moving and healing in this world we love.

I pray for you and thank God for you.

I thank God for the teachers and directors of Thrive as they provide essential child care.

I thank God for scientists and health care providers and first responders and grocery store workers and all of the people on the front line of care through this pandemic.

I thank God for the witness of this church. Our members are engaged in healing and our staff is nimble and committed. We are grace in this city and beyond.

I thank God for the courage it takes to go through this time without injuring each other with recriminations and fear. This pandemic seems to be bringing out the best of who we are and what we ground our lives upon. God continue to grant us the wisdom and maturity to remember who we are, especially when challenged by so much.

I thank God for the connection we share. Through the power of all that is Holy we live these days aware of the goodness of being in community.

Please know that we are here for you.

Together, we are the church of Jesus the Christ.

Let us pray for and thank God for healing mercies.

Pastor Elizabeth

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Elizabeth". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Pastor" and "Elizabeth" being capitalized and prominent.

Ways to Stay Connected

Hello church!

We are working hard to keep our worship, fellowship, and community alive amidst these trying times. At the sound advice of professionals we have closed the building, and moved nearly everything onto the web! There are a number of offerings available to help stay connected. As common practice changes, and events get shifted, we will keep our website (www.cumethodist.com) updated with the latest information.

Current Online Offerings:

Worship - We will be live streaming worship every Sunday at 9am from the Sanctuary. To watch, go to [facebook.com/cumethodist](https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)
We love to see your comments and prayer requests.

We broadcast a condensed version of worship at 11:30am on the radio station KOLM (1520AM)

You can find all of our worship services archived on our youtube channel. They are posted at 1pm every Sunday after the services.
[youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochesterny](https://www.youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochesterny)

Evening Prayer - Every night at 8pm one of our pastors live streams evening prayer and meditation: [facebook.com/cumethodist](https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)

Children - Children's lesson facebook streaming happens Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 1pm on the children & family ministry facebook page [facebook.com/cumchildrenandfamilyministry/](https://www.facebook.com/cumchildrenandfamilyministry/)

Youth - Confirmation is being hosted at the usual time on Zoom (Meeting ID # -968-220-813, or <https://zoom.us/j/968220813>)

Zoom Connect Groups - Virtual connect groups are forming!
More information on *page 7*

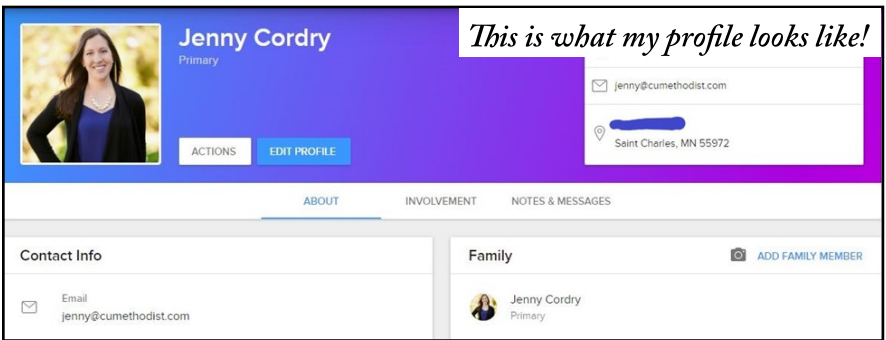
Pastor Elizabeth's Blog - head to <http://emacaulay.blog/> to read Pastor Elizabeth's blog!

Give Online - Giving online is easy, just head to cumethodist.com, click the button that says "GIVE ONLINE" and follow the on screen instructions.

Hello! If we have not met already, my name is Jenny. I work in the CUMC office and work with bookkeeping, our church calendar, and email security. Back in November of 2019, we rolled out a brand-new church database. Have you checked it out?

Did you know that you can log in and view your information, giving statements, groups, message your friends, and view the church calendar?

Head to <https://cumethodist.ccbchurch.com/goto/signup> to get started! Or, give me a call and I would be happy to show you around.



This is what my profile looks like!

Our Pastors and Staff are working hard to connect with you in this time of pandemic. Your offerings are a powerful way to reach hope and healing to others.

In a time when we are socially distanced, our Christ Church family is closer than ever.

To make a one-time gift, visit cumethodist.com and click "Give Online"

Recurring gifts are easy to set up in our new database, visit <https://cumethodist.ccbchurch.com/goto/login> to get started!

If you need help with a stock transfer or have any other questions, please call me at 507-458-6020.

I am proud to be a part of this community in this time of great need.

Thank you!

Jenny

Dear Families,

I truly miss seeing you and your children and I think of all of you daily. To stay connected during this time, we are trying something new at Christ United Methodist Church. I will be live streaming a story from the children's Spark Bible every Sunday at 10:00 am and Wednesday at 1:00 pm. You can view it on facebook at CUMC Children and Family Ministry. Go to facebook.com/cumcchildrenandfamilyministry. I hope you will be able to join us.

Children's Ministry

Another exciting addition to our CUMC Children and Family Ministry's Facebook page will be Science Explorations with Dr. Boom (Chuck Handlon). Dr. Boom will be live streaming every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Peace, Love, and Virtual Hugs-

Jody Peterson, Children's Coordinator

Youth Ministry

We are still here! Our youth ministry team is still here to support you and stay connected in the era of social distancing.

Confirmation will proceed normally. We will meet on Zoom. Please join us using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/968220813> or meeting ID 968-220-813

Our Google classroom is up and running. If you have Google classroom, you can join using the access code 4dqlbww

Youth will have a weekly Google hangout at 1 o'clock. Join using your Google account. Go to <https://hangouts.google.com/group/Dhmk99ZizkqeTjCK8>

Did you know we also have a Facebook Page just for Youth Ministry? Search "CUMC- Youth Ministry" on facebook or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/878750882208302/>. We will keep the page updated with information and ways to connect.

Our Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator is here to talk and help connect you through this period of social distancing. Call or text Grace at 507-269-5016

~ Grace Glover Youth Coordinator

VOLUNTEERING Our building is closed and most of our usual programs are canceled for the time being, but there's still a multitude of ways to help from exactly where you are!

Olmsted Medical Center is looking for people to sew masks. These masks help people who already have the virus to prevent spreading it to others. Find a tutorial video at <https://youtu.be/8Hon3XuHKv0>

We are calling EVERYBODY weekly to check in on our church community. To be a caller, email Grace at grace@cumethodist.com or call at 507-269-5016.

Some of our members are unable to leave home during this time but still need . If you are interested in picking up and delivering groceries, medication, and other essential to members who can't get out and do that for themselves, email Jenny at jenny@cumethodist.com

CONNECTIONS Connecting is beginning to look very different. Day by day, most of our lives look very different.

Social distancing is incredibly important not just for your own health but for your whole community. It can also be incredibly lonely as we miss the friends, family, and coworkers we are accustomed to seeing weekly, even daily.

But we are still connecting. Our social media is more active than ever (thanks to Oliver and our many livestream hosts). And we have started checking in on our church community via phone. By “church community”, I mean everybody. All of you. The people who volunteer, give, sit in the pews, and help us do our mighty work.

Volunteer callers make calls to their “flocks” once a week, to check on their wellbeing and help us to understand what they need from their church right now. It gives me hope to hear back from our callers on their experiences, reaching out to new people, taking prayer requests, and simply taking the time to listen to one another.

Please let me know if you or someone you know is not receiving calls from our army of compassionate callers. This may be a matter of updating or collecting contact information – another project we are working on right now! We want you connected too.

People are praying together. People are building new relationships. People are still connecting.

~ Grace Glover, Connections Coordinator

CONNECT GROUPS ~

Two of our connect groups are being hosted via “Zoom” an online meeting app. Contemporary Issues meets at 10am each Sunday, just head to zoom.us/j/832924941 on any device with a camera and audio function (a cell phone works great!)

Songs of America is also going to be held on this platform, but requires signup, then participants will decide when is best to meet. Just head to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/soa-cumc>



UMW

Today we should be together. I am writing this on Thursday, March 19th, the day of our city UMW joint meeting. I miss seeing those of you I know and meeting new women. We are planning to reschedule this event. We miss our circle meetings, book group, quilting and just being together. We are a group of women that are social, caring and always working toward mission.

What can we do to make our days better today? Call a friend, write a note to someone, read a book, try a Sudoku or cross word puzzle, play a game of cards, put a puzzle together. My husband loves the National Geographic channel on TV! The other day when the sun was shining, I went for a walk. I put tennis shoes on (yes, me!) and walked the hilly streets in our neighborhood. Other neighbors were out also. Instead of waving from our cars, we could chat, from a distance.

Then, I started to clean a closet, cupboard or two!! I am finding great items for our rummage sale. We don't know when it will be, but, we will have a rummage sale. We would like your wonderful treasures, too.

We need to remember at this time that it will not last forever, that we have neighbors and friends whether near or far. Make calls, send notes. We will party together on a tomorrow. We will have great things to share.

Take care, wash your hands, remember social distancing and be kind,

Deedee Odell, UMW President



From the ministry of Congregational Care Ministry Area

We are changing our congregational care form of delivery to phone visits except in emergencies. We are assembling a group of 30 callers to check the well-being of church members on a weekly basis. They will check on those same folks each week.

We are also adding the daily prayer and reflection online each evening at 8 pm on our church Facebook page. You do not have to have Facebook to access our evening prayer and our Sunday morning services. Go to facebook.com/cumethodist. Scroll down to the live stream at 8 pm daily, and 9 and 10 am on Sundays.

Note that in these unusual times you are permitted to receive communion via the online blessing of the elements by your pastors. We will continue to have communion the first Sunday of the month at 9 Please have grape juice and bread ready at home(or wherever.) We invite you to follow along during the service online and take communion at the invitation of the pastor.

Note that all congregational care ministry teams are cancelled until further notice.

If you know of pastoral care needs please call us. There is always a minister on call.

Our prayer chain is also ready to receive your prayer requests.

In an emergency, such as end of life situations, please notify us and the location of the individual. While many care facilities are closed to visitors, exceptions are made for pastors whenever it is feasible.

In this time, let us extend our hands, our hearts, our prayers to those who need care and support. We know many are hurting, grieving, anxious, overwhelmed. It is a time to pull together and lean into the strong arms of our gracious Creator.

In caring ministry with you,
Pastor Nancy

Greetings from your staff and families at Thrive!

We want you to know that as an essential resource to the city of Rochester we continue to offer excellent child care.

Please hold us in your prayers and thank you for your continued support of Thrive.

Tanya Goretzki, Director



Saturday Noon Meals Program to Interrupt Service as of Saturday March 28th.

As the Rochester community organizes around the COVID-19 healthcare crisis - food, water, and shelter is being provided to those in need at the Mayo Civic Center Exhibition Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on a daily basis.

As a result, the Saturday Noon Meals program will temporarily stop serving meals beginning Saturday, March 28th and will refer its guests to the services provided at the Mayo Civic Center which includes:

- Indoor space
- use of restrooms
- food and water
- access to donated books from the library

This interruption of service is temporary and will resume when the Civic Center program has ended - or when the State's guidance on social distancing changes. CUMC has a long-standing commitment of service to those who live within our community and we look forward to resuming this valuable program in the future.

We have made this decision reluctantly, but believe it is in the best interest of the Saturday Noon Meals volunteers and guests regarding safety and alignment and coordination with community organizations and resources as we respond to this healthcare crisis.

~ Saturday Noon Meals Leadership Team

News from CUMC EarthKeepers:

The many April events at CUMC and throughout our community to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, have been postponed until later in the year. Meanwhile, CUMC's Hopeful Earth team has been busy working on our 2020 Objectives, one of which was defining who we are with our name, logo, vision and mission statements as follows.

Name of Group: CUMC EarthKeepers

Vision Statement: EarthKeepers protect God's creation.

Mission Statement: CUMC EarthKeepers are disciples of Jesus

Christ who caringly confront the crisis of climate change through political advocacy, role modeling and education. We seek to improve human equity, restore ecosystems, and demonstrate ecological harmony. Following are sample practices that we have been discussing using 7 R's to help us remember to live green.

Rethink • *Disposable communion cups are available in compostable plastic. We have ordered samples to test before implementation.*

Refuse • *No more styrofoam cups or plastic utensils at church events. Our two dishwashing machines have had no complaints. We like the feel of real dishes and flatware.*

Reduce • *The screens in the ECC and Sanctuary help us reduce the amount of paper used in printing music and bulletins.*

Reuse • *Used brown medication vials with labels removed can be reused by medical charities serving Haiti. We maintain a donation box in the Commons below the name tag board. Over 500 bottles were recycled in the month of January 2020.*

Recycle • *Paper, cans and clean plastic items (stamped with a #1 or #2 inside the triangle) are simply not trash. We have located two blue recycling bins in high traffic areas—the Commons and the Sanctuary entrance. Grant your church program a second act as recycled paper!*

Replace • *LED bulbs consume 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs. We will soon have ALL lighting fixtures at CUMC converted to LED.*

Recommend • *Bring your recommendations to the next scheduled EarthKeepers meeting on Sunday, May 10 at 10:10 a.m. in the Mettam Room (depending on the status of COVID-19). We added this "R" because there are so many more opportunities to act on our concerns as conscientious earthlings.*

Restorative Justice

Olmsted County has recently taken significant steps toward an evidence-based response to crime. At the same time, there is more that can be done. Research shows that in the United States victim satisfaction with the traditional criminal justice systems is low.

Local criminal justice officials are seeking new ways to bring healing to victims of crime. At the same time, they are open to reducing our overreliance on incarceration of those accused of causing harm. While the US incarcerates a far larger percentage of its population than any other country, we also have rates of violent crime that are close to 8x higher than other NATO countries.

Studies have proven that incarceration is a criminogenic factor. Going to prison makes a person more likely to return to prison.

In response to the needs of both those harmed and those who cause harm, CUMC has become an essential part of starting an evidence-based local restorative justice (RJ) program. Last fall, Rev. Kendall Hughes co-taught a Connect Group on restorative justice. In the group's final session, two district judges, the County Attorney and the Assistant City Attorney participated in a panel on how and where they would like to see RJ implemented in Dodge, Fillmore and Olmsted Counties. After hearing the need for RJ and the openness of local officials, the group formed an advisory committee. That committee has begun implementing a plan for a pilot RJ project in the fall of 2020. The project is named, Three Rivers Restorative Justice (TRRJ). The mission statement is "Three Rivers Restorative Justice brings together those who have been harmed, those who have caused harm and community members to establish transformative resolutions."

You can see an interview on KSMQ regarding this program at <https://tinyurl.com/RJ-KSMQ>

When CUMC is able to reopen for meetings, a public meeting with TRRJ and Ted Lewis will be held. Also, a Sunday Forum on RJ had been scheduled for April 19th and *will be rescheduled*. Sept 10-12 there will be a training for those who are willing to serve as facilitators or community members in RJ circles or conferences.

If you want to know more about TRRJ, contact Kendall Hughes or email ThreeRiversRJ@gmail.com.

~ Kendall Hughes

A Message from Bobbi Nichols

I have been on self-induced quarantine from our church family since January 1 as Doug and I have been spending the winter in Arizona. I feel that I might be somewhat ahead of the curve (not my usual position) in terms of dealing with the GRIEF we all feel in being absent from the church.

I have been honest with myself about how much I count on our congregation as a source of connection and purpose in my life. I have stayed connected in all ways that I can, tuning into Sunday morning services via Facebook and attending leadership board meetings via Facetime. I have also continued to schedule Thrift on Fifth (*ToF*) volunteers from afar. It has been a joy to stay connected in these ways.

The Thrift on Fifth team is sad to have closed the doors of our store for a while. I have not been there of course, but through emails I hear the worry in the voices of our volunteers. Nobody wants to let our community down. During the month of January, *ToF* had a half-price sale, meaning that adult clothing sold for 50 cents per item and children's clothing sold for a quarter per item. It was amazing how many items flew off the hangers with this reduced pricing. We continued to bring in good revenue for *Thrive* despite making very little per item. It shows us that our community really does need this low priced clothing option. The team is worried about our shoppers that not only count on us for affordable clothing, but also for the respect and encouragement they receive when they enter the store.

Never have I been involved with a group of such committed, positive, resourceful people as the Thrift on Fifth team. We are used to and look forward to coming in and working hard with each other. We have become best friends in addition to co-workers. We long to "get back to business."

As a member of Christ United Methodist Church, I lean into the spirit of belonging, not just to the church but to the messy, vulnerable mass of humanity that we all comprise. Being part of the church helps me feel connected to everyone whether or not I can see them or touch them or have even met them. I lean into the blessing of still being able to hear the voices of others through literature and through electronic networking. I lean into my faith that there is more good than evil in this world and that the vast majority of people, like my *ToF* sisters, are aching to be useful and to be in community with one another.

Blessings,

Bobbi Nichols, Thrift on Fifth

A Letter from our Bishop (copied from www.minnesotaumc.org/)

Easter cannot be canceled Never in my wildest nightmare could I imagine asking my ministry colleagues to not hold in-person Holy Week or Easter worship services.

But after much consultation, prayer, processing of data, and seeking to comply with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and our three state governments, I am extending my earlier request and now asking that all our congregations suspend in-person worship until at least May 10, in compliance with the CDC's eight-week ban on gatherings of 50 people or more and the closure of schools and many public places in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area. I will of course continue to monitor new data and directives, or relaxed restrictions, and update or modify my request as appropriate.

Friends, we need to continue to be the first responders in our communities and lead the efforts to curtail the spread of this pandemic to our neighbors. This is a part of our missional imperative to heal a broken world.

Frankly, I am an ambivalent jumble of feelings. I often find myself joining Jeremiah's lament:

“Have you completely rejected Judah?
Does your heart loathe Zion?
Why have you struck us down
so that there is no healing for us?
We look for peace, but find no good
for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.”

(Jeremiah 14:19 NRSV)

At the same time, my heart is filled with compassion for those who are ill, our over-worked and under-resourced health care professionals, those losing jobs and businesses and retirement funds, and our most vulnerable neighbors—the homeless, the elderly, those who cannot shelter in place. My heart also swells with pride. I am humbled, encouraged, inspired by the resilience, speed, adaptability, and innovative spirit of our clergy and lay leadership. You are demonstrating time and time again that canceling mass gatherings does not mean canceling community or ministry. You are bearing witness to the truth that social distancing does not have to lead to social isolation or neglected relationships

or interrupted pastoral care. You are demonstrating time and time again that a pandemic does not kill our spirit of generosity. We remain a people to whom much has been given through our salvation and hope in Christ Jesus.

We are also still in the midst of Lent. The novelist Jim Crace authored a book in 1998 titled “Quarantine.” His fictitious narrative has Jesus quarantined in the wilderness with others forced or choosing to practice social distancing. This interesting twist on Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness has encouraged me to use these days of adapting my work and relational patterns as a time to listen more deeply to the movement of God’s Spirit in my heart and mind and soul. My Lenten journey has become richer as I have come to embrace being “quarantined.”

And, here is the most important thing I am hearing: Regardless of what is happening in our world on April 12, Easter cannot be canceled. We may not be able to gather in our glorious Easter celebrations in our lily-decorated sanctuaries, but Easter cannot be canceled. The resurrection cannot be stopped or delayed or defeated!

As you already know, Easter does not come on the same date every year. Therefore, especially in a crisis, we can celebrate Easter anytime. Indeed, every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. We are called to live in the joy and victory of Easter every day. Perhaps this is a season to practice new, creative ways to express this resurrection joy and victory through our online worship, our pastoral care, and outreach ministries to those in desperate need of food, mental health care, or even toilet paper and surgical masks. Perhaps this is a season to begin planning for an in-person Easter celebration in July or August or whenever we can gather again.

While we and our practice of ministry are changing, and some things will continue to change for the unforeseeable future, we live in the confidence of the resurrection promise and proclamation: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!



Bishop Bruce R. Ough Resident Bishop,
Dakotas-Minnesota Area ~ The United Methodist Church

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