

SPIRIT



Join us for worship every Sunday at 9am (Worship Schedule on Page 2)

Facebook.com/cumethodist
YouTube.com/ChristUnitedMethodistChurchRochesterMN

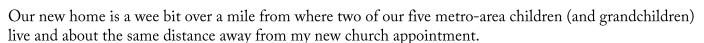
Archived on YouTube & on our website: https://cumethodist.com Open M-F 9am-3pm - Call the Office 507-289-4019

Pastor's Pen with Elizabeth Macaulay, Lead Pastor

My house smells like boxes.

By the time this newsletter arrives in your home I will be living in a new place.

The housing market being what it is, we sought and bought a new home when we could. We now live in Minneapolis. I will commute for the last months of my appointment.



Everything changes.

I will admit to feeling a bit bewildered.

I'm trying to remember the woman who walked into CUMC seven years ago for my introductory interview. I was full of questions and grief. I was leaving a church I loved and moving into a church I little knew. Moving from my children felt like an immense emotional lift - even though five of the six were themselves in the process of moving from Minneapolis.

It was a blizzardy kind of January night. The road between Minneapolis and Rochester was treacherous. There were many reasons to turn around.

I didn't turn around.

As I move into the last months of my appointment, I am filled with wonder about how it is God calls us each into newness of life.

Everything changes.

I am holding your new pastors in my prayers and appreciation. They are leaving two churches while parenting two children. I suspect that their house smells like boxes, too.

Please join me in praying for Jenny and Kirkland.

They are joining their lives with yours. It can feel bewilderish, this joining. They will need time to settle in and learn names. You will need time to settle in with them and learn their giftedness.

My prayer for all is a graciousness of heart and a spaciousness of spirit.

Everything changes, but for this: The steadfast love of our God never ceases. It is new every morning.

I'll have plenty to share about gratitude for the blessings I have experienced in your midst.

In the meantime, there are boxes to pack.

Blessings be yours.



Pastor Elizabeth

PS - Our new address is 3952 42nd Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Pastoral Appointments

It is the intention of Bishop David Bard to appoint the Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay to serve Epworth United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. Both Epworth and Elizabeth have affirmed this intention. This will be a less than full-time appointment.

Elizabeth's last Sunday at Christ UMC will be June 6th.

Your new pastors, Jenny Cannon and Kirkland Reynolds, begin their ministry at Christ UMC on June 27th.

Please hold all churches affected by these changes in your prayers, as well as Jenny and Kirkland and Elizabeth and Cooper.

Stay tuned for opportunities to bid farewell and hello!

Summer Worship plans

We are closely monitoring COVID 19 cases in our area, and have created a *TENTATIVE* plan for May's worship schedule. In-Person and Parking Lot Worship are COVID and weather dependent (respectively)

May 2nd - 9am Online Worship & 10am Parking Lot Worship

May 9 - 9am In-Person Worship & Live-Stream

May 16 - 9am Online Worship & 10am Parking Lot Worship

May 23 - 9am In-Person Worship & Live-Stream

May 30 - 9am Online Worship

Please call the church to make your reservations to In-Person Sanctuary Worship 507-289-4019

You're Invited to Pastor Elizabeth Macaulay's Going Away Party!

June 4th, 2021 from 5:00pm-7:00pm in the West Parking Lot at CUMC

There will be time of fellowship and farewell. We will be sharing Nupa Mediterranean food, mac n' cheese, and pies! Masks are required. Cards are encouraged & there will a book to sign. If you would like to give a gift online go to www.cumethodist.com/give then choose "Gift Fund."

Nursery Update

Our nursery is coming along beautifully! We cannot wait to share our space with you and your children as soon as we are able to do so.

The photos on the cover have been taken through April to showcase all our incredible progress.



Sunday, June 6th 11am
in the West Lot following Parking Lot Worship

There will be snacks and games in the West Lot as we prepare for summer!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Church Grounds Cleanup Crew - People were willing to pick up church grounds in the rain and make our space a little nicer!

With the return to parking lot worship, we are still seeking new ushers! Please contact Jerry Blaisdell know if you wish to volunteer as an usher. It's a great way to give back at church.



Meeting Christ Fellowship

We hold Meeting Christ Fellowship to welcome those who are new and nearly new to our church! Our next meeting will be May 16th. If you or anyone you know are interested in joining the church have them send us an email and join this introductory fellowship: <u>Grace@cumethodist.com</u>



CUMC Garden Beds Project

(More Garden Ministry Updates on Page 8)

Saturday Noon Meals is starting a set of garden beds to grow food for our ministry! The garden beds will be located on the patch of land behind the duplex, and be designed based on the beds pictured to the right.

If people want to know how they can volunteer to help with project activities, please have them contact, Kris Lloyd, by email at: krislloyd18@gmail.com or by phone at 507-398-2782. She will organize and coordinate any volunteer support work.





Easter Photo Recap!!



















Children's Ministry

P.O.L.O. (Parents of Little Ones)

It was such a blessing to able to connect with parents and learn more about your little ones over Monday Night Zoom. Now that Spring is here, we would like to offer parents a chance to

connect on Sundays. We will meet on the CUMC/Thrive playground every Sunday after PLW (Parking Lot Worship). There is a wonderful toddler play area. I hope you will join us.

Wonderful Wednesdays in April

I want to thank all the families who participated in Wonderful Wednesdays over Zoom. Our last Zoom meeting was April 28th. It was great way to stay connected through the pandemic. We read stories from the bible, asked "I Wonder" questions, learned more about each other, and sang songs with Miss Karla. We will have more opportunities to connect on the CUMC/Thrive playground after PLW (Parking Lot Worship) and at area parks in this Spring and Summer.



Ready for Camp Bonfire

It's time to sign up for camps. We will offer Vacation Bible School, summer service projects, and more!

Ready for Camp!

May 1st at 7-8pm

Join us in the labyrinth for a socially-distanced bonfire as we learn about this summer's camp opportunities. You can ask questions and sign up for upcoming camps.

United Methodist Summer Camps, Youth Trip to the Boundary Waters, and the all-church camping trip

Bring your own chairs and masks, but we will provide the popcorn and s'mores!







Confirmands

On April 25th, we confirmed two kind, compassionate, and deeply inquisitive high school freshman. After two years of study and exploration, we welcome them into our church and many more years of asking questions.

Shaun Wysocki Harriet Hansen

Graduation

We will celebrate graduates on Sunday, May 23rd at parking lot worship. If you wish to send cards, they can be sent to the church office and we will redirect them to high school seniors.



Talon Frank (Century High School)

Talon will be attending the University of Minnesota -Morris where he will be studying Science with a concentration in Geology.

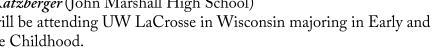
Tate Goretzki (Mayo High School)

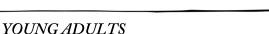
Tate will be attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse to study





Julia Katzberger (John Marshall High School) Julia will be attending UW LaCrosse in Wisconsin majoring in Early and Middle Childhood.





The weather is warm, the patios are open, and many of us are vaccinated. Let's hang out! Friday Happy Hour • May 7 – 4 to 6 pm at Tap House • May 21 – 4 to 6 pm at Thesis Brewing



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings ~ 2021

"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something." Sandra Day O'Connor

The Faith→Life has a variety of Zoom groups that offer the gift of community within your church family. Our hope is that you will find at least one group of interest to grow your relationship with others and deepen your relationship with God.

Contact Kathy Estry at rk.estry@gmail.com or Grace Glover at grace@cumethodist.com. If you have an idea or would like to host a Connect Group.

Third Sunday Faith→Life Forum

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

"Circles of Sexuality" May 16, 2021~ 11:00 am (after Parking Lot Worship)

Presenter: Mary Cronin: Community Engagement Specialist, Planned Parenthood North Central States

Zoom Meeting ID: 940 8755 4704 Password: forum -or- Call In: (312)626-6799

https://zoom.us/j/94087554704?pwd=M2xST0cvSm5jUGcyRDZjVllKRGNRUT09

Join CUMC and Planned Parenthood for a time of learning and engagement on the *Circles of Sexuality*. How many are there? What are they? And how do they all play a role in our lives?

Previous Forums are archived at: https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn Click on our playlists tab, then "Faith to Life"

Ongoing Sunday Classes

Contemporary Issues

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

Each Thursday Joel emails participants the week's topic from *Wired Word*. Scripture verses and critical questions related to the topic lead to in-depth discussions that apply to how we live our daily lives. If you are interested in joining the class email Joel Charlson at <u>joel.charlson@gmail.com</u> to receive the weekly *Wired Word* or just join via this zoom link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941 on Sunday morning at 10:00!

Inquiring Spirits

Hosts: Ed Shafer and Hank Kliewer ~ Time: Sundays at 11:00 AM ~ Place: Zoom

Group members suggest theological topics or books of interest to study. The group is currently reading "How to Live" by Judith Valente. New participants are always welcome. For further information contact Ed at shaferchurch@hotmail.com.

Connect Groups

Computer and Internet Basics Workshop

Host: Kristen Hansen ~Time: Tuesday May 4 at 7PM ~Place: Zoom https://zoom.us/j/97282648102

This is the last class in the workshop series that are designed to help you feel more comfortable on your mobile devices, laptops, and desktop computers. Kristen, a member of CUMC and former ELI intern, is working for a nonprofit to offer digital literacy to adults and help ease them into the digital world in which we are living.

May 4: Introduction to Google Apps (part 2) – This session is on Google Drive and Google Docs. We'll review how to upload files onto Google Drive, organize and share files with others, and how to attach files to email.

Knit One Pray, Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell Time: Wednesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon Place: WebEx

Contact Marjie at <u>mablaisdell@gmail.com</u> to receive a link to the WebEx meeting. The group is knitting prayer shawls and scarves and hats for winter.

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Men's Coffee Group

Host: Dick Estry Time: Thursdays at 8:00 AM Place: On Zoom

Whether you are a long-time member, new to CUMC or looking for a men's fellowship group, you are invited to join for coffee and conversation. To receive a Zoom invite email Dick Estry at rk.estry@gmail.com.

Garden Ministry

Host: Mary Schmidt ~ *Time:* Thursdays ongoing, 8:30 – 10:30 AM • 2nd Saturday of the month starting May 8, 9:00 – 11:00 AM • 3rd Wednesday of the month starting May 19, 6:00 – 7:30 PM • Saturday, June 12, 9:00 – 11:00 AM: *Mulching new garden on 5th Avenue side!!* ~ *Place:* CUMC Grounds

The Garden Ministry Team will be busy weeding, planting, trimming bushes, and mulching. 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 additional opportunities to beautify CUMC's grounds.

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone

Host: Diana Nelson ~ *Time:* Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 and June 7 at 6:30 PM ~ *Place:* Zoom https://zoom.us/j/98918385549

Diana's message: I vividly remember the events leading up to the legal end of segregation. I was born into an atheist family and was unable to read Scripture with insight until after taking Disciple Bible Study and other classes at our beloved CUMC. My spiritual life and understanding have been enriched by Richard Rohr's conferences, books, lectures and Living School for Action and Contemplation, plus additional Bible studies and classes at West End UMC in Nashville after 2007 when I moved to help care for grandchildren. Prior to the pandemic I was also a volunteer lay chaplain for Death Row inmates.

This powerful book, by a world renown theologian, shares his and others' stories of struggling with the ever-present terror of living under the threat of lynching. The lynching tree helped him to understand the tragic meaning of the cross, which appears to me to have been the meaning of the cross for the early Christians. The book helps one to wrestle with the mystery of the cross, the paradox of the cross, and the terrorizing racist history of our American Christianity. I look forward to exploring these issues with you.

<u>Finding Your Breath: An Introduction to Centering Prayer</u>

Host: Kara Lassen Oliver ~ Time: Weekly, May 3 – June 11 ~ Place: Upper Room – Online Retreat Breathe. Find time to ground yourself in God's presence – not only when you feel anxious or unsettled but every day. During this online experience, you will be guided through daily practices of Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer and devotional readings. It is designed to calm busy minds and bodies and focus attention on the presence of God.

Registration is required. Faith—Life will cover the cost if you sign up through the church. You can register at: https://cumethodist.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/58/responses/new



SAFE SANCTUARY

May 8th at 10am in the ECC

Our church is blessed with people of all ages, abilities, and needs and we have a responsibility to support and care for these individuals in our church community. All staff and volunteers working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults are required to take an annual training on

how to keep people safe at church and what our expectations are for volunteers as per church policy, but any and all are welcome to attend this training!

Please RSVP to grace@cumethodist.com

Hopeful EarthKeepers

Amanda Larsen and Millie Webb participated in a Zoom course designed and hosted by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL -- https://www.mnipl.org/), titled "Be The Spark". This course has been attended by most of our current "Earthkeepers" here at CUMC, and provided to fit the community to deliver to the crifts and drills of those in their community to take

trains (especially faith) community leaders to "to invite the gifts and skills of those in their community to take action that inspires a sustained and creative effort in building a more just and sustainable world."

What I have been most energized and inspired by in this series is the focus on storytelling as an organizing tool: a leadership tool. Think back, if you will, to when Pastor Nancy spoke of transfiguration experiences during Lent: those moments that often defy easy description, but where one is simply transfixed, stunned, truly struck by a series of moments that can change our lives. They may kickstart us into forward action; or first, stun us into silence and direct in-the-moment connection with that place in time, with our deeper purpose, or our connection(s) to the Earth, to God, and to other humans.

These can be transformational experiences for us as individuals, but when recounted well, they can also inspire others to connection, passion, power, and mobilization. If we can identify several such moments for ourselves - stories that define our moment of commitment to Climate Justice or Stewardship of the Earth - we can hone them into five-minute-long, engrossing, colorful, and activating talks that inspire commitment in and direct action for others. The connections we make in telling these stories, and giving immediate, on-the-spot instructions to others present on how to join us in action, right then and there, can draw others into our passion, pulling them to create with us both structure and strategies to make needed and decisive change.

For a powerful example of this in action, you can check out the five minute speech given by James Croft at Harvard, that helped kick off the "It Gets Better" movement: "6.12 Seconds" on YouTube. His storytelling is phenomenal: a near-perfect organizing example. You might cry; you might want to find more stories; you might want to join the Eartheepers in honing and sharing your own stories, to help defend the Earth and Humanity against the ravages of climate change.

~ Millie Webb



Thrive Updates

We are so excited to share that Thrive Child Care and Family Resource Center has been selected to be a part of the Hy-Vee Reusable Bag program that supports local non-profits! This program is designed to make it

easy for customers to contribute to their local community while supporting the environment. For the month of May, each time a \$2.50 red "My Heart" Reusable Bag is purchased at the Hy-Vee located at 1315 6th Street NW in Rochester, \$1 will be donated to Thrive! This is a great way to raise awareness, support the environment and fundraise for our center. Let's get started! We can begin by spreading the news to our friends and family. Call, send emails, and post on social



media. The more people who learn about the program and purchase the \$2.50 red "My Heart" Reusable Bag during the month of May, the more money we will raise. To learn more about this program, please visit hyvee.bags4mycause.com. As always, thank you for your continued love and support of Thrive!

UMW-Mission U

Mission U has been a United Methodist Women program for many years. They have met, Women usually in July, at Hamline University, St Johns and more recently Kelly Inn in St Cloud.

Over the years, every relevant topic of the time has been discussed. The leadership has been fantastic. Because of COVID, we are now virtual. This summer, the 3 classes will be offered in June, July and August. Go to: https://mnconfumw.com - Find mission U and get more information and registration.

Garden Ministry News

What: Many deteriorating issues inside the church have been taken care of in the last several years and now it is time to update the landscaping. Garden Ministry has several projects scheduled for this Spring and Summer and we need your help! Please see below for scheduled Garden Work.



- 1. Due to age and lack of proper tree management, the five crab apple trees on the west side of the church died last year and needed to be removed. With the loss of that shade, a new landscape design was needed for that area and will be installed in June.
- 2. The area on the north side under the Christ window is overgrown and difficult to mow and keep weeded due to the steep sloping to the sidewalk. The lawn will be replaced with ground cover and perennials.
- 3. The final phase of the pollinator garden in the Courtyard will be planted in May along with clean-up of the labyrinth bricks preparing the Courtyard to be used as a community Healing Garden as designated by the CUMC Community Healers group.
- 4. Bush trimming, weeding, plant replacement will continue throughout the summer to keep grounds well-maintained.
- 5. Plans for future projects improving sustainability of landscape is ongoing.

Why:

- 1. CUMC takes pride in our building and grounds
- 2. Beautiful, well-maintained landscape is more welcoming to others in the community.
- 3. CUMC cares for nature and the environment by using native plants and maintaining the grounds without the use of chemicals.
- 4. Well-maintained gardens and flowers give joy to those who enter or pass our Church.

When:

- Every Thursday from 8:30m 10:30am starting April 22
- Second Saturday of the month from 9am 11am starting May 8
- Third Wednesday of month from 6pm 7:30pm starting May 19

Who: YOU! Come and enjoy the fresh air and nature while working with CUMC friends. You are welcome to "adopt" an area if you would like to come at other times. Please contact Mary Schmidt at oronocombs@yahoo.com



Thrift on Fifth Sidewalk Sale Update

Thrift on 5^{th's} first sidewalk sale of 2021 was a huge success! Our first sidewalk sale on April 17th raised over \$500 for Thrive Scholarships!

We are so happy to be able to offer safe, fun sales that benefit Thrive Childcare & Family Resource Center Scholarships.

Our upcoming sales and donation collections are from 9am-12pm on the following Saturdays:

- May 1st and 22nd
- June 5th and 19th

Donations accepted include: clothing, shoes, accessories and jewelry for all ages and gender identities.

Come shop with us!

Christ UMC Financial Report

Through March we continue to be in sound financial condition. We have received gifts of over \$249,000 compared to a budget projection of \$222,000. Our net income after expenses was \$118,338 compared to a budget of \$29,657.

Operating Budget Summary - March 31, 2021

| | Actual | Budget | Variance |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Giving | \$249,371 | \$222,311 | \$27,060 |
| Total Income* | \$336,646 | \$286,436 | \$50,210 |
| Expenses ** | \$218,308 | \$243,053 | -\$24,745 |
| Net Income * | \$118,338 | \$43,383 | \$74,955 |

- * \$32,822 of the Total and Net Income positive variances is due to a Cares Act grant for continuing to maintain our pre-Covid employment levels through the 4th quarter of 2020.
- ** Contributing to the less than expected expenses is our continued inability to fully open the church and therefore less than expected maintenance and contractual expense.

Assets and Liabilities

At the end of August, the church had cash and other liquid assets of \$1,009,479 of which \$593,501 was unrestricted, enough to fund 6.6 months of budgeted expenses. Our objective has been 3 to 6 months but given the continued uncertainty surrounding the Covid pandemic we think it prudent maintain this level.

Liabilities were \$415,978 of which \$342,310 was in restricted accounts set aside by the Leadership Board for specific missions and projects; \$69,467 in the Capital Campaign account, \$54,661 in the Makinen Bequest account, \$94,835 in Trustee restricted accounts managed by the CUMC Foundation (the Foundation's total portfolio at the end of 2020 was \$758,000) with lesser amounts in 36 other accounts. The church has no long term debt.

THRIVE! Scholarships

At the end of March, we had \$10,415 set aside for THRIVE! Scholarships, that was distributed to THRIVE! in April.

Transform Capital Campaign

The nursery project, the last planned under Transform, is underway and should be completed in May. We have made one progress payment and have more than adequate reserves in our Capital Campaign account to make the final payment.

~ Please contact Dick Estry (288-5938, rk.estry@gmail.com) with questions or comments.

Flower Ministry Easter 2021

Many beautiful Spring colors were on display in the sanctuary as Easter Sunday Worship was filmed. Again, on Easter Sunday they brightened the scene at the outdoor service in the East parking lot. Thanks to the Worship Arts Committee for their creative work.

Seventy of these plants were delivered on Monday, April 5th to members of CUMC who are bereaved, homebound or in assisted living and care centers. This year we also offered a plant to any ministers on our staff who helped keep us connected during the pandemic via prayer service or streamed church service.

Thank you to our church staff for their help with this mission. My thanks to those who made the phone calls and helped prepare the plants for delivery throughout the community.

You are appreciated: Jenny Cordry, Julie Buffet, Elaine Bauman, Stan & Karen Hewitson, Jan Bolton, Ken Bauman, George Berg, Marji & Gerald Blaisdell, Marita Heller, Diane Houdek, John & Jan Iverson, Kathy Davis, Larry & Kathleen Krob, Cindy Huyber, Gwen Scilley, Dee Dee Odell, Dave & Darlene Lucas, and Linda Youlden

~ Judith Berg

Notes From Nancy

As is our tradition at Christ UMC we will be dedicating last year's memorials and living gifts on May 30. We are grateful for all those who have given memorials in memory of church members and friends as well as those who gave living gifts in honor of members, staff and friends.

Some people choose to designate their gifts for particular ministries, while others leave their gift undesignated.

Undesignated gifts come before the Memorials and Living Gifts Committee to fulfill requests for funding from the program areas of the church.

Watch for the June issue of *The New Spirit* which will list those being remembered and honored and the ways in which their lives lift up God and bless the ministries of Christ Church.

Memorials

The Memorials and living gifts committee is meeting at 2:30pm on May 19th to compile a list of all memorials and ministry areas served.

Pastoral Care

A reminder that your pastors Elizabeth and Nancy want to have you contact the church if you would like us to contact you. There is always a pastor on call as well as a lay parish minister. With more and more people getting vaccinated there are more opportunities for us to visit in hospitals, care facilities, assisted living and senior residences. We abide by masking and social distancing and hand sanitizing whether we are in the community or at church.

We will come to be with you in joy or in sorrow by phone or zoom or sometimes in person. You may request communion, anointing, a prayer shawl. For immediate assistance after hours, call the church and follow the

Charge Conference

You are invited to attend a Zoom Charge Conference. (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3753504116)

All are welcome to attend. Those with vote are members of the Leadership Board and UM clergy affiliated with Christ UMC. The UM church believes that transparency is an important value, so all clergy salaries are approved by the governing entity named in the authorizing letter (see below).

Date of Authorization: March 31, 2021

This letter will authorize the Elder named below to preside at a Charge Conference of Christ United Methodist Church of Rochester. This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the 2016 "The Book of Discipline" paragraphs 246 and 247.

Date of Conference: Thursday, May 20, 2021 ~ Time of Meeting: 6 p.m. ~ Presiding Elder: Rev. Gary Lueck Agenda: approve compensation for incoming pastors Kirkland Reynolds and Jenny Cannon Signed - Rev. Cynthia Williams, River Valley DS

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





Joanne Collins Wayne 2/27/1937 ~ 4/27/2021



Lily Ball 3<u>/</u>3/1930 ~ 4/1/2021



Mary Fitzgerald 3/13/1940 ~ 4/18/2021

Christ United Methodist Church 400 Fifth Avenue SW Rochester, MN 55902

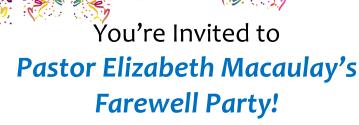
Phone: 507-289-4019 Fax: 507-289-3648

E-mail: email@cumethodist.com

Non Profit Organization

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

Return Service Requested



June 4th, 2021 from 5:00pm-7:00pm
Outdoors: West Parking Lot at Christ UMC

There will be time of fellowship and farewell. We will be sharing Nupa Mediterranean food, mac n' cheese, and pies! Food will be available while it lasts. Masks are required.

Cards are encouraged & there will a book to sign. If you would like to give a gift online go to www.cumethodist.com/give & choose "Gift Fund"

We look forward to seeing you there!