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May 2020

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"

I long for church community. I long for a building alive with laughter and song. I long for the bustle and the shared possibilities of ministry lived together.

And, I spend a fair amount of time seeking to pay attention to the lessons provided by these days:

Community is precious. Gathering with church and kin and friends is priceless.

Lament is needful. Too many are dying. People with names and loves are succumbing to the virus and they leave behind spaces that will never be filled.

Anger is instructive and not sufficient. The things that fire our bellies in these days ought be propellant for our efforts to create change.

We are forever changed.

My prayer is that our hearts will grow compassion. Rhubarb is irrepressible. So is the love of God.

May we feel ourselves reaching for the warmth of Holy hope.

May we honor our grief and anxiety and may we continue to grow in our love for God's world and all of creation.

I don't know that I want anyone making jam from the fruits of my heart.

Then again, maybe I do.

Stay well, beloveds in Christ. Stay connected. Let us know how we can help. Trust that new life is even now rising.

Give a thought to rhubarb.

Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Elizabeth

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
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/christunitedmethodistchurchrochesternn

***NEW OFFERING* Live Telephone Worship!** We understand that not everyone has access to computers. We are implementing a new worship by telephone service. Call the number (507)215-8816 Sunday at 9am to join us for worship live! Did you sleep in? No problem! Call that number anytime before the next Sunday to hear the whole worship service.

Evening Prayer - Every night at 8pm one of our pastors live streams evening prayer and meditation: 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/cumcchildrenandfamilyministry/

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

Volunteer Spotlight!



I would like to thank our fabulous volunteers. First, the church feels so empty without you. I can't believe how long it took us to prep and send out the monthly newsletter without you. I miss seeing all of you each week.

And a special thank you to the callers making calls to members of our church community each week for the fabulous ministry you are doing. It brings me so much joy to know that our church is still connected during these days of social distancing.

~ Grace Glover, Connections Coordinator

Thank you to:

Aileen Williams, Bobbi Nichols, Richard and Kathy Estry, Phil and Kathy Lombardo, Diane Ilstrup, Ann McGuire, Deedee Odell, Gwen Scilley, Karla Wysocki, Dan Zimmer, Chuck Wheeler-Handlon, Beth Joyner, Jeff Ward, Karen and Stan Hewitson, Linda Youlden, Rev. Kendall Hughes, Jenny Cordry, Sandi Gordon, Rev. Kitty Burbo, Shelly Glover, Mary Schmidt, Dorothy Loutfi, Rev. Cooper Wigger, Pat Hrabe, Brenda Fyles, Kathy Stettler, Lois McGuire, Cynthia Huyber, Judi Berg, Nancy Currier, Kalle Akkerman, Kari Hanson, John Varona, Daphne Soleil

Meeting Christ Coffee

Sunday, May 3rd at 10am we will be meeting on Zoom to hold our first ever digital Meeting Christ Coffee.

This is a chance for people who are new to CUMC or exploring churches to get to know what we are all about.

You will have a chance to ask questions of clergy, staff and members while we get to know you a little better.

The link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82369307755>

BYOCoffee this time.

Children's Ministry

Children Ministry Updates

To stay connected during this time, we 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.

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 6:30 pm**. ~ Jody Peterson, Children's Coordinator

Youth Updates

Youth Ministry

- Confirmation is continuing to meet via Zoom
- ASP has been canceled for summer 2020 due to COVID. The ASP leadership team will contact you regarding your fees. Stay tuned for service-learning opportunities this summer. Refunds are available for brunch donations and sponsorships.
- Grace Glover and Bobbi Nichols will be leading a group for high schoolers who are finished with confirmation. We will be exploring an ancient system of describing personality types that is called the "Enneagram". The Enneagram classifies personalities into nine interconnected types. We are meeting on Zoom Wednesday night from 8:30-9:30 starting April 29th.

<https://tinyurl.com/CUMC-Youth2020> • Password: enneagram

~ Grace Glover Youth Coordinator

UMW Update

Women of UMW we are still not meeting, who knows when that will happen. Did you visualize spending last week in Wesley Hall with our friends, maybe making new ones, participating in the Rummage Sale? We can assume we had a great time together! Our hope is to have a combined Rummage Sale in September. The dates will be the 17th through the 19th. Save your items till then. If we can store them we will let you know.

Who knows when we will begin meeting together again, but, won't it be joyous to be together.

Meanwhile, stay healthy, laugh each day, call a friend and be thankful for the wonderful church family we have.

~ Deedee Odell, President



Congregational Care

We want to remind you that there is always a minister on call. Please call the church office and listen for the phone number of the minister on call. Then call that pastor directly. You may call day or night for an urgent need.

Remember that we are not told when you are hospitalized. Please have a family member or friend call us and let us know how we can support you.

The pastors will pray with you and/or your family by phone. We are delivering prayer shawls to senior living residences, care facilities, homes, etc. We call first and leave them outside the door or inside a facility at the designated area. Note that clergy are allowed to visit during end of life situations as medical staff allows. We will bring communion, oil for anointing, or simply our voices.



While the church building is closed, your congregational care teams, staff and clergy have been busy with providing care. We are making hundreds of phone calls each week to check on members and friends of Christ Church.



Thanks to our callers, lay visitors and parish ministers for providing care to our members, participants, homebound, bereaved and those who are sick. Thanks also for our prayer chain, Knit One/Pray Two prayer shawl group, and for those making masks.

Introducing a New Member of the Wheeler Handlon Household

Cally is an eight week old yellow lab/golden retriever puppy. She came home on Good Friday. She has already won our hearts and the hearts of the neighborhood. She has made a guest appearance on Dr. Boom's science class, was introduced prior to an evening prayer service and met the staff via Zoom.

We are thankful for the ways pets mirror God's unconditional love.

Nancy and Chuck





FAITH → LIFE: *Learn from Christ's Teachings* Ongoing Sunday Class

Contemporary Issues

Host: Joel Charlson ~ Time: Sundays at 10:10 am

This class is being offered on Zoom as we shelter-in-place. Joel emails participants each Thursday the week's current event in the news 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.

It's great to see friendly faces, hear music and have stimulating conversation! If you are interested in join the class email Joel Charlson (joel.charlson@gmail.com) or Kathy Estry (rk.stry@gmail.com).

A New Online Connect Group

There's a new way to connect through Christ United Methodist Church.

Host: Joel Charlson ~ Time: Wednesdays at 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Place: Your Home!

You are invited to participate in an online small group discussing the book and music in *Songs of America* by Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw. This will be a social group as we stay at home to help reduce the spread of the Corona Virus.

This group will be done entirely on line using Zoom conferencing software. It will be more like the coffee time after church and less like a class. Since it will be based on a book, it could be called a book club, or like friends sitting around listening to music.

But most importantly it is a social connection we want to keep ourselves of sound mind. We will usually cover a chapter (more or less) at a time. The time will allow for discussion and socializing which is important as many of us are away from the people we enjoy. We will be meeting for around 8 weeks.

We will be listening to the music that was important reflecting and sometimes shaping history. You will hear music you find inspiring as well as music that you find offensive or at least controversial. Jon Meacham said they wrote the book "to inspire Americans to think more widely and more deeply about the country Abraham Lincoln called 'the last best hope of earth.'"

While it is not required that you get the book, I strongly recommend it. It is available as an audio book, Kindle, or hardcover. You can order a used copy for around \$10. It is inspiring how the American people struggling with adversity have bent the arc of the moral universe toward justice. Justice is not inevitable, but the result of the actions of people of conscience and faith. The book tells the history of the music and the struggles.

For full participation you will need internet access and a computer, tablet or phone with a speaker, microphone, and camera. Most computers built in the last 6 years have them as do most tablets and smart phones. That way we can see, hear, and talk to each other. You may participate if you don't have the more recent hardware or Internet access, but the experience is more limited. One option is to phone in to the small group. **We will meet on Wednesday evenings between 6:30 and 8:00 beginning April 22.**

The link to the Zoom meeting is <https://zoom.us/j/829409488> You should be able to click on this link and if that doesn't work, paste it into the address bar of your browser.

Other Connect Groups

Gardening Ministry

Host: Mary Schmidt ~ **Time:** Beginning when the snow melts and the weather is warmer you will be contacted!

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: **Knitting at home at this time**

Congregational Read

Watch for a new book selected in the Fall

To be rescheduled when we are able to gather for worship

Watch the Fresh Spirit email, and the New Spirit newsletters for updates on offerings as they become available!

Financial Update

COVID-19 and the mitigation efforts mandated by our state and federal governments have led us into some uncharted waters. The Leadership Board, our staff and perhaps some of you have been concerned about how CUMC will be able to navigate our way through this. Through March we can report that we have made a good start. In March we received gifts of almost \$94,000, well above our pre Covid-19 budget of \$60,000. For the year through March we are almost \$100,000 in the black and \$34,000 ahead of budget. This is most welcome news and a testament to the commitment and generosity of this community of faith. Thank you!

1st Quarter Operating Budget Summary

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving	\$257,456	\$229,500	\$ 27,956
Total Income	\$328,350	\$301,250	\$ 27,100
Expenses	\$229,985	\$267,483	-\$ 37,498
Net Income	\$ 98,365	\$ 33,767	\$ 64,598

Our 2020 expense budget is \$1,101,114

Assets and Liabilities

At the end of March the church had cash and other liquid assets of \$730,000 of which \$536,000 were unrestricted, enough to fund over 5.5 months of budgeted expenses. Our objective has been at least 3 months but given current circumstances more is definitely better. Total liabilities were \$193,650 of which \$178,241 were in restricted accounts to be used for specific purposes including \$54,661.29 in the Makinen Bequest fund. The church has no long term debt

THRIVE! Scholarships

For the year through March income designated for THRIVE! Scholarships has been of \$16,731.80 (donations, Thrift on 5th, bread sales, etc.), these funds are transferred to THRIVE! quarterly.

Transform Capital Campaign

Most of our Transform projects are complete and we paid off the Line of Credit loan that helped us finance these projects in February. We have one priority project to finish: Our Nursery. Planning has begun and we will move forward when we know that we have financing assured. We currently have \$42,500 in hand and \$208,000 in outstanding pledges due by 12/31/2020.

CARES Act

The recently enacted CARES Act includes a Payroll Protection Program of \$350 billion available to small businesses and non-profits to help them retain and pay their employees for two months. The funding is in the form a loan that is forgivable if the organization maintains their payroll at the level it was prior to the coronavirus outbreak. CUMC applied for and was granted a loan of \$75,500 in early April. We intended to maintain our payroll prior to learning of this program and fully expect that the loan will be forgiven.

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

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ELI Intern Joins Christ UMC This Summer

We will once again be a part of the host churches for the ELI program through the United Methodist Annual Conference. This summer we will be joined by Kristen Hansen!

The ELI Project is an initiative of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to identify, encourage, and support young adults who are exploring a call to vocational ministry. The program is designed to provide young adults with a practical and experiential discernment process in summer 2020.

Through this process, young adults will sense more fully God's call upon their lives as they explore who God is calling them to be and which ministries God is calling them to serve as faithful and fruitful leaders.

A Note from Pastor Elizabeth: "I'm excited to welcome Kristen as an intern for the summer. Kristen brings into our midst a great mind, fresh questions and a desire to explore the art of ordained ministry in the UMC. And, she grew up at CUMC!"





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

Welcome to the World!



Anna Jean Kolodge ~ 4/11/2020
Ann & John McGuire's granddaughter



Brynne Lee Schmitt ~ April 7, 2020
Alex and Emily Schmitt's daughter

In Memoriam



Dorothy Combs
September 9, 1931 ~ March 26, 2020



William White
September 8, 1925 ~ April 3, 2020



Ardys Bartel
January 20, 1938 ~ April 16, 2020



Otis Wayne Houser
January 29, 1929 ~ April 16, 2020

May Event Updates

The Largest Reservoir: Cancelled, happening in 2021

GC 2020: postponed

May 16 - Confirmation Banquet postponed

May 17 - Confirmation Postponed

May 24 - Service of Memorials & Living Gifts: online, still on

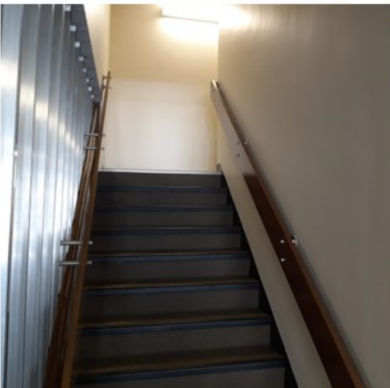
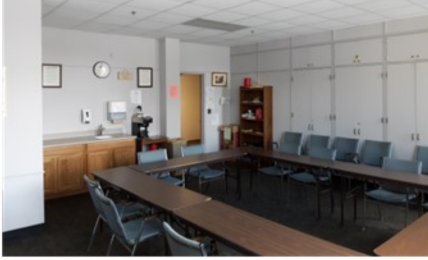
Happy Memorial Day May 25

May 27 - Spring into Summer event postponed

May 31 - Pentecost online, wear red anyway!

Refresh the Space!

During this time while our building being closed, Kent Nymann, our Building Manager has been doing some renovations! He has freshened up paint in rooms 135, 136, 145, 146, the library, Narthex, commons, Fireside Room, and the Thrift on 5th hallway. All the lights in those rooms were also converted to LED to continue with our earth friendly approach to ministry.



Saturday Noon Meals Program Update

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), leadership has implemented significant changes regarding the Saturday Noon Meals program.

As of March 21st we temporarily closed the dining room in Wesley Hall for the SNMs program and provided to-go meals outside the west door of CUMC. We quickly realized that there was an increased risk of infection to our guests and volunteers with this strategy and we considered discontinuing the program until health officials determined that the risk of sharing the virus was no longer a concern.



The week of March 23rd CUMC was contacted by the staff at the Mayo Civic Center to determine if CUMC could deliver meals to the Mayo Civic Center at noon on Saturdays. We quickly reorganized our SNMs process and since March 28th we have been delivering hot boxed meals to the Mayo Civic Center at noon on Saturdays. We have reduced the number of SNMs volunteers to 4 people (Stew and Carol Swanson and Phil and Kathy Lombardo) and have been able to deliver hot meals to those sheltering at the Mayo Civic Center or to those with food insecurity. On April 18th we delivered over 70 boxed meals to the Mayo Civic Center and anticipate that



number will continue to increase!

Our community resources for food has decreased secondary to this challenging health concern. The increased demand for food assistance within the community has decreased our food options at Channel One, but we continue to appreciate the support we receive from People's Food Co-op with ongoing donations of fresh fruit and vegetables each week. We have also received donations of artisan bread from Squash Blossom Farm Bakery. We feel blessed with these donations from our community members.

CUMC should feel proud regarding our ability to assist with providing a nourishing meal to those in need during this terrible pandemic. SNMs leadership would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to CUMC members and volunteers regarding your long-standing support of this program.

We look forward to when we can welcome our guests and volunteers back to Wesley Hall.

Your SNMs Leadership Team – Stew and Carol Swanson and Phil and Kathy Lombardo

You can even sponsor this ministry by going online to <https://cumethodist.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/34/responses/new>



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