

400 5TH AVENUE SW
ROCHESTER, MN 55902

507 289 4019

EMAIL@CUMETHODIST.COM

WWW.CUMETHODIST.COM

THE.

CHRIST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER

2017

EDITION

NEW.

Christmas Eve Services

cultivating hope

9:00am Service of Lessons & Carols, celebrating the last Sunday in Advent. Featuring choirs and the ongoing story of salvation.

4:00pm Family-friendly worship with choirs, impromptu Christmas pageant for all children to participate in.

8:00pm A Musical Feast of Christmas with vocal and bell choirs, hymns and The Story of Christmas.

11:00pm Christmas Candlelight worship with choirs, scripture and wonder.

New Year's Eve- Sparkle Sunday- wear your gaudy holiday garb!

8am "Beloved" Service: Simple and small with communion

9am "Traditions" Service: Larger with music and scripture

11am "Arise!" Service: Live band, coffee welcome

Christ United Methodist Church | 400 5th Avenue SW, Rochester, MN

SPIRIT.

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

“We are the power and heart of Jesus the Christ alive alive alive.”

Many many years ago (twenty-eight, is that possible?) I was the mom of three pre-school children. I had just come back to Minnesota from a two year exile-feeling adventure called graduate school for my husband. We had lived in Pittsburgh and had landed a life in the holy land – Duluth.

While we had lived in Pittsburgh we began to attend a United Methodist Church. They needed a Jr Choir director and a soprano section leader, so both my husband and I had work to supplement our budget. Most importantly, through our time at First UMC in Pittsburgh, I discovered the beating heart of Jesus in the midst of an urban church. What I learned was that faith was meant to be shared and savored. It changed my life for always.

When we moved to Duluth we looked at a lot of churches. Both my former husband and I are preacher's kids. Our fathers were UCC pastors. Being in the midst of community and leaning into the promises of faith and human loves grounded our life. We shopped around for a church that felt right. Because of our Pittsburgh experience, we included United Methodist Churches on the itinerary.

We chanced into a small UM church nestled in a neighborhood. We were greeted very warmly, we enjoyed the folksy style of the pastor, and we felt at home. We went a second time.

After our second visit, the pastor called us. He wanted to know if he could come and pay a call at our home. We were happy to welcome him to our home, chaotic and child-run as it was. He had two young daughters, so we knew he would understand.

He came and visited and we enjoyed the chat time. And then, as the visit was winding down, he told us that a few days before his choir director had unexpectedly died. Was Jim interested in the choir director's position?

Well yes, he was.

So we continued our life as United Methodists. We were enfolded into that church and our children were loved and we were so very blessed.

I sometimes shake my head at the wonder of it all. We could have ended up in a variety of denominations.

We ended up United Methodist partially because of the Rev. Michael Wuehler.

Rev. Wuehler baptized our youngest son. His leadership and initiative continued me on the United Methodist way that led me to Christ UMC.

A random-feeling visit leads to much that could never have been anticipated, including the fact that I now serve the church from which Rev. Wuehler retired.

Who can know what the future holds?

In this season of Thanks Giving and preparation for the birth of hope, I am so very thankful to be in the midst of transformation in this place.

Truly.

On Sunday the 10th of December we will announce the total pledged toward the Transform campaign AND the program year budget. We will celebrate together by sitting at table and sharing wonder and gratitude.

Already we are so moved by the financial and soul commitment pledged to this church and its mission. Already I am grateful to my core for the heart and passion for ministry shared in and through this church.

Already my heart is singing such thanks.

I am a United Methodist pastor serving a church willing to share the joy and power of Christ Jesus in ways that transform lives.

Don't miss the December 10th celebration!!!!!! Together we create feasts of grace.

Random-seeming encounters with others has the power to change lives. We are the power and heart of Jesus the Christ alive alive alive.

Thanks be to God.



Pastor Elizabeth

TRANSFORM!

- **December 10th is Announcement/Potluck Feast Sunday!**

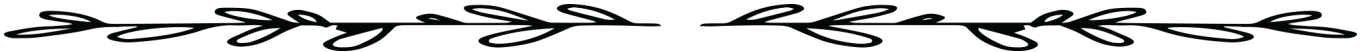
On December 10th we will celebrate Announcement Sunday. We'll announce the results of the TRANSFORM Campaign and then share the most holy of holy feasts: an all-church potluck!

Pot luck feasts will follow each service: 8, 9, and 11am. We'll do the potluck based on the first letter of your last name— A through H please bring salad or fruit, I-P please bring a main dish, Q-Z please bring desert.

You won't want to miss this chance to give thanks together!

TRANSFORM Celebration Team: Marjie and Jerry Blaisdell, Audrey Schuetz and Michael Ayres

For information on TRANSFORM, frequently asked questions, or to make your own question/comment, go to: www.cumethodist.com/transform



The Season of Advent is Soon Upon Us: Hush. Advent is a time of deep breath in the midst of consumer chaos.

For 4 weeks leading up to the birth of hope at Christmas, we are asked to prepare our hearts.

What does it mean to make room for the advent of Jesus?

Please join Pastor Elizabeth for a series of Wednesday night classes, "Hush." **December 6th and December 13th at 6:30pm in the Education Conference Center (ECC).**

We will together explore what it means to live a kind of hush in the midst of tumult.

Have an article for the *New Spirit*? Please submit it to nikki@cumethodist.com by the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Late articles may be very tiny or invisible.

Thank you and happy writing!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Many thanks to the following people for serving pie and friendship at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service:

Jan Martin (Coordinator), Elaine Bauman, Jan Bolton, Sandy Shirk-Heath, Jeanne Harris, Gwen Mead, Marjie Blaisdell and Kathy Estray.



There were 170 people in attendance, representing the following faith traditions: Baha'i, Episcopal, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, Presbyterian USA, ELCA Lutheran, Unitarian, Church of the Latter Day Saints, Mennonite, and United Methodist.



Hurricane Relief Giving Totals



Wow! People are in need and Christ UMC responded.



Our church collected (to date) \$6,775.00 for disaster relief in response to recent hurricanes. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief, 100% of that money will go to direct services for those in need. Bless your generous hearts.



Poinsettia Order Form

Please fill in the form below if you would like to share a poinsettia plant with others this Christmas season. You can place this form in the offering plate or turn it into the church office. Each plant is \$12.50. **The deadline for poinsettia orders is December 11th.** Please indicate below if you wish to pick up the poinsettia after 10AM on December 26th, or if you would like to have it delivered to a homebound or bereaved person. We would like to have about 85 plants to deliver. *Thank you for supporting this ministry of caring to our homebound and bereaved members.*

Name (please print): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ plants x \$12.50 = \$_____ . ____

- Please deliver to a homebound or bereaved member.
- I will pick up after 10AM on December 26th.

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

We are also in need of volunteers to deliver the poinsettias to homebound and bereaved members. The delivery date will be December 26th at 9AM; please bring boxes to transport plants. If you are able to help, please call Grace Swanson at 288-2266.



Special Mission Recognition for United Methodist Women

UMW recognizes church members who have dedicated time and effort to service in United Methodist Women and the church. Nomination forms are available November 1st in the church office and are **due January 15th**. If you have questions, contact Wailana Barker at 289 7773.

We'd Like to Give You a Warm Welcome!



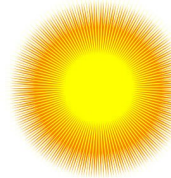
Next Meeting Christ Coffees: December 3rd and January 14th, after the 9am service in the Fireside Room

Next opportunity to become CUMC Intentional Disciple: December 10th and January 28th

RSVP to email@cumethodist.com

Hopeful Earth

Progress is being made on upkeep of the CUMC grounds!



Faith.Solar.Rochester

The Fourth National Climate Assessment (recently published) includes the statement:

"Since the last National Climate Assessment was published, 2014 became the warmest year on record globally; 2015 surpassed 2014 by a wide margin and 2016 surpassed 2015."

The United Methodist Church Social Principals – Natural World - Energy Resources Utilization statement:

"We call upon all to take measures to save energy. The deposits of carbon, oil, and gas resources are limited and their continuous utilization accelerates global warming. "

There is a strong connection between the two statements above. There are also many things to do either individually or as a congregation. The Rochester Faith and Solar Coalition is undertaking an effort to increase efficiency in church buildings, and install solar panels on church buildings. Help is needed in many areas of the coalition. There are many hurdles to be overcome as existing laws, practices and opinions center around status quo. Individually, the Rochester Public Utilities Solar Choice program allows customers to participate in a community solar program even if their residence is not suitable for solar panel installation.

Sign-up for the RPU program ends December 31, 2017. There is an urgency for Creation Care!



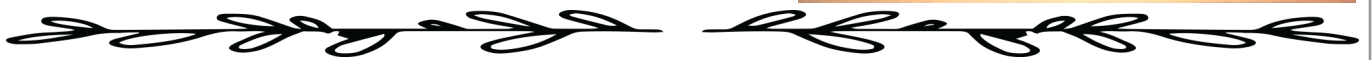
What's Next with ASP (Appalachia Service Project)?

The high school mission trip youth and leaders will be serving at Christmas Anonymous again this year, **December 4th at 6 pm!** Head on down to Wesley Hall and get food packin'!

**United
Methodist
Women This
Month:**



The UMW Christmas unit meeting will be on **December 7th**. We will meet for refreshments in the Narthax and then adjourn to the Sanctuary for installation of officers and a Christmas program by Dr. David Friddle. We will see you at **10:30am**. Bring a friend! I hear we get to do some singing, too!



A Note from the TRANSFORM Co-Chairs

As co-chairs of the TRANSFORM campaign, we couldn't be happier with how things are progressing, both in terms of money which has been pledged, and in terms of the obvious excitement and spirit about our future at CUMC. We are filled with anticipation for the next step.

We credit the organization and success of the TRANSFORM campaign to the countless hours of research, idea generating and number crunching that occurred before the campaign. Without that support we couldn't have gone forward with so much confidence. We have a tremendous group of people who gathered around the table to form the campaign steering committee. They are creative, committed people who know how to make a project fun.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to:

Margie and Jerry Blaisdell, Dick Estry, Aaron and Deb Gross, Paul Harkess, Frank Nichols, Audrey Schuetz, Michael Ayers, Carrie Robinson-Cannon, and clergy and staff who have worked hard and been involved in this campaign.

We are grateful for your hard work, enthusiasm, and prayer-led service to CUMC!

Your campaign chairs,

~Doug and Bobbi Nichols; Bill and Lois McGuire



Gallery 405

Gallery 405 is open for Christmas card art submissions! Pick up a submission sheet at the church office or at C U Wednesdays. Artists and colorers of all ages can work on what they think would be an awesome cover for a Christmas card. **Complete your card art and turn it in to the church office by December 7th!** Card art will be displayed in the gallery and also printed and used for the Christmas cards that staff send out this year. Restrictions? Only that you use the sheet provided and put your Christmas heart and spirit into it! Contact Nikki@cumethodist.com with any questions. The Gallery 405 crew can't wait to see what you come up with!

December Music Notes from Music Director, David Friddle

LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Christmas Eve at 9am we'll have a Service of Lessons and Carols. This ancient rite includes scripture readings for the last Sunday in Advent. The Chancel Choir, Christ Singers and Youth Choir will all sing seasonal anthems alternating with congregational hymns. It's a final preparation for the Nativity, which we will celebrate later in the day.

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN CHOIR

On Friday, January 5th, 2018 at 7pm, the touring choir of Nebraska Wesleyan University will present a concert in the Sanctuary. It will be a mixture of secular and sacred music, from all historical periods and parts of the world—from Renaissance motets to African American Spirituals. We need hosting families for the choir. There are 58 students and we need 26 hosting families. Except for 2 three person groups, all guests will come in pairs. You're only asked to take them home after the concert, provide them with a bed and shower and feed them breakfast on Saturday morning before returning them to church. The singers are accustomed to sharing a bed so if you only have one guest room you can still take two students. Please help us be good hosts for this outstanding choir and be sure to mark your calendars to attend what will surely be a wonderful concert. If you can host two or more students, please email David Friddle at david@cumethodist.com.



UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER Youth Parties!

- HIGH SCHOOL PARTY DECEMBER 9 @ Ray/Mary/Jacob Hansen's house (7-9)
- MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTY DECEMBER 10 @ Dan/Shannon/Josh/Abby's house (6-8)

Bring yourself and a goofy/fun present worth up to 10\$. We will compete, trade, haggle for the best ones. Friends are welcome! ALL are welcome! Prizes for best sweater.

For more details contact Katu@cumethodist.com

Let's

Young Adult
 White Elephant Christmas
 Party
 @ Alissa's House
 December 3rd, 7-9 pm
 All are welcome!!



Party!

Service of Hope & Healing

You are invited to an Advent Service of Hope and Healing at Christ United Methodist Church on Thursday, December 14th at 6pm. The service is for anyone who finds the holiday season difficult. You may be going through a hard time in life such as losing a job, going through divorce, struggling with mental or physical health, losing a loved one and other tough circumstances.

We will gather in the Sanctuary for a service of light, music, prayer, and readings. If you would like, you may bring an ornament for our Advent tree. Tags will be available if you wish to write a message.

After the service you are invited to stay for a soup supper. The meal will be our gift to you. All are welcome. You need not be a member.



Communion and Fellowship - Christmas Comes Early in Guatemala



Friday, November 3rd, two Salud y Paz volunteers, retired UMC pastor David Glusker and Dr. Marshall Chamberlin, presented their hand-built communion table to Pastor Sabastian Riquiac of Alfa y Omega Methodist Church in Camanchaj where our main clinic is located. I was privileged to be one of four people who helped to carry it the two blocks from the clinic (where it was made) to the church. As I mentioned in our

last article, Pastor Sabastian is the pastor who leads devotions at the clinic on Monday mornings. His presence at the clinic and the presentation of the communion table at his church by Kristen Rinaldi, Executive Director of Project Salud y Paz, are welcome signs of the much-improved relationship between the Guatemalan Methodist Church and Project Salud y Paz. We prayed and sang hymns in English and Spanish after the table was put into its place. David and Marshall are volunteers from Maine who are with us for a month

each year, serving as carpenters helping to build furniture used in our clinics and school. ~Jan, John Edmund and John Lage, Jr.

Thrift on Fifth is "Thriving"! Store hours are Wednesday, 4-8pm and Saturday 9am-noon

Open only 12 times and already we've seen nearly 1,000 items fly off our shelves! EVERYONE is welcome to shop at Thrift on Fifth! TOF has provided beautiful clothing for a variety of situations: professionals looking to add to their wardrobe, clothing for families, interim clothing during weight loss, holiday sparkle, accessories with bling and a huge volume of winter coats. Girl Scouts have entertained youngsters accompanying parents and volunteers have enthusiastically sorted clothing every Tuesday at 9am. CUMC members have hung clothing racks, built a donation box, hung lights and peg board, and built furniture to go around some unsightly fixtures as well as lazy susan display shelving. They've decorated our display windows, embroidered quilts with our name, created logos and so much more. SUCH TALENT we have! Stop by and see the amazing assortment of items, marvel at the handiwork of our members and be amazed at the transformation of "Room 9". Drop your donations upstairs, then check out our display window outside the ECC. You can volunteer for a shift, sort clothing on Tuesday mornings, or help spread the word. The enthusiasm at Thrift on Fifth is contagious—be part of this mission to raise funds in support of THRIVE! scholarships. Thank you for your support!!!





The CUMC *Book of Life*

LIVING, CELEBRATING & REMEMBERING WITH YOU

Baptisms:

Ariella Lucie Ed
Born September 18, 2017
Parents: Michael Ed and Nicole Limper Ed
Sponsors: Sarah Limper and Elise Limper

Levi Ellis Westfall
Born July 25, 2017
Parents: Andrew and Alyson Westfall
Sponsors: Tom and Megan Herbers

Avery Jean Bommersbach
Born February 21, 2017
Parents: Carl and Lisa Bommersbach



Deaths:

Francenia Eaton Wilson
April 1, 1926 – November 1, 2017



Joan Ruth Wilcox
January 13, 1937 – November 13, 2017



Robert Lawrence Brown
August 27, 1940 – November 15, 2017



December Volunteer Spotlight: Dave Ihrke

For our December edition of the New Spirit newsletter, I interviewed long-time usher and volunteer, David Ihrke.

David is 83 years old and has been married to wife, Danna, for 57 years. He grew up in the Eyota area.

David and Danna have 3 children—all baptized, confirmed, and 2 were married at CUMC. They enjoy their 9 wonderful grandchildren.

Dave has been a member of Christ United Methodist Church for 56 years! He sang in the church choir for many years and was on multiple committees.

When the 11am service first started, he volunteered to usher at that time. He told CUMC he could help out where the church needed him. He recalls, "That service started with maybe 20 people or so." He is happy to see how it's grown into such a large crowd with a live band, and commented on how he thinks they are "really great!"

Dave's ushering career has spanned 15 years or so.

His favorite thing about ushering is getting to see all of the people and greet them in the morning. He loves the other ushers he works with!

Dave is a survivor— he was diagnosed with and battled throat cancer beginning in 2000. He has been through many surgeries and radiation. But he never gave up ushering! Dave explained to me that he just used hand gestures and body language and that works just as well.

Thanks to long-time usher and volunteer, David Ihrke for the awesome interview! ~Nikki Gensmer, *Communications*

New Membership Directory

The new pictorial directories are being created! They should be ready for distribution shortly after the New Year. A HUGE thanks goes to Wendy Francis and her intrepid crew of volunteers. We appreciate you!

'Tis The Season for **CHRISTMAS ANONYMOUS!**

December 9th will find CUMC once again transformed into a giant store as Christmas Anonymous helps provide gifts, food, and the message of hope to families and seniors. There are many opportunities:

The donation center will be open in Wesley Hall the week of November 27th– December 1st: 8am-5pm, M-F and 9am-noon on December 2nd. What could you do?

- Donate gently used: toys, puzzles, games, coats, hats, gloves, mittens scarves, boots, shoes, skates, sleds and more.
- Donate new: To see ideas/make purchases for teens, girls clothing or gloves and hats you may go to our Target registry (<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/ChristmasAnonymous>). Or you may check out our wish list at Walmart (search: "lists", click "lists", "Christmas Anonymous"). Items are offered for free shipping or pick up. If shipping to our registry address, please allow delivery time.
- Barnes and Noble: On December 2nd a percentage of your purchases will come to Christmas Anonymous. Get a coupon from a volunteer at the store.
- Volunteer: Go to www.christmasanonymous.com. Here you can find volunteer opportunities to sort donations, bag food, escort, load cars and much more. Reminder - escorts must be 16 or older.

This 50+ year tradition typically provides Christmas for over 600 families and food for +300 seniors. **THANK YOU** for supporting this initiative with your gifts, your prayers, and this fabulous temporary store location.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST | 8, 9 & 11AM

SPARKLE SUNDAY

You are cordially invited to Sparkle Sunday!
Wear your gaudy sparkly garb to church!

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
400 5TH AVENUE SW, ROCHESTER, MN



DECEMBER 2017

*****Cut this page out and post it on your fridge or near your other calendar! Happy December!**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
UMW Cookie Sale Gay Men's Chorus Concert (3pm) Meeting Christ Coffee (10am)	Memories of the Heart Service (7pm)	C U Wednesdays Hush Class (6:30pm) Thrift on Fifth Closed	Service of Hope & Healing (6pm) with soup supper (7pm)	Used Toy Drive (until 12/8) Christmas Anonymous in building (until "Store Day" 12/9)	Rochester Chamber Music Concert (7:30pm) Young Adult Party (7pm)	Saturday Noon Meals (off site at Zumbro Lutheran today!) Highschool Party (7pm) Thrift on Fifth Closed
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Potluck Feast New Members Joining Mid High Christmas Party (7pm)	Breakfast Fellowship Charlie's Eatery (8:30am) C U Wednesdays Hush Class (6:30pm)	Holly, Jolly, Trolley (5:30pm)	Bella Voce (7:30pm)	UMW Tea (2pm) Bella Voce (7:30pm)		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Bella Voce (4pm) Christmas Pageant (9 and 11am)	Merry Christmas! Building is closed	Poinsettia delivery to homebound				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Services (9am, 4, 8, 11pm)			NO C U Wednesdays			
31						
Sparkle Sunday Services (8, 9, 11am)						

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 Fax: 507-289-3648
 E-mail: email@cumethodist.com

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The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
Saturday, December 3rd at 3pm

Don't forget to mark this entertaining and joyful holiday show on your calendars. Admission is free. Bring the whole family and friends. It'll be a blast! Known for their amusing and touching shows, it will be an exciting blend of holiday music and LGBTQ-themed songs.

Christmas Eve Services

cultivating hope

9:00am Service of Lessons & Carols, celebrating the last Sunday in Advent. Featuring choirs and the ongoing story of salvation.

4:00pm Family-friendly worship with choirs, impromptu Christmas pageant for all children to participate in.

8:00pm A Musical Feast of Christmas with vocal and bell choirs, hymns and The Story of Christmas.

11:00pm Christmas Candlelight worship with choirs, scripture and wonder.

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Christ United Methodist Church