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THE.

CHRIST
UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

NEW.



FEBRUARY

2018

EDITION

- 
- Temptation
 - Suffering
 - Outrage
 - Healing
 - Hard News
 - Joy & Devastation
 - Resurrection

THIS
HAPPENED.

LENT 2018 • CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14TH, 7PM

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

“You are the living body of Christ.”

Dear Church,

You are the living Body of Christ.

You listen to each other, serve meals, study scripture, donate and sell clothes, pack backpacks, supply CU Wednesday feasts, sing and ring blessing, pray for each other, witness for justice and healing, and bring your faith to life day-by-day.

It is such blessing to be alive and faith-grounded during a time when mistrust and fracture seem to be the assumed state of God's creation.

We know better.

Lent begins on February 14th this year. We will gather in the Sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM. Ash Wednesday is a service for all ages. We name the miracle of being mortal people in the love and care of a loving God. We name our vulnerability and our hope as well as our awareness that this life we are given is precious gift. I hope you will come to worship. Ash Wednesday is about real and touchable human beings.

February can be a gunky month in Minnesota. We know this. So rather than despair, we are hosting a “Beat the Winter Blues” gathering here at church. We hope to welcome hundreds of people who are hungry for hope and connection (and chocolate!) Last year the social hall was alive with music and dancing and crafts and puppets. This is a great event to invite your neighbors to. We are a part of WinterFest for the greater Rochester area. Come and play! Details are in this newsletter. And now, a request:



Do you know that every week our church picks up people for worship? A month ago, while filled with precious cargo, one of the doors of our bus fell off.

No kidding.

A week later the doors had to be secured with a bungee cord in order to stay shut while the bus was being driven.

I suspect you will join me in saying this isn't right.

The Leadership Board has determined that we need to replace that bus. NOW. Our youth can no longer use it because it is unsafe outside of the city limits, and clearly, it is no longer safe within the city limits.

The cost of a new bus is in the \$50,000 range. The Leadership Board has authorized moving money from savings in order to pay for the bus. I believe there are those of you who might want to help pay for that bus, so I am asking for your help. If we could leave the money in savings that would be a great good.

Are you interested in helping the seniors who ride the bus make it to church without having parts fall off of the bus?

Are you interested in helping our youth go to the Boundary Waters and ASP (Appalachia Service Project) trips?

If you can help, please write a check to CUMC with “VAN” in the memo line and we will gratefully make the ride to and from church safer for all.

I know, we just had a magnificent Capital Campaign drive. I know, you are generous beyond the telling.

And, my boss in college told me a truth I will never forget: If you don't ask, you won't get.

So, I'm asking!

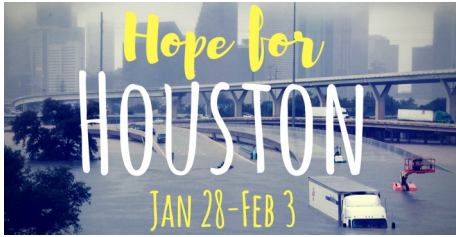
Blessings to you all. This Body of Christ is alive and through the power of our witness lives are transformed.

Blessings to you in this month of love and ashes,

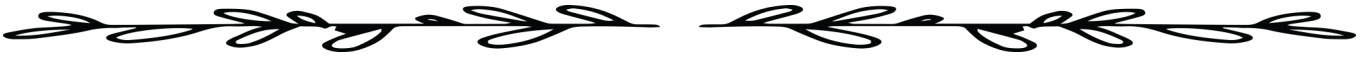
Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Elizabeth

Hope for Houston



A group is currently in Houston for Hurricane Harvey clean up (from January 28th-February 3rd)! Please pray for our amazing volunteers as they work down south: George Romano, Jen Fugate, Kyle Eickman, Carol Drath, Brad and Nancy Currier, Mary Schmidt, Karen Fields, Kaitlin Black, Nikki and Arlette Gensmer, and Katy Lee.



Meet Your THRIVE! Executive Director: Tanya Goretzki



Hi, I'm Tanya Goretzki, the new Executive Director of THRIVE! Family Resource Center.

THRIVE! Family Resource Center has hit the ground running in 2018! It is a very busy time in the life of those involved with THRIVE!. I am so excited to be working with such a passionate board of directors and a congregation who sees the need for high-quality child care in Rochester.

As a member of the CUMC congregation and someone who grew up in this church, I can feel the excitement growing as we build this program from the ground up. My grandfather (Ray Hanson) and my father (Dick Hanson) both worked at CUMC. For just over 40 years combined, they oversaw this beautiful building. I remember each of them sharing many stories of renovations, building projects and the excitement of something new. I'm certain if they were both here today, they would have great advice for me as I embark on this new adventure!

Early childhood education has always been a part of my professional career. From teaching preschool, serving as a center director, managing an AmeriCorps program to teaching early childhood providers, I have been blessed with many years in the early childhood field. I feel as though my career has come full circle and brought me back to a hands-on role serving children and families. I am excited to support those who need us the most by providing a solid early childhood experience.

The building plans for THRIVE! have been finalized and sent out for bids. We are eagerly anticipating the construction to begin! February will be a time for demolition and the dream of providing high-quality childcare will begin to take shape! Can you feel the excitement?

I hope you can join me on March 18th for a forum on "What's happening with THRIVE!". I'll give an update on construction as well as share more information on the program's progress.

THRIVE! Family Resource Center is building community, one family at a time!

~Tanya Goretzki

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

Thank you and happy writing!

This Happened. Lent 2018 at Christ United Methodist Church



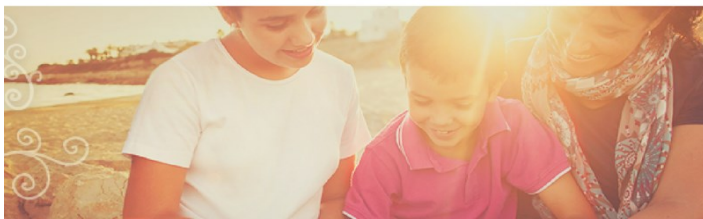
What are the core stories that your family tells or that you tell? What do those stories speak about who you are and what matters to you? When have you encountered surprising grace or unlikely visits from the Holy?

THIS HAPPENED.

LENT 2018 • CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- Temptation
- Suffering
- Outrage
- Healing
- Hard News
- Joy & Devastation
- Resurrection

Ash Wednesday (February 14th) marks the first day of Lent this year. If you are subscribed to our online mailing list, you will be receiving Lent daily devotional messages straight to your email inbox! You will also see these posted on our Facebook page.



If you are not subscribed: send an email to email@cumethodist.com to get added to our list!

If you don't follow us on Facebook, go to: www.facebook.com/cumethodist and click on "Like".



United Methodist Women Sunday– February 4th

United Methodist Women Sunday is coming up— Sunday, February 4th! There will be a women's choir, amazing children's sermon, interesting UMW Minute, presentation of a Mission Recognition Award AND something new this year will be soup and fixings—a variety of soups, breads, crackers, vegetables, bars and beverages will be served from 10am to 12:30pm. Cost is \$5.00. Money will go toward our Pledge to Mission. We'll see you in Wesley Hall.

Also, don't forget to check out the Historical Window/display case in the Commons to discover where the United Methodist Women are in mission!



The next Mission and Social Justice meeting will be on Monday, February 5th, 6-7:30pm in Room 145.

This month we are talking about Earthfest, "Sanctuary churches" and immigration issues, as well as the possibilities of all-church service opportunities for this year. Bring your own topics to add!



Gallery 405 Exhibition Schedule

Gallery 405 is movin' and groovin'! We have artists scheduled out for the next year or so! How beautiful.

Exhibition schedule:

- January/February= Ken Bauman's geometric work
- March/April= Eric Anderson with a variety of media work
- May/July= District Superintendent, Cynthia Williams' watercolor work
- August/September= Cassandra Buck's dye work on canvas with embroidery
- October/November= Gary Hicks' photography work



Hopeful Earth and Thinking About the Natural World

Attending an out of town church service this past weekend, I heard a sermon on Opportunities. We need to look for opportunities everywhere. Opportunities to help the church, opportunities to help others, opportunities to learn, opportunities for joy, and opportunities help the natural world. The Hopeful Earth group at CUMC focuses on the natural world!



Methodist beliefs include:

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation.

The modern world seems to be missing the opportunity to connect with the natural world. Not connecting to the natural world has some significant consequences.

Some things to think about in the natural world:

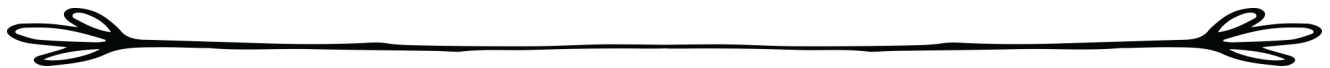
Driving an automobile creates emissions, wear and tear on the car creates a need to replace parts, fuel is a significant use of resources, replacing an iPhone requires significant natural resource mining, we easily waste electricity by leaving lights on and/or not using the most efficient lighting, coal requires landfill and creates emissions, fertilizing lawns is a cause of green lakes, and pesticides can affect more than just the targeted critters— bees are especially susceptible. WHEW. That's a lot to think about, right?

Please find and take opportunities to "Care for Creation"! We need to take care of the natural world, as it is our home and as Methodists, it is what we believe!

Drive less by planning short trips, ride a bike or bus for something different, plant a native plant garden or rain garden (no fertilizer needed), and use less or no fertilizer and pesticides on lawns and gardens.

Finally, join the Hopeful Earth team! We like to have really good discussions about all of these things. Contact me, Tom Williamson (at tomwilliamson75@gmail.com) and I'll let you know when and where we meet next!

~Tom Williamson



Scout Sunday is February 11th

Over the weekend of February 11th (February 9th is Scout Sabbath and Jumuah) the world unites in celebrating scouting! Come and show your support to current scouts and thank all of the scout leaders. Boy Scouts of America works to support youth to learn life long values, explore their spirituality, gain leadership skills, and strive to become outstanding people.

“See You Later”, and not “Goodbye”!



Dear CUMC, by the time this newsletter hits your inboxes and mailboxes, I will have cleaned out my office at CUMC. How bittersweet!!!

THANK YOU! For the past three years, I have enjoyed learning and growing with you. I have enjoyed communicating with you. I have so enjoyed getting to know such wonderful people— people who I plan to stay in contact with, which is exactly why physically leaving CUMC does not feel like a daunting “goodbye”, rather it feels more like, “see you later”!

As of February 17th, I will be at MSP, two suitcases full of my life in hand (how on God’s green earth am I going to pack my life into two suitcases and one backpack?!) and on my way to a different country to pursue the Team Coordinator position with Salud y Paz. This is an opportunity I would not have gotten involved with if it weren’t for my position at CUMC—this I know and appreciate full well.

You can, and SHOULD, keep in contact with me in one of the following ways:

Email: gensmern@gmail.com

Blog: www.elementalperspective.com (this is nothing to look at yet, but will be in the next few weeks!)

Mission Support Site: www.youcaring.com/nikkigensmersmissiontoquatemala

Hasta luego!!! See you later!!! ~Nikki Gensmer, *Communications*

Updates with Pastor Nancy, *Minister for Congregational Care*

- **MCI Group:**

We invite persons living with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or early dementia and their support partner to join this confidential information and support group. We meet the third Wednesday of the month in the Family Room from 10-11am. The Family Room is on the main floor of CUMC just to the left of the main office. Pastor Nancy serves as facilitator. Please contact her to learn more about it.

The group plans to travel to St. Paul for the Meeting of the Minds Dementia Conference on Saturday, March 3rd. Please contact Pastor Nancy for more information. Early registration is recommended.

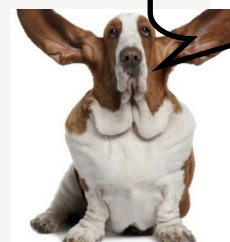
- **Memorial Requests:**

The Memorials and Living Gifts Committee invites requests for use of undesignated memorials and living gifts to further the mission and ministry of Christ UMC. Forms for the requests are found in the office. They need to be returned to the office by March 1st.

- **Holy Listening II:**

Save the date for this event for all involved or wish to be involved in Caring Ministries: March 17th, 9:30am- 2pm. Pastor Nancy and Rev. Cooper Wigger will once again be leading the workshop.

Prior attendance at Holy Listening I is not required. Those who came to Holy Listening I will want to return as there will be new material covered and break-out sessions offered.

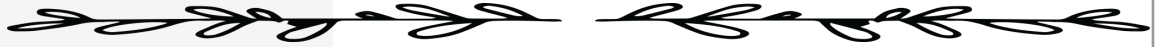


Watch for more information!!!



The next **Widowed Person's Coffee** is **February 17th at 10am.**

We will meet in the Fireside Room.



Young Adult Bible Study

During this Lent Season, we are going through the series "Different But Not Divided: Practicing a Third Way." It is about reconciliation and diversity in this politically charged society. We meet every other Sunday night for "family dinners", 7 pm, at revolving houses: to find out our next time and place to meet, text/call/ email Katy! [651-399-8605](tel:651-399-8605)



Pastor Katy Ordination Update



Greetings all! I would greatly covet your prayers this month of February, as I reach my final step in my ordination process: Board of Ordained Ministry interviews, February 6-8th.

In 2011, I embarked on the beginning of my ordination journey, by enrolling at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey and getting (anxiously, uncertainly) connected with my home state's Annual Conference. The advice given to me by my former associate pastor was "start the process before you're ready: better too early than too late!" so I jumped in, even though I was not sure which direction I was headed. My steps became clearer through my time in Seminary, and even more clear throughout these last four-ish years at Christ UMC. I was commissioned in 2016, turned in 60 pages of writings and information this December 1st, and now, here we are!

I feel incredibly prepared for these interviews, in large part because of YOU, dear church! The interviews are based on my experience of ministry and how my theology, beliefs and teachings have been affected by these experiences. They will ask me questions around my pastoral identity as a person (i.e. how I practice wholistic health and self-care), as a leader, and as theologian. Christ UMC has always been incredibly supportive of my continuing education, about respecting my personal life and time off: pastor as person, check! Christ UMC has taught me so much about being a bold leader and has encouraged me—as well as challenged me, in good ways—in my beliefs and teaching as a theologian.

Whatever happens in February, whether it's my time to wear the red stole this summer or not, I am so thankful for this place I am in right now and for how much I am learning here in Rochester. Thank you, a million times, for your prayers and all the ways you have supported me: I'll let you know how things go some Sunday in February, once news has been appropriately shared with all the other candidates.

If you want to give any sort of gift to me for this process, please direct any gifts to Thrift on Fifth: buy someone a gift certificate or give another donation, and drop me a note about it! I collect cards.

Peace,
Pastor Katy

P.S. Because I know someone will ask, no, being ordained does not necessarily mean I'm leaving Christ UMC! We pastors are itinerant, which means we always (with discernment, prayer and conversation) can potentially be moved every July, so I can never make promises, but chances look good that I will not be moved in 2018. We're just having too much fun.

The CUMC *Book of Life*

LIVING, CELEBRATING & REMEMBERING WITH YOU

Deaths:

Leland Bierbaum
July 5, 1926 – January 15, 2018



Audriene Zelenski
July 9, 1934 – January 12, 2018



William (Bill) Peterson
April 7, 1970 – January 8, 2018



February Volunteer Spotlights:

**Volunteer FPU (Financial Peace University) Coordinator— Colleen Johnson
and Adult Education “Gurus”— Kathy Estray and Aileen Williams**

Colleen Johnson:



In September 2015, my husband Bob and I were at a tipping point. Despite having a good income, we were drowning in debt. We had been listening to Dave Ramsey's radio program and tried to start implementing some of his seven "baby steps" to financial freedom but it was not until we attended the 9-week Financial Peace University (FPU) classes together in January of 2016 that things really clicked!

Since January of 2016 we have gone from 22 separate non-mortgage debt items to just two left to pay. By the end of 2018, we will be debt-free, except for our home (and that will be paid off in just two more years). The ultimate goal of FPU is to be completely debt-free, build wealth and to be able to GIVE GENEROUSLY to those in need.

Attending FPU had a profound and positive impact on our lives. I have become passionate about helping others find hope and achieve financial peace through my work as a volunteer FPU Coordinator.

I am currently coordinating a 9-week FPU class at CUMC (Monday nights from 6:30-8:30pm in Mettam) and it has been exciting to see class members engaged in the process. Becoming debt-free is not easy but it is absolutely 100% do-able, regardless of age or financial situation. It requires changing spending and saving habits but the peace of mind that comes from knowing that you are in control of your money and eventually will owe NO ONE is amazing.

Kathy Estry:



I have been a member of CUMC since March 1974 (almost 44 years). I have taught Sunday School, chaired the Administrative Board, served on the SPR Committee, was an adult leader for ASP for two years, volunteer for Dorothy Day House and Community Food Response, a member of a Covenant Disciple group and several other small groups, and currently am a member of the Faith-->Life committee.

Adult Education at CUMC is important to fulfill our mission: "to create committed disciples for the transformation of the world". We are all on a journey in our faith and spiritual development, and we need the connection with others to develop and grow in our discipleship.

I value the progressive theology at CUMC, the many outreach opportunities for ministry in Rochester and beyond, the significant friendships that have been made and help me to grow spiritually, and the support the church community offers during challenging life events. In other words - it's my larger family!

I enjoy planning for the Faith-->Life forums, classes and small groups because it is exciting to see members become more involved in growth opportunities and providing more awareness and education to further learn about a diversity of social justice issues as they arise.

I'm looking forward to a continued number of congregants becoming involved in the forums, classes and small groups we offer, because as we grow in committed disciples we can change the world together.

Aileen Williams:



Christ UMC became my family's church home in 1960 when we moved to Rochester for David, my husband, to begin an Internal Medicine Residency. Our two month old son became part of the nursery program, and the first group we joined was Christ United Methodist Double, a social group. Spiritual growth groups soon followed and also the missions work area. In 1964, we were commissioned as United Methodist missionaries and ended up in medical and education work in Lahore, Pakistan for 9 1/2 years during which CUMC was our major supporting church.

Returning to Rochester in 1974 with three children, I've been involved in many areas of church life, teaching Confirmation and Sunday School, Council Chair, Adult Education ministries, SPR (staff parish relations), coordinator for Interfaith Hospitality Network for our church, co-chair of Ministry and Mortar when the addition to the church was constructed, UMW (United Methodist Women), and other work areas.

Through the years, I have found our church a place where people can bring their questions and yearnings and if they will invest time in worship, study and relationships they grow in following Christ's teachings. Deep friendships in these journeys are great gifts to anyone's life.

I served as Minnesota Conference Lay Leader and served on General Boards of the UMC including 8 years on the General Board of Discipleship. Through that experience, I gained greater insights into how Covenant Groups and small group ministry in general was John Wesley's major method to help individuals live the Christian life.

Working with others at CUMC to plan and arrange a variety of learning experiences, calling forth the abilities and commitment of many in the congregation to serve, give and have compassion for others is an exciting endeavor. I'm looking forward to increasing awareness that following Christ's teachings is where we can find the strength, insights, and guidance needed to be transforming persons for good in the world.

A Blessed Visit in Guatemala



On June 18th, 2018, Jan and I will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our wedding. The Reverend Dr. Bruce Buller officiated at our wedding. Last Friday, Jan and I drove to pick Bruce up at the airport in Guatemala City.

What a holy and blessed time we have had in the 6 days we spent together. Bruce, at an amazingly youthful 84, continues to teach and preach in every conversation. He remains a role model for me, especially in that ability to see God's hand at work in the smallest and most mundane of life's daily tasks. It is a lifestyle I try to emulate.

He spent two and a half days at the clinic with us, interacting with everyone he met, painting a cross constructed by a mission team 10 years ago and counting pills in the pharmacy. Seeing our world through his eyes provided us with new strength and a renewed sense of purpose. Bruce, our family thanks you so much for your visit and the many ways you support us when we're together and especially when there is physical distance between us! We are so blessed to have you as a part of our family!

~John Lage Jr., full-time Missioner in Guatemala with (wife) Jan and (son) John Edmund

Third Sunday Forum— February 18th, 10:15 – 11:15am in the Hamline Room ***Immigrant Justice Issues and Sanctuary Church with Phil Wheeler, Rochester Unitarian Church***

Approximately 11 million immigrants face the uncertainty of not being able to stay in the United States. If undocumented, immigrants are confronted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (or ICE) and are detained and transported away from their home area; often making it impossible for them to continue to work, be with family and/or remain in the U.S.

Come hear about the sanctuary process from Phil Wheeler, leader of the Rochester Unitarian Church's Sanctuary Church action. We will also hear from an immigrant service leader, an affected immigrant, another Sanctuary Support Church and the action underway at the Rochester Unitarian Church. Peace UCC Church has a sanctuary housing facility; and the Sisters of St. Francis-Assisi and the Quaker congregation are Sanctuary Support Churches.

The current plan is to educate the CUMC congregation about the sanctuary need and identify CUMC individuals interested in helping with this social justice need by supporting other Sanctuary Churches in Rochester. An ad hoc team (Gary Lueck, Larry Segar, Mary Schmidt and Cooper Wiggen) has formed to lead this effort.

Staffing Changes

Bookkeeper, Darla Svenson, has stepped down from her position. The Leadership Board has determined that we will work with MFSI (Multiple Financial Services, Inc.) to handle our financial secretary responsibilities. Jenny from MFSI will be in the office on Mondays. She is available on the phone or by appointment at other times. We will continue our relationship with Accounting and Tax Associates for our payroll and bookkeeping. As we determine the most effective staffing configuration, we are appreciative of MFSI.

Also, CUMC member, Wendy Francis, will be stepping in to help in the office—producing bulletins and the newsletter, as well as other functions. Again, having Wendy present will allow us to determine the best configuration for our office functions. We are blessed. ~CUMC Leadership Board

Who Doesn't LOVE Chocolate on Valentine's Day?!



The answer is: the cocoa farmers who make as little \$0.50 per day growing and harvesting cocoa in Ghana and the Ivory Coast!

The cost of living in Ghana and the Ivory Coast is the same as it is in the USA. Thousands of children, as young as 5 years old, have been trafficked into slavery to work on cocoa farms.

The ugly truth is: most of the chocolate we buy in the U.S. is inexpensive because the people growing the cocoa live in poverty. They are poorly paid, or not paid at all, to keep our chocolate prices low.

Fair trade chocolate is different! Fair Trade Certification guarantees the cocoa farmers are paid enough money to support their families with food, education, and other essentials. Fair trade cooperatives receive both a fair price for the cocoa and a fair trade premium, which is spent to improve the community by building things like schools and health clinics. Fair trade prohibits child slave labor.

CUMC UWM (United Methodist Women) is working to educate our members and congregation about the importance of fair trade chocolate. Look for more information coming in the bulletin and look for the UMW fair trade table in the Commons on February 11th.

UMW and CUMC thank you in advance for supporting fair trade chocolate during the month of February!

Thrift on Fifth— Now Open Every First Sunday of the Month

Don't forget that Thrift on Fifth is open on Wednesdays from 4-7pm, on Saturday from 9am-noon, **and NOW on every first Sunday of the month from 10-11am!** \$1 for adult items. \$0.50 for children's items. Can't beat that price! Check it out and see what you can find!

All Are Welcome to: World Day of Prayer 2018

Friday, March 2nd, 10am
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
(2124 Viola Road NE, Rochester, Minnesota 55906)

Coffee, treats, fellowship and worship! The worship service will be begin at 10:30am. This year's focus is on the creation story of Genesis 1, with a theme of: "All God's Creation is Very Good!" written by the women of Suriname. They raise their voices to remind us that we are caretakers of God's creation.

To see a list of stories of what congregations and individuals have done to protect the environment, check out: www.umcccreationcare.org/stewardship-stories.



World Day of Prayer (WDP) is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative which runs under the motto, "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." Celebrated annually in over 170 countries, the movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions. Each year we share in a common Day of Prayer, and become closer in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. Offerings are collected for grants designated for women and children's programs around the globe.

Women are invited to a time of retreat and soul sustenance! Please save the date for a CUMC women's retreat April 13th-15th. Details will follow, but know this: Internationally known singer and songwriter Sara Thomsen and Pastor Elizabeth will lead this experience. You don't have to be a singer to be fed by this experience. Invite your friends!!! Please ask questions or let me know of your interest at: Elizabeth@cumethodist.com

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THE NEW TREE
 summer kids camp
 June 25-29
 save the date

THE GREEN VBS™
 Grow in Faith, Have Fun, Change the World.

High school youth...
 get ready...
 February 4
 5:30-7:30 @ CUMC
 Bring friends, bring
 food, get ready for
 football!!!

SUPERBOWL Party!

February 9 6-8 pm
 Bring a food or money donation for Channel One, or a
 clothes donation for Thrift on Fifth

BLUES winter valentines bash
 for ages 0-10
 cupcakes
 dancing
 games
 contests
 service project
 crafts
 puppets
 popcorn

Let's talk
 Wednesday, February 21 and 28
 7-8 pm
 Special guest:
 Teen COUNCIL
 8-12th grade youth and "their" adults welcome

Key!
 you know EVERYTHING about love,
 sexuality, dating, relationships, and
 gender, right?
 and your
 parents are TOTALLY on the same
 page.
 right?