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THE.

CHRIST  
UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY



2018

EDITION

NEW.



NEBRASKA WESLEYAN CHOIR  
Friday, January 5th at 7pm

SPIRIT.

WORSHIP DIRECTORY:  
8AM BELOVED (CHAPEL)  
9AM TRADITIONS (SANCTUARY)  
11AM ARISE! (ECC)



[www.facebook.com/cumethodist](http://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)  
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11:30am Sunday Radio Broadcast on KOLM  
(1520 AM)  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) "Christ United Methodist  
Church Rochester MN"

# Pastor's Pen

WITH ELIZABETH MACAULAY, LEAD PASTOR

## “I'm excited to see what 2018 has in store for us.”

There is nothing like a sea of lit faces on Christmas Eve. Candle light is passed from person to person and Silent Night wafts through the Sanctuary and we are as present to life and hope as ever we are. Here at Christ UMC we welcomed nearly 1,000 people to give witness on Christmas Eve.

I am still full of the power of that shared light. Advent and Christmas of 2017 were rich in joy, depth, and blessing.

And, a new year commences.

Thank you. Thank you for making 2017 a year that will always be marked as a pivot point for our church. After years of praying and planning, we committed to providing a powerful and ongoing witness. Through our TRANSFORM Campaign we assured our continued ability to welcome all people for worship and life.

2018 will be a year of construction. Bids are being put out for the work that needs to be done and new life will be visible as we replace old windows, refurbish restrooms and create a child care and family resource center on the ground floor.

Other highlights of January?

We will welcome the Nebraska Wesleyan Choir on Friday the 5th of January at 7:00 PM. Don't miss this concert!!!!

On the 28th we will celebrate our Annual Meeting time of hearing reports and celebrating ministry. We'll gather at noon around tables and will share Chocolate Decadence together. We'll get you details about that. We'll be voting on our budget and leadership for the year to come.

We are bidding farewell to Nikki Gensmer. Nikki has been our Communications Coordinator for three years. After going on two of the Guatemala Mission Trips through CUMC and one through Spring Garden Lutheran Church (Cannon Falls, MN) Nikki has felt the call to be engaged in ministry in Guatemala. She will join the Lages in ministry through Salud Y Paz. We will miss Nikki deeply even as we celebrate her considerable touch on this ministry and her presence of blessing wherever she is.

Meanwhile, people continue to come here for meals on Wednesday nights and Saturdays. Folks are hearing about the Thrift on Fifth store. Warm coats give credence to our belief that in clothing those in need we are responding to the needs of the people Jesus calls us to reach.

Are you inviting people to share church with you? Truly, your co-workers and friends are looking for a place to connect, make meaning, and grow in soul and strength. Your church offers all of those things. We are so blessed to gather around tables to share scripture and classes, spiritual practices, laughter, tears and hope.

As the people of Jesus the Christ we have a unique and powerful calling. We are called to live into a life that proclaims grace; through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

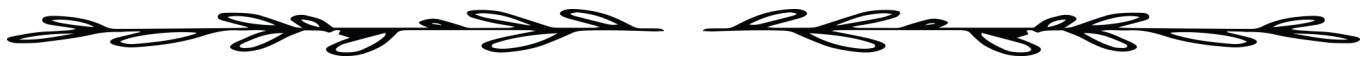
That's good news.

Happy New Year! I'm excited to see what 2018 has in store for us.



Pastor Elizabeth

### Holly, Jolly, Trolley Photos:



**YOU ARE INVITED to join us for FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY!**



This 9-week class will be held EVERY MONDAY EVENING from 6:30 - 8:30pm beginning January 8, 2018. To register for the class and purchase your FPU Membership kit - go to: <https://fpu.com/1052861>.

For more information, email [FPUCoachColleen@gmail.com](mailto:FPUCoachColleen@gmail.com) or call Colleen at 507-254-3455.



### Poinsettia Delivery

Many of the poinsettias that beautified the Sanctuary were given and delivered to members who are bereaved, homebound, or are living in care centers and assisted living facilities. Poinsettias were delivered on December 26<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank those of you who so graciously took time to make the deliveries. Thank you to the persons who made the many phone calls to the recipients. We also appreciate the help from the custodians and Gwen, the Office Manager. Without all of your help, this important ministry could not have been accomplished.



~Elaine Bauman



The next **Mission and Social Justice meeting** will be on Monday, January 8th at 6pm in Room 145.

All are welcome!

Have an article for the *New Spirit*? Please submit it to [nikki@cumethodist.com](mailto:nikki@cumethodist.com) by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Late articles may be very tiny or invisible.

Thank you and happy writing!

## TRANSFORM



Can you believe it? The TRANSFORM capital campaign is winding down and by all measures it has been an unqualified success! The Holy Spirit has moved among us and you, members and friends of Christ United Methodist Church, have pledged at the time of this writing \$1,428,922 to fund the renovation, restoration and remodeling of our church home to make it a more welcoming place for all, and to accommodate THRIVE!: a family resource and child care program designed to break the cycle of poverty.

The transformation has already begun! The THRIVE! 501c3 corporation has been established, a director for THRIVE! has been hired, and the THRIVE! Board of Directors is

hard at work in anticipation of welcoming children ranging in age from infancy to pre-kindergarten to our space in September 2018. Our building will undergo extensive renovation this coming year to address the list of projects prioritized by the Trustees and the Master Facilities Team, including the remodeling necessary to open THRIVE! in our lower level.

In this time of celebration, we as co-chairs of the capital campaign wish to give thanks for the literally tens of thousands of hours over the past three years given by our clergy, church staff, Leadership Board, and teams formed to dream, vision, research, and plan. We thank those who made up the TRANSFORM Capital Campaign Steering Committee. We wish to extend special thanks to Rev. John Laster of Horizons Stewardship who guided, encouraged and cajoled us to this great outcome. And, **thank you** for your generosity!

~Bobbi and Doug Nichols, Lois and Bill McGuire

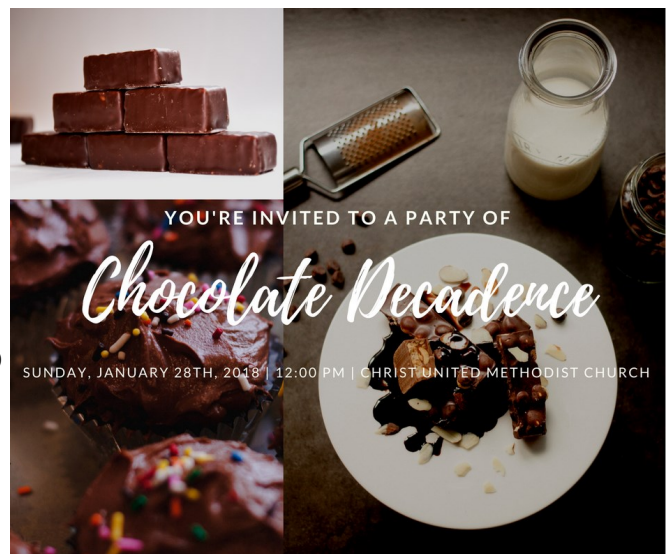
### Annual Gathering: *Chocolate Decadence*

We'll gather at 12:10pm in the Commons for an update on our shared ministry. We'll hear reports, vote on new leadership and hear about our new budget and progress toward the building projects undertaken.

All this, and chocolate too!

Please find the best recipe you can to share chocolate - for main dishes and for dessert. Prizes for the most inventive use of chocolate will be given. Or, if that feels too crazy, just bring a pot luck dish to share. We've had a wonderful time at this gathering in the past.

Our District Superintendent Cynthia Williams will be presiding. Come and share in the goodness of ministry and chocolate!



### Hope for Houston



We are heading to Houston for Hurricane Harvey clean up from January 28th-February 3rd! There is still room to sign up if you are willing to pay any extra airfare: cost is \$550. Please pray for our amazing volunteers heading south!— George Romano, Jen Fugate and Kyle Eickman, Carol Drath, Brad and Nancy Currier, Mary Schmidt, Karen Fields, Kaitlin Black, Nikki and Arlette Gensmer, and Katy Lee

**From Deedee Odell, *United Methodist Women President:***

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

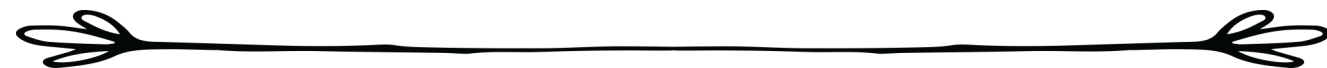
The United Methodist Women of Christ United Methodist Church have just completed an exciting successful year!

**Thank you for supporting:** 2 rummage sales, nut sales, Emma Norton "Give From the Heart" Tree, Christmas cookies/candy, Christmas German Coffee/Tea.

**So we could provide for:** Emma Norton, Women's Shelter, Dorothy Day House, Lages in mission, Community centers and schools in the US, international support projects that advocate for women, children and youth .

We have 5 super circles that are gaining membership and planning some new and exciting events this next year. Come talk to us on UMW Sunday on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

~Deedee Odell, *President*



**C U Wednesdays is on break until January 10th! We'll C U THEN!**



**Our Next Baptism Class**

All are welcome at this 9-10am class with the pastors on Saturday, January 13th! From parents planning to have kids, to children and adults who have never been baptized, this is a great step in learning more about baptism at Christ UMC. Come ready for playtime for kids, snacks, coffee and good conversation. Sign up by contacting the church office; 507 289 4019. Please RSVP!



**Appalachia Service Project:**



Our next meeting is February 4th at 1pm. The next trip's teams will be announced!



**Third Sunday Forum: January 21st, 10:15 – 11:15am in the Hamline Room**  
**How Does Elder Network Serve Our Community?**  
**Ann Fahy-Gust, *Elder Network Community Engagement***

Elder Network is a nonprofit organization founded in 1988 in Rochester, Minnesota. Their mission is to make sure that individuals impacted by the limiting effects of aging have an optimal quality of life. They believe this is also true for the caregivers of their clients. Elder Network serves three counties in Southeast Minnesota; Olmsted, Wabasha and Winona through support of non-medical services to elders in their own homes— an individual residence, apartment or elder community facility.

As the Community Engagement person, Ann wears many hats and is responsible for: *Volunteer Recruiting & Retention, Donor Management, Outreach, Social Media and Communications, Education, and Fundraising/ Grants.* For five years before moving to Elder Network, Ann worked at the Rochester Area Foundation as their *Grants and Donor Management Officer.*



**Pastor Nancy is Proud to Announce the New Parish Ministry Team!**

Introducing the new Parish Ministry Team!: Jill Shapiro, Jeff Ward, Linda Youlden, Kendall Hughes, Stew Swanson and Mae Belle Erickson (pictured in photos from top to bottom, left to right)

**What is a Parish Ministry Team?** They are five lay people and one clergy person who have felt called to offer caring ministry to our church members, friends and guests. They will provide listening, support, and encouragement to those undergoing a variety of life challenges. They will meet with people who are grieving, who are facing serious illness, who have had a job loss or are going through divorce. In addition, they will offer visits to families with new babies and minister to our guests who are in town to seek medical treatment.

They have gone through extensive training on listening, confidentiality, prayer, grief and loss. Training has also included end of life concerns, spiritual support, family systems, the needs of children, youth and senior adults. They have also received training in offering communion and anointing to those who wish to receive it.

We will continue to offer the ministry of lay visitors to those who are homebound as well as the widowed persons ministry team who offer caring ministry to those who have lost a spouse. If you would like a visit from the Parish Ministry Team, a Lay Visitor or the Widowed Persons Ministry Team, please contact the office at 507 289 4019.



**Recap of the UMW Christmas Tea**



Eighty women came together on a December afternoon to enjoy a German Christmas Coffee/Tea. We enjoyed a wonderful German Christmas program organized by Ruth Van Vugt, fantastic food planned by Elene Pattinson and our gentlemen servers. Thank you, all, for your support.

Check out the Historical Window displaying beautiful German items from the homes of: Ruth Van Vugt, Elene Pattinson, Lois McDougall and Deedee Odell.

The United Methodist Women also rang Salvation Army Bells for 11 hours on a Monday in December. There were 30 UMW and family members participating.

**Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings**  
**January – May 2018**

**(Note: child care is available for small groups and classes upon request)**

### Small Groups

What is your understanding of creating committed Christ-followers for the transformation of the world? John Wesley believed that *participation* in small groups produces "faith that overcomes the world". This is not a faith that we can grow on our own. Join others in growing your commitment to be a follower of Christ.

#### Small Groups you are welcome to join:

- 1:00pm – Tuesday – Fireside Room
- 11:00am – Tuesday – Men's Discussion Group in the Library
- 1:00pm – Friday – Fireside Room
- 10:15am – Sunday - Library

#### New small groups are being formed:

Sign up and information about new small groups will be in the Commons, January 14th, 2018.

If you are already in a small group or looking to form a new one, stop by the **Faith → Life** table in the Commons, January 14, 2018, to view books, videos, curriculum and suggestions for future study. You can contact Aileen Williams, Kathy Estry, or Pam Lund (members of the **Faith → Life**) for further information about the many resources available for small group study.

### Young Adult Bible Study

This winter, we need some soul-food for a divided climate. We will take 5 weeks and look at "Different but not Divided: Practicing a Third Way" from The Work of the People. First gathering is open to any and all curious about hanging with other young adults. Dinner gathering at 7pm, Sunday January 14th, at Pastor Katy's apartment complex. For exact address, email [Katy@cumethodist.com](mailto:Katy@cumethodist.com) or text 651 399 8605.

### Classes

#### Inquiring Spirits – After the 9AM worship service (except Third Sunday of each month) in the Hamline Room

Discussion varies on books, videos, and other sources to investigate and challenge theological boundaries. The group enjoys occasional picnics and potlucks. All are welcome. Facilitators: Hank Kliever and Ed Shafer

#### Contemporary Issues – After the 9AM worship service, Room 146

Discussion is centered on current issues, news reports, and media viewpoints that shape public opinions. A United Methodist faith perspective will inform each unique session. Visitors and seekers are especially welcome. Facilitators: Jim Colville and Rev. Frank Nichols

#### TED Talk Worship – Wednesdays, 6:00 – 6:30PM in the Education Conference Center

Come to CU Wednesday for dinner (5:30 – 6:00) and stay for a relevant TED Talk followed by discussion.

#### Parents and Other Anchors – Sundays, January 7 – January 28 10:15AM, Room 145

- **January 7:** Navigating busy-ness
- **January 14:** Navigating technology
- **January 21:** Navigating healthy relationships
- **January 28:** Navigating mental health

parents,  
and other  
anchors



an "anchor": someone who mentors,  
grandparents, parents, teaches, serves,  
leads, prays for, cares about children and  
youth.

### **Mindful Spiritual Practices: Finding Your Heart's True Home – Sundays, January 7 – February 4 After 9AM worship service, Mettam Conference Room**

This class will introduce the following practices that can enrich and deepen your spiritual life: meditation, centering prayer, journaling, and spiritual direction. You will be given practical tools to help you find methods that are personally enjoyable and effective. Facilitator: Kendall Hughes, Chaplin at the Federal Medical Center

### **Financial Peace University – Mondays, January 8 – March 5 6:30 – 8:30PM, Mettam Conference Room**

Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities led by a volunteer coordinator, this plan shows how to get rid of debt, manage money, and spend and save wisely. This class will meet every Monday evening from 6:30 – 8:30pm at CUMC in the Mettam Conference Room starting January 8, 2018 for 9 weeks. To register and purchase the FPU kit (1 per family unit) prior to January 8<sup>th</sup> visit: <https://fpu.com/1052861>. For more information email [FPUCoachColleen@gmail.com](mailto:FPUCoachColleen@gmail.com) or visit the "events" at [cumethodist.com](http://cumethodist.com).

### **Lenten Series: Saving Jesus Redux – Wednesdays, February 21 – March 28 6:00 – 7:00PM, Education Conference Center**

During the 6 weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter, Pastor Elizabeth Macaulay will lead us in rediscovering Jesus for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Why Be An Organ Donor?? – Sunday, February 25, 10:15 – 11:00AM, Room 145**

Cathy Devine and Heather Weber, Donate Life Ambassadors, will share their personal stories and provide basic facts and information about organ, eye and tissue donation followed by Q & A. Come and learn how to save a life and offer hope and healing.

### **Third Sunday Forums**

10:15 – 11AM in the Hamline Room. All are welcome! These forums cover a wide range of topics of interest and are given by insightful presenters. No registration required for forums; just bring your cup of coffee and enjoy the presentation followed by Q & A

- January 21:**                    **"How Does Elder Network Serve Our Community?"**  
Ann Fahy-Gust, Elder Network Community Engagement
- February 18:**                **"Immigrant Justice Issues and Sanctuary Church"**  
Phil Wheeler, Rochester Unitarian Church
- March 18:**                    **"What's Happening with THRIVE!?"**  
Tanya Goretzki, THRIVE! Director
- April 15:**                     **"What is the United Methodist's for Karios Response?"**  
**(Answering the urgent call from Palestinian Christians)**  
Carol Brunholz and Hank Kliewer
- May 20:**                        **"Christian Responses To Gun Violence"**



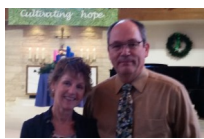
Watch the bulletins, Fresh Spirit, email newsletters and the following New Spirit newsletters for other offerings as they become available! Print, tear, or cut out this whole page as an easy reference sheet to keep in your purse/wallet, put on the refrigerator, or hang by your home calendar!



## The CUMC Book of Life

### LIVING, CELEBRATING & REMEMBERING WITH YOU

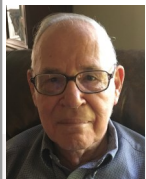
#### New Members:



#### Roger and Janet Guderian

Transfer of Membership from Evangel UMC

We are excited to be here! We are returning to CUMC and it feels like coming home. We first met while singing in the CUMC choir in 1984 and were married in the Chapel in 1986. Two of our sons were baptized at CUMC. Roger has worked at IBM most of the last 35 years and I am a registered nurse with many passions. I currently split my time between Olmsted County Public Health and Mayo Clinic and am also a hospice volunteer.



#### Ron Guderian

Retired Clergy of United Methodist Church

I was a United Methodist pastor for 40 years in Minnesota. I retired in 1992. I served churches in Ely, Mora, Duluth, Newport, Raymond, and Brooklyn Center. I moved to Rochester two years ago to be closer to my daughter's and son's families. I like CUMC because of the music and that the church bus picks me up at Shorewood. (Thank you!) I like to read, listen to music and be around my family.

#### January Volunteer Spotlight:

Flower Ministry – Christmas Poinsettias— Elaine and Ken Bauman

The Flower Ministry team has been in place for many years. This is the third Christmas that Ken and Elaine Bauman have lead the way. What does it take to beautify the church and brighten the lives of a bereaved or homebound person at the holidays?

The first thing that happens: Ken and Pastor Nancy determine a rough estimate of poinsettias to order from Flowers by Jerry. They can determine this by using the last few years order numbers. We call that in by the flower shop's deadline date and confirm the number by the beginning of December.

Pastor Nancy and the office staff provide Elaine and her volunteers with lists for calling and cards for delivering and order forms for the bulletins and newsletter. Orders from the good folks of CUMC start pouring in. The staff and money counters keep track of this during Advent.

By mid-December, Ken's decorating volunteers are ready to receive the large delivery of poinsettias into the Commons for set up in the Sanctuary; some in the ECC and the Chapel. Thanks to the custodial staff for having the plant stands up in the Sanctuary, the crew can get started placing right away. The flowers were so big this year that more space was needed! The kneelers became impromptu plant stands as did the lily sandboxes.

This year, over sixty poinsettias went out the door to bring a splash of color to a church member who may be homebound or bereaved. Elaine says it's such a nice way for people to know they are remembered and thought of at church when they can't be active, and it brings beauty into their lives.

When all is said and done, about twenty volunteers partake in the Christmas Poinsettia Flower Ministry each year. We thank you for purchasing the plants, the Baumans for helping, those who lead the way for this ministry, and the current volunteers who help Elaine and Ken bring beauty to Christ United Methodist Church— in it's Sanctuary and beyond! (Picture Submission: Nikki Gensmer, Interview and Report Submission: Gwen Ravenhorst)

#### Deaths:

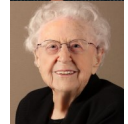
Gary Ward Coffin

April 3, 1945 – December 6, 2017



Velva Ara Gitsch

December 28, 1911 – December 11, 2017



Sandra Lynn Naylor

November 11, 1963 – December 15, 2017



## Church Safety Committee



In early November, Pastor Elizabeth asked that a committee be formed to assess safety at Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC). A Church Safety committee was formed. Roy Schroeder, Paul Kirkham, Jerry Blaisdell, Emanuel Serstock, Jon Harrington, and Diane Ilstrup volunteered to be on the committee. The purpose of the committee is to go through the safety plans we have in place for CUMC and revise them, if necessary, or develop safety plans that may be needed.

We are currently developing a document that would spell out directions to staff and volunteers as to what to do for evacuation for fire, tornado and medical emergency. We will also be developing a plan for emergency and evacuation for an active shooter.

The committee has had Custom Alarm review our current placement of cameras and walked the building with us, suggesting new camera placements.

Officer Hilderbrant from the Rochester Police Department Crime Prevention came to our last meeting to review premise security and help us with possible changes in how we secure the building. He also provided us with a number of documents that we could use as we develop plans. The Fire Marshall will be meeting with us in January to go over our evacuation procedures for a fire.

As plans are revised or developed, we plan to have training with our staff and volunteers. We also plan to have an informational meeting, with anyone in the congregation that is interested in the church's safety plans.

We will be looking for volunteers to be on a CUMC safety team that would be trained to help in evacuations and medical emergencies, on Sundays. If interested, please contact Diane Ilstrup at [deilstrup@msn.com](mailto:deilstrup@msn.com).



### Guatemalan Blessings— A Note from Our Guatemala Missioners

On Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, John, myself and our new Executive Director, Kristen, attended a special service led by Pastor Sebastian at the Alfa y Omega Methodist Church in Camanchaj (near where our clinic is located). As you may recall, Pastor Sebastian leads our weekly devotional at the clinic, and last month two volunteers from Maine presented a handmade communion table to his church. We have now witnessed the dedication of the table and it's first use for communion; we were honored to join the local congregation to sing, worship and share communion with them. Pastor Sebastian was kind enough to preach in Spanish as well as Quiche (the local dialect in this area) so that we could follow along. What a privilege it is to share in the deepening of this relationship with the local church here in Guatemala! We are excited to be here to watch the New Year unfold. Thank you all for your continued support! ~Jan Lage, *Missioner in Guatemala*





## Submit Your Lenten Devotionals!

One of the gifts of the forty days of Lent is the creation of a Christ UMC Lenten Devotional.

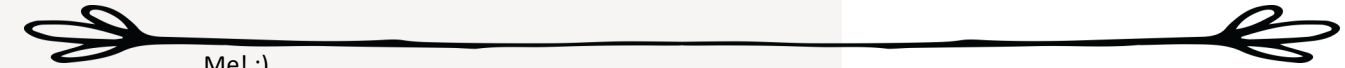
Every day church members are able to take in the words and reflections of other church members.

The writings revolve around a theme. This year the theme is: ***This Happened.***

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?

We ask that you write up those stories and submit them to Gwen Ravenhorst at [Gwen@cumethodist.com](mailto:Gwen@cumethodist.com). You can submit a favorite poem if that seems best. The stories will be sent out daily to our email list. We will print up a limited number of paper copies for those who don't use email.

**Deadline for submission is January 31st.** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentines' Day, February 14th. Please share your stories. We all grow in grace when we hear each other!



Me! :)



## My (Personal) Mission to Guatemala

After a few missions to Guatemala with CUMC and Spring Garden Lutheran Church, I have decided to pursue a longer mission— a year (or more) of personal service in Guatemala. I am excited to announce that I will be the Team Coordinator for Salud y Paz (the same organization you may have already heard about. We partner with them during our Missions to Guatemala and it is where John and Jan Lage are currently serving.)

People of CUMC— I write to you with MANY thanks. My three years here have been exciting and fruitful. It has been an adventure! You are an inspirational people that will hold a place in my mind and heart for years to come. I am excited to see what the future holds for you; I especially can't wait to see what THRIVE!, the art gallery, the Thrift on Fifth store, and community food share programs such as Food4Friends look like in a year or two— the possibilities are limitless. It's no secret that these have been some of my most favorite things to work on/with.

What I ask of you is simple— please stay in touch, won't you!? You can email me at [gensmern@gmail.com](mailto:gensmern@gmail.com) or find me on Facebook. I have a blog website in progress and will be sure to share when it's ready to view!

Check out my full mission story here: [www.youcaring.com/nikkigensmersmissiontoqueatemala](http://www.youcaring.com/nikkigensmersmissiontoqueatemala)

Wishing CUMC the best that 2018 has to offer! ~Nikki Gensmer, *Communications*

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Non Profit Organization  
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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. Email David@cumethodist.com to RSVP for the potluck before the concert. Don't miss the musical wonder!

