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April 2024

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT



Join us for worship every Sunday at 9am & 11am In-Person or Online

[Facebook.com/cumethodist](https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)

[YouTube.com/ChristUnitedMethodistChurchRochesterMN](https://www.youtube.com/ChristUnitedMethodistChurchRochesterMN)

Pastor's Pen

WITH PASTOR KIRKLAND



There's an African proverb that says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

And then there's this Washington Post article that I often recall whenever I'm around snow: "You don't have to be young to be a hotshot: Retirees and grandmas embrace snow tubing." That's a story of a group of snow tubing residents from Asbury Methodist Village, a senior living center in Gaithersburg, MD, which is similar to our Charter House and Homestead communities here in Rochester.

Those retirees in their 70s, 80s, and 90s - and some who had one or two new hips as well - took to the slopes and conquered a 900 foot long snow tubing run. There were some early falls, but soon the group got the hang of it.

One woman, whose husband is a former Olympic skier and was not interested in tubing, noted that the hard packed snow created many challenges, and occasionally threw people off their tubes as they slid down the run. Though they were going fast and having fun by going alone they often ended up on their own and stuck in the snow.

That's about when they realized that if they went down in groups of two or more they wouldn't spin around or get thrown from their tubes. Going in groups became the preferred method, not only because it kept them from falling off but because it also made them go faster.

The benefits of linking up with other snow tubers may not be new information for the more snow conscious Minnesotan, but the wisdom from such linking is worth revisiting. One of the snow tubers in the Washington Post story, Ann Lindley, age 74, reflected on her experience saying, "Oh man, this is so much fun. It's like a bird - you're flying, you're free, it's just exhilarating." Another person, Donne Engstrom, a lift operator at the slopes, had this to say about snow tubing: "If you're able to do it, you should. It's good exercise, and it makes you feel young again."

I find that sense of exhilaration and of rediscovered ability so compelling. In this particular story of a group of people, they went fast and, more significantly, they traveled beyond their self-assumptions by linking together arm-in-arm and flying down a snow tube run.

One more quote. This one from Margaret Hartwell, age 76, who said on the bus ride home, "I feel myself again....I think mostly people know what their body can and can't do, and if I had been apprehensive, I wouldn't have done it. I want to get back to where I was - I want my life back. And today was a good start."

We all have desires for how to get back to where we were, whether in our work, relationships, physical abilities, or even an availability of time so we can do things like go snow tubing on a weekday. We may have apprehensions about trying something new, yet this group of retirees shows us that taking a leap of faith with others helps overcome risks and worries, and even makes the journey fun and exciting.

I believe this snow tubing story is a modern day parable for the church. Go together linking arms. Have faith in the journey and you'll share an exhilarating ride. And when we get to our destination we'll see that we're not the same people we were at the start. We become people who make it together, by the grace of God, and along the way get our lives back.

All it takes is a willingness to try something new, together.

Happy Easter, church.

Be well and keep the faith,

Pastor Kirkland

Announcements

Join the Breakfast Fellowship Group

Join others from CUMC for conversation, fellowship, and a good breakfast at Charlie's Restaurant. The group meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month of at 8:30am at Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest shopping Center. Their next meeting is on Wednesday, April 10th.

Contact Dean and Grace Swanson (dlswanon@charter.net) or Amy Humphrey (avanzue@hotmail.com) for more information.

College Scholarship through the CUMC Foundation

The Christ United Methodist Church Foundation supports programs and ministries at CUMC through endowed funds. Gifts to the Foundation help sustain CUMC's mission and ministry for generations to come.

The Foundation is currently accepting applications for the Barbara Griffiths-Peterson Scholarship, which was established to support students entering their second year or beyond of undergraduate studies at a college or university. This scholarship provides \$1,000 for CUMC members who meet the eligibility requirements. Applications are being accepted until Friday, May 31st, 2024.

You may learn more about the Christ United Methodist Church Foundation at cumethodist.com/foundation.

Save the Dates for Upcoming Worship Celebrations

Children's Worship on May 5

Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday, Sunday, May 18

Graduate Sunday, Sunday, June 2

General Conference Info

The General Conference, the top policy making body of The United Methodist Church, will meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 23 - May 3. The theme for the gathering is "...and know that I am God" from Psalm 46.

General Conference has not met since the special session held in 2019, when delegates adopted temporary procedures for churches to disaffiliate from the denomination. These procedures ended on December 31, 2023 and saw approximately 7,600 churches from the US receive permission to disaffiliate, including 23 churches from the Minnesota Annual Conference.

This session of General Conference will consider proposed changes to the denomination's global structure, including adopting a regional model and reducing the number of general agencies. General Conference will also consider removing the restrictive language that includes prohibitions against LGBTQ+ Christians from being ordained as clergy or being married in United Methodist Churches.

Though these prohibitions are found in The United Methodist Book of Discipline (the official rule book for the denomination) Christ UMC and the Minnesota Conference have both taken steps to conscientiously object to these prohibitions and ensure the full participation of LGBTQ+ persons in the life of the church.

cont. --->

Announcements Cont.

The General Conference in April will also consider a series of revisions to the Social Principles, which are a series of teachings and guidance for how United Methodists may apply their faith with social issues. These proposed revisions follow an 8-year global project of dialogue, discernment, and development for these principles. CUMC's Contemporary Issues adult Sunday School class will study the proposed Revised Social Principles in April.

CUMC will provide regular updates about General Conference, including a special Sunday School class hosted by the Contemporary Issues class April 14th at 10am in Wesley Hall, as well as opportunities to meet in prayer and conversation about the General Conference's work. This will be a chance to learn more about the specific legislation being proposed at General Conference and how those decisions will impact CUMC. We'll also share further opportunities for prayer and conversation through the month.

You may also use the following links to learn more and follow developments from General Conference:

2024 General Conference Website

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

UM News Article on "What to Know About General Conference Proposals"

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/what-to-know-about-general-conference-proposals>

Resources and Information about General Conference from the Reconciling Ministries Network

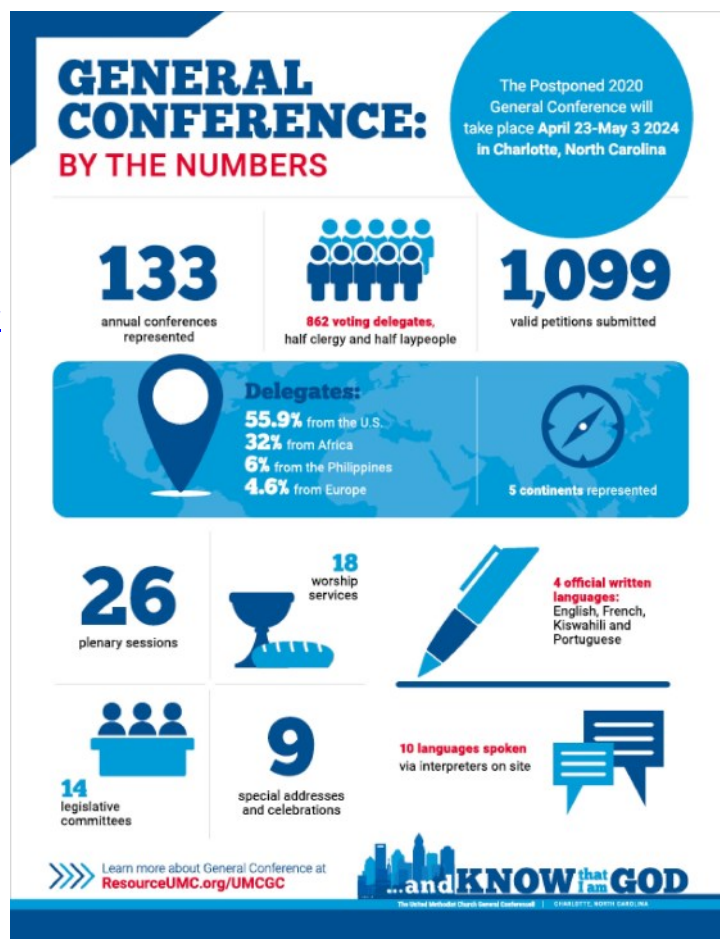
<https://rmnetwork.org/gc2024/>

Revised Social Principles

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/revised-social-principles-18279767>

Pray daily for General Conference with Minnesota Methodists

<https://www.facebook.com/minnesotamethodists>



Learn more about General Conference with two of Minnesota's delegates at the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations Spring Social Gathering April 13, 11:30-2:30 at Hennepin Avenue UMC and online at www.mnrcumc.org

The program "What Is General Conference" will be presented by Pastor Carol Zaagsma and Dave Nuckols, Minnesota Annual Conference delegates to General Conference.


Children's Ministry

&


Youth Ministry

Children and Youth Ministry Updates

Our children and youth have been learning about the practices of Lent and connecting forgiveness with daily living. By the time this is published we will have had our Lock In and celebrated Easter! Thank you to everyone who donated candy and trinkets for our egg hunt prizes.

ASP Updates

Thank you for your support! You purchased 720 caramel rolls on Easter! Thank you for helping fund our trip and giving our team the opportunity to work together.

Mark your calendar for our Trivia Night! Make plans to join us for our second annual ASP Trivia Night. This event was a success last year with laughter, tough competition, bribes and unique prizes.

April

3: No CU Wednesday (RPS Spring Break)

7: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

10: CU Wednesday (see schedule at cumethodist.com/cuwednesday)

14: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

17: CU Wednesday

21: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

6:30pm ASP Trivia

24: CU Wednesday

28: 9:00am and 11:00pm Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group



Support our 2024 ASP Team

TRIVIA NIGHT

6:30-8:00PM
APRIL 28, 2024
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ASP BUILDING KINDNESS
EPHESIANS 4:32

DONATE NOW!

Children and Youth cont.

Summer Registrations are coming!

June 16-21 Camp Week at Northern Pines With three camps to choose from this week, our 3rd-12th graders will be having some great adventures. Discovery 1 is for 9-12 year olds and is a traditional camp. Junior High/Senior High Camp is for 6th-12th grade. Games Galore and More is for 7-12th graders and is a week of board games, Dungeons and Dragons and traditional camp activities with a gamer twist. For more information see www.campminnesota.org or talk to Pastor Amanda. **Thank you to the Christ UMC Foundation for providing a \$100 campership for each kid from our church going to a UMC camp!**

July 31-August 4 Christ UMC in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness This is a base camp experience with paddling in the BWCA, hiking to waterfalls and time to connect with God and others. This is an intergenerational all ages trip. Talk to Pastor Amanda to reserve your spot.

August 5-9 Just Like Me Vacation Bible School Potty-Trained through rising 5th graders. 6th grade and up are invited to be servant leaders. We are excited about our gardening themed VBS from the national Reconciling Ministries group.

September 13-15 (tentative) Christ UMC at Whitewater State Park



event for you to use as well).

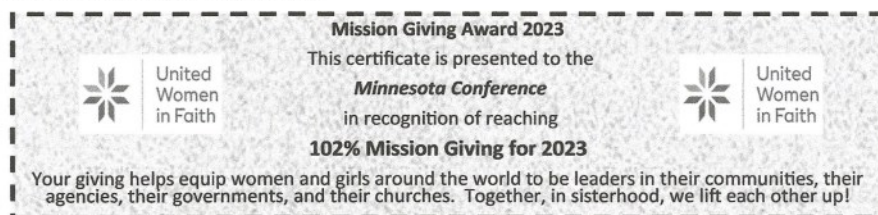
You are invited to the United Women in Faith 2024 Tea. Come to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party on April 20th from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Tickets will be on sale in the Commons on Sunday, April 7th for \$25.

Have questions or would like to help? Ask the committee: Marjie Blaisdell, Susan Duncanson, Rebecca Harrington, Kathy Lawson, Deedee Odell, Jane Schmidt, Daphne Soleil.

The Mad Hatter and Alice would enjoy seeing you with a hat or fascinator or flower in your hair! (There will hats available at the

The UWF Women of Christ UMC would like you thank you for supporting all our many projects so we could fulfill our pledge. We are very proud to be a recipient of this Mission Giving Certificate.

Marion Hanson, our Minnesota Conference UWFaith President, has shared this **GOOD NEWS** with us...it's time to celebrate! Minnesota **exceeded** its **2023 Pledge to Mission** and has been recognized by UWFaith. Our financial gifts turned into miracles for women, children and youth everywhere.



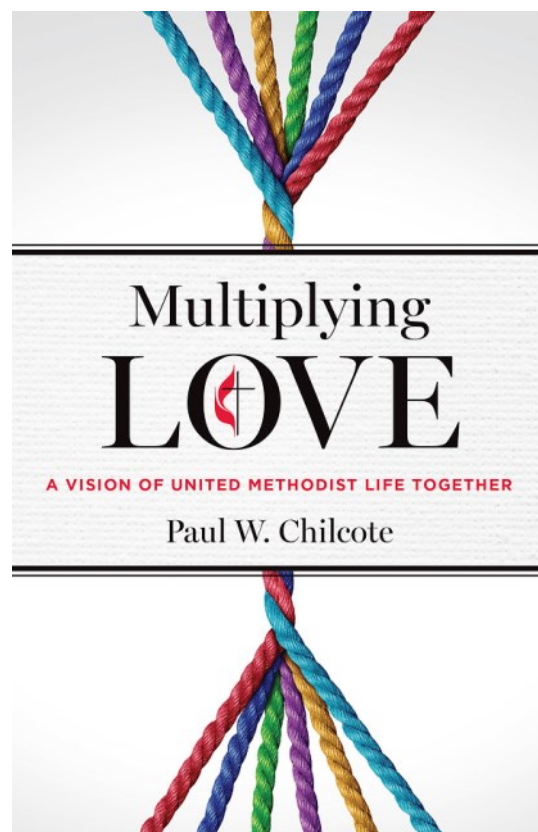




Multiplying Love Worship Series

As we move toward General Conference in late April, we'll spend our worship season this month reflecting on the roots and possibilities of the United Methodism. Our worship series will be drawn from the book *Multiplying Love* by Paul W. Chilcote with additional resources provided by the Minnesota Bishop and Cabinet. Copies of "Multiplying Love" are available for \$10 in the church office.

As part of this series, on April 28th we'll host Rev. Emily Carson as our preacher for worship. Rev. Carson is the Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop for Generosity, Stewardship and Financial Administration of the ELCA Southeastern Minnesota Synod and will offer an ecumenical perspective on what it means to be an inclusive church.



Thank you for your Angel Tree Donations for the Rochester Alternative Learning Center



"We're blown away by the generosity of your congregation and their donations. Our food pantry and resource room shelves are full - so wonderful!"

Sweta Patel - Rochester ALC
Community School Site Coordinator



Caring Ministries

Christ United Methodist Church

Standing five stories high, the red brick building was gloomy and imposing in the late afternoon November sky. After shouting my sister's name into the speaker, the heavily locked steel gate opened, and I parked my worn out maroon Chevy in the lot closest to the building. Hugging my coat close, I made my way to the security door and was ushered in by the guard on duty. There I was, 16 years old, scared, alone, and angry at my sister, who had gotten in trouble with the law again. This time they had sentenced her to this facility for troubled teens, where she would stay for two weeks.

Most of my memories from those visits I've buried deep inside, except for the image of the Serenity Prayer displayed prominently in every hallway and classroom: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." I came to despise that prayer (one time even going so far as ripping it up) because I came to associate it with hurt, embarrassment, and a keen sense of isolation and confusion.

And so I was completely bamboozled when the Serenity Prayer snuck its way into my life not long ago.

His name was Michael. He was 34 years old and dying of cancer. He told me his life during his teenage years was driven by an addiction to alcohol and drugs, but at age 30 rehab finally took hold. He had four years of repairing his relationships when cancer began to quickly spread throughout his body. He was now actively dying. "Can we say the Lord's Prayer together?" he asked during my first chaplain visit with him. "You lead, and I'll follow," I told him. And Michael began, "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things...." What?! Michael wasn't reciting the words of the Lord's Prayer but of the Serenity Prayer, which had become so instrumental to his own life's evolution that it had become the central tenet of his faith. Taken off guard, by rote I repeated, "...I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." Words that I had long suppressed now came flowing out.

I began to cry. Not just for Michael, whose beautiful, enchanting physical presence would soon end, but also for my sister, who braved her own battles with addiction and came out tattered and worn and beautiful in her own way. I cried, too, for myself, for a naïve and hurting girl who couldn't understand that God is, most especially, with those who are hurting, forlorn, overwhelmed, suppressed.

I've come to realize that the Serenity Prayer is the perfect antidote to the human experience. It teaches us that the battles and challenges of life exist, no matter how much we try to fight them off and how much we plead with God to give us a life filled with ease, comfort, security, and success.

It teaches us, too, that while we cannot control much of life itself, we can control how we respond to life's overwhelm, how we face this chapter of struggle in our lives.

Most importantly, it tells us that we don't face the battles and challenges of life alone. We are cocooned in a Love so gentle and immense that it takes stillness to feel it.

I can faintly hear Michael's soft voice as he continued on with the prayer: "Living one day at a time, accepting hardships as the pathway to peace."

Dr. Peggy Johnson, Minister for Congregational Care

Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings



Third Sunday Forum

April 21, 2024, 10:15am, Wesley Hall

Rochester's Food Forest and Community Gardens,

Presented by Kelly Rae Kirkpatrick

Kelly Rae Kirkpatrick created "Plant a seed" initiative in 2017 to inspire a better understanding of our food system. Through partnerships, Kelly brought The Seed Library, the MLK Community Food and Learning Garden, Community Coffeehouse Composting, and free educational programming such as Local Food 101 to Rochester. She funded the Olmsted County 2021 Food Security Assessment with a grant from UMN SE Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, which led to the formation of the Olmsted County Food Security Coalition. Kelly loves to teach folks how to grow food, design sustainable spaces for pollinators, and provide fresh vegetables to low-access/income neighbors from her FREE VEG table each summer. Most recently she has joined with others to create the Slatterly Park Community Food Forest.

Previous forums are archived at: <https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn>

Click on our playlists tab, then, "Third Sunday Forum."

Sunday Classes

Contemporary Issues

Host: Joel Charlson

Time: Sundays at 10:10am

Place: In-Person (Room 146) and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?pwd=VXFEK3I6UVRWeFR0bzRjeGR5VUlmQT09>

If you are interested, email Joel at joel.charlson@gmail.com to receive the weekly *Wired Word* or join us on Zoom or drop into room 146!

General Conference Discussion April 28, 10am in Wesley Hall & Zoom (Meeting ID 814 1844 8754)

Inquiring Spirits

Hosts: Ed Shafer

Time: Sundays at 10:15am

Place: In-Person (Room 145) and Zoom

Discussion varies on books, videos, and other sources to investigate and challenge theological boundaries. For further information contact Ed at shaferchurch@hotmail.com

Knit One, Pray Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

Time: Wednesdays 10:30am-12:00pm

Place: Skype, 3rd Wednesdays are in-person in the Fireside Room.

Contact Marjie at mablaisdell@gmail.com if interested in joining on Skype or just come on the 3rd Wednesday!



Faith → Life: Cont.

Connect Groups

View a complete listing of groups and classes with more information at cumethodist.com/faith-life

Breakfast Fellowship

Hosts: Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson

Time: Wednesday, April 10th at 8:30am

Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center

Men's Coffee Group

Host: Dick Estry

Time: Thursdays at 8:00am

Place: In person (Room 145) and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503377386?pwd=czVQNzIxTTE1eHdvdmgzZlBXdmsxZz09>

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: Sunday, April 21st, 4:00 – 6:30pm

Place: Member's Home

Singles and couples are welcome. We chat, play cards (no experience necessary) and share light snacks. Questions or interest contact Brian at bkwebbus@gmail.com or text Millie at 608-212-9706.

CU Wednesdays: BeADisciple Bible Study

Hosts: Pastor Kirkland

Time: Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30pm (after CU Wednesday dinner)

Place: Room 145

**BeADisciple Bible study group will also serve dinner at CU Wednesday on April 17.*

Dinner/Lunch Club

Groups of 5-8 people share a meal and conversation 2 or 3 times in each other's homes or restaurants. A great way to build friendships within our CUMC family. Contact Marjie Blaisdell at mablaisdell@gmail.com or Mary Schmidt at ronocomb@yahoo.com if interested.

Theology on Brew

No Theology on Brew in April.

Tea and Tacos

Host: Armanda Vanderheiden

Time: Saturdays from 10:00am-12:00pm

Place: Room 145

Book Study and conversation, Saturdays 10:00AM-12:00PM. We also encourage you to join us for the Mad Hatter Women's Tea on April 20th For more info about this group , contact Armanda at 507-261-2123 or email at Justgot2havejesus@gmail.com. You can also join our Facebook group "Tea and Tacos" for more info.

Faith → Life: Cont.

**Saturday Noon Meals**

The SNM program continues to serve over 70 nutritious meals each Saturday. We could not accomplish this work without our numerous volunteers who spend Saturday mornings in the CUMC kitchen preparing a meal and in Wesley Hall greeting and serving our guests.

An important collaboration has begun between the SNM ministry program and the Three Rivers Restorative Justice program. One of the missions of the Three Rivers Restorative Justice program is to "offer opportunities to repair the harm to the extent possible through involvement with victims and communities that are based on respect, accountability, dialogue and rehabilitation." Youth involved with the Three Rivers Restorative Justice program have been volunteering with the SNM program during the past several months and have become valued volunteers. We appreciate this collaboration and ability to blend these two programs in serving varied individuals within the Rochester community.

Additional information will be shared in the coming months regarding a possible more defined collaboration with medical students from the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. We have had medical students volunteer with SNMs since the fall of 2021 and appreciate the opportunity to possibly become a part of their educational experience.

Thank you to all of our community members who provide donations and to our volunteers. We feel privileged to move into our 30th year of supporting our community through this ministry program.

Thank you for your support. Please contact me at kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or 507-398-2686 if you have any questions regarding this ministry program or, how you can be involved and support the SNM program.

**Marian E. Walsh**

August 2, 1944-February 26, 2024

In Memoriam

**Ron Guderian**

September 19, 1928-March 23, 2024

Welcome

New Members



**Linda Ainsworth joined
March 17th**



**Nicole, John, Hudyson,
Grayson & Jamyson Hofius
joined March 17th**

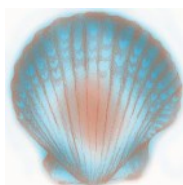


**Ana, Michael & Charlotte Hughes
joined March 17th**

Sarah, David, August and Paisley Scussel joined March 17

Nicole and Jamie Pearson joined March 24th

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism



Elsie Holtorf on March 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Office Closed	2 8am Easter Flower Delivery 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group	3 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearse	4 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	5 10am Rug Hooking Group	6 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
7 Communion Sunday 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group	8	9 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall)	10 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearse	11 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Care Visitors 8:30am Covenant Group 10am Rochester Isaiah Clergy Gathering 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	12 10am Rug Hooking Group	13 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos 6pm RCMS Concert
14 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Contemporary Issues (Wesley Hall) 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 1pm Rochester Music Guild Winners Recital 4:30pm Youth Group	15	16 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall)	17 8:30am Breakfast Fellowship 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearse	18 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 10:30am UWF Rachel Circle (2 & 8) 1pm Women's Book Group 1:30pm UWF Ruth Circle Meeting 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6pm Leadership Board Meeting 7pm UWF Circle 4 7:30pm Thrive Board Meeting (Zoom)	19 9:30am UWF Book Group	20 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos at UWF Tea 2pm UWF Tea
21 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Third Sunday Forum 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group	22	23 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall)	24 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearse	25 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6pm In the City for Good 7pm UWF Circle 4	26 10am Rug Hooking Group	27 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
28 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group	29	30 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters				

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