

400 5TH AVENUE SW
ROCHESTER, MN 55902
507 289 4019
EMAIL@CUMETHODIST.COM
WWW.CUMETHODIST.COM

December 2018

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace, In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT

Advent 2018

Deck the Halls: A Hanging of the Greens Service - December 2, 6pm
Rooty's Christmas Wish: Children's Pageant - December 16, 9 & 11am
Service of Lessons and Carols - December 23, 9 am

Hope Spangle

Christmas Eve Services

Noon: A simple service of song and scripture.

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

8 pm: A musical feast of Christmas with vocal and bell choirs, hymns, and the story of Christmas.

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

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



Blessings to you in this season of Advent.

We are not wired for Advent.

The season of Advent asks us to pay attention to the power of waiting. If we are honest, we admit that waiting can feel like somehow our very important time is being disrespected.

Having to wait for a computer to fire up or a line to move or answers to come is anathema to our want-it-now culture.

How perfect is it that Advent asks us to wait?

During the four weeks of Advent we savor the words of the prophets. We hear about the promise of peace. We hear about the Messiah to come; a savior, come to make us free. Wrapped in the power of winter darkness, we are called to remember the spangle that is hope.

This Advent season we are offering a chance to deck the halls through a service of Hanging of the Greens. We will sing Christmas carols (we generally do not during Advent, because it is Advent, not Christmas! But for this service we will lean toward Christmas), hear the story of why poinsettias and other symbols are part of our festooning tradition, and celebrate the wiggle and energy of children as well as the grounded hum of our elders. We will gather at 6:00pm on Sunday the 2nd. Following our time in the sanctuary we will eat cookies and share fellowship.

This is a new thing for us. This gathering is for all generations. Come to make it shine!

We live in a time where hope can sometimes feel hard to come by.

Fires rage, hate crimes snarl, and energies feel far-flung and waning.

And yet.

Promises of the "not yet" are given. The prophet Isaiah speaks of a time when wars will cease. An adolescent Mary says "yes" to giving birth to the hope of the world.

Jesus is promised. Jesus is delivered. Jesus is.

I pray that you are able to savor a gentle Advent season.

I pray that you have times of stillness during which you can breathe deeply. I pray you have spaces in the too-muchness of life.

There will be an electronic Advent devotional coming to your inbox daily. Please be sure we have your email address.

The devotionals are meant to be a bit of hope spangle.

Relish the power of promise.

Forgive yourself for not creating the perfect Christmas. You don't need to. It's already been done.

Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Elizabeth



Advent Devotionals coming soon!

Starting December 1st, through the days leading up to Christmas, we will be sending out daily Advent devotionals. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, but are not signed up on our email list, it's easy to join! Just email us (email@cumethodist.com) and ask to be included in our email list. Don't miss out!



Advent 2018 is here!

In this time leading up to Christmas, we will fill our days with celebration and jubilation. We hope you'll join us for all of our exciting events throughout December.

Deck the Halls: A Hanging of the Greens Service - At 6pm on December 2nd we will gather together to prepare our sanctuary for the Christmas season and eating cookies together! This is an intergenerational night of worship, decoration, and fellowship.

Children's Pageant: Rooty's Christmas Wish - At the 9 & 11 o'clock services on December 16th the children of Christ Church will grace us with their performance of the play, *Rooty's Christmas Wish*.

Service of Lessons & Carols - On December 23rd, at the 9 am service, we will wrap up the season of Advent with a service full of music, music, and more music! We will play, hum, sing, and ring our way on through to Christmas. We hope you'll join us

Christmas Eve - December 24th we will fill our day with praise and joyful worship together

- **Noon** - A simple service of song and scripture.
- **4pm** - Family friendly worship, Children's choirs, impromptu pageant (for all the children to join!)
- **8pm** - Musical feast of Christmas, youth & adult choirs, bell choirs hymns, and the story of Christmas.
- **11pm** - Candlelight service to welcome Christmas. Worship, Scripture, Wonder.

Interfaith Thanksgiving

We hosted the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 20. It was a beautiful service of gratitude and togetherness. Members of many different faith traditions joined together to honor each other. You can find the entire service on our youtube channel! (<https://tinyurl.com/cumctube>)



Welcome Kent Nymann!

Kent is our new building manager here at Christ Church. He lives in Plainview with his wife Sheryll, and has 2 kids, Marie and Adam. In his free time, Kent enjoys golf, outdoor sports, and spending as much time with his family as he can. He enjoys working at CUMC because he feels the setting is peaceful and harmonious, and he enjoys the people he works with. If you see Kent, be sure to welcome him to Christ Church!



Get your poinsettia orders in!

Starting Sunday, November 25 we have begun taking poinsettia orders. Please fill out the order form on the last page of this Newsletter -OR- on Sunday November 25, December 2, or December 9 the form will be available to fill out in the bulletin. You can turn in the form via the offering plate on a Sunday, or bringing it into the church office.

Each plant is \$13. The deadline for poinsettia orders is end of day (3pm) December 9th. Please indicate on the form if you wish to pick up the poinsettia after 10:00am on December 27th, or if you would like to have it delivered to a homebound or bereaved person. We would like to have about 65 plants to deliver. Thank you for supporting this ministry of caring to our homebound and bereaved members.

All Church Conference Details

A Church Conference will be held on December 16th at 12:15.

The Conference will be held to:

Hear Ministry Reports

Present the budget for 2019

Affirm ministry relationships

Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Cynthia Williams will preside.

We'll have pizza and gather in Wesley Social Hall for this important annual feast of ministry.

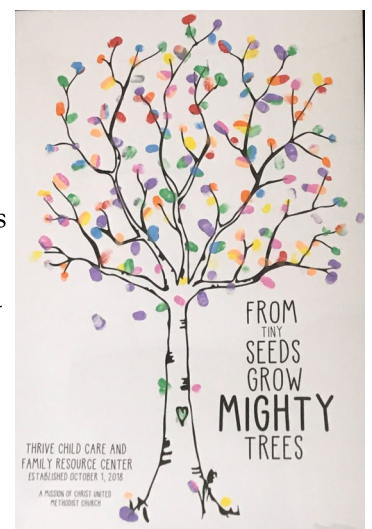


As we move through November into December, I wanted to pause and thank all of you who have supported Thrive as we opened our doors to our children and families. What an amazing opening it has been!

So what have we been up to in our first few weeks of existence? We have been busy playing, learning, painting, exploring, eating, growing, writing, creating and most of all having fun! Our days go by fast and we are excited to be building up our enrollment each week! Our Family Resource Center team has been meeting with each family to share information about what they offer. Our families are very excited for our parent nights to begin in January! We truly are building community one family at a time and I get to witness it every day!

When the Thrive space was blessed by all of you before we opened, this tree was created. Each fingerprint on this tree represents someone who has left their print on the Thrive story. This tree hangs in the hallway of Thrive for all to see and includes the quote, "From tiny seeds, grow mighty trees". This tiny seed was planted 3 years ago and has now grown into a small but mighty program. I can only imagine how mighty we will be many years from now! Each time I walk by it, I am reminded of all the people who have been a part of the Thrive story and who helped shape the program that it is today. We would not be who we are without each of you! Thank you!

- Tanya Goretzki, Director of Thrive





Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

Third Sunday Forums

There is no Third Sunday Forum in December

Watch for new topics in January

“Courageous Conversation About the Way Forward”

Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay

Wednesdays, November 28 – December 19

6:00 – 7:30pm, Location to be determined based on size of class.

The United Methodist Church is in a time of deep discernment and decision making regarding unity.

A specially called General Conference in February of 2019 will gather clergy and delegates from across the world to consider the largeness of our theological tent.

Please join Pastor Elizabeth for a four week session on Wednesday nights. We will engage in learning about the issues and the solutions being proposed as well as sharing a time of prayer and conversation about this heart-full issue.

The curriculum used is “Courageous Conversation About the Way Forward” created by the UM church as well as the learning created through our conversations.

Thank You, Thank You, and Again, Thank You

Appreciation goes out to all class facilitators, weekly small group leaders, and connect group hosts. We are filled with gratitude for your commitment to providing opportunities for all who enter the doors of Christ United Methodist Church to build new relationships, feel connected and named, and to learn from Christ's teachings. What you do does make a difference:

“I was encouraged by a friend to join a book discussion group and am so glad I did! We have wonderfully thoughtful discussions about books we've read and authors we have watched and listened to on videos. I feel my depth of friendship and understanding has grown so much . . . well, that was like discovering hidden treasures!”

So if you have taken a class, are a member of a weekly small group, or joined a connect group, please thank those who are/were your hosts for their time and energy to make all feel welcome at CUMC.

New Connect Groups Coming in February!!

In February we'll be adding some new groups and continuing old ones, with sign-ups again in January. So be thinking about what you've gotten from your groups and what you would like to get and to give in new groups. Do you have an interest or hobby that you'd like to share, a book that meant a lot to you, an area of special knowledge? Cross-country skiing? Making soup? Aging well? Care-taking? Quilting? We want to hear from you! Write or speak to Kathy Estry (rk.etry@gmail.com) or Pam Lund (lund.pamela7@gmail.com).

Sign up starts now!

The United Methodist Women of Christ United Methodist Church invite you to:

Winter Wonderland Tea

Saturday, January 5, 2019 2 - 4 pm ~ Tickets go on sale December 2 for \$20.00

Celebrate the beauty of winter - indoors - at the Christ United Methodist Women's *Winter Wonderland Tea*, Saturday January 5 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the church Commons. Come and hear Joyce and Terry Grier of the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society talk about the wonder of Minnesota's hardy winter birds, followed by a winter singalong led by John Varona. Enjoy Scones, Savories, Sweets and Tea while in fellowship with friends. Tickets will be sold in the church commons between church service on Sunday, December 2, 9 and 16 for \$20 until sold out. We can only seat 80, so purchase your tickets early. Hope to see you there!



Sanctuary Church Movement Report

The Sanctuary Church Movement is alive and well in Rochester. This movement is almost a year old, but it takes time and many people to develop plans for sanctuary churches to be in place. CUMC is an active support church in this movement. Peace United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Church are actual Sanctuary Churches. Below is some information from a recent Sanctuary meeting held at Peace United Church of Christ.

1. A need for increasing sanctuary community visibility was recognized. Brochures will be forthcoming with accompanying business cards. The sheriff will make these brochures available at the Detention Center and they will also be distributed to food trucks, IMAA, Immigration Law Center and law offices dealing with immigration.
2. A more formal process of accompanying immigrants was discussed and suggestions will be forthcoming.
3. The one year anniversary of Sanctuary in Rochester will be celebrated the first Sunday in January. A press conference is a possibility and the UU Church will highlight their opening of a Sanctuary Center.
4. The Interfaith Coalition is working through the Diversity Council for fiscal sponsorship of a legal defense fund.

Help Beautify the Church

On Saturday December 1st, from 8am until noon, we are planning a morning work party at church. There are a number of projects around the church that can be completed in that time frame. When the windows were replaced this summer there are areas that need to be painted around the new windows. We also have areas in the hallways that touch up painting. We could also use individuals that can do skim coating. If you can join us, please email kent@cumethodist.com or just show up!



1010 Youth Church:

Sunday mornings until Christmas, meet in the Bell room at 10:10 am for 5 minute youth church and donuts with Pastor Katy before launching into youth choir and service groups. Fill out your punchcard and you could win Chipotle!



Did you get your lefse?

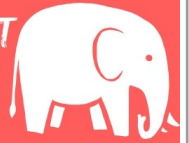


Our ASP team kicked off fundraising by selling homemade lefse in the church commons. If you didn't get a chance to support their mission, there will be more opportunities!



Our middle school youth helped serve Saturday Noon Meals on November 17. Seventeen of our youth filled Christmas treat bags for the guests.

YOUTH WHITE ELEPHANT UGLY SWEATER CHRISTMAS PARTIES



BRING A GOOFY OR COMPETITIVE GIFT, UNDER 10 DOLLARS

middle school: @ the Ruters Wednesday December 19 7-9 pm
high school @ the Lindenfelds Sunday December 16 7-9 pm
(text Katy for addresses: 651-399-8605)



Join this year's children and youth Christmas pageant!

**Practice @ ChristUMC 6:00-6:30 pm
Wednesdays, November 14-
December 12**

**Performances:
December 16, 9 and 11 am**

Chicken Challenge

Bring in change to help buy chicken, geese, and ducks to help people in need!

The winners will get a prize!!

Now - December 21

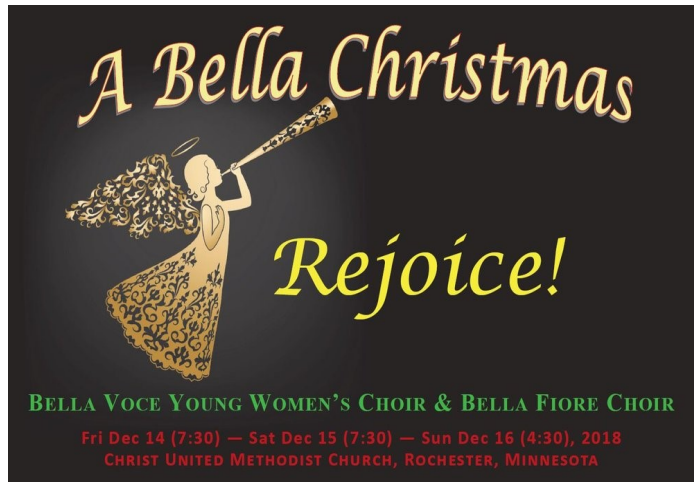
**Fill up the jars in your
Sunday Classroom!**



The young people of CUMC are raising money for Heifer International to help those in need around the world! These "Flocks of Hope" may include chicks, ducks or goslings, depending on the cultural, climate and dietary conditions of the region. Families will also receive training on the birds' care. A Flock of Hope donation is a remarkable gift that can lift a family from hunger and poverty and ensure their future. More info can be found on the Heifer website:

<https://www.heifer.org/>

The Sounds of Christmas



Join us for a holiday celebration featuring 12 distinguished artists among pianists, violinists, violists, cellists, flutists, and bass players.

Our 3 Soloists

Catherine Ramirez, flute Horacio Nuguid, piano Michal Sobieski, violin

CUMC Advent Organ Concert Series

~ CUMC Sanctuary at noon ~

December 4
December 11
& December 18



December 1, 2018
7:30pm, Christ United Methodist Church
Free Admission!

Visit us at rochesterchambermusic.org
Connect with us on Facebook: @RochesterChamberMusic
Twitter: @RCMusicSociety
YouTube: Rochester Chamber Music Society

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.

This activity is made possible through a generous grant from the Carl and Verma Schmidt Foundation.

You Are Invited

All are Welcome.

What: Fellowship Coffee

When: 2nd Wednesday of

EVERY Month

Time: 8:30 A.M.



We would love to give you a warm welcome

Do you know someone who may be interested in learning more about the church and how to connect with others? We offer monthly "Meeting Christ Church" coffees at which our pastors will meet with people and introduce them to CUMC and the United Methodist denomination. Join us the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Fireside room following the 9:00 service. Childcare is available upon request! The next Coffee is December 9. Please contact the church office at 289-4019 or by email to email@cumethodist.com if you have questions or would like more information.

Volunteers Needed - Audio Technician

We need your help in running the 9:00 AM worship service. We are looking for volunteers who want to learn how to run the sound system in the CUMC sanctuary. (We promise, it's not as complicated as it looks!)

All training is provided. Volunteers will learn how to set up microphones for vocal and instrumental performances, how to run the sound system during the 9:00 AM service, and how to edit the 30 minute radio broadcast that runs on 1520 AM at 11:30 AM each Sunday.

Please call Joel Ott at 507-226-1115 or email joelott@outlook.com if you are interested.



Thrift on Fifth is now open every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Last year we ran out of coats, so this year, we are collecting coats and winter clothing like crazy! Please hold off bringing these items until we're ready to accept them, and thank you for your generosity. Together we can help this community thrive!

Fall Store Hours
Wednesday: 4pm - 7pm
Saturday: 9am - 12pm
Sunday: 9am - 12pm

Making the Lighting at CUMC More Energy Efficient

The Trustees have developed a plan and have a budget to replace bulbs throughout the church as they burn out and can be replaced with LED. As new light fixtures are installed, they will be LED. For example, all the lighting in Thrive is LED. Bulbs in the hanging lights in the sanctuary that could be replaced with LED are LED. We have put out for bid to replace the most of the lighting in the altar area with more LED fixtures. The balcony bulbs in the hanging fixtures that can be replaced with LED will also be replaced when the proper scaffolding can be secured. Those attending the Arise Service in the ECC will notice that the first two rows of track lighting now have LED lights. As the can lights through out the church burn out, they will be replaced with LED. We do have a number of ceiling fixtures in the office that will not support LED lights at this time but we are looking at finding alternatives.

-Diane Ilstrup

Hospitality House Updates!

Christ United Methodist Church offers a hospitality house for visitors to Rochester. The house is located just to the east and south of the church.

The property is:

- Walking distance to the Mayo Clinic downtown locations.
- Offers easy access to nearby restaurants and grocers.
- Provides 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room, dining room and kitchen.
- Offers coin-operated washer and dryer in the basement.
- Provides 1 parking space on the church property.
- Fully furnished for your cooking needs.
- Tub/shower combination.
- Secure access.
- WiFi
- TV with Roku installed.

Please note, we do not rent the unit through the church. If you require additional information on this property please visit our VRBO/HomeAway listing and book through that source.

<https://www.vrbo.com/1455998>

To our congregation members: due to high turnover in the unit, we are continually replacing linens and blankets and desire to have excess supply on hand. Should you desire to support the mission of the hospitality house, the following items in new condition are always welcome and appreciated:

- Queen or twin size sheet sets. White. (flat, fitted and 2 pillow cases)
- Regular size pillow protectors.
- Queen or twin size blankets (not comforters). White or tan. Cotton or Cotton blend.
- Queen or twin size waterproof mattress pads.
- Bath and hand towels & wash clothes - white.

GALLERY 405

Stay tuned - we will announce artists to be featured in Gallery 405 in the January edition of the New Spirit

Have an article for the *New Spirit*?
Please submit it to
oliver@cumethodist.com by the 3rd
Wednesday of the month. Late
articles may be very tiny or invisible.
Thank you and happy writing!

Notes from Pastor Nancy

MCI group will not meet again until Jan. 16 at 10 am. This group is for persons with a mild cognitive impairment or early stage dementia and their support person(s). Pastor Nancy is the facilitator.

Please call us if you or a loved one would like a visit from one of the pastors or parish ministers. We do not know if you are in the hospital unless someone notifies us. Remember that there is a pastor on call after hours. Simply call the office and listen for the phone number of the pastor on call.

Thank you to Rev. Kellie Tracz and all those who participated in the grief support group in November and December.

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

Welcome New Intentional Disciples!



MILLIE WEBB

"I am the 7th of 8 children who grew up in St. Anthony Park in St. Paul, near the St. Paul "farm" campus of the University of MN. I lived in Germany for a full year during my senior year of high school and it changed my life. We held my host parent's 50th wedding anniversary along with our 25th wedding anniversary in northern Germany last fall. Brian and I met when I was in graduate school in linguistics at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I am excited to find a church home that makes all ages, genders, orientations and families without children feel welcome; and to see that welcoming inclusivity reflected in worship, much, outreach, and mission"

BRIAN WEBB

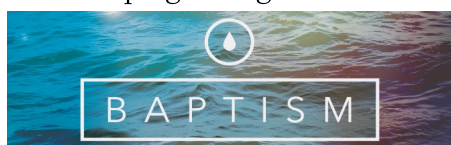
"I'm originally from Michigan and still a big fan of the Detroit Tigers and Michigan Wolverines. Millie and I have 3 children ages 19, 22, and 23. Our youngest attends Macalester College in St. Paul, our middle child works at a school in St. Paul, and our oldest lives in Madison, WI. I chose CUMC because there are lots of opportunities for worship, education, music, and outreach"

STEVEN JOHNSON

"I worked as a funeral director for 24 years and currently call Rochester my home. I have been attending on and off since 2006 as a medical patient and feel a very strong Christian love and presence in this church family. I feel fellowship with the other people who attend this church and wanted to become a member because this church has a strong future to it"

TONI MANGSKAU & GEORGE ROMANO

When George and I were looking for a church we could attend as a couple, we started out at Christ United Methodist and stayed at Christ United Methodist. From the first time we walked through the door, we felt at home. CUMC is allowing my heart to grow in positive ways I could have never imagined. Themes so important to me are outreach to people others view as hidden, but I have tried to see clearly (homeless, hungry, chemically dependent, incarcerated, etc.) Thank you for helping George and I feel so welcomed.



Magnolia Lucile Singleton, born September 25, 2018 was baptized on November 18 at our 9am worship service.



Cut this card out and bring to the church office!



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 \$13. The deadline for poinsettia orders is end of day December 9th. Please indicate below if you wish to pick up the poinsettia after 10AM on December 27th, or if you would like to have it delivered to a homebound or bereaved person. We would like to have about 65 plants to deliver. *Thank you for supporting this ministry of caring to our homebound and bereaved members.*

Name (please print): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ plants x \$13.00 = \$_____ ._____
 Please deliver to a homebound or bereaved member.
 I will pick up after 10AM on December 26th.

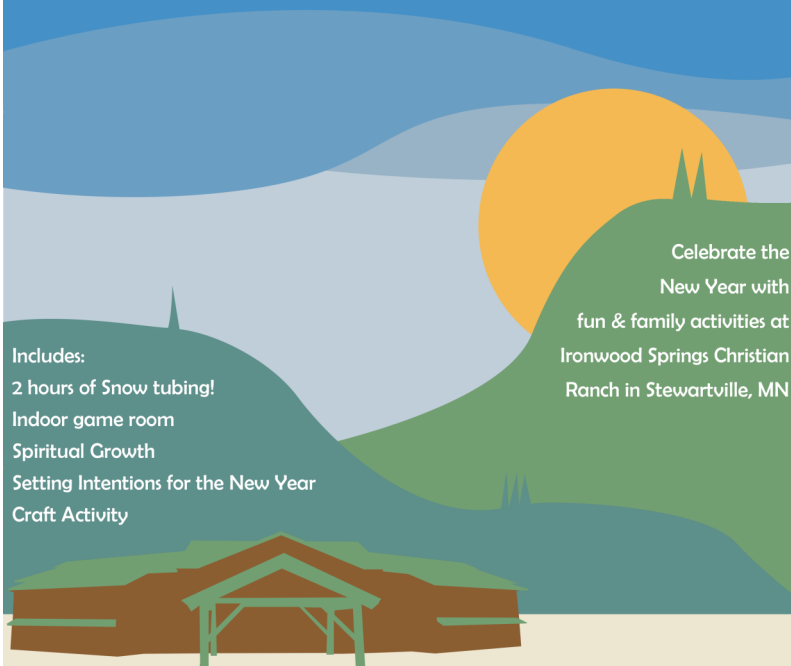
In memory of: _____

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.



Christ United Methodist Church **New Year's Eve Family Retreat!**



Includes:
 2 hours of Snow tubing!
 Indoor game room
 Spiritual Growth
 Setting Intentions for the New Year
 Craft Activity

Celebrate the
 New Year with
 fun & family activities at
 Ironwood Springs Christian
 Ranch in Stewartville, MN

5pm 12/31/2018 - 11am 1/1/2019 Cost Per Person: \$40/youth \$50/adult
 Maximum Per Family: \$125
 Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/CUFamilyRetreat> • Sign up due December 9



Christ United Methodist Church
 Creating committed Christ-followers for the transformation of the world.

New Year's Eve Family Retreat

@ Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch

"CUMC Friends and family should be near - to celebrate a Happy New Year!"

Includes:

- Outdoor activities (snow-tubing: 2hrs included)
- Indoor activities (game room)
- Spiritual Growth – Family activities
- Intentions for New Year – starting off the year healthy and strong!
- Craft Activity
- 2 meals
- 1 Night lodging

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Save the date: Monday, December 31, 5 pm,
 until 11 am Tuesday January 1

Cost: \$40 youth, \$50 adults, \$125 max per family

SIGN UP by December 9th!

Contact church office: email@cumethodist.com

Christ United Methodist Church
400 Fifth Avenue SW
Rochester, MN 55902
Phone: 507-289-4019
Fax: 507-289-3648
E-mail: email@cumethodist.com

Non Profit Organization

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PAID
Rochester, Minnesota
Permit No. 5

Return Service Requested



December 2
6-7:30 pm
@ Christ UMC

Help dress the church up
for Christmas!

Kid-friendly, interactive
hanging of the greens
service, with a Christmas
cookie exchange after.
Bring your favorite cookie
or be a taste-tester!