

SPIRIT



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

Pastor's Pen with pastor Nancy



Dear Christ United Methodist Church Family,

It has been a privilege for Chuck and I to be in ministry with you for the past 25 years (Sept. 1, 1998 -Jan. 7, 2024) We are very grateful for your support of my ministry and of our family.

Now it is time for us to enjoy retirement from appointed ministry in the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. January 7 will be my last Sunday. There will be a reception in the Commons following the 9:00am service.

I have been in conversation with the Congregational Care Ministry teams, with Pastors Jenny and Kirkland, with the staff and with the Leadership Board to ensure a smooth transition.

In keeping with our policies as United Methodist ministers, Chuck and I will not be in worship or attending other CUMC functions following my retirement for the period of a year.

I will not be returning to lead worship, conduct funerals or perform any other pastoral duty for the rest of our time in Rochester, with the exception of receiving a request from one of the appointed pastors of Christ UMC.

I respectfully request you not ask me, nor one of the appointed pastors, to have me officiate. Again, this is in keeping with our clergy covenant to support the pastors who have been appointed to the church.

Again, thanks for the years of ministry together to share God's amazing love for all God's children through the grace of God, our Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.

I will close with these words from The Book of Worship, "I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here (page 599)."

May you continue to shine brightly as you share hope and healing and provide grace in this city and beyond.

Warmly,

Paster Mancy Whale Handler

Advent and Christmas at CUMC

Advent and Christmas Eve at CUMC: Out of the Blue

This year we're reflecting on how Blues music reflects the longing and hope of the Advent season. Worship, book studies, concerts, acts of service-how will you prepare for the coming of Christ?

Advent Devotional: Maya Angelou and the Freedom Poetry of Advent: Pick up a hard copy in the church office or email (samantha@cumethodist.com) to receive a weekly email message.

Advent Book Study: Join Pastors Jenny and Kirkland for a special Advent book study using the book Hope Is Here! By Luther E. Smith, Jr. In this book Smith describes how we join "the work of hope," enlivening us to a life oriented toward personal fulfillment, justice, and beloved community. Copies available in the church office for \$15.

Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent

9:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00am Worship (ECC)

10am-11am Chrismon workshop

4:30-6:00pm Advent Book Study: Hope Is Here! (Fireside)

Dec. 5: 12:15-12:45pm Advent Organ Concert with John Varona (Sanctuary & livestreamed)

Dec. 10: Second Sunday of Advent

9:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00am Worship (ECC)

4:30-6:00pm Advent Book Study: Hope Is Here! (Fireside)

Dec. 12: 12:15-12:45pm Advent Organ Concert with John Varona (Sanctuary & livestreamed)

Dec. 17: Third Sunday of Advent

9:00am Children's Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)

11:00am Youth Christmas Pageant (ECC)

3:00pm Longest Night Service (Chapel)

4:30-6:00 pm Advent Book Study: Hope Is Here! (Fireside)

Dec. 19: 12:15-12:45pm Advent Organ Concert with John Varona (Sanctuary & livestreamed)

Dec. 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

9:00am Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sanctuary)

11:00am Christmas Eve Worship (ECC)

4:00pm Christmas Eve Family Worship (Sanctuary)

7:00pm Christmas Eve Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00pm Christmas Eve Communion Worship (Sanctuary)

December 17, 3pm
CUMC Chapel

FOR THOSE WHO FIND THE
HOLIDAYS DIFFICULT, WE
PRESENT A SERVICE OF MUSIC,
CANDLELIGHT, PRAYER AND HOPE
FOLLOWED BY COFFEE AND
COOKIES IN THE HAMLINE ROOM.
LED BY THE PASTORS AND CARE
VISITOR MINISTRY TEAM.

Dec. 31: 10am Combined New Year's Eve Worship service (Sanctuary)

Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry

Children and Youth News

Christmas Programs

We are excited to be working on two brand new Christmas programs for our children and youth. Our children will offer the story of "Twas the Evening of Christmas" at the 9:00am service on December 17. Our youth are preparing a game-show themed program to remind us that everyone's experience of Jesus is unique for the 11:00am worship service on December 17. Tech Rehearsal is December 16 at 10am.

Book Recommendations

Are you looking to purchase a book for a young person this Christmas season? We have discovered some great books in the last year—most are also available at the Rochester Public Library and all of them are in our church collection if you'd like to preview them.

"The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible"

by Chrissie Muecke, Jasmin Pittman Morrell and Teresa Kim Pecinovsky

This Bible isn't comprehensive, but is a well-curated selection of stories from the Hebrew & Christian scriptures. It has an emphasis on "peace pathways" you can follow resulting in a "choose your own adventure" feel. This would be a great gift for toddlers to teenagers as well as a gift to families.

"Psalms of Wonder: Poems from the Book of Songs"

By Carey Wallace and Khoa Lee

This book introduces the Psalms as prayers and poetry. It offers new translations of popular Psalms and discusses the different kinds of Psalms in the Bible.

"Twas the Evening of Christmas"

By Glenys Nellist

Our Children's Christmas program is based on this retelling of the Christmas Story. Anything by Glenys Nellist would be a solid choice for preschool-early elementary. The Love Letters series is also going to be part of our spring ministry.

ASP Updates

Our ASP team began some skill building and team bonding on November 18 when we helped paint the church Wesley House to prepare it for a return to rental in 2024. If we must paint on ASP this year, we are ready! Thank you to Christ UMC for all the ways you support this discipling ministry. Our ASP teams will head to Appalachia June 29-July 8, 2024. Don't forget! We will have lefse for sale on December 17!



Children & Youth Cont.

December

3: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group!

6: CU Wednesday (see schedule at cumethodist.com/cumednesday)

10: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

13: CU Wednesday

16: 10:00am Christmas Program Rehearsals

1:30pm ASP Lefse Making

17: 9:00am (Children) and 11:00am (Youth) Christmas Programs

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group!

20: CU Wednesday

24: 4:00pm Family focused Christmas service with a creative retelling of the birth of Jesus, flameless candles and music from young voices!

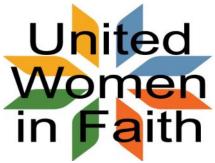
Children and Youth programming will pause December 21, 2023-January 2, 2024. CU Wednesday resumes January 3 and Sunday School and Youth Group resumes on January 7, 2024.

Save the Date: The Event is coming!

January 20, 11:30am-8:00pm

The day will include a couple of great talks by Catie Levenick that encourage us to always be "on the lookout" for all the opportunities God puts before us to love and serve others. You'll have some time for church group discussion, a real-life game of Clue offered by Tony Ducklow of Youth Ministry Land, a service project, and music! Pizza dinner provided to wrap up our time together.





The time is here to place your order for Christmas Cookies! On Sundays, December 3rd and 10th, you may place your orders at our table in the Commons. During the week you may leave your order at the church office.

The orders are by weight: 1/2 pound, 1 pound, 1 1/2 pounds, 2 pounds and Pantry Party Mix (quart). There will be gluten free available also.

Orders need to be in by December 10th & pick up on the 17th of December 8:30am to 12pm. Please see order form below. Order forms will also be at the church office.

The proceeds from this project will go to the work of United Women in Faith and all they do all over the world. We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.



MISSING FROM THE FUNERAL MINISTRY CLOSET

(2) TWO DISPENSERS AND BOXES....

DO YOU KNOW THEIR WHEREABOUTS??

If found please return to church office. Thank you!



U	WF	Coo	kie	Ord	er	Form
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Name (please print): _____Phone: ____

½ #____\$10, 1#___\$20, 1 ½ #____\$30, 2#___\$35, gluten free ____

Pantry Party Mix: Quart:_____\$9 Total _____

Pick up Sunday, December 17th Commons 8:30am-12:00pm

Order by December 10th

Questions call Deedee Odell at 281-2755; Make check payable to UMW











The Channel the Flannel Gala event held Oct. 7th was a beautiful, cozy success! Thanks to CUMC for your financial support and your loving adoption of this mission. We raised \$64,248 to support our families and

staff. What an accomplishment! The silent auction brought many varied items to bid on, the live auction was raucous and successful because of the lovely items provided and the auctioneer skills of the Ackermans. The donations and ticket sales



rounded out a fabulous fundraising effort. We so appreciate those who provided donations big and small to help Thrive continue to grow and serve! (Check out our fun announcement video at https://tinyurl.com/2hphazt3





Christmas Anonymous

Christ UMC will proudly host Christmas Anonymous again this year. Christmas Anonymous is an organization local to Rochester that has been in existence for over 50 years. It is a 100% volunteer organization, whose sole mission is to help families and people in need in Olmsted county to have a wonderful Christmas.

Christmas Anonymous is fully supported by donations from the community. There are no paid positions, and they minimize expenses by getting discounts and donations of goods and services whenever possible. Visit christmasanonymous.org to learn more, find donation information, and sign up to volunteer. A variety of shifts are still available.

Our Donation Center hours for 2023 are:

Friday 12/1 – 11am to 5pm Saturday 12/2 – 9am to 12pm Store Day is Saturday, December 9th from 8am-4pm





We're Hiring. Join our Team!

CUMC is hiring a Pastor of Congregational Care and a Principal Organist.

The Pastor of Congregational Care provides pastoral care, works with caring ministry teams, and fosters a culture of empathy, compassion, and spiritual care.

The Principal Organist provides organ and piano music in the traditional worship service, accompanies the sanctuary choir, and provides music during weddings, funerals and other church events. .

Learn more about these positions and apply at <u>cumethodist.com/career-opportunities</u>.



Saturday Noon Meals

We continue to welcome 70 to 75 guests each Saturday. We appreciate our volunteers and community partners.

If you would like to volunteer or support the program please contact Kathy Lombardo at Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or via phone at 507-398-2686.

Thank you so much for your support of this ministry program.



CUMC Vegetable Garden

Our garden season is over for 2023. It was another successful year.

We were benefited from a long growing season that supplied fresh vegetables and herbs for our Saturday Noon Meal program.

Thank you to the St. Francis Girl Scout troops for cleaning the gardens on November 8.



Please contact Kathy Lombardo at <u>Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com</u> or via phone at 507-398-2686 if you are interested in assisting with the garden in 2024.





64,248

AMOUNT RAISED FOR THRIVE THROUGH THE THRIVE GALA

1,000

BY THE NUMBERS

NEW BIODEGRADABLE COMMUNION CUPS TO BEGIN A GREENER WAY TO CELEBRATE COMMUNION IN WORSHIP

26

CUMC SAINTS REMEMBERED ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

14

ATTENDEES AT NOVEMBER'S THEOLOGY ON BREW

294

MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEMBERS WHO VOTED IN THE NOVEMBER SPECIAL SESSION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

25

NUMBER OF PIES DONATED TO THE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE



You are invited to celebrate Pastor Nancy's retirement on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Starting with the 9am service, we will celebrate with Pastor Nancy and Chuck in worship and

during a reception and open house from 10am-12:30pm.

Pastor Nancy has served the Minnesota Conference for more than 40 years and Christ UMC for 25 years. We invite you to share tributes and words of appreciation for Pastor Nancy, which we will present to her as part of a retirement gift. Please share your affirmations through this weblink: https://tinyurl.com/pastornancyaffirmations. You may also send your affirmations in writing to the church office, attention Samantha Moccia, our Director of Communications.



We are also collecting a love offering dedicated to Pastor Nancy. You may note "Love Offering" with your gift or choose "Love Offering" from the giving options at cumethodist.com/give. Pastor Nancy has made her intentions clear with regards to this offering – she intends to donate her love offering to the Christ UMC Foundation to help strengthen Christ UMC for many seasons to come. We will receive gifts for this love offering through December 31.

We have all been blessed by Pastor Nancy's ministry and service. Please help us share your blessings with her as she moves on in retirement.

Thrift on Fifth's December Hours



10



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

- Belonging to one another is our birthright gift.
- Belonging is not a set of feelings we depend on but a set of practices we enact.
- Belonging requires a choice to trust others and risk the consequences.
- When we risk trust, we risk vulnerability, which ultimately deepens our belonging.

Erin S. Lane, <u>Lessons in Belonging from a Church-Going Commitment Phobe</u>

Third Sunday Forum

No Forum in December

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 10:10 AM

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?pwd=VXFEK3l6UVRWeFRObzRjeGR5VUImQT09

If you are interested, email Joel at <u>joel.charlson@gmail.com</u> to receive the weekly *Wired Word*

or join us on Zoom or drop into room 146!

Inquiring Spirits

Hosts: Ed Shafer

Time: Sundays at 10:15 AM

Place: In-Person (Room 145) and Zoom

Discussion varies on books, videos, and other sources to investigate and challenge theological boundaries. This class is currently reading *Welcoming the Unwelcome* by Pema Chodron. For

further information contact Ed at shaferchurch@hotmail.com

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, December 13th at 8:30 AM

Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center



Faith → Life: Cont.

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



Knit One, PrayToo

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

Time: Wednesdays 10:30am – 12:00pm

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

Contact Marjie at <a href="mailto:mai

come on the 3rd Wednesday!

Knit One, Pray Too is a group of 5 who meet regularly, but they are always looking for new members. They have knitted or crocheted at least 50 prayer shawls, plus hats and scarves for school children and adults in Rochester who are in need. Those facing medical issues or experiencing loss in need of a prayer shawl are identified by the Caring Ministry Team or special requests. The group welcomes donations of yarn; preferring worsted or sport weight that is washable; at least one full skein; and bright colors! Small amounts can be blended and used for hats.

Disciple Bible Study

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Wednesdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm (after CU Wednesday dinner)

Place: Room 145

BeADisciple Bible Study

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 oronocomb@yahoo.com if interested.

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: December 17th, 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.

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?

<u>pwd=czVQNzIxTTE1eHdvdmgzZIBXdmsxZz09</u>. Contact Dick at <u>rk.estry@gmail.com</u> for further info.

Faith \rightarrow Life: Cont.

Tea and Tacos

Host: Armanda Vanderheiden

Time: Saturdays, December 2, 9, and 16, 10:00Aam-12:00pm

Place: Room 145

There will NOT be a night out in December due to the Christmas holiday. For more info about

this awesome group contact Armanda at 507-261-2123 or email at

Justgot2havejesus@gmail.com.

Theology on Brew

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Thursday, December 14th at 6:30pm **Place:** 507 (Pub)lic House, 304 First Ave. SW

Young and young-at-heart adults are welcome. Join others to connect and discuss life, theology

and everything! Contact Pastors Jenny and Kirkland with any questions.

Short-Term Class

How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them – Five Week Study

Sundays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 4:30 – 6:00pm

In-person in Room 145 and on Zoom

Reverend Gary Lueck

"Most of us don't know it, but we are living in the world's greatest era of civil war. While violence has declined worldwide, civil wars have increased." Back Cover of "How Civil Wars Start."

Join Reverend Gary Lueck in searching for answers on "how to stop civil wars." Questions to be explored: What is the possibility of having another civil war in the USA? How is the US different or like other nations facing civil war? How does our history inform our thinking and discourse? What events and guidance does the Bible offer?

The study book, *How Civil Wars Start: And How to Stop Them* by Barbara F. Walter, can be purchased, used or new at AbeBooks.com, Thriftbooks.com and/or Barnes & Noble. A second reference book will be *Democracy Awakening* by Heather Cox Richardson.

All Church Read and Study Book for Advent

Hope Is Here! by Luther E. Smith Jr.

Hope says Luther Smith Jr. is essential to the needed personal and social transformations that prepare us to live into God's dream of justice and beloved community. By interpreting hope and five spiritual practices for individuals and congregations to experience the power of hope, *Hope Is Here!* prepares us to engage racism, mass incarceration, environment crises, divisive politics, and indifference that imperil justice and beloved community. The group conversation will be held on Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10 and 17 from 4:30–6:00pm in Room 145 and on Zoom. Books are available in the church office for \$15.00, or you can purchase the eBook on Kindle for \$11.49.

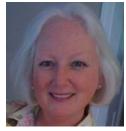


Joined November 19th



Kent & Kate Pekel Katie is Executive Director of Educational Leadership at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, where she teaches, conducts research, and leads professional development programs for K-12 school leaders across Minnesota and around the country. Kent is Superintendent of Schools in Rochester. Kent and Katie's family includes five children: Lauren (28), Adam (23), Thomas (22), Victoria (20), and Molly (19). Kobe (7) is a standard poodle who is glad to have a back yard again after two years of living in an apartment in Rochester.

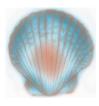
Joined November 12th



Pamela Reynolds Pamela comes from St. Luke's UMC in Orlando, Fl. A recently retired educator she has moved to be close to family: Pastor Kirkland and Pastor Jenny & grandchildren Molly & Nolan. When the weather gets too chilly, you will find her with her California family: son Austin & daughter-in-law Sal Reynolds with granddaughter Phoebe.

Sherry White Moved to Rochester in 2020 from Cleveland, Ohio area to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law and 3 grandchildren. She is retired but works part-time in Rochester. She looks forward to making new friends in the community, enjoying family life, and watching grandchildren grow.





Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

Evelyn Jean Botz on November 5



In Memoriam



Bob LeeMarch 15, 1937-November 2, 2023

Lyla Hagemeister
November 25, 1944-November 12, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 New Year's Eve 10am Combined Worship					1	2 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos 12pm Eye Care Clinic 6pm RCMS Concert
3 Communion Sunday 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 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 4:30pm Hope is Here	4	5 11:30am Brothers in Christ 12:15pm Advent Organ Concert Series 1pm Covenant Group	10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	8 10am Women & the Sacred 10am Rug Hooking Group	9 Christmas Anonymous Store Day 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (At St Francis Church) 8:00am Foundation Meeting 10am Tea & Tacos
8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group 4:30pm Hope is Here	11	12 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 12:15pm Advent Organ Concert Series 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall) 7pm Thrive Board Meeting	13 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 Rehearsal	14 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 8:30am UWF Circle 2 (Fireside) 10:30am UWF Circle 8 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6:30pm Theology on Brew 7pm UWF Circle 4	9:30am UWF Book Group	7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos 10am Christmas Pageant Rehearsals 1:30pm ASP Lefse baking
17 Christmas Pageant Sunday 8:15am ASP Lefse Sale 8:30am UWF Cookie Pickup 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 3pm Longest Night Service 4:30pm Youth Group 4:30pm Hope is Here	18	19 11:30am Brothers in Christ 12:15pm Advent Organ Concert Series 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall)	20 10am Knit One Pray, Too 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 6pm Leadership Board Meeting 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	22 10am Women & the Sacred 10am Rug Hooking Group	23 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open
24 Christmas Eve 9am Traditions Worship 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Christmas Eve Contemporary Worship 4pm Family Service 7pm Traditional Service 10pm Communion Service	25 Christmas Day Church Closed	26 8am Christmas Flower Delivery 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters	10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	29	30 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open

Christ United Methodist Church 400 Fifth Avenue SW Rochester, MN 55902 507-289-4019 email@cumethodist.com

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