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May 2023

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT

Hello
Spring

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)

Office Hours M-F 9am-5pm & Sunday 9am-12pm | 507-289-4019 | cumethodist.com

Pastor's Pen

WITH PASTOR KIRKLAND



Rest as Resurrection

Rest is a dream made real.

A portal.

A trusting place.

A sacred refuge.

Our All Church Read this spring is the book “Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto” by Tricia Hersey. One of the title pages simply reads “I hope you are reading this while laying down!” Tricia Hersey is founder of The Nap Ministry, an organization that examines rest as a form of resistance and often refers to herself as the “Nap Bishop.” She advocates for the power of rest in dismantling some of the most toxic forces in our society: grind culture, white supremacy, a relentless drive to consume and accumulate wealth.

While many of us have been taught to believe that we have to continually prove our worth and work ourselves into exhaustion for the sake of “productivity,” Hersey insists that to simply be and exist in our bodies is not only a right but an expression of our sacred worth as part of God’s creation. And particularly for our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) siblings, the ability to simply exist in their bodies in particular spaces has not always been allowed, much less celebrated.

Even in different stages of life when patterns of work and rest may change, it’s clear that we are collectively weary people. And simply surviving or getting through the day should not be our goal. We were created to love, create, laugh, play, rest and share. And rest is a powerful form of liberation that invites us into sustainable, creative, imaginative life together. It’s truly a form of resurrection, God’s new creation coming into life here and now. And the four sections of Hersey’s book lay out some of the framework for how we can each embrace and embody this practice. They are Rest!, Dream!, Resist!, and Imagine!

While you may be challenged by some of her writing, I hope you’ll consider reading this book with us and holding an open heart and mind to the pain and the promise that Tricia Hersey is naming. I believe she invites us to a spiritual practice of rest that is both personal and an expression of resurrection hope. It is something that our weary world is longing to hear. And in this Eastertide season we proclaim the good news not only with our lips but with our bodies. Christ is risen! And so are we!

Peace,

Pasta Jerry

Finance Report- 1st Quarter 2023

Operating Budget Summary

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income*	\$331,483	\$331,464	\$19
Of which Giving**	\$225,326	\$245,085	-\$19,759
Expenses	\$278,276	\$302,771	-\$24,495
Net Income *	\$53,207	\$28,693	\$24,514

* These results include unrealized net gains of \$9,129 from our investments with the Dakota-Minnesota UMC Foundation. Excluding these, Total Income would be \$322,354 and Net Income \$44,078.

** The budget anticipated higher contributions in the beginning of the year, a review of past giving patterns indicates that our the expectation for the full year is still valid.

Assets and Liabilities

At the end of March, the church had cash and other marketable assets of \$968,064 of which \$661,269 was unrestricted, enough to fund 6.4 months of budgeted expenses. Our objective is to be between 3 and 6 months.

Liabilities were \$306,765 of which \$292,745 were in restricted accounts contributed by the congregation for specific missions and projects. The largest of these include:

\$54,661 in the Makinen Bequest account. The Makinen Bequest provided the seed money from which Thrive! arose, what remains may be used as the Leadership Board and congregation determine our needs.

\$48,417 in bequests received by the church and controlled by the Trustees. Because of their restrictions they have been placed with the CUMC Foundation for management. The Foundation's total portfolio at the end of March (the last month for which data is available) was \$696,173.

\$28,276 to be used by the Leadership Board as they assess future needs.

\$15,616 in the Saturday Noon Meals account.

\$18,993 for UMCOR, this will be distributed in April.

\$15,598 for Music Ministry

The church has no long-term debt.

THRIVE! Scholarships

At the end of March, \$10,065 was available for distribution to THRIVE in April.

Please contact Dick Estry (288-5938, rk.stry@gmail.com) with questions or comments.


Children's Ministry


Youth Ministry

Appalachia Service Project Updates

Thank you to everyone who bought caramel rolls on Easter Sunday. Our youth had a great time building community and hearing YOUR ASP stories. We even had a group of ASP alumni stick around for an hour after worship reconnecting. Our next fundraiser is a Trivia Night on May 7 from 7:00-8:30 in the Education Conference Center at church. You can pre-register between worship services on April 30 and May 7—doing so will get you early access to the categories!

Our commissioning in worship is June 25 and on July 1 we will gather in the parking lot for a final sending worship service. ASP Sunday is July 16—mark your calendars now. In addition to hearing stories from our 2023 ASP team we will have a forum with past ASP participants and special ways to celebrate the 40 trips Christ UMC has sponsored for ASP. Please help spread the word among the ASP alumni you know.

Are you graduating this spring?

We will be celebrating our high school graduates in worship on June 4 during both worship services. We would like to honor all of our graduates (high school, college, certificate programs, etc.) in the June newsletter. If you are a spring 2023 graduate, please let Samantha know (samantha@cumethodist.com) your name, the program you've completed and any future plans. If you have a quote that helps guide you, feel free to share that as well.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Training

Our church safety committee has recently updated our policies for volunteering with children, youth and vulnerable adults. All volunteers over 18 will need to complete an online training covering safety for the diverse people we are called to care for. This training is paid for by the congregation and includes a back ground check.

To access the training, please contact Amanda (pastoramanda@cumethodist.com) or Pastor Kirkland (pastorkirkland@cumethodist.com). ALL VBS volunteers (including 6th grade and up helpers) will need to attend the specialized VBS Training session on Sunday, June 18 from 7:00-8:00pm.)

CU Wednesday Draws to a Close on May 24

Thank you to the dozens of people who have helped make sure we have a meal to nourish our bodies through rehearsals, confirmation, classes, play and fellowship. Our last meal together until the fall will be on May 24. Club 6-7 and Kids with Purpose will also end for the summer break. Watch for pop up events for our church family throughout the summer!

Children & Youth Cont.

VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 19-23, 9:00-11:45am

HERO
HOTLINE
Called Together to Serve God!

QR code: potty trained through 5th grade register here

QR code: adult volunteer and 6th-12th grade register here

CUMC "By The Numbers"

2" to 10'

Range of height with Easter eggs at CUMC on Easter Sunday

3

Number of community conversations held in March and April:

- Isaiah MN Conversation on Public Education
- In the City for Good Conversation with RPS Superintendent Dr. Kent Pekel
- Caring Conversation on Addiction that included a free Narcan training

3.5

Average hours of sleep during the Easter youth lock-in

12

Pizza pies baked for Thrive staff on March 14 (Pi Day)

5

Number of days (so far) in 2023 with a temperature above 70 degrees

Rochester
PRIDE
2023
SAT, MAY 20, 2023
NOON - 5PM
SOLDIERS FIELD
RochMNPride.org

Rochester Pride 2023

CUMC is one of the sponsors for Rochester Pride and will once again have a booth at the Soldier's Field Pride Festival on May 20th from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. We're looking for volunteers to staff our booth in shifts throughout the day.

This year CUMC is also partnering with other congregations to host a Pride After-Party on May 20th for Ages 12-18 at Old School Entertainment from 5-10pm. This will be a safe place for young people to gather and we're seeking adult chaperones and some financial support.

Contact the church office to let us know when you're available to volunteer for our Pride activities and look for upcoming sign up info in church communications.

United Women in Faith

Thank you to all the ladies and gentlemen that participated in our "Tea at the Palace." You will be seeing pictures in the future.

On May 4th at 10am we will meet to honor those women who have passed away this last year. Pastor Nancy Wheeler Handlon will give the meditation, John Varona will provide music. We will be honoring; Janet Hird, Beverly Wood, Martha Hendricks, Katie Buck, Marilyn Rahman, Phyllis Heath, Adele Spavin, Doris Heins and Betty Christensen. These women gave much love, dedication and time to this church, and we will miss them.

The Service of Remembrance is 10am on May 4th, 2023 beginning in the sanctuary. Following the service a salad luncheon will be provided by the UWF ladies in the Commons. All are welcome.

New for Summer 2023 !



Summer Dinner Club/Lunch Bunch Groups!
Sign-ups for Dinner or Lunchtime groups will be May 7 and 14 between the 9 and 11:00 services in the Commons. Summer groups will offer those who go South for the winter and those who may find more availability in summer the opportunity to participate. Besides sharing meals in homes or restaurants, the option to picnic together in parks or on patios can be enjoyed.

All are invited! Try it out as a great way to get better acquainted with others in our CUMC family! If you have questions, stop by the sign up table or contact Marjie Blaisdell @ 507-269-7637 or mablaisdell@gmail.com or Mary Schmidt @ 507-254-5216 or oronocombs@yahoo.com

CUMC Grounds Cleanup

Join us on Saturday, May 6 from 9 – 11 am. We will be cutting back pollinators, cleaning out the beds and possibly mulching a few areas. Bring gloves and hedge shears if you have them – if not, come anyway! We will love to see you! Contact Mary Schmidt @ 507-254-5216 with any questions.









Saturday Noon Meals

The Saturday Noon Meal program continues supporting those within the Rochester community experiencing food and housing insecurity. We are currently serving approximately 45 individuals each Saturday at noon in Wesley Hall with a warm and nutritious meal. It is so positive to witness the community this program is serving and creating. Thank you for all of your support.

We would like to express our appreciation to People's Food Co-op, Thrive Childcare and Family Resource Center, Salvation Army and Community Food Response for their regular donations. We also receive significant benefit from Channel One with needed food resources for our meals. We also appreciate the food donations that are dropped off at the church for our program. They are always put to good use. Thank you.

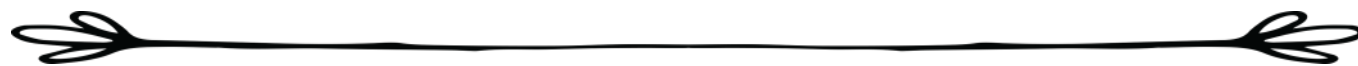


Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers each Saturday. On April 22, 2023, we appreciated the work and energy of CUMC youth preparing and serving our meal. Our guests so much appreciated their presence and hospitality. On April 29, 2023, we welcomed volunteers from Brownsdale United Methodist Church with their preparation and serving of our meal.

We would also like to thank the Memorials and Living Gifts Committee for funding for two woks for our program. These new pans have been much appreciated in preparing our meals. Thank you so much for your support.

If you/or a group you are involved with are interested in volunteering for the Saturday Noon Meal program, please contact Kathy Lombardo at kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or at 507-398-2686.

Thank you so much for your support of the SNM program.



CUMC Vegetable Garden

We are quickly moving into garden season! We anticipate planting the garden at the end of May. If you are interested in getting involved with the Vegetable Garden ministry, please contact Kathy Lombardo at kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or at 507-398-2686. We can benefit from volunteers willing to assist with water, weeding and harvesting throughout the summer months.

We were blessed with funding through the Memorials and Living Gifts Committee for a compost system. A compost system has been ordered and will be installed soon at CUMC for everyone's use. Further information and instructions will be provided soon.

Thank you so much for your consideration to be involved with this ministry program.





Caring Ministries

Christ United Methodist Church

From The Ministry of Congregational Care

Lay Visitor and Lay Caller Training May 20, Room 145 8:30am -12pm

Pre-Registration with Pastor Nancy is encouraged. Treats will be served.

We invite singles, couples and families to consider Lay Visitor Ministry and Lay Caller Ministry to persons who are homebound.

Our homebound members and friends are living in homes, senior residences and care facilities. They have been ushers, choir members, Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders and ministry team members. They want to hear about what's happening at their church. They may also wish to visit about current events, the weather, the Twins, the Vikings or other interests. Some of our members like to receive communion, a prayer shawl or the Upper Room.

Lay Visitors have training so that they have the knowledge of how to make an effective caring visit. We discuss the biblical basis for making visits. We discuss how to provide spiritual support by means of prayer, holy listening, and sharing interests. We meet together a few times a year to share experiences and to continue to learn about visiting. Lay visitors sometimes visit one person while others choose to visit several. We ask lay visitors to visit at least once a month. Many help with the Flower Ministry after Easter and Christmas. A background check and Safe Sanctuary training are required.

We currently have about one hundred homebound members. Most live in Rochester. There are six lay visitors and four lay callers. The callers make phone calls and have the same training as lay visitors.

For more information, please contact Pastor Nancy. If you are interested, but not able to come May 20, please let me know.

Pastor Nancy Wheeler Handlon



Visits in the Hospital

Reminder that if you would like a Pastor or Care Visitor to visit you in the hospital you need to notify the church office. In case of emergency, there is always a pastor on call day or night. After business hours just follow the prompts for the pastor on call.



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he (she) finds it attached to the rest of the world." John Muir

May Faith-->Life Forum

Every third Sunday (except December) we offer forums given by insightful guest speakers that cover a wide range of relevant topics. **Registration is not required.** You can join in-person or by clicking on the Zoom link provided in the Sunday worship email reminder the day of the forum.

"Trash Talk: Finding the Proper Place for Your Waste in Olmsted County"

May 21, 2023, 10:00 am – In-person in Wesley Hall and on Zoom

**Presenter: Anthony Wittmer, Communications Specialist,
Olmsted County Environmental Resources**

"Make Earth Day Every Day" – We have been given the responsibility to care for God's creation, not just on April 22/Earth Day, but every day. CUMC's efforts in applying the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) have been led by the Hopeful Earthkeepers. Plus, Thrift on Fifth not only keeps clothing out of the garbage, but benefits anyone needing affordable clothing and affordable childcare.

Whether it's household garbage, an old washing machine, or a can of paint, Olmsted County's Integrated Solid Waste Management System provides a proper place for waste. We will learn from Anthony Wittmer about the unique services provided by the Recycling Center Plus, Hazardous Waste Facility, Yard Waste Compost Site, Waste-to-Energy Facility, and Kalmar Landfill. We will also find out what items should or should not be placed in the curbside garbage bins and recycling carts.

Previous forums are archived at:

<https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn>

Click on our playlists tab, then, "Faith to Life"

Sunday Classes

Contemporary Issues

Host: Joel Charlson

Time: Sundays at 10:00 AM

Place: In-Person (Room 146) and on Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?pwd=VXFEK3I6UVRWeFRObzRieGR5VUlmQT09)

[pwd=VXFEK3I6UVRWeFRObzRieGR5VUlmQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?pwd=VXFEK3I6UVRWeFRObzRieGR5VUlmQT09) If you are interested in joining the class,

email Joel at joel.charlson@gmail.com to receive the weekly *Wired Word* or join us on Zoom.

Faith → Life: Cont. Classes

Inquiring Spirits

Hosts: Ed Shafer

Time: Sundays at 10:15 AM

Place: In-Person (Room 145) and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82253693720>

The group is currently reading *Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder. 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, May 10th at 8:30 AM

Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center

CU Wednesdays Crossroads (through May 24th)

Hosts: Pastor Kirkland & Pastor Jenny

Time: Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Place: ECC

Contact Pastor Kirkland with any questions

Dinner/Lunch Club

Contact Marjie Blaisdell at mablaisdell@gmail.com if you are interested in the Summertime Dinner Club & Lunch Bunch.

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: May 21st from 4:00 – 6:30pm

Place: Contact Brian for location

Interested or want further information? Contact Brian at bkwebbus@gmail.com or Millie at 608-212-9706.

Knit One Pray, Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

Time: Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Place: WebEx

Contact Marjie at mablaisdell@gmail.com to receive a link to the WebEx meeting.



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

Men's Coffee Group

Host: Dick Estry

Time: Thursdays at 8:00 AM

Place: In person (Room 145) and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503377386?pwd=czVQNzlxTTE1eHdvdmgzZlBXdmsxZz09>. Contact Dick at rk.stry@gmail.com for further information.

Tea and Tacos

Host: Armanda Vanderheiden

Time: Saturday, May 6th at 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Place: Narthex

A sacred and safe space for women of all generations, backgrounds and beliefs to do life together. Childcare available. No need to register; drop-ins welcomed.

On Saturday, May 13th from 4:30-6:30 pm the group will participate in Ladies Day of Service Lunch in the Cities and packing food at Feed My Starving Children. May 20th is the Pride Fest in Rochester.

Theology on Brew

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Thursday, May 11th at 6:30 PM

Place: Returning to Little Thistle Brewing Co.

Contact Pastors Jenny and Kirkland with questions.

All Church Read

"Rest Is Resistance: A Manifesto"

Tricia Hersy

****Instant *New York Times* Bestseller****

In this book Tricia Hersy, aka The Nap Bishop, encourages us to connect to the liberating power of rest, daydreaming, and naps as a foundation for healing and justice. The book is rooted in spiritual energy with Hersy's captivating storytelling and practical advice, all delivered with her deep experience in theology, activism, and performance arts. It's a manifesto for all of us who are sleep deprived, searching for justice, and longing to be liberated from the oppressive grip of Grind Culture.

Books are available for \$20 in the church office. If you are interested in joining a study group using this book, contact Kathy Estry (rk.stry@gmail.com).

Watch the Wednesday Connections Email, the Sunday Worship Reminder Email, and the Sunday Bulletin for updates on offerings as they become available! Also check out cumethodist.com/get-involved/faith-life for a complete listing and more information about classes and connect groups.

In Memoriam



Doris Heins

November 12, 1921- April 1, 2023



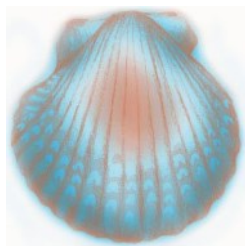
Betty Christiansen

March 24, 1923- April 11, 2023



Dale Thomas

May 18, 1936- April 20, 2023



Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

Olenna Raye Schmitt
daughter of Emily & Alex Schmitt on April 9th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	2 1pm Covenant Group	3 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU WEDNESDAY 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	4 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 10:00am UWF Memorial Service 11:30am UWF Luncheon 1pm Women's Connect Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4 (Skype)	5 6 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Garden Ministry 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos	
7 Communion Sunday Children's Sabbath 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 12:30pm Leadership Board Retreat 4:30pm Youth Group 7pm Asp Trivia Night	8 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	9 10:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall) 7pm Thrive Board Meeting	10 8:30am Breakfast Fellowship 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU WEDNESDAY 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	11 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Connect Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6:30pm Theology on Brew 7:00pm UWF Circle 4	12 10am Rug Hooking Group 10am Women & the Sacred	13 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
14 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 10:15am Confirmation Rehearsal 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Youth Group	15 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	16 1pm Covenant Group	17 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU WEDNESDAY 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	18 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 8:30am UWF Circle 2 10:30am UWF Circle 8 1pm Women's Connect Group 1:30pm Ruth Circle Meeting 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6:00pm Leadership Board Meeting	19 9:30am UWF Book Group	20 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 8:30am Lay Visitor Training 10am Tea & Tacos 12pm Rochester Pride
21 Confirmation Sunday 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Third Sunday Forum 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Youth Group	22 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	23 9am MN Clergy "Watch Party" 10:30am Staff Meeting 12pm UM Clergy Lunch 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall)	24 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU WEDNESDAY 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	25 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 9am Care Visitors Meeting 1pm Women's Connect Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7:00pm UWF Circle 4	26 10am Rug Hooking Group 10am Women & the Sacred	27 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
28 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Youth Group	29 Memorial Day Church Office Closed 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	30 1pm Covenant Group	31 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Connect Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional			

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