

SPIRIT

It's not too late to participate in our 2024 "All In" stewardship campaign. You may make a pledge by contacting the church office or by using our online pledge card at cumethodist.com/give. At this link you may also review additional financial information about CUMC, including our current budget and a 2023 impact report.



Thank you for sharing your gifts with CUMC

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

Pastor's Pen with pastor kirkland



St. Augustine, one of the great Christian writers and teachers over the church's two millennia, believed there are two types of love we hold for God. In Latin, these two loves are "uti" and "frui." Uti is a love for things working out. The best description I've heard of uti is how we may think about a love of money. I admit, I have yet to meet anyone who just holds their money in ecstatic joy and wonder. Money tends to be loved because of what it can do for us because we can get something from it.

Frui love is different. It's a love that is for the sake of the recipient of your love. A gastronomic example of frui love is my love of barbecue. I don't eat barbecue because of what it does for my body and my health. I know it's not good for me. But, honestly, I can't get enough of it and I will always think of it as a marvel of human invention.

Augustine believed that we humans have a bad habit of associating the wrong type of love with God. He believed we offer uti love to God because we want God to give us a good life, with good things, and good days. In other words: I love you, God, and now you may bless me.

Frui love, however, helps us maintain a healthy relationship with God. This is a love that loves God for who God is, not because of what we get from God.

This notion of "frui" love is similar to the love God has for us. God loves us. And God loves us not because of what God gets from us. God loves us because God, who is the fullest expression of love, chooses to love us, always, no matter what.

In worship we regularly participate in God's love for us: we praise God, we remember through scripture how God acts and loves, and we celebrate God's love through the sacraments of baptism and communion.

As United Methodists, we say that sacraments are a "means of grace" for experiencing God's love as a gift and as the source for our identity as people of faith bound together by love.

This month in worship we are considering additional aspects of our life together that are almost sacraments: friendship, food, and music. These everyday experiences can also help us experience the kind of love that God desires for us. Things in our lives that are "almost sacraments" - like healthy experiences of friendship, food, and music - can be like "means of grace" that equip our church to love and serve our city.

Here's good news: As it says in 1 John 4:19, "We love because God first loved us." God's love is not only remembered in scripture, it's everywhere.

Be well and stay encouraged,

Pastor Kirkland

Announcements

<u>Adventicipation</u> The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3rd, 2023. Stay posted to CUMC communications about upcoming events during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, including special worship services, children and youth Christmas pageants, and weekly Advent organ concerts led by our principal organist John Varona. You can also sign up to receive an email with our daily Advent Devotional by contacting Samantha Moccia at samatha@cumethodist.com.

<u>Save the Date - All Saints Service, Sunday November 5th</u> We will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 5. We will remember Christ UMC members and participants who have died in the past year.

<u>Community Thanksgiving Service November 21, 7pm</u> Join us for this annual event sharing gratitude and prayers for peace in our local community and the world. This year we'll gather in Wesley Hall for a shared time of music, prayers, conversation and fellowship. As part of our time together we'll enjoy pie and coffee and collect a special offering for Channel One. Please contact the church office if you are able to donate pies (pumpkin, apple, or pecan, please do not use lard as they must be kosher and halal) or can help provide hospitality for the evening.

<u>Riverside Elementary Walking School Bus</u> Riverside Elementary is planning to start a Walking School Bus to help children from the nearby neighborhood have safe transportation to school each day. They are looking for adults who can commit to walking with a small group of students and staff, once or twice a week from 8:15-9:30 am. Contact Pastor Jenny at <u>pastorjenny@cumethodist.com</u> if you're able to help or would like more information.

<u>CUMC Foundation Updates</u> Curious about giving options? Check out our 2023 Foundation brochure for all your giving needs. Head to <u>cumethodist.com/foundation</u> and click on 'Foundation Brochure.'

The Christ UMC Foundation is pleased to announce that Logan Ackerman and Talon Frank are recipients of the Barbara Griffith Peterson Memorial Scholarship. Logan is a student at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire where he is studying English education. In his application, Logan says he could see himself teaching high school and possibly furthering his studies in graduate school. Logan is grateful for the ongoing support of his home congregation and is enjoying living in the moment each day as he discerns his future vocation.

Talon is a student at the University of Minnesota, Morris where he is studying environmental studies. In his application, Talon says he is motivated by wanting to help people and change the world for the better. Talon is passionate about sustainability and addressing climate change, and he is also gateful for the support of his home congregation.

The Barbara Griffith Peterson Memorial Scholarship was established through the Christ UMC Foundation to provide \$1,000 scholarships for CUMC members pursing undergraduate degrees who have completed one year at an accredited 2 or 4 year college or university. Scholarships are awarded annually, as funds are available. Future applications will be accepted in spring 2024. Learn more at cumethodist.com/foundation.

Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry

Children and Youth News

What a fall it has been! We have had over 60 unique children and youth attend Sunday School, Kids With Purpose, Club 6-7, Confirmation and Youth Group. Additional children and youth attend worship, play in the nursery, and are part of the ASP ministry this year. Our church also serves children through Thrift on 5th, Saturday Noon Meals and we are getting ready to host Christmas Anonymous.

Church, we are making a difference in the lives of children and youth in Rochester EVERY. SINGLE. DAY. Thank you!

Our November focus in Children and Youth Ministry is Gratitude. You will be able to watch our gratitude tree grow, read new Psalms written by our youth, and participate in a month-long gratitude calendar.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please talk to Amanda or Jody.

Christmas Programs are Coming!

December 17 the Sanctuary and ECC will be full of the sounds of children leading worship. Our Preschool-Elementary Students will have a traditional pageant at 9:00 am and our youth are preparing a Game Show themed pageant for the 11:00am worship service. Sunday School and Kids With Purpose in December will help children get comfortable with their roles. The youth will practice during youth group. Both groups will rehearse on Saturday, December 16 at 10am.

Appalachia Service Project Update

We will send two teams to Kentucky June 29- July 8, 2024. Our group is about half veterans and half new people. We are working on skills and team building by helping refresh the church VRBO. On December 17 we will be selling homemade lefse in the Commons between the worship services.

Day of Mission

Over the MEA Fall Break, a group from our church did four projects in eight hours! We started with making affirmation signs for the Thrive staff. We helped Thrift on 5th sort clothes and dress the mannequins for winter. The church perennial



gardens are getting ready for colder weather, and we helped set them up for a warm and safe winter. At Feed My Starving Children, we packed enough manna packs to feed 50 kids for one year!

Children & Youth Cont.

November

- 1 CU Wednesday (see schedule at cumethodist.com/cuwednesday)
- **5** 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School 4:30-6:00pm Youth Group!
- 8 CU Wednesday
- **12** 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School 4:30-6:00pm Building Faith in Your Home Workshop
- **15** CU Wednesday
- **19** 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School 4:30-6:00pm Youth Group!
- 22 NO CU Wednesday (Thanksgiving)
- **26** 9:00am and 11:00am Worship NO Sunday School (Thanksgiving)

No Youth Group (Thanksgiving)

29 CU Wednesday



December

- **3** 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School 4:30-6:00pm Youth Group!
- **6** CU Wednesday
- **10** 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School 4:30-6:00pm 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
 - 4:30-6:00pm Youth Group!
- 20 CU Wednesday

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

Faith in Your Home for the Holidays

Sunday, November 12, 4:30-6:00pm in Wesley Hall

Our Children and Youth Ministries are partnering with our Congregation Care ministries for a special intergenerational workshop to help us all find ways to center faith in our home during the holidays. Have you experienced awkward silence following a family meal prayer with guests? Do you rush into the tasks of the day during this busy season and miss your morning meditation? Is the commercial Christmas pushing into Thanksgiving and Advent in your life? Join us for conversation and practical tools (as well as a few crafts) to keep faith centered in our homes during the Holidays.



For 154 years this group has been known as United IVIDUISI Women. This last year we have transitioned to a new name—United Women in Faith—changed because of the challenging times we are living in and the need to reach out to more women. All women can Women. This last year we have transitioned to a new name—United also be part of the new National Membership option that has many helpful and inspiring ways to support women, children, and youth through their website digital program. (uwfaith.org)

On Tuesday, Nov. 14 there will be a "Welcome to UWF Digital Open House" from 7:00-8:00 PM (CST). On Dec. 12 and Jan. 9 there will also be Open Houses at the same time. Zoom link to join: https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/j/82335797952.

Two programs that I have found helpful and inspiring on the website are:

<u>Faith Talks</u> - monthly conversations exploring timely themes and resources, from expert insights on ways to live your faith to interviews with spiritual leaders.

Voices from the Field - learning about the national and international initiatives that benefit from Mission Giving, directly through the voices "from the field." In this interactive format, you'll hear firsthand from program leaders about their work, daily challenges, hopes, and dreams.

Economic Development Grants given in 2022

- 21,890 women and their families in Africa, Asia, and Latin America received support through training, seed funding, and skills development programs.
- 718 children, youth, and women in the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, and Myanmar were served in 2022 through targeted programs.
- 50 women in Sierra Leone directly involved in soap-making participated in a training workshop and later trained 40 additional women.

"United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities."

UWF Tea 2024

The United Women in Faith is planning their next Tea. The date is April 20th, 2024. We would love to have more people on the committee. We are having an introductory meeting on November 5th after the 9am service in the Fireside Room.

If you are interested in planning the: theme, printing, program, decorations or menu, please come join us. All interested people come join the meeting to see what you can offer. As you know, many hands make a large occasion more fun for all.

If you are interested in joining us, but can't attend the meeting, call Deedee Odell at 281-2755.







Saturday Noon Meals

The SNMs Program continues to support a growing number of guests each Saturday - typically averaging 75 guests each Saturday.

Thank you to our volunteers who keep this ministry program going each week. We welcome any new volunteers and especially those who would like to work a 10:30 to 1:30 pm shift.

Thank you to our community partners that supply us with food supplies and donations each week - Channel One, People's Food Co-op, Red Lobster, Thrive, Community Food Response, Salvation Army and 125Live



(Hy-Vee). We also appreciate the financial support that we receive from CUMC and community donors.

We appreciate the St. Francis Girl Scout troop that volunteered on October 14. Their involvement in our ministry program is much appreciated!



Contact Kathy Lombardo if you have questions regarding this ministry program or would like to volunteer.

Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or 507-398-2686.





CUMC Vegetable Garden

The CUMC Vegetable Garden was a large success this year.

We grew tomatoes, peppers, kale, eggplant, squash, herbs, mint, pumpkins, and flowers. We used vegetables and fresh herbs in our meals for Saturday Noon Meals on Saturdays. It was the first summer we were able to serve fresh sliced tomatoes to our guests and they were so much appreciated.

Thank you to our volunteers for weeding and watering. Thank you to Sargent's and Jim Whiting Nursery for donating plants in the spring. We also want to thank the St. Francis Girl Scouts for planting the garden this spring and cleaning up the garden this fall (November 8). Free-will offerings for garden produce are also appreciated.



The idea of a CUMC garden was created in the summer of 2020 during the early months of the Pandemic and was implemented in the Spring of 2021 with the support of the CUMC Foundation and CUMC volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has supported this ministry program.

Please contact Kathy Lombardo if you are interested in the CUMC Vegetable Garden Ministry program. Kathryn.Lombardo@gmail.com or 507-398-2686

Thank you again for your support.

From The Ministry of Congregational Care

Christ UMC's first Service for Pregnancy and Infant Loss was held in the chapel Sunday afternoon October 29. It was a service of hope and lament. Hope for brighter days in the face of loss and lament for the wee ones who died. Music by Brenda Fyles and prayers and liturgy by the Pastors. Candles were lit in memory. Being together in the presence of God provided community.

Know that the Pastors and Care Visitors are glad to visit with you about your loss.

Simply call the church office to make an appointment.

The Clergy Families of Christ UMC gathered for lunch November 1 in Wesley Hall. Did you know that we have 34 members of this group! This includes active and appointed clergy and their spouses. If we added the kids at home that would bring it up to 40!

We are grateful for the ways they contribute to our faith community and support Christ UMC.

All Saints Day will be celebrated this year on Sunday November 5 at the 9 am service. This is a special day on which we celebrate the gifts of all the saints in our lives and in the life of the church. This year we remembered 25 members and friends who have died. We also dedicated the memorial gifts given to support the ministries of Christ UMC. We are grateful for these gifts that strengthen ministries of music, of congregational care, of children, youth and families, of outreach, mission and connectional ministries.

Coming Up

November 12, 4:30-6 pm A Special All Church Event:

Faithbuilding in Your Home Workshop

For all ages, for singles, couples, families with kids and without. See page 4 for more information! Sponsored by Children, Family and Youth Ministry and Congregational Care.

Watch for opportunities in late November to order Christmas Poinsettias, to decorate Christ UMC during Advent and Christmas, and for delivery to bereaved and homebound members.

Paster Mancy Whale Handler

10



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

"We were made to be together, and that's by God's design. Human flourishing requires that we establish, mend, and maintain relationships with other people."

Leroy Barber, Pastor and "beloved community" organizer

Meet the Faith-->Life Team

Pastor Jenny Cannon, Joel Charlson, Kathy Estry, Marita Heller, Anna Hughes, Gary Lueck, Pam Lund, Keri Ostby, Eric Vanderheiden, Aileen Williams, and Connie Williams

November 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.

Christmas Blues

November 19, 2023, 10:00 am

Watch for location in church emails

Presenter: John Varona CUMC's Principal Organist

For the Advent season this year, the blues musical tradition will be our guide through scriptural stories of resilience and hope as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Please join us to hear John guide us through the blues.

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 10:00 AM

Place: In-Person (Room 146) or on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?

<u>pwd=VXFEK3I6UVRWeFRObzRjeGR5VUImQT09</u> 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 or

drop into room 146!



Faith → Life: Cont.

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

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

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

Breakfast Fellowship

Hosts: Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson

Time: Wednesday, November 8th at 8:30 AM

Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center

CU Wednesdays Crossroads

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 29 at 6:30 PM (after CU Wednesday dinner)

Place: Room 145

BeADisciple Bible Study

Dinner/Lunch Club

It's not too late; new groups are forming! 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.

Garden Ministry

Host: Mary Schmidt

Time: Thursdays, 8:30 – 10:30 AM and a Fall Workday

Place: CUMC Grounds

Currently doing fall clean up, mulching, trimming and planting. Bring your own gloves and

gardening tools if you have them. Contact Mary at oronocombs@yahoo.com

Faith \rightarrow Life: Cont.

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: November 19th, 4:00 – 6:30 PM

Place: Mary & Ray Hanson'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.

Knit One Pray, Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

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

Place: WebEx

Contact Marjie at <a href="mailto:mai

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=czVQNzIxTTE1eHdvdmgzZlBXdmsxZz09

Contact Dick at rk.estry@gmail.com for further information.

Tea and Tacos

Host: Armanda Vanderheiden

Time: Saturday, November 4th, 11th. 18th at 10am

Place: Room 145

Tea and Tacos is a multigenerational and safe space for ALL women to gather and work through life together. The books we study are just a bonus (and absolutely NOT required to attend). We are going to be discussing Rachel Held Evans book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again*. Daycare is provided in the church nursery. There will NOT be a night out in Nov due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. For more info about this awesome group contact Armanda Vanderheiden @ 507-261-2123 or email her at Justgot2havejesus@gmail.com. I hope you join us!

Theology on Brew

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Thursday, November 9th at 6:30 PM **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.

Community Notes

From Heather Moe Good news that I really want to share with you all: My aunt successfully underwent her liver transplant. Thank goodness! I would really like to take this moment to pass along my sincere thankfulness to the many thoughtful people and our clergy here at CUMC. All of our prayers for my aunt's successful transplant have been answered! My family and I are very thankful to each one of you. Very best wishes to our congregation!

From Dick and Deedee Odell Dick and I want to thank you, our church family, for all of the calls, visits, cards, food and especially prayers following our car accident on June 25th. Dick has recovered and I am now working with physical therapy exercising my neck to move like it has in the past. It is a slow process, but we look forward to seeing you in person soon. Thank you for being a wonderful and supportive church.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
Featuring "A Sign Ahead"

SILENT AUCTION 11:30AM-1PM

CONCERT IPM-3PM

Christ United Methodist Church: 400 5th Ave SW, Rochester, MN 55902







Sign up to volunteer with the Family Promise Concert and Silent Auction at:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4FA4AA22A3F94-silent#/

In Memoriam



Henry Bartel
October 20, 1926- October 1, 2023



Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

Claira Marie Floryance on October 15

Nivash Govindan on October 29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Knit One Pray, Too 11am Clergy Family Gathering 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir	8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 8:30am Garden Ministry 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	ω	4 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
5 All Saints Sunday, Communion Sunday 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10am UWF Tea Planning 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11:15am Children's Sunday School 1::15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group	o	7 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group	8 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	8 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 9:15am Care Visitors 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6:30pm Theology on Brew 7pm UWF Circle 4	10 10am Women & the Sacred 10am Rug Hooking Group	11 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Rochester Family Promise Concert & Silent Auction 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
12	13	14	Rehearsal	16	17	18
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 Faith in Your Home for the Holidays		10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1m:Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall) 7pm Thrive Board Meeting	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	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 1pm Ruth Circle 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6pm Leadership Board Meeting 7pm UWF Circle 4	9:30am UWF Book Group	7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
19 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Third Sunday Forum 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4pm Hand Foot and Card Group 4:30pm Youth Group	20	21 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall) 7pm Community Thanksgiving Service	22 10am Knit One Pray, Too 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm)	23 Thanksgiving Church Closed	24	7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 1pm Compassionate Rochester Forum
26 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Arise Worship	27	28 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters	29 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (fill 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir	30 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 9:15am Care Visitors 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4		Save the Date: Christmas Anonymous Store Day Saturday December 9th

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

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