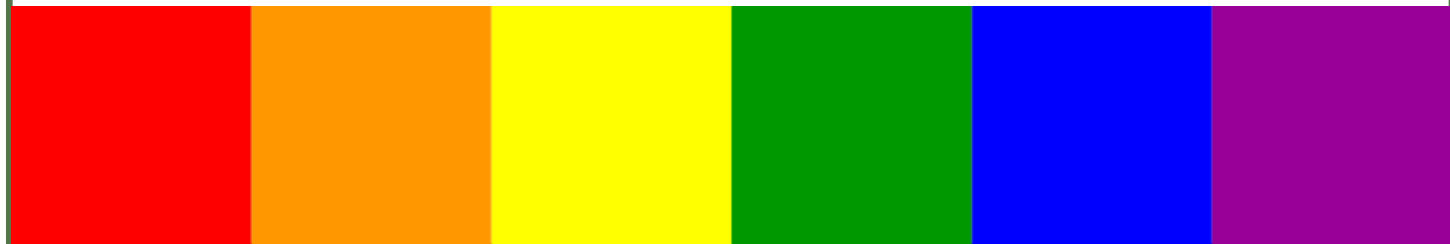


Christ United Methodist Church
400 Fifth Avenue SW
Rochester, MN 55902
507-289-4019
email@cumethodist.com

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THE NEW SPIRIT



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

Facebook.com/cumethodist
YouTube.com/ChristUnitedMethodistChurchRochesterMN

Pastor's Pen WITH PASTOR JENNY

For a society that is often oriented around the school calendar, each May brings a flurry of "end of year" activities. Recitals, celebrations, graduations and ceremonies have become so prevalent in this month that it's now jokingly referred to as "Maycember," hearkening back to the busyness of the holiday season. While we certainly have our share of Maycember activities in our household, I've always particularly loved the way this time is shaped in the church year. May usually carries us from the Easter season into the celebration of Pentecost. And at CUMC that includes our own passages and celebrations such as Children's Worship, Rochester Pride, Ascension Sunday, Confirmation, Annual Conference and the final weeks of Sunday School, music rehearsals and CU Wednesday gatherings. This May we'll also remember and give thanks for the life of Rev. Ted Colescott who died at the beginning of 2024, and whose memorial service will so fittingly take place on Pentecost weekend in our church.

It's a full and joyful season, but lest we get carried away with all "busyness," I hope that May also brings ample time for us to pause and take in. Even in Minnesota, spring is upon us and there are endings and beginnings unfolding all around, in the natural world and in these rituals of time and experience that have become so engrained in our life together. I am profoundly grateful to be part of communities where we mark and remember with intention. And where growth and loss and new birth and possibility are all lifted up as part of the sacred rhythms of creation.

In many ways it reminds me of the hope we celebrate in the incarnation- God's indwelling in humanity calling us to an awareness of the sacred both in heaven and on earth. I think I feel a carol coming on....Happy Maycember everyone!

Peace,

Pasta Jenny

**Celebrating Our Jewels:
The Kaleidoscope of Wholeness**
May 22nd 5-8pm

Join Leilania Raashida Henry and Pastor Jenny for a colorful workshop exploring our gifts, relationships and connections to one another. Utilizing conversation and embodied practices we invite you to consider the unique jewels you share in the kaleidoscope of our life together.



RSVP to the church office through email@cumethodist.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 Communion & Children's Sunday 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Youth Group</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 11:30am Brothers in Christ Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall)</p>	<p>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 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 11:30am Caring Ministries Team 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6:30pm Theology on Brew (offsite) 7pm UWF Circle 4 7:30pm Thrive Board Meeting (Zoom)</p>	<p>10 10am Rug Hooking Group</p>	<p>11 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos 6pm RCMS Concert</p>
<p>12 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall)</p>	<p>15 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16 8am Thursday Men's Group 8am UWF Unit Meeting 10:30am Covenant Group Circle (2 & 8) 1pm Women's Book Group 1:30pm UWF Ruth Circle Meeting 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6pm Leadership Board Meeting 7pm UWF Circle 4</p>	<p>17 9:30am UWF Book Group</p>	<p>18 No Saturday Noon Meal 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos at UWF Tea 11am Colescott Memorial Service 12pm Rochester Pride (offsite) 5pm Pride Teen After Party (offsite)</p>
<p>19 Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 11:30am Brothers in Christ Covenant Group 4:30pm Earthkeepers</p>	<p>22 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm The Color Together with Leilani Henry 6:00pm Celebration Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 3pm Charter House Service (offsite) 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4</p>	<p>24 10am Rug Hooking Group</p>	<p>25 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open</p>
<p>26 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Youth Group</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>28 Minn. Annual Conf. 11:30am Brothers in Christ Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters</p>	<p>29 Minn. Annual Conf. 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 6:00pm Celebration Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>30 Minn. Annual Conf. 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 3pm Charter House Service (offsite) 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4</p>	<p>31</p>	

Community Updates



Alison McHenry joined April 21

Hi! My name is Alison McHenry. I grew up in the United Church of Christ in Ames, IA and after moving to Rochester I found that radical love I grew up knowing from God in Christ United Methodist Church. Outside of church, I am a Registered Nurse in Radiation Oncology at Mayo. I enjoy anything to do with Taylor Swift or the color pink. I live with my boyfriend Dillon. I am very outgoing and love to be around people. I volunteer outside of church at the Ronald McDonald House and am an avid "Rockboxer." I have started helping out with Club 6-7 here on Wednesday nights and it brings me right back to my days in Youth Group at Ames UCC. I am excited to explore new ways to be a part of the church through membership and to be in a space where I feel the radical love I've experienced from God.

Congratulations to Kim and Grant Fedderson and big brother Carl on the birth of Kate Fedderson on April 14.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

Ellie Mae August, daughter of Daniel and Janelle August, was baptized on April 7, 2024

Amelia Mayer, Dylan Kratzke and Danielle McNamara, children of Hannah Mayer, were baptized on April 21, 2027



Istvan (Steve) Kiss
Passed Away
March 21, 2024

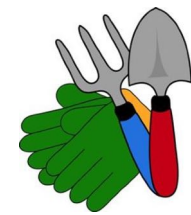


A Memorial Service for
Rev. Ted Colescott
will be held at
Christ UMC
on Sunday, May 18
at 11am

Announcements



Summer Dinner Club/Lunch Bunch Groups! If there is enough interest, Dinner or Lunch groups will be offered for the summer months. Sharing meals in homes or restaurants or picnicking together in parks or on patios can be enjoyed while getting better acquainted with others in our CUMC family. Invite new members or attendees to join you. If there are at least 6 – 8 people interested, we can connect you. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Marjie Blaisdell at 507-269-7637 or mablaisdell@gmail.com.



Join the Garden Ministry CUMC Grounds Cleanup – Wednesday, May 8 from 5 – 7 pm. We will be cutting back pollinators, cleaning out the beds and picking up trash on the block. Bring gloves and hedge shears if you have them – if not, come anyway! We will love to see you! Contact Mary Schmidt at 507-254-5216 with any questions. We will meet on the east side by the church garage. Rain date: Wednesday, May 15 at same time.

Join the Breakfast Fellowship Group

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

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

College Scholarship through the CUMC Foundation

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

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

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

Family Promise Shelter Support

As Family Promise prepares to move into its new facility and expand it's important work as the only family shelter in Rochester, CUMC has made a commitment to help sponsor a bedroom. This \$3,000 commitment will help provide a safe and comfortable space for families experiencing homelessness in our community. Throughout May and June we will be raising money toward our room sponsorship. You can make a memo for "Family Promise Room" in your check donation or select "Family Promise" at cumethodist.com/give.





Rochester Pride 2024

Soldiers Field

May 18 from 12pm-5pm

Join with CUMC to connect in the community and celebrate Pride 2024. Contact the church office for more information or to volunteer with our Pride team.

Pride "After-Party" for Teens

CUMC is again partnering with local faith communities and partners to provide a safe and welcoming "Pride After Party" for teens ages 11 and up. The After Party is held at Old School Entertainment. Contact Armanda Vanderheiden or the church office for more information or to volunteer.



Saturday Noon Meal Program

The Saturday Noon Meal Program continues to serve approximately 75 guests each Saturday. A warm and nutritious meal is so important for our guests. With ongoing financial and food insecurity impacting so many people and families in our community - the SNM program is an important support for those that we serve.

Thank you to our many volunteers for the hours they spend each week preparing and serving meals and to our community partners for access to affordable food and donations.

Thank you for your continued donations of food containers and books for our guests.

If you are interested in learning more about the SNM program or would like to volunteer - please contact Kathy Lombardo at kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or at 507-398-2686.

CUMC Vegetable Garden

As we move into Spring - we will begin preparing and planting our gardens at CUMC.

We will be replenishing our gardens with fresh dirt during the month of May and plan on planting the garden later in the month of May. We have been very successful during the past 3 gardening seasons and are hopeful that we will continue to enjoy the plentiful harvests from the garden which supports the Saturday Noon Meal program.

If you are interested in volunteering or would appreciate additional information of how you can support this ministry program - please contact Kathy Lombardo at kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or at 507-398-2686. We appreciate individuals or families/groups that can assist with watering throughout the summer.



April 19, 2024

Dear Pastor and Congregation of Christ United Methodist Church of Rochester:

Thank you for paying 100 percent apportionments in 2023! The River Valley District increased its payment last year by 9.5%, bringing it to an 85.2% rate. Apportionment giving is a powerful way for us to work together across Minnesota to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In a world that is sowing division in ever newer ways, our common work builds a bridge across those divides. As Greater Minnesota and urban churches, with creative, progressive, and traditional theologies, as small and large congregations our connection is a witness that the body of Christ can still make a difference. United, we support ministry by resourcing churches and clergy through things such as the Fresh Expressions initiative, support and continuing education opportunities for clergy, Conference wide work on anti-racism, as well as the ways Conference staff, including your Superintendent, works with you.

Your congregation joins 50 others in the River Valley District in paying apportionments in full. Thank you for your steadfast faithfulness to our common ministry. I have included a Certificate of Appreciation to honor your commitment.

Our apportionments undergird the Minnesota Annual Conference, and the worldwide United Methodist Church, in our witness to Christ. May God continue to work through your church as you bless the world around you.

In Christ,

Rev. Michelle Hargrave

Lanette Florio, Resident Bishop • Michelle Hargrave, District Superintendent
www.minnesotamc.org/rivervalley
122 St. Florian Ave. Suite 410 • Minneapolis, MN 55404 • P: 612-208-6118
rivervalley@minnesotamc.org



Christ UMC Recognized for 100% Apportionment Support in 2023 to the Minnesota Conference and The United Methodist Church

Around 10% of CUMC's annual budget supports United Methodist ministry and mission in Minnesota and around the world. We are proud to further God's work in and beyond Rochester, and we celebrate our shared generosity that supports loving God and loving neighbors through United Methodist ministries.



Faith → Life: Cont.

Connect Groups

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

Knit One, Pray Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

Time: Wednesdays 10:30AM-12:00 noon

Place: Skype, 3rd Wednesdays are in-person in the Fireside Room. Contact Marjie at mablaisdell@gmail.com if interested in joining on Skype or just come on the 3rd Wednesday!

Breakfast Fellowship

Hosts: Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson

Time: Wednesday, May 8, at 8:30 AM

Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center

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>

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: Sunday, May 19, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

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

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.

Tea and Tacos

Host: Armanda Vanderheiden

Time and Place: Book Study and conversation, Saturdays in May from 10:00AM-12:00PM in room 145. *Not meeting on Saturday, May 18 due to confirmation weekend and Rochester Pride.* For more information and updates about this group, join our Facebook group, "[Tea and Tacos](#)" or contact Armanda (507-261-2123).

Theology on Brew

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Thursday, May 9, at 6:30 PM

Place: Little Thistle Brewing, 2031 14th St NW, Rochester, MN 55901

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.

Children's Ministry

&

Youth Ministry

Children and Youth Ministry Updates

We are excited to celebrate our children and youth in worship this May and June! We have had a great year together and are preparing to end the school year programming with joy and an invitation to summer adventures.

Children's Worship May 5 our children will sing, preach, contribute images and more as the kids take over planning and leading worship at 9:00am and 11:00am.

Confirmation Sunday is May 20. We have awesome youth who have worked together this year to discern more about their faith and taking membership vows at Christ UMC. Celebrate with them at 9:00 and 11:00am with cake between the worship services.

Graduate Sunday June 9, 9:00 and 11:00 worship with a cake reception between the services



Our Children and Youth Ministries take a break over the summer from our regular schedule.

Here are the remaining dates for some ministries:

- Sunday School does not meet on May 5, because the children will be in charge of the worship service! They do meet on May 12 and 19 to finish out the school year.
- Children's Choir has their final practice on May 1, and performs their ministry on May 5.
- Children's Bells perform their ministry on May 5. They will meet on May 8 and 15 to continue working on bell skills.
- The CU Wednesday Meal, Kids with Purpose, Club 6-7 and Confirmation will have their last day on May 15.
- Youth Group will meet on May 5 and 12 from 4:30-6:00. Pride/Confirmation weekend (May 19) we will not meet. May 26, Memorial Day weekend, we will have a cookout. June 2 we will celebrate the end of youth group for the school year and welcome our new 6th graders!

Are You a Graduate?

Our June newsletter will include updates on people from our congregation who are celebrating graduations and the completion of educational programs. Did you finish your Masters this year? Get certified as a Spiritual Director? We want to know and to help your church celebrate with you. Please email details or questions to pastoramanda@cumethodist.com.

Children and Youth continued from page 4

ASP Updates

Thank you for your support at Trivia night! Our Trivia Night was a success. This year's winning team will be going to ASP on a stick! This fun event allows our youth and adult teams to continue working together and raises funds to support our relational ministry that transforms homes and lives.

Mark your calendar for ASP Commissioning worship on June 23 at both worship services and the parking lot send off on June 28!

Summer Registrations continue!

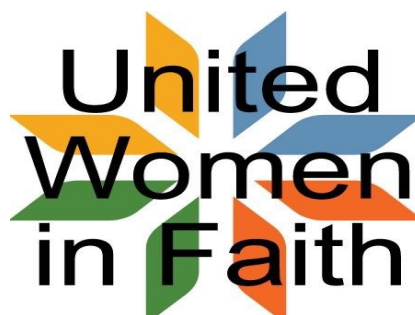
June 16-21 Camp Week at Northern Pines For more information see www.campminnesota.org or talk to Pastor Amanda.

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

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

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

CUMC's United Women in Faith (UWF) invites the women of CUMC to join us May 16th, at 1:30 pm for a special program in the Commons. Connie Scott, our district librarian, will present information on the UWF reading program. This program brings people together to explore, share and discuss books in five focus areas: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Come learn about the program and see many of the wonderful books available for checkout. Light refreshments will be served.



Also look for the new display window in the Commons. The theme is "The Good Book and Good Books" and highlights the UWF reading program as well as many other opportunities for reading good books with CUMC. Be sure to look for the bookworm in the display and claim your Fair Trade Chocolate in the office when you find it.



CUMC & Reconciling Ministries

The church recently received a thank you note from the Reconciling Ministries Network, which is the organizing group within The United Methodist Church that has been advocating for a more inclusive and just church for 40 years. CUMC is a member congregation of the reconciling movement and we are hopeful for a church that fully embraces and includes LGBTQ+ persons. From the thank you letter: "Your gift ensures that RMN can seize every opportunity to change hearts and minds and pursue justice and equality for LGBTQ+ people in our Church."

Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings



**Third Sunday Forum
Confirmation Sunday, May 19**

In lieu of a presentation this month, we invite members of the CUMC community to help us welcome and celebrate our confirmands on Sunday, May 19, between the 9:00am and 11:00am services.

Previous forums are archived at: <https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochester>
Click on our playlists tab, then, "Faith to Life."

**"Civil War" Movie Outing
Saturday, May 4 at Marcus Theater**

Join with others from CUMC to watch and discuss the movie "Civil War."
Contact [Ana Hughes](#) or [Pastor Jenny](#) for more information.

Sunday Classes

Contemporary Issues

Host: Joel Charlson

Time: Sundays at 10:10 AM

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?pwd=VXFEEK3l6UVRWeFR0bzRjeGR5VUlmQT09>

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

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. For further information contact Ed at shaferchurch@hotmail.com



Dr. Peggy Johnson
Minister for Congregational Care

When I was eight years old, I moved with my family into an aging blonde brick duplex situated kitty-corner from a large cemetery in the poor part of town. The cemetery's wrought iron fence acted as a shield against curious onlookers and mischievous youth, and its gargoyle gate seemed to silently scream "beware." The cemetery's overgrown trees created an atmosphere of hushed foreboding. I was petrified.

My new best friend Julie lived just blocks away—on the other side of the cemetery in a modern home with a piano, shag carpeting, and a ping-pong table in the basement. So whenever Julie invited me over after school, I jumped at the chance—even though it meant facing that menacing cemetery on my way home.

I was so terrified I often sprinted past, my legs chugging, my heart wildly pumping, my mind racing with thoughts of my capture and torture. Such is the imaginative mind of a child.

But something changed one late sunlit afternoon. In my fear, the sunshine cast down on me a warm embrace that seemed to still my distress, and I began to sing to God, to the Universe, to whatever it was in that moment that made me feel I was important, I belonged, that I was loved. It was as if the words and melody acted as a salve that blanketed my fear, a caress that calmed my soul and helped me see that my outsized fear of the cemetery was really my outsized fear of life. After losing my father at a young child, I regarded life, with its vast ability to cut down and harm without warning, as an uncaring foe, an adversary capable of capture and torture.

I began to understand that in the midst of my deep fear of loss, there could exist something beyond fear—trust. Trust that God—the Unknown—knew me, deeply and fully. Trust that in life's immensity, I had not been forgotten. Trust that I held a place that mattered alongside all of Creation.

Over four decades later, the paralyzing fear I felt as a child returned when I learned that my mother's health had taken a critical turn. During one particularly sleepless night at the hospital I found myself walking the eerily quiet hallways. The echo of my footsteps sounded so ominous I began to believe I was being followed by an evil person intent on harming me. The same childhood emotions bubbled up—my mind racing, my heart wildly pumping—and I sprinted back to the safety of my mother's hospital room and curled up in the recliner next to her bed. I instinctively voiced to my mother, who was clinging to life—"It's okay, Mom. I'm not afraid."

My mother knew, even when I didn't, that I would struggle without her, that I would yearn for her touch, her voice, her presence. My panic over an evil person intent on harming me was the manifestation of my overwhelming fear that her loss would be too much to bear. A few hours later, my mother died.

I'm more self-aware now, able to notice the red flags that indicate fear. They caution me most fervently when I'm facing a new challenge or a potential loss. When we are afraid, we tend to isolate ourselves, as though life's burdens are uniquely ours to shoulder. We feel farthest from Love in those moments. Yet it is when we are most in need that we can rely on Love to see us through. I've learned that life—with all its sadness, hurts, challenges, and surprises—is never ours to face alone.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PRESENT

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

On April 20th Christ United Methodist Church was graced with the presence of the Queen of Hearts, the Mad Hatter and Alice in Wonderland, aka Mike and Maddie Skillern and Pastor Jenny.

A Mad Hatter Tea Party ensued with the gentlemen of the church as servers. They were: Jerry Blaisdell, Nivash Govindan, Ray Hansen, Bob Heistand, Gary Hicks, Jerry Hrabe, Pastor Kirkland, Glenn Roberts, Steve Robie and Steve Schlanser. Ben Joslin, the planetarium director at Mayo High School, gave a presentation on pictures from the Webb Telescope. We were "into the future" whether reading *Alice in Wonderland* or looking into space!

Thank you to a wonderful committee of Marjie Blaisdell, Sue Duncanson, Rebecca Harrington, Kathy Lawson, Deedee Odell, Jane Schmidt and Daphne Soleil. Months of planning with food, flamingos and of course Alice took place before the culmination of "The Tea."

The Tea could not have succeeded without the help of Diana Eickelberg, Patti Gilmore, Linda Hyde, Elene Pattinson, Pamela Reynolds, Linda Roberts, Kathy Stettler, Grace Swanson, Marsha Wike, and Armanda Vanderheiden. Thank you, ladies.

Thank you for attending the tea. Thank you for supporting United Women in Faith. Our monies are spread from the Dorothy Day House in Rochester to Emma Norton in St Paul, from a school in Quito, Ecuador to trainings on using solar ovens in Zimbabwe, to providing necessities to women and children in bomb shelters in Kyiv, Ukraine.



UMC General Conference 2024

General Conference meets in Charlotte, NC on April 23 through May 3.

Minnesota Conference delegates to General Conference recently held a presentation about the UMC General Conference. Rev. Carol Zaagsma and Dave Nuckols, provided their presentation at a gathering of reconciling United Methodists in the region. You may view the presentation at the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations website (mnrcumc.org).

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

2024 General Conference Website & Livestream

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

General Conference recap: Regionalization, revised Social Principles, and bright spots (United Methodist News Service report from April 29, 2024)

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/general-conference-recap-regionalization-revised-social-principles-and-bright-spots-18350561>

Video: First week reflections from Bishop Lanette Plambeck

As the second week of General Conference begins, Bishop Lanette Plambeck shares her thoughts about General Conference, both the highlights and the God sightings. "You can absolutely feel the movement of the Spirit aligned to the work of the body. There is a spirit of joy that is palpable. There is a spirit of hope that is palpable," said Bishop Lanette in this video message. [Watch video](#)

Resources and Information about General Conference from the Reconciling Ministries Network

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

Revised Social Principles

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

Pray daily for General Conference with Minnesota Methodists

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

Minnesota Annual Conference 2024

The 170th session of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held May 29-30, 2024 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Drawing from Isaiah 43:1, the theme of this year's Annual Conference is "Jesus. Redeemer." More info will be shared in the June edition of the *New Spirit*. Visit www.minnesotaumc.org to learn more.



Vacation Bible School

We Are Getting Ready for Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be August 5-9 from 9:00-11:45am. Registration begins on May 5.

Volunteers are needed from 8:30-12:15 each day. Following VBS we will offer extended service, learning and fellowship opportunities for our youth (grade 6-12) volunteers until 3pm.

Training for VBS volunteers will be on June 23 and July 28 at 10am. Please email details or questions to pastoramanda@cumethodist.com.

Bring VBS to your home and neighbors On July 21 at 10am we will offer a 45 minute overview of the key themes and concepts of VBS this year. Our curriculum (from Reconciling Ministries) equips us all to wonder, shout, share, ask and speak about the places where God's justice is at work. How can you help the young people in your life live into this each day?



Christ United Methodist Church Rochester

HOPEFUL EARTH

We are a Climate Justice Congregation!

Our EarthKeepers continue to encourage our congregation to make progress in our stewardship and care of the planet. In 2024 we plan to:

- Take steps for certification as a Bicycle Friendly Business (completed March 2024, the League of American Bicyclists)
- Host a forum on the Rochester Food Forest (April 2024)
- Financially support and participate in Rochester Earth Fest Expo (scheduled for May 2024)
- Work with trustees to install rainwater barrels and potentially teach people to make their own rain barrels
- Support the earth care segments of the VBS curriculum "Just Like Me," an advocacy based curriculum produced by Reconciling Ministries produced (August 2024)
- Work with Leadership Board on understanding, communicating and implementing our church energy audit
- Learn about cleaning supplies used in the church

Because of our intentional work around climate care and sustainability, we have been recognized as one of 35 "Climate Justice Congregations" in Minnesota. Here's an excerpt of how they celebrated our work:

Thank you for enlivening the climate movement and bringing the critical lens of justice, values, and spirituality to our collective work. Communities like yours galvanize more people of faith, spirituality, and conscience to respond to climate change and heal our relationship with the earth.

We look forward to our continued partnership.

With gratitude for your leadership, The Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light Team





City shot of Rochester, Minnesota. Image: [Experience Rochester](#)

Streets.mn to Co-Host Contributors' Workshop in Rochester

Attention storytellers, photographers, and local historians!

Do you want Rochester to have more accessible pedestrian infrastructure? Is reliable buses something you want to see in our community? Are you as frustrated as we are about the lack of bike lane

enforcement? Do you want a place to talk about all of the historical buildings that have been lost to car infrastructure (and not have it be overrun with nativists)?

We're hosting a workshop with the phenomenal advocacy journalists at Streets.mn on May 11th. A fun filled opportunity to learn about:

- Anatomy of an Article: Micah Davison, editor in chief, and Amy Gage, managing editor
- Storytelling Beyond Words: Top 10 Tips for Taking Photos. Wolfie Browender, photographer, blogger (Saint Paul by Bike) and longtime Streets.mn contributor
- Data Visualization and Maps Can Help Tell Your Story: Streets.mn contributor Liz Puhl, who "wrangles parcel data" for a living and has a background in cartography and GIS
- How the Streets.mn Podcast Works. Ian Buck, podcast host, and Jeremy Winter, podcast committee
- What Is Advocacy Journalism, Anyway? Streets.mn writers and active transportation advocates Mary Morse Marti and Max Singer

Registration and Information

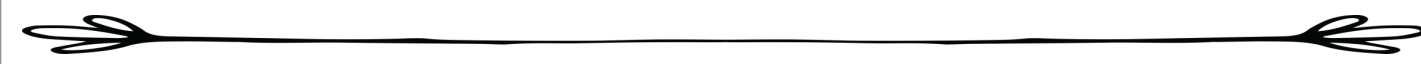
What: Learn more at the [Facebook event site](#).

When: Saturday, May 11, 2024, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Christ United Methodist Church, [400 5th Avenue S.W., Rochester, MN 55902](#)

Registration: We welcome any and all who want to join us, whether from Rochester or farther afield. [Please register in advance](#), so we can plan for food and beverages.

Refreshments: We'll provide light snacks and drinks, and we encourage attendees to bring a packed lunch. Comfortable walking shoes also suggested, in case you want to join the post-event stroll around town.



Three Rivers Restorative Justice on KTTC

KTTC NBC News Anchor, Megan Zemple, prepared an in-depth story on Three Rivers Restorative Justice that aired on Friday, April 26th. You can also stream the story at <https://www.kttc.com/news/>



Update from the Memorials and Living Gifts Committee

Do you have an idea for something that would make worship or another activity at CUMC easier, better or more beneficial to the church and its members? The Memorials and Living Gifts Committee has funds available that may be used for projects or items that would benefit the congregation. Some past items that have been purchased include compost bins, chairs for adult Sunday school rooms 145 & 146, fabric for the UWF quilting ministry, and technology used for worship live-streaming. Applications for these funds may be filled out and submitted by church staff or church members! If you have an idea, please fill out an application (available in the church office and [online at this link](#)) and submit back by June 12th for consideration at our June committee meeting.

Introducing Rev. Steve Martin and The Lakelands Institute

Christ UMC is beginning a ministry partnership with The Lakelands Institute, a church communications firm that resources and supports congregations in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest



The Lakelands Institute brings a fusion of faith and technology to church communications, ensuring that a congregation's message resonates everywhere it needs to. Their expertise in online communication and outreach methods will enable Christ UMC to engage with you and members of the CUMC community seamlessly and extend our reach. From managing social media channels to connecting people via email and print publications, to virtual services and events, The Lakelands Institute's tailored solutions aim to reinforce CUMC's connection with faith.

For communications requests and support, you may reach Steve Martin at steve@cumethodist.com. You may learn more about Steve and The Lakelands Institute through the following bio and by visiting their website at lakelandsinstitute.com.

Rev. Steven D. Martin has served United Methodist Churches as a pastor for twenty years and is a graduate of The Candler School of Theology. He is the founder of the Lakelands Institute, an organization that provides top-rate communications services to local churches. He brings his expertise in theology, the intersection of faith and politics, and media production to congregations to help them tell their stories and reach out to this broken world.

He has produced several films for public television, including "Theologians Under Hitler," "God With US: Baptism and the Jews in the Third Reich," and "Elisabeth of Berlin," the story of an unknown Christian resister during the Nazi era. Steven has served as the Director of Communications and Development for the National Council of Churches in Washington, DC.

In 2007 Rev. Martin was honored at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for his work with "Theologians Under Hitler." Steven also worked with the Obama Administration on an important policy and social media campaign, "Know Your Neighbor," aimed at reducing religious-based bigotry in the US.

Rev. Martin lives in Maryland with his wife, Meg. His four children are all remarkable human beings that he is lucky to know, let alone hear them call him "dad."

Summer 2024 Save the Date

**CUMC
at Northern Pines**
June 16-21

With three camps to choose from, our 3rd-12th graders will be enjoying Christ, Creation and Community
www.campminnesota.org

Appalachia Service Project
June 29-July 8

Two teams of adults and youth will be travelling to learn, serve and grow as disciples of Jesus in Kentucky!

CUMC in the BWCA
July 31-August 4

This is an all ages base camp experience with paddling in the BWCA, hiking to waterfalls and time to connect with God and others.

Just Like Me! VBS
August 5-9

Come and join us in the garden as we celebrate who we are, learn how to use our voice, and share our gifts with our community!

To register and with questions
pastoramanda@cumethodist.com