



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

January 2021

**CHRIST**  
METHODIST CHURCH  
**UNITED**  
Grace, In The City

**THE NEW**

**SPIRIT**

**2021**

*Happy New Year!*

*From Christ United Methodist Church*

Join us for online worship every Sunday at 9am

[facebook.com/cumethodist](https://facebook.com/cumethodist)

Archived on YouTube & on our website

<https://cumethodist.com>

[www.facebook.com/cumethodist](https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist)

[www.twitter.com/cumethodist](https://www.twitter.com/cumethodist)

11:30am Sunday Radio Broadcast on

KOLM (1520 AM)

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

"Christ United Methodist Church Rochester MN"

# Pastor's Pen

WITH ELIZABETH MACAULAY, LEAD PASTOR

*For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;*

*The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2: 11 - 12*



Happy New Year!

This is the year of vaccine and freedom!

It has been wonderful to watch the newspaper headlines shift from a focus on growing numbers of Covid cases to the hope represented in people receiving vaccines.

Thanks be to God for the power of science and the health care providers who have summoned the courage and stamina to tend this weary world.

How have we been changed by 2020?

As we imagine moving into communal life together, what lessons will we bring with us into the future?

We will never again be without the awareness that we so powerfully depend upon the network of care that makes for life.

To name a few?

Teachers. Teachers give their energy and heart to our children. Teachers teach because they care deeply about their craft and their students. The heartache of distance and hybrid learning is borne in the hearts of committed educators.

Child Care Providers. Because childcare workers remained willing to work, workers could continue to provide services needed by the community.

Health care workers. This is obvious but let us never forget it. The city of Rochester is grounded in the power of healing and hope. Every day throughout the pandemic we have known that ICU nurses, custodians, personal care assistants, first responders, chaplains and physicians are working to support the health of all.

Parents. Schedules were adapted. Working from home while trying to be teachers and social directors for children has been an immense stretch.

Seniors. Many of our seniors have lived in relative isolation during this time of pandemic. God bless them and those who make sure that care and support are shared.

The list above is in no way exhaustive.

What we have so powerfully learned through the auspices of the pandemic is that we need each other.

We. Need. Each. Other.

As we venture out of our hidey-holes and into communal life again, may we never again take each other for granted.

May we live thanks for the ways we need each other.

As you pay for your groceries, thank the clerk. As you eat your meals, thank the farmers. As you go about your day, notice the people and the hands who make the graciousness and ease of your life possible.

As you are able to gather with others for worship (oh, I cannot even imagine the joy of it), revel in the sights and the sounds of fellow humans hungry to connect with hope.

Thank God for the sustaining mercies of life.

Thank God for the tenaciousness of love.

Thank God.

It's a new year. We have months to go before we can breathe fully once again.

But my friends, the long winter will pass.

We are forever changed.

Thanks be to God.

*Pastor Elizabeth*

Volunteer Spotlight!



## Volunteer Opportunities:

Calling – we still need callers! Folks will call a list of 10-15 households each month on their schedule to check in with the household. This helps us keep the members of our church community connected when we are not in our church building or bumping elbows on Sunday mornings. Email [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com) to learn more or get a list of people to keep up with!

Our building manager, Kent Nymann is using this time to tidy up the building with the help of volunteers. If you'd like to help with painting and other handywork around CUMC, email [kent@cumethodist.com](mailto:kent@cumethodist.com).

## CONNECTIONS

Last year, I challenged you to make a resolution about volunteering. To get involved at church or in the community and see what happens when you give your time.

This year, I invite you to join a new group. Through the fabulous Faith→Life Team, there will be a wide range of offerings this winter from one time courses on how to talk to your kids about sex to humor. There are classes that will take a few weeks – including a class by CUMC's Racial Justice team.

While we stay safe at home, we all need connection and socialization. Join a group to learn something new, meet new people, and grow in your faith. We have something for everyone!



### An Advent Gift from the Colescott Family

My wife Kathy made this stained glass nativity and gave it to Faith United Church in Ada. It was placed on the communion table in the chancel area in front of the congregation during Advent and Christmas. They had continued to do this as long as they have had in person worship. On Oct 25, 2020, the congregation voted to close on Dec. 31, 2020. As a part of this process they are returning items to people who have given them. Briana and David (my kids) were pleased to give it to CUMC. They both were once members of CUMC and active in the youth group and ASP.

~ Rev. Ted Colescott

## Meeting Christ - January 10th at 11am on Zoom

Meeting Christ Zoom is a monthly gathering for folks who are new to the CUMC community. You will meet clergy, church staff and church members. We will give a brief introduction to our faith, history and reconciling values. You will have the change to ask your questions while we get to know you and welcome you to our church! This is also an opportunity to learn about discipleship and joining our church. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88642642673>

## Zoom Coffee Hour

Join us every week immediately following worship as we share a cup of coffee and discuss topics around the service that just concluded. You can find the zoom link in the weekly Sunday Reminder email right near the top of the page. See you over coffee!

(right: photo from one of our recent coffee hours!)

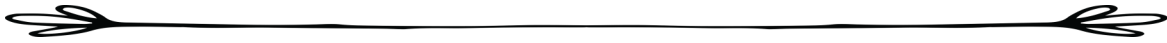


# Children's Ministry

## Wonderful Wednesdays in December

December was a month of wondering around Advent and the birth of Baby Jesus. Our Younger group experienced different versions of the Nativity story read by Rev. Amanda Larsen. Then we

shared our feelings and thoughts through pictures and words. We ended each week joining our voices together to sing "Away in the Manger" with Miss Karla. Our older group brought the Nativity Story to life through the play "The Animals of Bethlehem", written by Amanda Larsen. The children enjoyed bringing the script alive over Zoom.



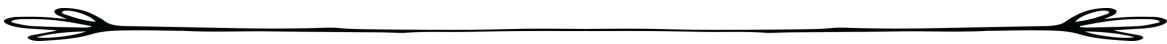
## Wonderful Wednesdays in January

Join us each week on Zoom as we read a bible story together and explore faith through, I wonder questions, conversation, and connections to life. We welcome, embrace, and celebrate all children and the ways they are spiritual children of God.

5:00-5:30 pm Ages PreK-Second Grade

5:30-6:00 pm Ages Third-Fifth Grade

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91492399465>



## POLO Parents of Little Ones in January

We will be meeting January 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm over Zoom.

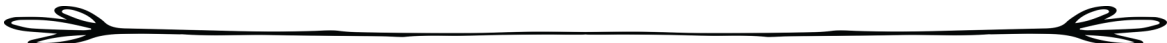
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86572641556>

How did you practice faith as a child? What childhood traditions and beliefs do you want to pass on to your children? And what new ones do you want to create?

In January we be exploring how faith can be woven seamlessly into the fabric of daily life.

I plan to share some spiritual practices that you can do with little ones from the book:

Faithful Families by Traci Smith.



## Youth Ministry

Thanks to all who participated in our Youth Christmas Pageant, *The Wizard's Question* and a special thank you to Rev. Amanda Larsen for writing and directing this dramatized exploration of prophecy.

**Middle School** Middle School will be reading *Prince Caspian* in January. This is the next book in C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*. After reading *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, we just couldn't get enough of these colorful characters and this magic land. If you need a book, email [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com)

We will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom. We open with a check in, talk about the book, play a game and finish in prayer. Among Us is one of our favorite games, and you're welcome to join our group whether you've read the book or not.

## Confirmation

Confirmation continues to meet on Zoom on Wednesday nights. Each week, we read scripture and come together to discuss what we learned. We even made a really cool advent playlist full of songs of comfort and prophecy that you can check out here: <https://tinyurl.com/CUMCConfirmationPlaylist>

## High School

High school youth are invited to join us for Financial Peace University by Dave Ramsey. This 9-week course prepares people to pay off debt, save money and make investments for long-term financial security.

We will meet Wednesday nights at 7:30pm.

To register, please contact [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com)

## General Youth

Our general youth meeting is moving to 6pm on Sundays to accommodate people's schedules. We review the scripture and sermon for the week. In the new year, we will begin brainstorming ways we can serve our community and learn about fundraising.



### ASP

We will have an ASP Meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. If you are interested in participating in our high school mission trip this year, please join the meeting to learn more and offer your input!



THRIVE Child Care and Family Resource Center has just completed our annual fundraising event, **Together We THRIVE**. The funds raised benefit the tuition assistance program to help families in need access quality childcare. Thanks to many of you, we raised over \$20,000 last week. A special thanks to those of you who give to THRIVE scholarships throughout the year.

We heard stories from families, teachers, and other supporters about how Thrive and the tuition assistance has made a difference in their lives. One single mother was able to continue to work and support her family. Another mom talked of not only the financial assistance, but of the emotional support provided by THRIVE staff and the Family Resource Center volunteers. Still another family was able to reduce their childcare costs for their toddler when mom quit working to be with their infant as he spent his last weeks of life in the hospital NICU.



Thrive Fundraiser 2020

If you still would like to donate to the tuition assistance program for THRIVE, you can do that any time. You can give in the following ways:

- Online giving – go to [www.Thrivefrc.org](http://www.Thrivefrc.org) and click on the “Donate” button
- Send a check to Thrive FRC  
400 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Rochester, MN 55902
- Donate through CUMC indicating THRIVE scholarship

Thanks go out to all of CUMC for your support through your gifts and prayers.

Have a blessed New Year,  
The THRIVE Family





## Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings ~ 2021

*"I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship."* Dr. Brene Brown

The Faith→Life Team is offering numerous ways for you to connect with other members of CUMC kinship. We are sure you will find something that feeds your soul, makes you ponder, or even brings a belly laugh!

**It is never too late!** We always welcome ideas/topics that are of interest and also those interested in hosting a group. Contact Kathy Estry at [rk.stry@gmail.com](mailto:rk.stry@gmail.com) or Grace Glover at [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com).

### Third Sunday Faith→Life Forum Offered via Zoom

We are offering forums that cover a wide range of relevant topics and are given by insightful guest speakers. There will be a 30 minute presentation followed by an interactive Q&A. No registration required. Join by clicking on the Zoom link provided in the Sunday worship reminder the day of the forum.

**"Immigration; Not Forgotten"** January 17, 2021, 10:00 am (following the coffee time)

**Presenters:** Marita Heller and Phil Wheeler

Marita Heller represents Christ UMC as a member of the Rochester Interfaith Immigration Rights Coalition. Phil Wheeler is the acting chair of the Interfaith Coalition and chair of the related nonprofit corporation, Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense. They will report on the work of the last year, lead a discussion of the changes that can be anticipated with a new administration, and actions we can take as individuals and a church to understand and further the rights of our immigrant community.

Previous Forums are archived at: [youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochesterminn](https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochesterminn)

### Part 2 and 3 of Pastor Elizabeth's Covenant Bible Study ~ Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

**Part 2 (Living)** focuses on how the community lives out their covenant in faithful love – how it's applied to actual relationships in everyday life. January 6, 13 and 20 **Part 3 (Trusting)** looks at the crises that sometimes call Covenant life into question, and how we are restored to trust in God when troubling things happen. Starting January 27 at 7:00 PM. Registration is required. Please call the church office at 507-289-4019 or email [jenny@cumethodist.com](mailto:jenny@cumethodist.com) to register. Books are available for \$18 in the church office.

## Ongoing Sunday Classes

### Contemporary Issues

**Host:** Joel Charlson **Time:** Sundays at 10:00 AM **Place:** Zoom

Each Thursday Joel emails participants the week's topic from *Wired Word*. Scripture verses and critical questions related to the topic lead to in-depth discussions that apply to how we live our daily lives. If you are interested in joining the class email Joel Charlson at [joel.charlson@gmail.com](mailto:joel.charlson@gmail.com) to receive the weekly *Wired Word* or just join via this zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941> on Sunday morning at 10:00!

### Inquiring Spirits

**Hosts:** Larry & Gwen Scilley **Time:** Sundays at 11:00 AM **Place:** Zoom

Group members suggest theological topics or books of interest to study. The group is currently reading *"To Life! A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking"* by Harold Kushner. New participants are always welcome. For further information contact Ed at [scilleys@charter.net](mailto:scilleys@charter.net)

**Connect Groups** **View a complete listing and register at [cumethodist.com/faith-life](http://cumethodist.com/faith-life)**

### Knit One Pray, Too

**Host:** Marjie Blaisdell **Time:** Wednesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon **Place:** WebEx

Contact Marjie at [mablaisdell@gmail.com](mailto:mablaisdell@gmail.com) to receive a link to the WebEx meeting. The group is knitting prayer shawls and scarves and hats for winter.

### Men's Coffee Group

**Host:** Dick Estry **Time:** Thursdays at 8:00 AM **Place:** On Zoom

Whether you are a long-time member, new to CUMC or looking for a men's fellowship group, you are invited to join for coffee and conversation. To receive a Zoom invite email Dick Estry at [rk.stry@gmail.com](mailto:rk.stry@gmail.com)

### America's Unholy Ghost

**Hosts:** Bobbi Nichols & Nicholas Wysocki **Time:** Sundays at 10:30 AM (after zoom coffee hour), February 7, 14, 28, March 7, 14 **Place:** Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/99802430293>

This is a 5-session film and discussion series that includes 8 conversations with Joel Edward Goza, author of the book, "*America's Unholy Ghost*." The films examine the DNA of the ideologies that shape our nation, ideologies that are as American as apple pie but too often justify and perpetuate racist ideas and racial inequalities.

### Berry's Ecozoic Age; There is Hope!

**Host:** Rev. Cooper Wiggen **Time:** Tuesday, January 19 at 6:00PM **Place:** Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/96774437125>

Cooper will lead a discussion on facing the global challenge of mass extinctions and warming by exploring a fundamental changing of our theology to an "ecozoic" narrative. Selected pages from Thomas Berry's book, *Evening Thoughts*, will be the text for the discussion. The pages for discussion can be accessed by clicking on the link next to the group name on the Faith→Life page at [cumethodist.com/faith-life](http://cumethodist.com/faith-life)

### Financial Peace

**Hosts:** Grace Glover **Time:** Wednesdays, January 20 – March 17 at 7:30 PM **Place:** Zoom

Financial Peace is open to high school and older. Dave Ramsey's curriculum teaches financial responsibility to help people manage debt, savings and investment. This course will offer a weekly video segment and then a discussion about the content while participants work through in a workbook. The course costs \$130.00, but your money will be returned to you upon completion of the course. Registration required at [grace@cumethodist.com](mailto:grace@cumethodist.com) or [cumethodist.com/faith-life](http://cumethodist.com/faith-life).

### How to Talk to Your Kids About Sex

**Hosts:** Rev. Amanda Larson & Lois McGuire **Time:** Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM **Place:** Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/96569038747>

Do you have hesitation about having "the talk" with your teen? Reverend Amanda Larson and Lois McGuire, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner are meeting with parents to discuss helpful facts and messages to help you communicate openly and honestly with your teen. You will gain resources and strategies for future conversations. Your teen needs and deserves to hear from you!

### Humor in the Time of a Pandemic

**Host:** Harvey Bertrand **Time:** Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM **Place:** Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/91473146829>

We all have heard, "Laughter is the best medicine." Sherri Gordon of [verywellmind.com](http://verywellmind.com) says, "Humor helps people take back their sense of power in a powerless situation and it helps them connect with others – two things we have lost during this pandemic." Join Harvey for an evening of 'Pandemic Stress Relief.'

### What's it all About? Methodism 101 . . . brought to you by

**Hosts:** Clergy and laity affiliated with Christ UMC **Time:** Saturdays at 10:00 AM in Lent (Feb 20 - Mar 20) **Place:** Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/99566614830?pwd=aHBxVk9pZ1JLUFo1M1BLcGxZSG1Ndz09>

For newcomers or long-time members alike, join us for a 5-week review of the United Methodist Church history. Watch for further details. You can take in all or some of the sessions.

**Ongoing Faith Formation Groups** Due to the rise in COVID cases all groups are meeting by Zoom  
10:00 am – Monday – Women's Book Discussion Group || 11:15 am – Monday – Men's Book Discussion Group || 1:00 pm – Tuesday – Covenant Discipleship Group || 8:30 am – Thursday – Covenant Discipleship Group || 4:00 pm – Thursday – Women's Group || 10:00 am – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday – Women and the Sacred

### **Congregational Read**

This is a book selected by clergy that everyone is invited to read individually or in small groups. You can register online at [cumethodist.com](http://cumethodist.com) (Get Involved, Faith→Life) if you are looking for a group to discuss this book via Zoom starting the week of February 21<sup>st</sup>. Books will be available to purchase in the church office February 1<sup>st</sup> for \$16.00, or you can order from Amazon a used book or Kindle ebook for less.

### **CUMC Lenten Study Book: *How to Live* by Judith Valente**

Similar to the anxieties and frustrations of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, we are living in a time where societies need to stress community over competition, consensus over conflict, simplicity over self-gain, and silence over the constant chatter and distractions of our lives. Judith Valente explores the key elements of the Rule of St. Benedict and clearly demonstrates how incorporating this ancient wisdom can change the quality and texture of our lives offering a way forward from the divisions gripping our country.

## Trustees Activities In 2020

It has been another busy year maintaining and improving our church home. Projects underway or completed include remodeling space in the office area for a nursery during church services and replacing the crumbling retaining wall by the house with an attractive and safe structure.

Many projects have been completed with the help of volunteers. These include replacing light bulbs with LED bulbs, painting in meeting rooms and the office, replacing parking chocks and perhaps the most time consuming, mowing the lawn. Thanks to long time lawn mower John Grabau, Chris Mueller, David Lucas and new volunteer Derek Rosin, we were able to keep the lawn presentable as well as pick up apples from the boulevard trees and pick-up leaves.

The Gardening Ministry Team worked hard making our landscaping more beautiful around the wall and where several dead or dying trees were removed by the church. We also worked with the Garden Ministry team to coordinate efforts and with a group wishing to establish a garden to serve Saturday Noon Meals, Thrive and a community food bank.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated to help with projects. You may help with small projects or larger ones such as lawn mowing. Many hands make light work.

## Leadership Team Openings

There will be openings on the Leadership Team of Christ United Methodist Church this coming year. Several of our current members are stepping down, creating an opportunity for others to apply for the vacant seats. We are looking for members of CUMC who would like to be involved helping our church protect and champion its vision and values and to openly discuss and approve significant ministry decisions. The team meets monthly on the third Thursday at 5:30 pm and occasionally for special meetings.

There is an application on the CUMC website which can be reached at: <https://www.cumethodist.com/leadership-board-documents>

The Nominations Committee of the church will assess the applications and conduct interviews for the open positions. The new Leadership Team members will be commissioned in January 2021.

To serve on the Leadership Team, one must be living their membership vows: Leaders are individuals who support their church through regular attendance, financial giving, prayers, presence, service, and witness.

We hope that you will consider this opportunity to serve your church. If you have any questions on the role of the Leadership Team, feel free to contact me or any of the other Leadership Team members.

~ Diane Ilstrup

## A Path Forward

Since its inception in 1999, homeless families in the greater Rochester area have been the focus for Interfaith Hospitality Network, now named *Family Promise*. Our congregation has been part of this ministry since its beginning in Rochester. For many years we hosted families a week at a time in our classrooms and a dedicated group of CUMC volunteers have given great service over many years. Now, big changes are taking place!

As of January, 2021, churches will no longer be hosting guests. A "Static Site" at 913 1st St. NW Rochester will be developed where guests can stay for the weeks they are housed and volunteers will serve. At this site which in there will be a home-like atmosphere and up to four families a night may be housed.

The staff office will be at this site as well. By not rotating hosting sites, services can be more consistent and the goal of helping families transfer from homelessness to safe, affordable housing, employment, schooling and medical care through the on-site social worker and connecting with other service agencies in the community will be given even more attention.

Interested in helping? The first step is to connect with Family Promise. The website is: [familypromise.org/RochesterMN](http://familypromise.org/RochesterMN) Phone: 507-281-3122 Email: [bbednar@fprochestermn.org](mailto:bbednar@fprochestermn.org). Volunteers are always needed and by connecting you can express your interest and learn of the opportunities available. It is a most rewarding experience. If you would like information concerning Family Promise you can also phone Aileen Williams, 507-254-3006. To make a financial donation, that can be done online or make checks to Family Promise Rochester and mail to 913 1st NW, Rochester, MN 55901.



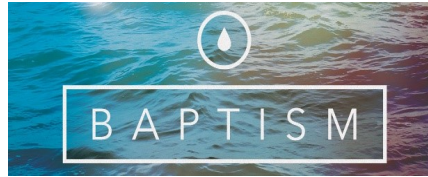


The CUMC Tree of Life: Living, Celebrating, & Remembering With You

*Welcome New Intentional Disciples!*

**Alaina and Patrick Floryance**

Alaina is a physician assistant in family medicine at Mayo Clinic. Patrick is a math teacher at Triton middle school in Dodge Center. Patrick is a Rochester native, Alaina is from Plymouth MN. This year (2020) they welcomed a baby boy, Calvin. They have two rescue cats.



**Baptism December 6, 2020**

Julia Scott Lehman born March 20, 1980, Elise Jocelyn Lehman born November 2, 2009, and Emma Audrey Lehman born January 17, 2012



**Baptism December 13, 2020**

Calvin John Floryance born April 29, 2020



**Baptism December 20, 2020**

Charlotte Mae Barreto born November 11, 2020

*In Memoriam*



**Raymond Molde**  
12/10/1930 ~ 11/21/2020



**Harleth "Whitey" Swanson**  
2/7/1929 ~ 12/16/2020



**Beverly Gill**  
12/30/1923 ~ 12/27/2020



## CUMC EarthKeepers

Start your new year with learning! Several online opportunities this winter feature Climate Justice and Environmental Stewardship.

The UMC Creation Justice Movement has scheduled its next webinar for Thursday, January 14 at 7:30 pm EST | 6:30 pm CST.

This webinar series will focus on **faithful advocacy during the age of COVID**, with an eye toward the intersections of climate justice and racial justice. We will be emphasizing the importance of telling your story and building a network of grassroots advocates in every state. The first will be an overview of United Methodist principles of advocacy drawn from biblical sources and from our United Methodist Social Principles. Two other seminars will be scheduled. Visit [umcreationjustice.org](http://umcreationjustice.org) to learn more.

The United Methodist Women at the global level is offering "**Just Energy for All 101**" a webinar series on February 22nd, March 8th, and March 22nd at 3 pm ET. Join to learn more about the why and what of United Methodist Women's Just Energy for All campaign. Each webinar will include a presentation, break-out sessions, and an opportunity to connect with other UMW members and people of faith. Register at [UnitedMethodistWomen.org](http://UnitedMethodistWomen.org) Members of our own UMW have participated in this webinar series in the past and found it very informative.

The training to become a conference certified EarthKeeper will be held over Zoom in February. Please contact Mary Schmidt or Cooper Wiggin for more information on this training.



### From our United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith based organization for women in the world. We just celebrated our 150th birthday last year! We are a mission based organization.

More than 20 million dollars is raised each year to nurture, encourage and train women to make this a better world whether in Africa, South America, India or the United States.

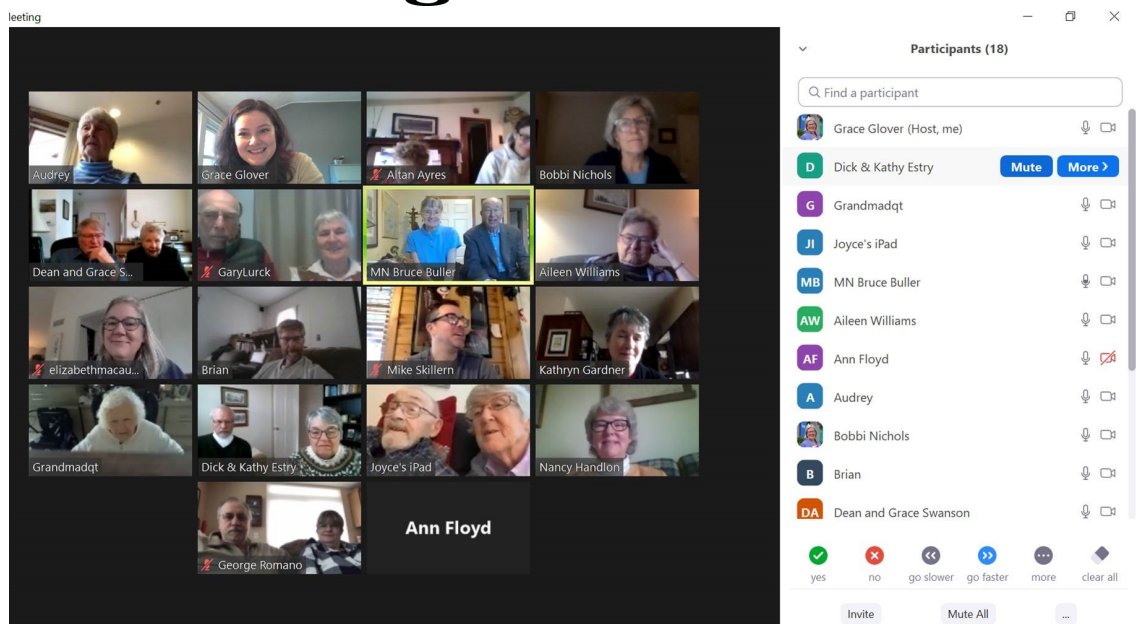
The women of CUMC have many fund raisers in a "normal" year, ie, nut sales, cookie sales, rummage sales, muffin mania and a tea. With the proceeds and a personnel pledge, we give money to Emma Norton, Dorothy Day House, Sikati Family, Project Legacy-Rochester and national and international causes.

We want to thank all of our CUMC friends for supporting us in our many projects. We are helping make the world a better place through our projects and programs for women, children and youth.

Thank you again for your support.

~ Deedee Odell, President

Thank you to everyone who presented and attended the MSJ Open House on December 15! Together we are a powerful force of grace in our community and beyond!



**Advent Box Thank you:**

Thank you to all the “CUMC Workshop Elves” who made the Advent Box 2020 Gift a possibility!

John & Gail Flanders • Jerry & Marjie Blaisdell • Brad Finseth • Deb Jensen • Mary Schmidt • Kathy & Dick Estry • Kathy Davis • Kent Nymann • Julie Plunkett • Kathy Stettler • Suzi Mueller • Dotti Loutfi • Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay • Terry Anderson • Jean Harris • Kathy & Del Lawson • Tanya Goretzki • Tracy Jones & Ellis Ott • Pam Lund • Nancy Currier • Mary Petersson • Jen Geisinger with Charlie and Larkin • Chuck Handlon • Darlene Lucas • Pat Hokanson • Steve & Jackie Robie • Harvey & Suzanne Bertrand • Carrie Robinson-Cannon • Jody Peterson • Chris & Mary Holm • Amanda Larsen • Shelly Glover

**From our parishioners:**

“Such a Delight! Thank you to all involved! Lee was so touched to be remembered. We used it on Sunday - gave us a warm feeling and sense of connection to CUMC. Please convey our gratitude to all.” ~ *Lee & Dottie Hecht*

“The delivery of the Advent box yesterday was an unexpected surprise. This was a beautiful reach out from the Church.” ~ *Mae Belle & Dave Erickson*

“Thank you for this wonderful gift- an essential for the advent season! We did light the candles for Thanksgiving dinner, which was just delightful.” ~ *Ellen Meyer*



**Notes from Pastor Nancy**

United Methodist Churches in Minnesota are joining together in the “Go Light Your World” campaign. On Christmas Eve we were asked to light up our homes and our churches.

We have also been invited to send thank-you’s to health care workers. Christ UMC youth and Caring Ministry Team members are writing notes of appreciation to our dedicated health care workers.

If you would like to take part in this activity as well, please see the website for instructions and sample notes. You may call the office for more information. We are sending thank-you’s to Olmsted Medical Center and to Mayo Clinic Hospital Methodist Campus.

“In December 2020 the Minnesota Annual Conference Appointive Cabinet released a statement on racial justice and reconciliation that lists specific commitments and actions members will take to acknowledge the sins of racism and injustice and work to transform our Conference, our communities and our world into the “beloved” community.” From [minnesotaumc.org/racial-justice-statement](http://minnesotaumc.org/racial-justice-statement)

One of the commitments of this statement is to provide training to every Minnesota UMC clergy under appointment in anti-racism. Pastors Elizabeth and Nancy have been selected to take part in the pilot program to give feedback on the content and design. This will be taking place in January and February. Please pray for us as we begin this important program.

Thank you to Judi Berg and all the volunteers who helped call our homebound and bereaved members about receiving a poinsettia from our sanctuary and those who helped deliver some 60 plants after Christmas

## Mission Social Justice Overview

**Saturday Noon Meals** – They have served over 2,300 meals in 4 locations since the first stay at home orders in MN. They continue to feed those who need a healthy meal on Saturdays and work with the City of Rochester, Olmsted County and the Landing MN. Only one household is able to prepare meals each week, and they are always seeking new volunteers! Contact Kathy Lombardo for more information.



**Inquiring Spirits** – They meet online to discuss their faith journeys through exploration and doubt. All are welcome. Sundays at 11am

**RIIRC/SMILD** – Continues to partner with the Diversity Council and NAACP to provide legal counsel for residents of SE Minnesota in ICE detention. They will host a third Sunday forum in January. Contact Marita Heller to get involved.



**Appalachia Service Project** – They are planning a high school mission for Summer 2021, but it will likely take place locally in order to keep volunteers safe.



**Hopeful Earth** – They continue to do activism in MN around the environment. They will offer a Third Sunday Forum in February and have converted the lights at the church to eco-friendly LEDs.

**Garden Ministry** - In 2020, they planted a pollinator garden and a rain garden. They hope to put in a vegetable garden next spring.

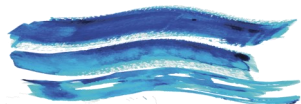
**Thrift on Fifth - Thrift store.** Could barely keep up a year ago. Pandemic has made it hard to work, but they held several sidewalk sales outside of the church which were very productive. Raise money for Thrive.



Business was booming before the pandemic. Since March, we've held sidewalk sales (weather permitting) to move clothing and raise money for Thrive.

**The International Missions Team** – No longer partnered with Salud y Pas of Guatemala, they still have thousands of pairs of eyeglasses in storage and hope to find a new mission location soon. They need new volunteers to help coordinate and attend future trips.

*Three Rivers Restorative Justice*



Respect · Accountability · Healing

**Three Rivers Restorative Justice** – The nonprofit is officially up and running. Volunteers have been trained on Restorative Justice. TRJJ has offices at the church and continues to make new connections in the community. They have trained 25 corrections officers and are taking cases in Southeast Minnesota.

**Racial Justice Committee** – We will be offering a series of Zoom discussions using *America's Unholy Ghost: The Racist Roots of Our Faith and Politics* in February and March. There will be guest speakers from the church & community. Sign up on the Faith→Life page on the website.

**Family Resource Center** – Thrive has 52 children now and has continued to operate through the pandemic. The FRC sends home the monthly meal in a bag and has helped to offer support to many families including \$100,000 worth of scholarships since opening in 2018. They are seeking new volunteers!



## Saturday Noon Meals Ministry Update

The SNMs program continues to serve a Saturday noon meal for those with food insecurity within the Rochester community. On December 5, 2020 we began serving our meal to the Rochester Civic Center. The Landing was temporarily closed secondary to increased COVID-19 infections at that site. We will return to serving the Saturday noon meal at The Landing when it reopens.



We have served over 2,400 meals since March 2020 and look forward to continuing this mission. In November we made the decision to limit volunteers working within the kitchen to those living in one household. This was done to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 to our volunteers. We anticipate that these limitations will change within the next several months, but would appreciate additional volunteers at this time to assist with the meal preparation and delivery of the meal to the Rochester Civic Center or The Landing.

If you would consider volunteering with the SNMs program - please contact Kathy Lombardo at 507-398-2686 or [Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com](mailto:Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com). We will assist with training, meal planning and shopping and guarantee that you will find this a very satisfying volunteer experience. ~ Kathy Lombardo



A very inspiring sermon on Christmas Eve! Thanks, Pastor! We do miss our friends at CUMC - especially on Christmas. We sang in the chancel choir for 35 years, led youth programs, hosted book discussions, etc. Now in a Charter House- like community in Phoenix. Blessings to all CUMC FOLK.

~ Warner and Ruth Davidson

# Poinsettias 2020

Carole Holdredge

Kathryn Gardner

Nancy & Brad Currier

*in honor* of CUMC Staff

Roger & Joyce Heil

*in honor* of Our grandkids: Tseh, Sonny, Savannah, Torrey, Soren, Charlie, Sam, & Henry

Marjie & Jerry Blaisdell

Toni Kay Mangskau

Robert Heistand II

*in memory* of Dewitt & Nan Kennedy; Louise & Robert Heistand

Wendy Francis

*in honor* of Oralene Lindsey

Jeff Ward & Julie Bjoraker

*in memory* of Edwin and Florence Bjoraker; James and Marilo Ward

Ann Roering

*in memory* of Ladron Roering

*in memory* of Bryan Roering

Deborah Jensen

*in memory* of Marvin Jensen, Vernon Maddasion & Carl & Doris Jensen

Mary Schmidt

*in honor* of CUMC Staff

Sandra Shirk-Heath

*in honor* of My family

Ron Yaggy

*in memory* of Tim Yaggy

Alisha Morgan

*in memory* of Grandma and Papa Amann, Aunt Beth and Grandma Adell

Eric & Armanda  
Vanderheiden

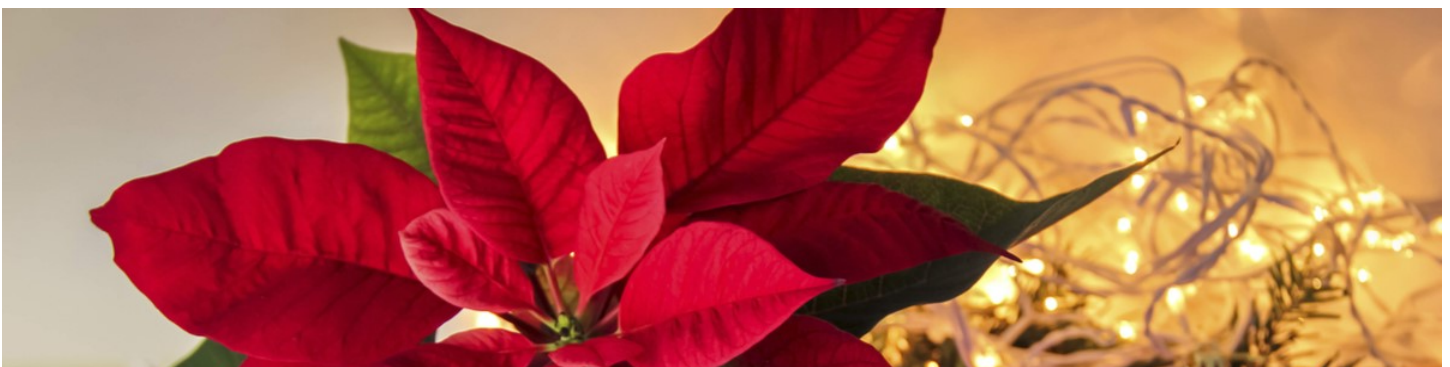
*in memory* of Johannes "Opa" Franz and John and Nancy Smid

Brenda Finseth

*in honor* of the grandchildren of Brad and Brenda Finseth

*in memory* of The parents of Brad and Brenda Finseth

Nancy & Chuck Wheeler Handlon	<i>in memory</i> of Our brothers Tom Wheeler and Mike Handlon
Martha Stiller	<i>in memory</i> of Gail Stiller, my husband
Amy & Richard Humphrey	<i>in memory</i> of Those who have passed this year
Janet Hagen	<i>in memory</i> of My husband, Roger Hagen
David & Gwen Mead	<i>in honor</i> of CUMC staff and volunteers <i>in memory</i> of Our loved ones
Gail Groves	
Larry & Ginny Tupper	<i>in honor</i> of Our family
Mary & Lloyd Baker	
Sue & Dave Dripps	<i>in honor</i> of Our family, children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren <i>in memory</i> of Barbara Dripps, sister in law
Dick & Flo Armstrong	<i>in memory</i> of Mack Weller (Flo's brother), Larry Rudolph (Flo's brother in law)
Allene Shipman	<i>in memory</i> of My husband, Dick
Jo Newkirk-Hornecker	<i>in memory</i> of Harvey Newkirk, my Dad
LuWana Gerads	<i>in honor</i> of Grand & Great Grand Children <i>in memory</i> of Parents, Edward Gerads & Charlene Gerads
Kerwin & Doris Engelhart	<i>in memory</i> of Dr. Lloyd Wood
Janet & Russ Hird	<i>in honor</i> of Jeanne, Jack, & Rev. Ken <i>in memory</i> of Our Parents
Helen Zimmerman	<i>in memory</i> of Husband Zim, and Son, Scott



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

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## Faith → Life

Online Connect Groups are forming!

Learn more and sign up at [cumethodist.com/faith-life](http://cumethodist.com/faith-life)

Or by calling the church (507) 289-4019