

**Welcome to Christ UMC.** We are glad you are here!

Children are always welcome in worship. Activity packs are available near the Sanctuary entrance.

A nursery play space with a live stream of the worship service is open throughout the morning and is adjacent to the church office.

You may find a full list of our Christmas events on our website [cumethodist.com](http://cumethodist.com)

**Share and Deliver Poinsettias** We are in need of volunteers to deliver Christmas poinsettias to homebound and bereaved CUMC members and friends. Delivery date is Tuesday, Dec. 26 from 9am-11am. Contact [Kathy Davis](mailto:Kathy.Davis@cumethodist.com) (507-269-7287) to volunteer or with questions.

**Save the Date!** You are invited to celebrate Pastor Nancy's retirement on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Starting with the 9am service, we will celebrate with Pastor Nancy and Chuck in worship and during a reception and open house from 10am-12:30pm. We also invite you to share tributes and words of appreciation for Pastor Nancy. Please share your affirmations here: <https://tinyurl.com/pastornancyaffirmations>.

**Special Offering** We are also collecting a love offering dedicated to Pastor Nancy that will support the CUMC Foundation. You may note "Love Offering" with your gift or choose "Love Offering" from the giving options at [cumethodist.com/give](http://cumethodist.com/give).

**New Year's Eve Combined Worship Service** Please join us on Sunday December 31st at 10am in the sanctuary for a combined worship service. This service will replace our 9am and 11am services.

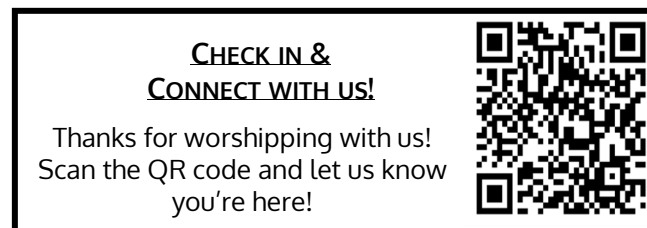
**The Upper Room Disciplines 2024** The Upper Room Disciplines devotional book for 2024 is now available for purchase in the church office. Small print is \$13 and large print is \$15. You can also order it as an eBook for \$9.99 from Cokesbury or Upper Room, or \$8.49 on Amazon for the Kindle.

**John Varona's Last Sunday** We invite you to join us on Sunday, January 14 to celebrate John Varona's ministry with us. On his final Sunday, John will participate in our 9am traditional service and we will hold a reception for him from 10am-11am. Though John will soon conclude his service as our principal organist, we give thanks that he will serve as a guest musician at CUMC from time to time

**How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them** Join Reverend Gary Lueck in searching for answers on how to stop civil wars with the book, "How Civil Wars Start: And How to Stop Them" by Barbara F. Walter. Sessions will be Sundays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 4:30 – 6:00pm, in-person in Room 145 and on Zoom. **Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday January 7th.** The book can be purchased from any major bookseller.

**Church Office Closed** The church office will be closed Mondays, December 25 and January 1st.

**Save the Date** We are excited to announce our Vacation Bible School dates and Theme for 2024. Mark your calendars for August 5-9, 2024 for "Digging In and Growing Deep!"



**9:00am Traditions Worship  
December 24, 2023  
Advent 4**



We welcome you and name the sacred power of the Wahpeton people on whose land we stand

Pastor Jenny [pastorjenny@cumethodist.com](mailto:pastorjenny@cumethodist.com)  
Pastor Kirkland [pastorkirkland@cumethodist.com](mailto:pastorkirkland@cumethodist.com)  
Pastor Nancy [pastornancy@cumethodist.com](mailto:pastornancy@cumethodist.com)  
Pastor Amanda [pastoramanda@cumethodist.com](mailto:pastoramanda@cumethodist.com)

507-289-4019  
[email@cumethodist.com](mailto:email@cumethodist.com)  
[cumethodist.com](http://cumethodist.com)

## Christ United Methodist Church

*With open hearts, open minds and open doors, we welcome people of all races, nationalities, theologies and abilities. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We offer a safe and compassionate place to reconcile faith, identity, hope, understanding and mutual respect.*

**Prelude** "Prelude on "Joy to the World" Lowell Mason  
John Varona, Organ

**Welcome** Rev. Jenny Cannon, Rev. Kirkland Reynolds

**\*Opening Hymn** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH 213

**+Morning Prayer**

**Lighting the Advent Candles** Scruggs-Miller Family  
*Sung response to the tune of UMH 420*

Kindle the flame of love. May it burn bright and true.  
Lighting the way that is of God, the journey we pursue.

God's realm is our desire, where peace and justice reign.  
Heaven and earth combined as one, when Christ shall come again.

**Children's Message** Jody Peterson

**Invitation to Give**

**Offertory Music** "Come to Us, Emmanuel " Carmen Scialla  
Chancel Choir

**\*Doxology** "Give Thanks" FWS 2036

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**\*Hymn** "Lord, Listen to Your Children" FWS 2193

**Hearing the Word**

Luke 1:39-57  
Romans 16:25-27

**Responding to the Word**

One: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn** "Canticle of the Turning" Insert

**Message** "Still Waiting" Rev. Amanda Larsen

**\*Closing Hymn** "Love Came Down at Christmas" UMH 242

**Connections & Next Steps**

**Benediction**

**Postlude** "Go, Tell It!" Traditional Spiritual  
John Varona, Organ

\*indicates please stand as you are able

+Morning Prayer from from St.-Martin-in-the-Fields, Philadelphia

You are welcome to remain seated or to depart during the postlude

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### Congregational Prayers

- For open hearts to receive the gift of Christ's birth
  - For the peacemakers
  - For those who are traveling
  - For those who are far from home
- For guests and newcomers to Christ UMC



If you would like to sponsor this ministry, please send an email to our Director of Operations, Jack Jefferson at [jack@cumethodist.com](mailto:jack@cumethodist.com). The 9am service airs Sundays @11:30am on KOLM radio 1520 AM.