

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.

Pastor Nancy's Retirement 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.

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.


Church Office Closed The church office will be closed Monday, January 1st.

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.

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.

VBS 2024 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!"

Winter Worship Series We kick off our Winter Worship Series entitled "To Tell the Truth-Christian Cliches & What the Bible Doesn't Say" on Sunday, January 14th. We'd love to hear some of the Christian cliches and sayings that you're familiar with too. Email your favorite or questionable Christian clichés to samantha@cumethodist.com.

 If you would like to sponsor this ministry, please send an email to our Director of Operations, Jack Jefferson at jack@cumethodist.com. The 9am service airs Sundays @11:30am on KOLM radio 1520 AM. (\$70)



Jan 14: John Varona's Final Sunday
"God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

Jan 28: UWF Sunday
"Everything Happens for a Reason"
Presenter: Rev. Pamela Ngunjiri-
The Minnesota Council of Churches

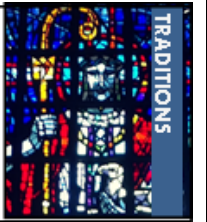
Feb 4: CUMC Annual Meeting
"Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin"

**CHECK IN &
CONNECT WITH US!**
Thanks for worshipping with us!
Scan the QR code and let us know
you're here!



Christ United Methodist Church

Creating committed Christ followers for the transformation of the world



10:00am Combined Service Worship
December 31, 2023



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

Pastor Jenny pastorjenny@cumethodist.com
Pastor Kirkland pastorkirkland@cumethodist.com
Pastor Nancy pastornancy@cumethodist.com
Pastor Amanda pastoramanda@cumethodist.com

507-289-4019
email@cumethodist.com
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	“Magnificat” John Varona, Organ	Alexandre Guilmant
Welcome	Rev. Jenny Cannon, Rev. Kirkland Reynolds	
*Opening Carol	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	UMH 224
Bidding Prayer		
Song	“On a Quiet Christmas Night” Susan Frevert, Flute and Diane Shopteau, Flute	Gruber/arr. Ochoco
First Lesson	Genesis 1:26-2:4 - The Creation Story	Cecilia Westfall
*Carol	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	UMH 240
Children’s Message	Jody Peterson	
Second Lesson	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 - The Prophet Foretells the Coming of the Savior	
Song	“The Coventry Carol” Karen Fields & Gay Stephan	arr. William Ferris
Third Lesson	Luke 1:26-35 - Gabriel Speaks to Mary	Nicole Pearson
*Carol	“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”	UMH 234 (vs.1, 3 ,6)
+Prayers of the People	Rev. Nancy Wheeler Handlon	
Song	“In the Bleak Midwinter” Bob Heistand	Gustav Holst
Fourth Lesson	Luke 2:1-20 - The Birth of Jesus	John Lage
*Carol	“Once in Royal David’s City”	UMH 250
Invitation to Give		

Offertory Music	“Joseph’s Song ” Ray Hansen	Michael Card
*Doxology	“What Child Is This”	UMH 219 (vs. 1, 3)
*Prayer of Dedication		
Choral Anthem	“Wondrous Night” Chancel Choir	Matthew Armstrong
Fifth Lesson	John 1:1-14 - The Mystery of the Incarnation	
Song	“Peace, Peace” Karen Fields, Diane Shopteau Susan Frevert, Flute	Powell, arr. Block
+Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness		
	“Come Sunday”	Duke Ellington
Wesleyan Covenant Prayer		
*Carol	“Joy to the World”	UMH 246
Blessing		
Connections and Next Steps		
Postlude	“Now Thank We All Our God” John Varona, Organ	Virgil Fox
<p>*indicates please stand as you are able +Prayer of the People from AdventUnwrapped.ca +Prayer of Confession from Nathan Nettleton, and posted on his Laughingbird website.</p> <p>You are welcome to remain seated or to depart during the postlude</p>		

Congregational Prayers

- For discernment of God’s leading us into the New Year
 - For peace in the Middle East and in Ukraine
 - For single parents
 - For Trudy Jewell in the hospital
 - For Chris Mueller in the hospital