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December 2019

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace, In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT

The Sound of Silence
Advent and Christmas Eve at Christ United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Services

- Noon:** A simple service of song and scripture.
- 4 pm:** Family-friendly worship with choirs & an impromptu pageant for all children to participate in.
- 8 pm:** A musical feast of Christmas with vocal and bell choirs, hymns, & the story of Christmas.
- 11 pm:** Christmas meditation worship with choirs, scripture, & wonder.

WORSHIP DIRECTORY:

8AM BELOVED (CHAPEL)

9AM TRADITIONS (SANCTUARY)

11AM ARISE! (ECC)

www.facebook.com/cumethodist

www.twitter.com/cumethodist

11:30am Sunday Radio Broadcast on
KOLM (1520 AM)

www.youtube.com

"Christ United Methodist Church Rochester MN"

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Tree of Life

Pastor's Pen

WITH ELIZABETH MACAULAY, LEAD PASTOR



The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers;
all will see the Lord's splendor,
see the Lord's greatness and power.
Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.
The blind will be able to see;
the deaf will be able to hear;
the lame will leap and dance;
those who can't speak will shout.
They will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning-knives;
the nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.
This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled.

Iona Community Worship Book, 1988
Isaiah 35; Micah 4: 1 - 4

Advent is an under-sung season.

Every year worship leaders and followers of the Jesus story are tempted to rush past one of the best soul gifts we are given: the season of Advent.

Advent is a season of waiting. Advent invites us to mindfully consider what it is we long for.

During Advent we allow our hearts to feel and join into the centuries-long ache for peace and Godly leadership. We hear words about swords beaten into plowshares and wolves lying down with lambs and we want this. We want peace so very deeply. Come, Lord Jesus! Come!

So here at church, we hold off on singing Christmas carols. It is a spiritual discipline. It doesn't earn a pastor tons of accolades to stay in the Advent musical lane, especially when Christmas carols have been jingle-jangling in stores from Halloween on. All around us the secular world is singing the songs of Christmas. Why can't we sing them at church, of all places?

We sing the songs of Advent because they call us to wait. To ache. To prepare our hearts. We sing in a minor key because while the Hope of the World was born to us thousands of years ago, we have yet to fully live into His vision.

This Advent season I pray for you a time of breathing and spaces soaked in silence.

Turn off your television, put down your phone, plug in the Christmas tree and pray the visual sort of rosary that the ornaments on it represent.

Let yourself be a person who feels longing. It sometimes hurts to want so much.

And, in the longing is a message sung by the angels: Peace is promised, peace will be.

To aid us all - me perhaps most especially - to center in this season of Advent, we will be sending out a daily Advent reflection. Be sure you are on our church email list. If you want a paper copy, please let us know.

As we lean into the power of the Sound of Silence, may we each listen for what it is God is singing into our hearts.

For unto us hope is given, again and again and again. Sometimes that hope needs a goodly dose of silence to bring it to birth.

Blessings to you in this season of Advent.

Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Elizabeth



Advent 2019 is here!

In this time leading up to Christmas, we will fill our days with celebration and jubilation. We hope you'll join us for all of our exciting events throughout December.

Advent Devotional - Starting December 2nd, through the days leading up to Christmas, we will be sending out daily Advent devotionals. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, but are not signed up on our email list, it's easy to join! Just email us (email@cumethodist.com) and ask to be included in our email list. **Children's Pageant:** At 4pm on December 22nd, the children of Christ Church will grace us with their performance of the original play, *Travelers on the Road to Bethlehem*. The Pageant is for everyone to attend and enjoy, and will be followed by a meal.

Service of Lessons & Carols - On December 22nd, at the 9 am service, we will wrap up the season of Advent with a service full of music, music, and more music! We will play, hum, sing, and ring our way on through to Christmas. We hope you'll join this joyful celebration.

Christmas Eve - December 24th we will fill our day with praise and joyful candle-lit worship together

- **Noon** - A simple service of song and scripture.
- **4pm** - Family friendly worship, Children's choirs, impromptu pageant (for all the children to join!)
- **8pm** - Musical feast of Christmas, youth & adult choirs, bell choirs hymns, and the story of Christmas.
- **11pm** - Meditative service to welcome Christmas. Worship, Scripture, Wonder.

Temperatures are dropping in our fair city and many of our homeless community members are struggling to find safe and warm places to spend the evenings.

Fortunately, the Rochester Community Warming Shelter will be opening in mid-December just across from the Government Center in Downtown Rochester. It will be run by Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota and will be staffed during open hours. They are currently looking for community partners who can provide volunteers approximately twice a month. Volunteer shifts take place overnight between 8pm and 8am. The hours may be unappealing, but the need is great.

Please email me at grace@cumethodist.com if you would be interested in volunteering with the Rochester Community Warming Shelter on behalf of Christ United Methodist Church or have questions about volunteer opportunities through the church.

Christ UMC Clergy Family Lunch to be held December 11 at 11:30 am.

For the last several years the Leadership Board has provided a delicious lunch for the clergy families of our church. We now have 38 persons who are clergy or immediate family members of clergy. It is delightful to gather together and share fine food and stories.

We share a bond of service that draws us together, no matter our age or station. We enjoy the presence of United Methodist and other Protestant clergy families. United Methodists belong to the Conference and not to our local churches. We have heard stories of living in parsonages (sometimes the same one), late night meetings and pastoral calls, joys of baptisms and weddings, and grief in losses.

We thank the Leadership Board for hosting and providing this time of good food and fellowship together.



In an effort to be good stewards of our earth we are moving away from disposable dishes. If it can't be served on a napkin, we ask that all congregation members join in caring for our environment by using church dishes.

Christmas Anonymous is an organization local to Rochester Minnesota that has been in existence for over 50 years. It is a **100% volunteer organization**, whose sole mission is to help families and people in need in Olmsted county have a wonderful Christmas. Christmas Anonymous accepts donations of food, toys, outerwear, and bicycles at CUMC, then distributes these articles back to needy families. Please consider donating food, outdoor clothing, and toys (no more bikes please) from December 2nd-6th. For more info, visit www.christmasanonymous.org or call (507)285-3940, or call the church office (507)289-4019.



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

Third Sunday Forum

There is no Third Sunday Forum in December ~ Watch for new topics in January

With Appreciation

A sincere thank you to all class facilitators, weekly small group leaders, and connect group hosts for sharing your time and talents to provide opportunities for all who participated in building new and deepening old relationships, helping connect us and learning from Christ's teachings about how our faith leads to how we live life. You made a difference!!

- Ed Schafer and Hank Kliewer – *Inquiring Spirits*
- Joel Charlson – *Contemporary Issues and Bonhoeffer*
- Rev. Gary Lueck, Rev. David Mead, and Aileen Williams – *Chewing on the Word*
- Grace Glover, Susie Hanson and Dianne Thomas – *Chewing on the Word*
- Ken Baumman – *Monday Men's Group*
- Gwen Scilley – *Monday Women's Group*
- Aileen Williams – *Covenant Discipleship Group*
- Warren Wong – *Men's Coffee Group*
- Ted Colescott – *Covenant Discipleship Group*
- Gail Flanders – *Thursday Women's Group*
- Rose Kliewer – *Women and the Sacred Group*
- Candace Rasmussen – *Congregational Read: The God Who Sees*
- Karen Hewitson – *Bridge 101*
- Marjie Blaisdell – *CUMC Knitters*
- Marjie Blaisdell and Mary Schmidt – *Dinner Club*
- Rev. Kendall Hughes – *Exploration and Application of Restorative Justice*
- Mary Schmidt – *Garden Ministry*
- Dick & Kathy Estry – *Healing the Heart of Democracy*
- Rev. Kendall Hughes, Bobbi Nichols, Kristin Perry & Nicholas Wysocki – *Intersecting Race & Social Class*
- Tracy Jones – *Pie Making*

Ongoing Sunday Classes

All Are Welcome – No Registration Required

Inquiring Spirits – After the 9:00 am worship (except for Third Sunday Forums), Room 145

Contemporary Issues – After the 9:00 am worship (except for Third Sunday Forums), Room 146

“Chewing on the Word” – 10:10 am in the Fireside Room or 12:00 pm in the Commons. Everyone is invited for refreshments and conversation around each week's scripture and message.

Ongoing Connect Groups

Breakfast Fellowship: (Second Wednesday of each month) November 13, 8:30 am at **Charlie's Restaurant** (Hillcrest Shopping Center) New members are always welcome to drop in.

Hosts: Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson

CUMC Knitters: Wednesday mornings 10:00 – 12:00, in the **Fireside Room**

This group kits prayer shawls, hats and mittens for Christmas Anonymous and other items to donate.

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

New Connect Groups for January and February

The Faith→Life Team is making plans for the next session of Connect Groups. There is still time to host one of these groups. Do you have an interest or hobby you would share, an area of special knowledge, or a book that you are passionate about? Cross-country skiing? Making soup? Aging well? If you are interested in hosting a group contact Kathy Estry (rk.stry@gmail.com) or Grace Glover (grace@cumethodist.com).

Sign up for Winter Connect Groups will be December 29, 2019 and January 5, 2020

Watch for a complete listing coming soon!!

Child Care is available every Sunday and for weekdays and Saturdays upon request

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Meeting

Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room
All parents of children newborn to 6th grade & all children's volunteers are encouraged to come.

We'll be showing a child-friendly movie in the ECC for children and meet together for 78 minutes of adult conversation as we dream about our children's ministry program.

Please come lend your valuable input!



Multigenerational Christmas Pageant

"Travelers on the Road To Bethlehem"

4pm Sunday, December 22nd in the sanctuary.

Full dinner served afterward.

All children's choirs will be participating. Multiple child narrators. And possibly a Batman appearance. Come, have fun and celebrate with us as you find your own place along the road to Bethlehem.

*Practices for children are being held on Wednesdays at 6 pm in place of the children's choir. There is a place for every child's participation.

Youth Ministry

What the heck is ASP?

ASP stands for Appalachian Service Project. Thousands of people travel to the Appalachian area each summer to perform work projects for people in need.

2020 will be our church's 39th year participating!

It's fun. It's an amazing way to connect with people from our church. It's hard work. It's a spiritual high. It's not too late to sign up!

Any teen who has completed 9th grade is eligible to attend. Adults are also encouraged to come. Scholarships are available.

If you have even a teensy bit of interest, contact Sam Evans at Sam@cumenthodont.com and we'll get you connected.

WEDNESDAYS

EAT | MAKE MUSIC | LEARN | CREATE

- 5-5:30pm (Grades 1 - 5) Jubilee Bells - Bell Room
- 5-5:30pm (3 years - Kindergarten) Little Angels - Room 133
- 5:30-6pm CU Wednesdays Meal/Social Time - Commons
- 6-6:30pm (Grades 1 - 6) Children's Choir - Choir Room
- 6-7:30pm Confirmation - ECC (starting October 2)
- 6-7pm Adult Bells - Bell Room
- 7-9pm Adult Choir - Choir Room

CU Wednesday Holiday Closures

As the Holiday season is in full swing, our building hours are in flux. CU Wednesdays will be affected, but only slightly.

NO CU Wednesdays

December 25 - Christmas Day

January 1 - New Years Day

Any other questions about rehearsals, please contact rehearsal leaders directly.

"The Event" was a total Blast! Some of our youth went up to St Cloud in early November to join with United Methodist youth from all over the state in fun and fellowship



New Year's Eve Intergenerational Retreat @ Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch ALL AGES WELCOME!

Check in: 4 pm on Tuesday, December 31st • *Check-out:* 4 pm on Wednesday, January 1st

Attending persons are responsible for the overnight cost of \$105 (4-5 people) or \$140 (7-8 people) per room. There are also rooms available for men, women and families to share.

CUMC is covering the costs for the main gathering space, food and tubing and scholarships available. We love you and it is our Christmas wish that you spend this time with us. Come. Simply enjoy. Simply be, as we "Life" together. Registration for the retreat is available on our church website at tinyurl.com/CUMC-NYE

SIGN UP by December 15th! Questions? Contact church office: email@cumethodist.com



Christ United Methodist Church

New Year's Eve Intergenerational Retreat!

Includes:

2 hours of Snow tubing!
Community-Building activities
Reflections of 2019
Dreams for 2020
Craft Activity
Meals and overnight lodging
Fun • Free Time • Laughter

Celebrate the
New Year with
fun & family activities at
Ironwood Springs Christian
Ranch in Stewartville, MN



4pm 12/31/2019 - 4pm 1/1/2020 Cost Per Room: \$105 for 4-5 people
\$140 for 7-8 people

Sign up online at cumethodist.com or email@cumethodist.com • Sign up by December 15!



UMW Christmas Bake Sale, December 8

Don't have time to get cookies baked for the Christmas season? The UMW are here to help with a Bake Sale in the Commons on Sunday, December 8. Donations of baked goods should be delivered to the small kitchen by the Commons by noon, Saturday, December 7. They may be plated or in bulk and UMW members will plate them. If you wish to pre-order platters or plates of cookies or candy, please call Pat Feeser at 322-6162 by Friday, December 6.

UMW Christmas unit meeting - December 5th. We will meet for refreshments in the Commons at 10:00 am and then adjourn to the Sanctuary at 10:30 for a program led by Diane Toogood. Invite a friend!

2020 CUMW Yearbooks will be available to be picked up in the Commons between the 9:00 and 11:00 services on Sunday, December 15. Any that are not picked up will be given to the respective Circle President.



The United Methodist Women of Christ United Methodist Church invite you to:

"Blooms in January" Tea

Saturday, January 11, 2020 2-4 pm - Tickets go on sale December 8 for \$20.00

Enjoy the beauty of Spring at the Christ United Methodist Women's *Blooms in January* Tea, Saturday January 11 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the church Commons. Learn about how you can get a touch of Spring in your home in January by forcing bulbs. Enjoy scones, savorys, sweets and tea while in fellowship with friends. Tickets will be sold in the church Commons between church services on Sunday, December 8, 15 and 22 for \$20 until sold out. We can only seat 80, so purchase your tickets early. Hope to see you there!

Immigration Support Update

Progress has been made in Southeastern Minnesota to provide legal services to persons in ICE detention who live and work in our area who can't afford a private attorney. Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense (SMIILD), a nonprofit organization under the fiscal sponsorship of the Diversity Council, has entered into a contract with Immigration Law Services of Minnesota and Advocates for Human Rights as of October 1, 2019. The most recent data shows that 97 Olmsted County residents have pending immigration proceedings and 39 are not represented by an attorney. A recent study of immigration cases in New York found that being represented by an attorney improved the chances of avoiding deportation by six times.

From January 1 through August 31, SMIILD has raised \$46,500. This amount does not meet all the need, but enables a good start. CUMC has been instrumental in supporting this defense fund. Members have contributed \$5,892.26 or more than 12.6% of the total funds raised.

The treatment of immigrants is a moral and religious issue. Treating a foreigner justly is a basic part of our religious and cultural traditions. Donations can be made to this fund through CUMC with a notation on the check for Immigrant Legal Defense.

Have an article for the *New Spirit*? Please submit it to oliver@cumethodist.com by the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Late articles may be very tiny or invisible. Thank you and happy writing!

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office and ask for the pastor on call. Let us know this is an urgent need. If you need a pastor after hours or on weekends, please call the church office and listen to the message on the machine for the phone number of the pastor on call. Then call them directly. Remember that we do not know you are in the hospital unless you contact us. Thank you.

This church knows how to have a good time.

On November 2nd, over 100 people gathered in Wesley Hall to celebrate a very successful first year of Thrive Child Care and Family Resource Center and to raise money for child care scholarships at the First Annual Thrive Harvest Gala. We had fabulous food from People’s Food Co-op, live music, a silent auction, a live auction, and a presentation on the story of Thrive and the families it serves.



Pete and Judi Schuller, an anonymous donor, and Thrivent Financial underwrote the event allowing us to give all funds raised at the event to the scholarship fund, and an anonymous donor matched the funds pledged at the event. This added up to \$44,466. Wow.

Thrive currently offers scholarships to around 20% of its families, but we hope to grow that number to 50% in the next decade and your participation in that has meant so much.

What a fabulous first event! I’d like to thank our sponsors, the best gang of volunteers any church staff could dream up, and our attendees.

Worried you missed out? Fear not. I suspect we will have another fabulous event in the future, and you are always welcome to make a donation to the Thrive Scholarship Fund through the church, our website or to Thrive itself.
~ Grace Glover



You Are Invited

All are Welcome.

What: Fellowship Breakfast

When: 2nd Wednesday of
EVERY Month

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Where: Charlies Restaurant



We would love to give you a warm welcome

Do you know someone who may be interested in learning more about the church and how to connect with others? We offer monthly “Meeting Christ Church” coffees at which our pastors will meet with people and introduce them to CUMC and the United Methodist denomination. Join us the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Fireside Room following the 9:00 service. Childcare is available upon request! The next Coffee is December 8, Contact the church office at (507) 289-4019 or (email@cumethodist.com) if you have questions or would like more information.



There is a great opportunity to share the grace and love of Christ in this church through transportation assistance for those that need some help getting to CUMC. The church bus is not large enough to hold the number of people needing assistance getting to church. A few of us have been helping the Yangya Sikati family get to church to worship Sunday & Wednesday since May, shortly after their arrival in Rochester. They have chosen CUMC as their church home. It is a family of eight, so it usually requires two vehicles to bring them to church for worship. Please consider helping with this ministry. This page on Sign Up Genius was created so that people can easily sign up to help. All pertinent information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/CUMCDriver>

"Memories of the Heart" will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at Christ United Methodist Church (400 Fifth Avenue SW, Rochester, MN). This year we will be hosting our reception prior to the service. Open reception begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the service at 7:00 p.m. For the past twenty years, Seasons Hospice has provided this special way to remember loved ones who have died. The service includes music, reflection, and the reading of names of those loved ones being remembered. Please join us for this event which is open to all who wish to remember someone. A memorial board will be available if you choose to bring a photo of your loved one.



Sparkle Sunday 2020

We invite you to join us in celebrating Epiphany! January 5, 2020 wear your sparkliest, gaudiest, jangliest outfits as we remember the Wise Men who visited Jesus.

Community Listening Session on Hate Crimes

Tuesday, Dec 3 • 6pm - 7:30pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church 1727 Walden Ln SW, Rochester MN 55902

Attorney General Keith Ellison is continuing his listening session tour across the state of Minnesota to hear from folks about how we can help Minnesotans afford their lives and live with dignity and respect. The topic of this conversation will be on Hate Crimes.

Please join AG Ellison, Dee Vazquez Sabol, Regina Mustafa, Ashalul Aden, and Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer at First Unitarian Universalist Church in Rochester on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm.

This event is free and open to the public.

Sounds of the Season



Rochester Chamber Music Society Presents...

WELCOME CHRISTMAS WITH VOCALESSANCE!

Dec 14, 2019 | 7:30PM
Christ United Methodist Church
400 5th Ave SW Rochester, MN

FREE ADMISSION



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.

This activity is also made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation

ROCHESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

For more information, visit <http://www.rochesterchambermusic.org/>

CUMC Free Advent Concert Series

Come one and all to a marvelous Advent concert as performed by our organist John Varona and other featured guest organists. This event promises to be a delightful welcome to this advent season.

Three Sessions of joyful noontime organ recital music starting Tuesday, December 3rd in our Sanctuary at 12:15pm.

December 3 - Lee Afdahl

December 10 - Ruth Benning

December 17 - John Varona

Noon time organ recitals will run three Tuesdays, December 3 through December 17, from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Enjoy a lunchtime treat. Attend one of the free concerts open to the public. Invite a guest!



Sing Out Loud

Presents

A Bella Christmas- A Warm Embrace

Featuring the
Bella Voce Young Women's Choir
and
Bella Fiore Choir

Fri Dec 6 (7:30)
Sat Dec 7 (7:30)
Sun Dec 8 (4:00), 2019
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

Let us talents and tongues employ . . .

Grace and peace to you all in these Advent days. As the world begins to close our Fall season and begin a dark, quiet adventus, allow me to share with you a verse from "People, Look East!":

Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

As a farmer, Fall is one of my favorite seasons: the changing colors, the harvest of crops, the cooling of the days, and the preparation of nature to go to sleep for a while. The white snow also brings a chance for us farmers to "fix what long was crooked" (as another Advent hymn goes). I do love the text above, however, that in such connective imagery, a beautiful rose is expected blossom in the harshest of weather, in the most unexpected time, and in the most surprising way. Not weeds, but instead a lovely Rose.

In this time of Advent, I encourage you to sow a seed of your own: a musical Rose, if you will. If you don't often have time to practice in the harsh business of life, please consider finding some time this month! *If you are so inclined, I would love to invite you to share a musical offering at one of our Christmas Eve services.* This year, I am hoping to have a half hour of prelude music before each service, offering a chance for anyone who is interested to share a song or two that they have rehearsed. Together, a sharing of individual talent, love for music, and for one another, will surely bring the light of Christ for all who hear. Please consider playing or singing something for us all on Christmas Eve.

If this is something that interests you or someone you know, please email me at kalle@cumethodist.com, or leave a little note in the office for me. I'd be glad to welcome your gifts!

~ Kalle Akkerman



Saturday Noon Meals (SNM)

As many of you may know the volunteer leadership team of Mary Petersson and the Scilley's, Gwen and Larry, have stepped back from their weekly leadership role with Saturday Noon Meals after coordinating the meal for several years. A heartfelt thank-you to these wonderful folks for their leadership and dedication. If you stop by Wesley Hall or the kitchen on any given Saturday, you will likely see them as they continue to participate with this mission work which they hold so dear.



The new Saturday Noon Meals leadership team is comprised of Kathy and Phil Lombardo and Carol and Stew Swanson. They will continue to produce healthy, comfort food type meals for our growing number of weekly guests. SNM regularly serves around 70 guests with food partially sourced from Channel One Food Shelf and sourced from other local stores with items both donated and purchased. Saturday Noon Meals continues to have beautiful donated fresh flowers every week from one local store. Simply amazing!

Volunteer workers at Saturday Noon Meals are sometimes guest/volunteers, CUMC members, individual community members, groups from other churches, service groups, and extended families who just want to help. There continue to be several groups that choose to volunteer monthly or quarterly. An amazing sight every Saturday though, is the “beehive” of folks working to prepare, serve and clean-up after the meal. This volunteer component is very supportive and so very necessary.

In 2020, we anticipate that we will begin asking for items from the congregation as a method of helping support the program such as collection of toiletries from hotel stays or perhaps more focused requests such as socks, laundry detergent and deodorant. We will provide more information about our needs as additional planning and discernment occurs. We will have many opportunities for continued involvement and support as we move forward.

In the meantime, please call us or contact us via our new CUMC email address listed below. We would be happy to visit with you about how you could help or about volunteer opportunities whether you are new at CUMC or you just have not volunteered for a while. Let's be in touch!

saturdaynoonmeals@cumethodist.com

Saturday Noon Meals continues to be an active food program providing good, healthy food for people in need. We also think it is a great volunteer opportunity as well. Thank you for your past support of this wonderful ministry.

~ Stew Swanson

Did you know?? You can sponsor our radio broadcast ministry! It's \$55 to get your special occasion announced on the radio before the CUMC service broadcast. Whether it's honoring an anniversary, or remembering loved ones who have passed on, this is a perfect way to tell the world about that special something. You can sign up in the commons right next to the office, or by emailing oliver@cumethodist.com



Hopeful Earth Keepers meet this December to make plans for the coming year.

All CUMCers are invited to help us plan. **December 10 @ 3:30pm in Mettam.**

The following will be included, programs and projects we are already committed to.

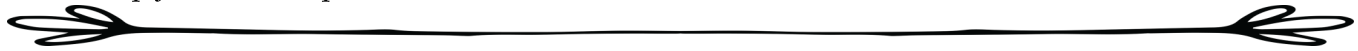
- Facility conservation efforts including installation of LEDs
- Development of a pre proposal sketch of installing solar panels
- Added recycling throughout the facility
- Research and response to furthering composting on our grounds
- Expanded garden ministry including pollinator habitat
- Celebrations and education for Earth Day and Earth Fest- featuring Interfaith events to increase earth care practices throughout Rochester
- Several "education to action" adult classes
- Monitoring the RPU policy to eliminate fossil fuels from the city's power grid by 2030

Pray lots for God's Creation!

CUMC Hopeful Earth Keepers



Hopeful Earth



Do you know about the Memorials & Living Gifts Committee?

A summary report is presented each year near Memorial Day, but the committee thought the congregation might like a more frequent update.

At quarterly meetings, among other reports, the committee reviews the current requests, and hears written reports from past recipients. Gifts are acknowledged. Awards are presented to as many of these requests as possible, based on available funds at the time.

At our most recent meeting, the group read reports and saw photos of how the funds previously awarded enabled the church to participate in PrideFest, Thrift on Fifth to purchase badly needed new signs, and Garden Group to improve the perennial labyrinth garden to attract pollinators. We also teamed up with the CUMC Foundation and we split the cost for the new stacking chairs in Wesley

The committee then approved funds to help Worship Arts create wedding banners for the sanctuary, allow office staff to subscribe to a Txt2Give to program that's compatible with our database system, allow three groups in the church to sponsor an impactful, upcoming art installation and provide funds for Outreach to continue their plans for the New Year's Retreat.

Did you know that anyone can contribute to the Memorial and Living Gifts Fund at any time and for any reason? Donations can be presented to the church to celebrate a milestone...or send a donation in someone's name because they did something nice...or just because. As one can see, these Living Gift funds benefit us all in many ways.

Any group in the church can submit a request from the Living Gifts Fund. Awards are made as funds are available. Deadlines for requests correspond with upcoming meeting dates: February 5, May 6, August 5, Nov. 4, 2020 at 2 pm. Request Forms are available in the office. Pastor Nancy is the staff contact person.



Thrive will be selling handmade Christmas ornaments between services in the commons, from 9:30am until noon!

Limited edition. Original artwork was used to fill each circle. Limited quantities. \$10 each. Proceeds go towards Thrive Scholarships.





Have you been on the lower level of our church on a Saturday morning recently? If not you are missing an amazing experience. It's a church within our church. Thrift on Fifth opens at 9am and there are always customers waiting for the opening of doors. This Saturday morning we witnessed Saturday Noon Meal people gathering ingredients from their storage room for a fine Thanksgiving feast: turkey, potatoes, squash, and all the fixings.

A few of us from the store recently attended a workshop on homelessness that was sponsored by the Rochester Public Library. We learned about how crucially important it is for us to greet people with warmth, kindness, and respect. Some of our patrons who have been experiencing homelessness have felt rejection and the hurt of people turning the other way for quite some time. It's dehumanizing to not be noticed. 90 percent of the people we see who are experiencing homelessness don't fit the stereotypes that we have come to associate with living on the street. Therefore, we need to treat everyone "as if."

Saturday morning is a community of regulars and newcomers. On this morning, people were happy because the day was sunny and decently warm and they soon would be eating a turkey feast. Our Arise band was filling the building with the best music in town, as they rehearsed for the Sunday service. There was a plethora of beautiful clothing to behold. Warm coats, mittens, hats, and boots had been donated by members of CUMC. It was a bustling, noisy, crowded, happy day. It was community at its best.

We learned at the library-sponsored workshop that for people experiencing homelessness there is a "time horizon." People need to focus on their immediate needs of shelter, clothing and food before they can focus on tasks such as applying for jobs. That time horizon is usually a period of 24 hours. We also know that factors such as systemic racism, trauma, generational poverty, and mental illness add exponentially to how hard it is to get out of the grips of homelessness.

In the midst of great poverty and injustice there is still grace, hope and an invitation to be full and equal participants in God's abundance at this church on Saturday mornings. We invite you to experience the miracle with us.

~Bobbi Nichols



Saturday Noon Meal volunteers taking a little break at Thrift on Fifth. Hand knitted hats on sale as boutique items for \$5 each.



Thrift on Fifth is now open every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. We are ready to accept clothing anytime, just bring them to the normal drop-off location. Thank you for your generosity. Together we can help this community thrive!

Store Hours | **Wednesday: 4pm-7pm**
Saturday: 9am-12pm
Sunday: 9am-12pm



Poinsettia Order Form

Please fill in the form below if you would like to share a poinsettia plant with others this Christmas season. You can place this form in the offering plate or turn it into the church office. Each plant is \$15. The deadline for poinsettia orders is end of day December 9th. Please indicate below if you wish to pick up the poinsettia after 1pm on December 27th, or if you would like to have it delivered to a homebound or bereaved person. We would like to have about 65 plants to deliver. *Thank you for supporting this ministry of caring to our homebound and bereaved members.*



Name (please print): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ plants x \$15.00 = \$ _____ . ____

- Please deliver to a homebound or bereaved member.
- I will pick up after 10AM on December 26th.

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

We are also in need of volunteers to deliver the poinsettias to homebound and bereaved members. The delivery date will be December 27th at 9AM; please bring boxes to transport plants. If you are able to help, please call Judi Berg (507)289-4532



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

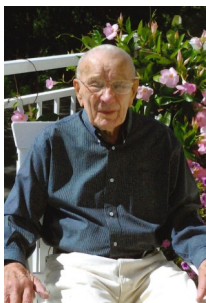
Welcome New Intentional Disciples!

Jennifer, Larkin and Charlie Geisinger Our family is Charlie Will, Larkin Ruth and our mom Jennifer Krista. We moved to Rochester last fall from Vashon Island WA. Our grandma and grandpa and aunt and uncle and cousin Ralphie live here too. Charlie loves baseball, Larkin loves plays and my mom really really loves to read. We like CUMC because it has our favorite people and handbells and choir and Charlie really likes the Christmas Pageant. He also likes dinner because it is delicious. *(written by Charlie & Larkin)*

Kimberly Feddersen I have been a regularly attending non-member at CUMC for at least 10 years. CUMC's music program has consistently drawn me to the 9am service. I appreciate the traditional feel that is balanced with CUMC's eye toward the future (i.e. *Thrive*). I love the "reset" I get after a Sunday morning sermon from Pastor Elizabeth. I look forward to being more involved in small groups. I enjoy gardening, food/cooking, and being physically active. I love my profession as a dietitian and enjoy public speaking.

Lauren Girard Lauren Girard, her husband Jeremy, and child Hartley are coming to this Church from Northfield, MN. Lauren is joining because CUMC is a reconciling congregation. Lauren enjoys crossfit, outdoor activities, and camping.

In Memoriam



James Holtz

March 11, 1926 ~ November 19, 2019



Charles Pagenhart

March 9, 1940 ~ October 26, 2019

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Christ United Methodist Church
Children's Christmas Pageant

Free

All Ages Event!

December 22 ~ 4pm ~ Sanctuary

Food and Fellowship to follow