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February 2023

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT



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

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

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

Office Hours M-F 9am-5pm & Sunday 9am-12pm | 507-289-4019 | [cumethodist.com](https://www.cumethodist.com)

Pastor's Pen

WITH PASTOR KIRKLAND



Turn to Gospel of John, the fourth gospel in the Bible, and you will find seven times when Jesus tells us something important about himself. Jesus could have easily left it at “God and I are one” (John 10:30), but he did not stop there. Instead, he chooses to self-reveal himself, divulging insights and personal truths.

Referred to as the seven “I Am” statements, each is an opportunity to more deeply know who Jesus is, what Jesus believes about his relationship with us, and what his priorities are.

Jesus’ I Am statements are:

I am the bread of life.

I am the light of the world.

I am the gate.

I am the good shepherd.

I am the resurrection and the life.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

I am the true vine.

The God we meet in Jesus Christ is a God who is relational that wants to be known personally. Just weeks ago on Christmas we gave thanks that Jesus is Emmanuel, the God who is with us. By telling us about himself, Jesus wants to help us understand the character and nature of God so we build trust in our relationship with God.

During the upcoming season of Lent, the 40 day season when we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection on Easter, we will explore Jesus’ “I Am” statements in worship. Each week we will focus on a statement, wondering what unique insights Jesus wants us to gain through that statement and how this personal information about Jesus can encourage faith today.

Insight into any person’s true self is a precious gift. Yet too often we make assumptions, hide our true selves from each other, and close ourselves from vulnerability and authenticity. While doing so may make us feel safe from harm, these choices risk isolation as well as emotional and psychological damage.

Even though a caged bird sings, we are not created for cages, real or other. We are created to soar like eagles, with arms open to the world and to each other.

This is the posture Jesus takes toward us: open, self-revealing, and fully alive.

Looking to another conversation in another gospel, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” (Mark 8:29). Join us for worship on Sundays this Lenten season, starting Sunday, February 26, to listen to what Jesus hopes we know about him.

Pastor Kirkland



Lent 2023: This Lent we'll be exploring the "I Am" Statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John. Each week we'll highlight a different statement and consider what that imagery offers to our faith journeys in this season of formation and reflection. We'll host a Sunday night Bible study group (in person and zoom) throughout the season as well as weekly organ concerts and other opportunities for participation. Some highlights of the season are below:

Ash Wednesday: February 22nd

7:00 am- 8:00 am Drive-Thru/Walk Up Ashes (5th Avenue entrance by the glass doors): Come by in the morning to receive ashes and a prayer as you begin your day.

12pm – 1:00 pm Ashes in Peace Plaza: Look for our pastors and a sign in Peace Plaza to receive ashes and a prayer during your lunch break

7:00 pm Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestreamed: A traditional Ash Wednesday worship service including music, silence, scripture and the imposition of ashes to begin the Lenten season

Lenten Devotional: We'd love to hear your reflections on the season of Lent and the question Who is Jesus? Your submission can be offered as a written meditation, poetry, photography, prayers or other format. Contact Samantha (samantha@cumethodist.com) by February 12th to be included in our devotional. We'll have printed copies of the devotional and provide the opportunity to sign up for a daily email during the season.

Lenten Organ Concerts: Each Tuesday in Lent, John Varona will host an organ concert at 12:15 pm in the sanctuary. These concerts are free and open to the public and will be livestreamed on our Facebook page. The dates are **February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 4th**. Join the livestream on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/cumethodist> or Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/@christunitedmethodistchurc1891>.

Announcements

What's going on?

Meet and Worship with Bishop Lanette Plambeck on February 18

Minnesota United Methodists are invited to choose a location and come to meet Bishop Lanette Plambeck, hear some of her story, worship together, enjoy warm hospitality and good conversation, and leave with a renewed sense of hope for the future.

Bishop Lanette will meet with United Methodists in the Rochester area on Saturday, February 18 from 2-4pm at Evangel UMC. Please pre-register at <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/BishopsGatherings>.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 21 from 5-7pm

Pancakes for dinner on 364 out of 365 nights in the year go by “brinner” (breakfast dinner) or simply “breakfast supper.” Yet for one particular night each year, at least for the church, we call this wonderfully satisfying meal Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Ancient Christian traditions of fasting, worship, and connecting over intentional meals live on in contemporary practices that prepare us for Easter. We will find this throughout our church’s worship and ministry from late February through mid April. And on the day before Ash Wednesday, Tuesday, February 21, we invite you to begin your 40 day journey to Easter by enjoying a pancake supper.

Free-will donations may be given at the door or during the meal. Pancakes, pancake toppings, sausages, milk, juice and coffee will be served from 5pm-7pm in Wesley Hall.

Special thanks to the 2023 Appalachian Service Project team, Monday Men’s Covenant Group, and Thursday Men’s Breakfast Group for preparing and serving the meal.



Buy a Pie and Support Saturday Noon Meals

Stockholm Pie is taking orders for their next Pie-O-Rama pick up in Rochester on Saturday, February, 25 at Christ UMC. In appreciation for the use of the church for their pie pick up, Stockholm Pie will donate all the deserts that day for Saturday Noon Meals. Place your order by February 18 at www.stockholmpie.com.


Children's Ministry


Youth Ministry

Children and Youth Ministry News

Christ UMC is helping grow disciples ready to change the world. Our Sunday School classes are having fun each week learning a Bible story, building community and doing a craft. This looks different in each of our classes.

- *9:00 Sunday School (2 classes) Preschool-Kindergarten, Kindergarten-4th Grade, Youth and 5th graders are invited to be helpers*
- *11:00 Sunday School (one class) Preschool-3rd grade, 4th Grade and up stay in worship*
- Kids With Purpose on Wednesday nights (one group, mainly 1st-5th grade) helps children connect faith to life and service. In order to make these classes happen, and to prevent burnout from volunteers and staff, we need people to help each week. You can sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/wintervols>. You will be paired with a Safe Sanctuaries trained partner.

Upcoming youth and children's events

February

1 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday

5 (Sunday) Noon Congregational meal and meeting

3pm All Church tubing at Ironwood Springs

8 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday

12 (Sunday) Youth Group 12:00-1:30 Time Shift! With the Super Bowl and Kitten Bowl being played in the evening, youth group will meet earlier in the day.

15 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday

19 (Sunday) 5pm Meet at the Workshop for games and trivia!

21 (Tuesday) ASP Pancake Dinner Fundraiser

22 (Wednesday) CU Wednesday—Ash Wednesday edition—NO meal, Kids with Purpose, Club 6-7 or Confirmation. Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00.

26 (Sunday) Youth Group 4:30-6:00

Children & Youth Cont.

Christ Church at Northern Pines

We are hoping to get a good group of our children and youth at Northern Pines summer camp June 11-16. Our church offers camperships for youth attending United Methodist Camps. There are three camps that week to choose from. Register at www.campminnesota.org

- **Discovery Camp 1** –A traditional camp for ages 9-13 (\$520)
- **Junior/Senior High Christian Youth Camp** –a Leadership Camp for grades 6-12. (\$445)
- **Games Galore and More**—Pastor Amanda’s gaming camp—7th grade and up. (\$445)

For more information on the Minnesota United Methodist camps, stop by the office for a brochure. Amanda and Shaun Larsen, Molly and Nolan Reynolds and Jeramy, Lauren, Serenity and Hartley Girard love to answer questions about camp!

Vacation Bible School June 19-23

Boundary Waters 2023

Our church has reserved the KoWaKan site on the edge of the Boundary Waters for August 3-7. We will have guides and equipment to help us canoe, hike and enjoy the Boundary Waters. This trip is open to families and individuals, as well as unaccompanied youth grade 7 and up. <https://tinyurl.com/yc89zwwk7>

Church White Water Camping Weekend August 18-20

JOIN OUR TEAM!

*Full time and part time positions available.
If you love children and want to make a difference in their lives, apply today!*

At Thrive, we offer our staff:

- Competitive wages ranging from \$12-18/hour based on education and experience
- A monthly bonus
- Paid time off and paid holidays
- Consistent schedules— no nights or weekends
- Professional development opportunities



Our employment application can be found on our website at www.thrivefrc.org or resumes can be emailed to tanyag@thrivefrc.org.



We are looking for fun, creative and passionate teachers to join the Thrive family!

All church Snow Tubing



Sunday February 5, 3pm
Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch
Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/CUMCsnowtubing>

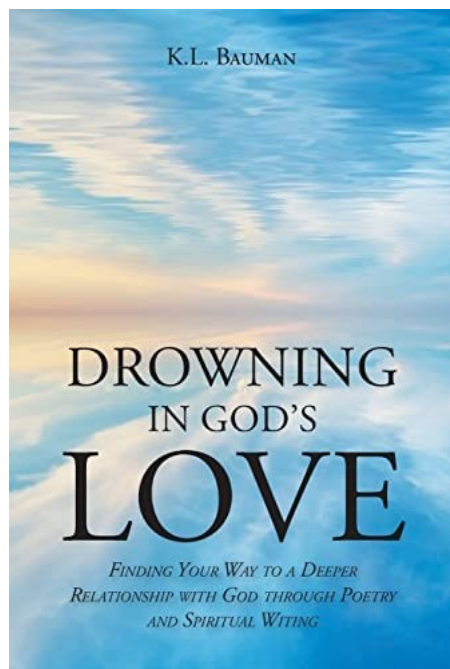
United Women in Faith

When you read this edition of the Spirit, United Women of Faith Sunday will have happened. Next month we will have pictures of this yearly event.

Please look at the UWF bulletin board, which is outside the office. You will see a list of the people that have received the Mission Recognition Award at CUMC and pictures. Reminisce about these people; do you have a story about one of them? Tell someone. We all love to hear memories from the past.

The history of this award began in 1958 when we moved in to this building. Sixty five years later we have awarded 148 recipients. Someone new will be added to this illustrious list of Christ United Methodist members. There will be pictures.

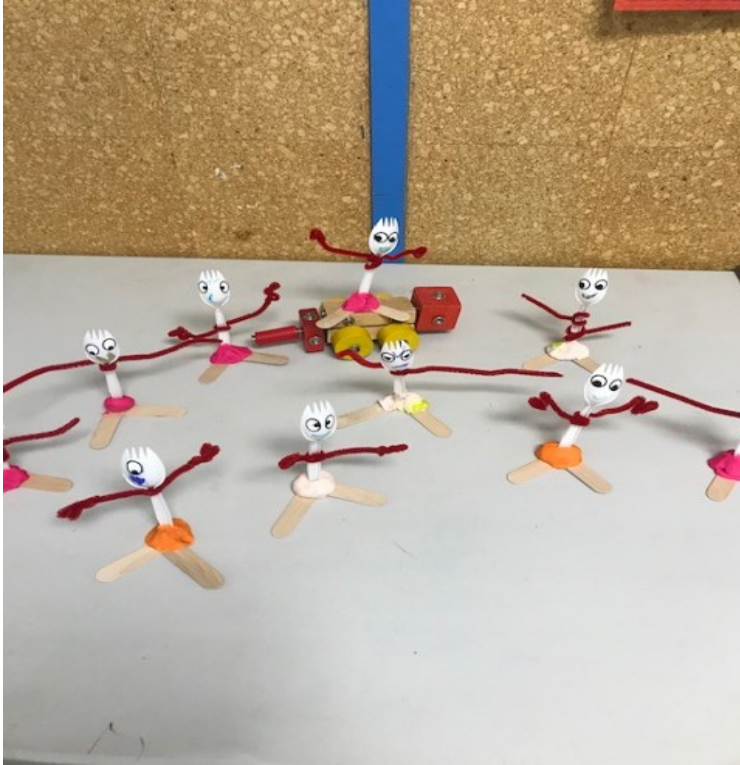
Our ladies baked 73 pounds of cookies in December which you all bought. Thank you for your support. For 2023 we plan on a Tea in April and a Rummage Sale in September. We will keep you posted on our events.



CUMC member Ken Bauman, who holds a master's degree in art education from Mankato State University and serves as a spiritual director, has completed his new book, "Drowning in God's Love: Finding Your Way to a Deeper Relationship with God Through Poetry and Spiritual Writing": a series of poems and writings that reflect upon how the author's relationship with the Lord changed following a transformative experience.

"We are all children of God," writes Bauman. "How easy it is to forget this. God loves us all in the same way and in the same amount. It is a given, like the breath we draw each day, by each beat of our heart, by all that makes each of us holy.

"Faith and love are important pieces of our lives. They may be all that keep us moving on in our journeys. Just as we begin life's journey, beginning and continuing the journey is important in our spiritual lives. If we are looking for God, God is also looking for us. We have heard the saying, 'Seek and you shall find.' This saying can never be truer than when we speak about searching for God and, more importantly, finding God." You can purchase his book though Barnes & Noble and Amazon.





Saturday Noon Meals

The Saturday Noon Meal program returned to serving in-person meals each Saturday in November. We have averaged approximately 35 guests each Saturday – who have appreciated the meals made and served at CUMC.

Thank you to all our volunteers for their work each Saturday. We have begun scheduling groups to work specific Saturdays (girl scout troops, community churches, co-workers). If you have a small group that would like to work together preparing and serving a meal, please reach out to Kathy Lombardo to schedule a date. Any group volunteering will have a SNM leader work with you on that specific Saturday and menu and food will be provided (unless you want to provide food by your group).

We appreciate donations provided by our community partners – People’s Food Co-op, Salvation Army, and Community Food Response. These donations allow us to prepare fresh vegetables and fruit each Saturday in addition to providing food resources for our meals. We also appreciate our relationship with Channel One and food resources that are available to our meal ministry.

In addition, we would like to thank the congregation for your generous donations during the holiday season – food and kitchen supplies. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We also appreciate the financial gifts that are provided to the SNMs ministry program.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the SNMs program – please contact Kathy Lombardo at 507-398-2686 or via email at Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com.

CUMC Vegetable Garden

As we move closer to gardening season, I will provide information regarding our gardening ministry.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the Vegetable Garden program – please contact Kathy Lombardo at 507-398-2686 or via email at Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com



Minnesota Legislative Session

Our church has several partnerships that keep us informed and help us be involved in local and regional efforts to create a more sustainable world. For information on the 2023 Minnesota legislative session and how you can make a difference, please visit

www.mnipl.org

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, a group that organizes people of faith around climate justice

www.isaiahmn.org Isaiah MN, a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities, Black barbershops, childcare centers, and other community based constituencies fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota

Isaiah MN Listening Session: Feb. 18 10:45am-12:45 pm Join Rep. Kim Hicks and Rep. Andy Smith for a listening session on the Paid Family and Medical leave bill currently before the MN Legislature. These leaders want to hear from members of the community about how this bill will impact their lives. Event will also be livestreamed. Contact Toni Kay Mangskau with any questions (tkmlondon2b@yahoo.com)



Caring Ministries

Christ United Methodist Church

From The Ministry of Congregational Care

Safe Sanctuary Training for Care Ministry Teams will be held Sunday, February 26 between services. Please watch the Connections newsletter for room location. The training is required annually. Pre-registration is encouraged. Snacks provided.

The training is needed for Care Visitors, Lay Visitors, Callers and Van Drivers.

If you are interested in joining one of these teams, please contact Pastor Nancy for more information. We would be happy to have you join us.

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain receives prayer requests from the pastors. Jan Martin is our new lead. She receives the prayer request and sends it on to the next person, Elene Pattinson who sends it on to the next person and so on until it gets to end of the prayer chain team.

Generally speaking, the prayer request is simply the first name of the person requesting prayer. This insures confidentiality and accuracy.

The prayer chain has been a telephone calling chain in the past. It is moving towards becoming a texting prayer chain. Those who do not text will have a buddy who will call and tell them the name.

Please consider joining the prayer chain. It is something people who are homebound can do for their church and community. It is also something busy working people, homemakers and caregivers can do quickly with a simple text.

For more information, please contact Jan Martin through the church office. She volunteers at the front desk each week.

New Ministry Teams

There are two new ministry teams in the Congregational Care area of CUMC. There is a group that meets certain Wednesday nights over supper at CU Wednesday.

This is a parent group of adult children with special needs. Please contact John Lage, Jr. at janandjohn3@gmail.com if this would be of interest to you.

Pastor Nancy Wheeler Handlon



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

"Connection is the energy that is created between people when they are seen, heard, and valued . . . when they can give and receive without judgement."

Brene' Brown

Pick-up a Winter Faith to Life Brochure in the Commons

Sunday Faith to Life Forum

***** As a follow-up to last month's "Youth Homelessness Outreach in Rochester" a volunteer training is being offered February 6th, 6:30-7:30 pm at Zumbro Lutheran Church. This training is for anyone 18+ interested in engaging with youth or volunteering at the center.**

To sign up: <https://zumbro.churchcenter.com/calendar/event/116533627>

February Faith to Life Forum

Every third Sunday (except December) we offer forums given by insightful guest speakers that cover a wide range of relevant topics. *Registration is not required.* You can join in-person or by clicking on the Zoom link provided in the Sunday worship email reminder the day of the forum.

"A Caring Conversation: A Family Story of Addiction"

February 19, 2023, 10:00 am – In-person Wesley Hall and on Zoom

Presenters: Toni and Valerie Mangskau

You probably know how addiction affects the person using substances; health effects, loss of jobs, separation from loved ones, financial problems, and run-ins with the law. However, addiction alters the lives of everyone in the family and those who love the person.

This forum is a personal story of the impact of addiction on a family and where they found help!

Previous forums are archived at:

<https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn>

Click on our playlists tab, then, "Faith to Life"

Sunday Classes

Contemporary Issues

Host: Joel Charlson

Time: Sundays at 10:00 AM

Place: In-Person (Room 146) and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?pwd=VXFEK3I6UVRWeFR0bzRjeGR5VUlmQT09>

If you are interested in joining the class, email Joel at joel.charlson@gmail.com to receive the weekly *Wired Word* or join us on Zoom.

Inquiring Spirits

Hosts: Hank Kliewer and Ed Shafer

Time: Sundays at 10:15 AM

Place: In-Person (Room 145) and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82253693720>

Group members suggest theological topics or books of interest to study. For further information contact Ed at shaferchurch@hotmail.com.

Connect Groups

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

Breakfast Fellowship

Hosts: Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson

Time: February 8th at 8:30 AM

Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center

CU Wednesdays Crossroads

Hosts: Pastor Jenny and Pastor Kirkland

Time: Wednesdays February 1, 8, 15 at 6:30 PM

Place: Room 145

Contact Pastor Kirkland with any questions.

Dinner/Lunch Club

To learn about the Dinner/Lunch Club contact Marjie Blaisdell at mblaisdell@gmail.com or Mary Schmidt at oronocomb@yahoo.com.

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: February 19th at 4:00 – 6:30

Place: Brian and Millie Webb's Home

Interested or want further information? Contact Brian at bkwebbus@gmail.com or Millie at 608-212-9706.



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings

Knit One Pray, Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

Time: Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Place: WebEx Contact Marjie at mblaisdell@gmail.com to receive a link to the WebEx meeting.

Meeting God

Hosts: Ken and Elaine Bauman

Time: Saturday, February 25 at 8:30 AM

Place: Fireside Room

Spirituality - relationships, values and life purpose

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503377386?pwd=czVQNzlxTTE1eHdvdmgzZlBXdmxZz09)

[pwd=czVQNzlxTTE1eHdvdmgzZlBXdmxZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503377386?pwd=czVQNzlxTTE1eHdvdmgzZlBXdmxZz09)

Contact Dick at rk.stry@gmail.com for further information.

Tea and Tacos

Host: Armanda Vanderheiden

Time: Saturdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Place: Narthex

A scared and safe space for women of all generations, backgrounds and beliefs to do life together. Childcare available. No need to register; drop-ins welcomed.

Theology on Brew

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Thursday, February 9th at 6:30 PM

Place: Tap House West

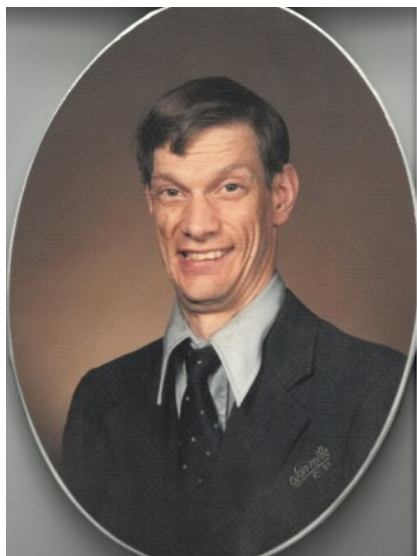
Contact Pastors Jenny and Kirkland with questions.

Lent 2023

The focus of Lent will be on the I Am Statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John

Lenten Small Group Study: Sundays 4:30-6:00 Join one of our pastors on Sunday nights in Lent (Feb. 26, Mar. 5, Mar. 12, Mar. 19, Mar. 26 and April. 2) for our Lenten small group series using the book Jesus Revealed by Matt Rawle. We'll meet in-person in Room 145 and have a Zoom option available. Each gathering will include discussion, Bible study and a short video. Books are available for purchase for \$12 in the church office but are not required for participation. Contact Pastor Jenny with any questions.

In Memoriam



Louis David Ramaker
July 18, 1946- January 16, 2023



Betty Lieder
April 23, 1924 - January 13, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Knit One Play, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm-7pm CU Wednesday 8pm Online Devotional	2 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Study Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal	3 	4 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
5 Communion Sunday 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 12:15pm Pot Luck Lunch 1pm Annual Meeting 3:00pm Snow Tubing	6 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	7 10:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Covenant Group	8 8:30pm Breakfast Fellowship 10am Knit One Play, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm-7:30pm CU WEDNESDAY 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	9 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 9:15am Care Visitors 1pm Women's Study Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6:30pm Theology on Brew	10 10am Women & the Sacred 10am Rug Hooking Group	11 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
12 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 12-1:30pm Youth Group	13 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	14 10:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters 7pm Thrive Board Meeting	15 10am Knit One Play, Too 12:30pm Clergy Families Lunch 1:30pm Women's Study 3:30pm Memorials & Living Gifts Meeting 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm-7:30pm CU WEDNESDAY 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm Online Devotional	16 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 8:30am UWF Circle 2 10:30am UWF Circle 8 1pm Women's Study Group 1:30pm Ruth Circle Meeting 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6pm Leadership Board Meeting 7pm UWF Circle 4	17 9:30am UWF Book Group	18 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos 10:45am ISAIHAH Minnesota Info Meeting
19 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Third Sunday Forum 11am Arise Worship 5:00pm Trirraa the Workshop	20 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	21 10:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Covenant Group 5pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	22 Ash Wednesday 10am Knit One Play, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 7am Drive Through/Walk Up Ashes 12pm Ashes in Peace Plaza 7pm Ashe Wednesday Worship	23 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Study Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal	24 10am Women & the Sacred 10am Rug Hooking Group	25 Stockholm Pie-O-Rama Pickup 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 8:30am Meeting God (Fireside) 8:30am TBD Ken Bauman Workshop 9am Thrift on Fifth Open
26 8:30am Sunday Nursery Opens 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Spirits 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Youth Group 4:30pm Lenten group (145)	27 11:15am Men's Book Study & Mutual Support	28 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:15pm Lenten Organ Concert 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters				

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