

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

June 2020
CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace, In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT



FAITH → LIFE
Learn from Christ's Teachings



BACKWARD
BOLT
VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL 2020



Nothing stops grace in the city!

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"

Pastor's Pen

WITH ELIZABETH MACAULAY, LEAD PASTOR



"I look up to the mountains; does my help come from the mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains." Psalm 121 (The Message)

Wowsa!!!!

God bless the courage, tenacity, humor and care for each other that has kept us connected through these pandemic days.

Built upon a strong tradition of innovation and trust, Christ United Methodist Church is able to offer weekly worship and nightly prayer services. We stay connected through the phone callers who are reaching out to every household in the church. Small groups are meeting via Zoom and Confirmation Class has been a rich time of leaning into faith questions and life. We send out a daily Connections devotional via email and maintain an up-to-date presence on Facebook and on our web page. We are also mailing out weekly worship service materials and Fresh Spirit articles to those who do not have electronic means of connecting.

I want to share my deep appreciation for every person who has said "yes" to being in ministry through the church. Because you are sewing masks and cooking meals and phone calling and prayer service sharing and praying praying praying, we continue to be grace in the city of Rochester and beyond.

I also want to share my gratitude for being able to work with an amazing staff and with Pastor Nancy. We meet via Zoom twice a week. Truly, Christ UMC is blessed by a committed group of servant leaders.

In the midst of gratitude I am aware of a poignant sense of grief and vulnerability.

Two of our children were to have been married this summer. The weddings have been postponed.

The rites of passage and celebrations of graduations and funerals and confirmation and the end of school have all been reshaped.

Jobs that felt sure are downsized or disappeared.

Our sense of national cohesion has unraveled before our troubled eyes.

We ache for the simple and priceless treasure of those things we took for granted: The hug of a child, the shake of a hand upon entering the church, singing hymns together, a cup of coffee in the midst of the chaos of post-worship social time, faces that mean home to us.

Our whole world has changed and our sense of vulnerability is intensified.

So. In the midst of so much, may you find practices to remind you that God is in the midst of this pandemic.

Bike rides are good therapy. Taking walks and connecting by phone are good prayer practices. Reading scripture and listening to fantastic music provide soul food. Taking it one day at a time is essential.

We do not know how long this time of altered living will last. We do not know how long it will be before we can join together for worship. There is so much we do not know.

What we do know is that God is in the midst of all that is and we are not alone.

God shows up in people whose eyes are willing to engage with our own.

God shows up when we connect in small groups and during Zoom meetings and through cards sent and prayers shared.

God shows up in the middle of the night when we are unable to find rest and God shows up in the rising of the sun and the song of the bird.

May you know the presence of the Holy in the midst of these days.

Let us know how we can be of service to you.

You are a part of a mighty witness for hope and blessing.

I miss you with a fierce kind of ache.

And, I am blessed to join with the other leaders of this church who are deeply intentional about creating space that is safe for all. See the article in this issue of the Spirit for information about how it is we will practice exquisite care for persons who enter our building.

Stay tuned for news about church events.

Stay attuned.

And please, stay well.

Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Elizabeth

Ways to Stay Connected

Hello church! We are working hard to keep our worship, fellowship, and community alive amidst these trying times. At the sound advice of professionals we have closed the building, and moved nearly everything onto the web! There are a number of offerings available to help stay connected. As common practice changes, and events get shifted, we will keep our website (www.cumethodist.com) updated with the latest information.

Current Online Offerings:

Worship - We will be live streaming worship every Sunday at 9am from the Sanctuary. To watch, go to facebook.com/cumethodist
We love to see your comments and prayer requests.

We broadcast a condensed version of worship at 11:30am on the radio station KOLM (1520AM)

You can find all of our worship services archived on our youtube channel. They are posted at 10am every Sunday after the services. youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn

Live Telephone Worship! We understand that not everyone has access to computers. We are implementing a new worship by telephone service. Call the number (507)215-8816 Sunday at 9am to join us for worship live! Did you sleep in? No problem! Call that number anytime before the next Sunday to hear the whole service.

Evening Prayer - Every night at 8pm one of our pastors live streams evening prayer and meditation: facebook.com/cumethodist

Children - Children's lesson facebook streaming happens Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 1pm on the children & family ministry facebook page facebook.com/cumecchildrenandfamilyministry/

Youth - Confirmation is being hosted at the usual time on Zoom (Meeting ID # -968-220-813, or <https://zoom.us/j/968220813>)

Zoom Connect Groups - Virtual connect groups are forming!
More information on *page 7*

Give Online - Giving online is easy, just head to cumethodist.com, click the button that says "GIVE ONLINE" and follow the on screen instructions.

Re-Gathering Plan for Churches



The Minnesota Conference has developed a **Phased Re-Gathering Plan** for Churches that closely aligns with Gov. Walz's phased re-opening plan. Each church will need to make some decisions specific to its context and discernment, but it is Bishop Ough's

expectation that every congregation will operate within each designated phase at any given time. "There is nothing stopping us from being the church we are called to be right now, in this moment, and we can do it in a way that ensures the safety of our people," he said. The plan: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan>

Volunteer Spotlight!



We are still calling our church community, and we still need callers. If you would like a small flock of your own to check in on and keep connected to our church, email grace@cumethodist.com

Good Things

It has been a joy to share the good things happening in our church each Friday. It has helped us keep up hope as we make our way through this time of unknowing. So many good things happen each week that it can be hard to keep track of it all, and I am looking to you to help me find all of those things.

Submit your good things to grace@cumethodist.com by Thursday at noon if you want them included in the weekly video.

~ Grace Glover, Connections Coordinator

Meeting Christ Coffee

Sunday, June 14th at 10am we will be meeting on Zoom to hold a digital Meeting Christ Coffee.

This is a chance for people who are new to CUMC or exploring churches to get to know what we are all about.

You will have a chance to ask questions of clergy, staff and members while we get to know you a little better.

The link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82369307755>

BYOCoffee this time.

Children's Ministry

Children Ministry Updates

CUMC Children and Family Ministry would like to thank our Sunday School teachers for their dedication, creativity, and time. Our Sunday School year was shortened but our lessons will continue to nurture and support the children in growing their faith and relationship with Jesus.

Thank you to:

Betsy Whitfield

Shaun and Jaden Wysocki

Dan and Josh Lindenfeld

Heather Hindahl

Emily and Mike Davis

Julia Katzenberger

Claire and Allie Ruter

Heidi Burns

Julie Plunkett

VBS 2020 Kickoff week will take place on Zoom June 15, 16 & 17 then will run on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30pm through July. To register or for more information contact grace@cumethodist.com



CUMC's Children, Youth, and Family Ministry have started a facebook group for parents. This is a place where parents can connect with one another.

What it is:

- A place where parents can support one another
- A place where we grow in our faith journey together
- A place to share parenting joys and celebrations
- A place to ask questions about parenting challenges

We will begin by posting a weekly quote or question around parenting to get started. To join, go to tinyurl.com/cumcparents

~ Jody Peterson, Children's Coordinator

Youth Updates ~ We've been busy!
Tweens meet on Wednesdays at 5 for online Game night. We've been getting really good at Pictionary.

Youth Ministry

Confirmation is continuing to meet each week. We are reading Velvet Elvis by Rob Bell and getting ready for a whole new kind of Confirmation ceremony on June 28th.

Post-confirmation age youth and college students will be meeting weekly to discuss the Enneagram and how their personalities fit into group settings with Grace Glover and Bobbi Nichols. Starts in June!

If your youth would like to participate in our activities, email grace@cumethodist.com for the Zoom links!

We would like to thank Brent Ackerman, Carrie Cannon-Robinson, Karla Wysocki, Millie Webb, Deb Gross and Dan Lindenfeld for their support of our Youth Ministry this year! Your dedication and flexibility is much appreciated.

Due to COVID, we will NOT be having our typical summer mission trips of Boundary Waters and ASP. Both are closed for the season, but we are developing alternative programming and hope you will continue to enjoy our beautiful Minnesota summer.

Graduation! Our high school and college students are getting ready to move onto their next steps in life. If you wish to send a card you can find their address in the directory, on CCB, or send it to the church and we'll get it to the graduate.

Congratulations! You have bright futures ahead of you. We will be cheering you on the whole way.

Allison Ruter is graduating from Stewartville High School

Elena Schultz is graduating from Mayo High School

Olivia Ott is graduating from Perpich Center for Arts Education

Jocelyn Stepanek is graduating from Century High School.

Martin Gardner is graduating from Century High School.

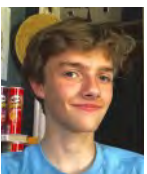
Linnea Nichols is graduating from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa with a degree in Psychology. Her grandfather, Rev. Frank Nichols, is also a graduate of Cornell College.

Kristen Hansen is graduating from Luther College with a major in Women and Gender Studies and minors in English and Africana Studies.

Confirmation

We will be confirming five people on Sunday June 28th with an outdoor worship service. Congratulations to this year's confirmation class:
~ Grace Glover Youth Coordinator

Andrew Ott



Matthew Siems

Callee Erie



Grant Rosin

Claire Ruter





From the ministry of congregational care:

Please remember that there is always a minister on call. Simply call the church, listen for the phone number of the minister on call, and call them directly.

Due to the pandemic, we are not allowed to make visits in the hospital excepting for end of life situations. We are making telephone visits, if someone wishes them. Please know that we need to be notified if you want us to know that you are in the hospital.

In these challenging times we want to pray for you and with you. Please contact us with your prayer requests. They will be confidential unless you tell us otherwise. Please let us know if the prayer request is for the clergy only, for the prayer chain, and/or for our Sunday bulletin. First names only are shared with the prayer chain.

If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself or a loved one, please let us know. We are happy to deliver them to you.

Our wonderful group of callers continues to call every member and friend of Christ UMC on a weekly basis. We met for a time of collaboration via Zoom on May 19. Connections Coordinator Grace Glover and Pastors Elizabeth and Nancy were part of the conversation also.

The Parish Ministry Team bids a fond farewell to Rev. Kitty Burbo and Rev. Kendall Hughes as they pursue other avenues of serving God's church. We all thank them for their service. We are grateful for the continuing Parish Ministers: Linda Youlden, Jeff Ward and Stew Swanson.

Pastor Nancy recently attended a Webinar entitled, The Intersection of Spirituality and Medicine around Serious Illness. It focused on the importance of Advanced Care Planning especially in these days of the pandemic. The two speakers were the CEO of the MN Council of Churches and a Palliative Care Physician. We hope to offer a class on Advance Care Planning and Faith in the near future.

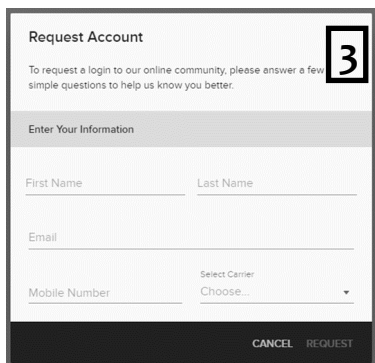
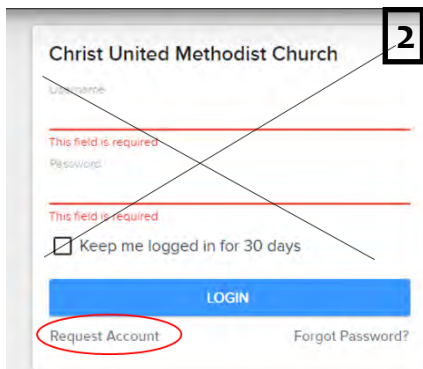
Rev. Nancy Wheeler Handlon
Minister for Congregational Care

You've Mastered Zoom: Now Explore the CUMC Online Database!

Step 1: Visit <https://cumethodist.ccbchurch.com/goto/login>

Step 2: Click "Request Account"

Step 3: Fill in your information, then click "Request". It will turn blue when all information is filled in.



Jenny will be notified and email you the login information and answer any questions you may have!

Here are just a few things you can do when logged in:

1. See your current and historical giving, download giving statements, or make online gifts.
2. See the groups you are a part of, your fellow group members, and explore new groups.
3. This is our church directory! Search for your friends and connect.



	Contemporary Issues Group Type: Connect Group Department: Adults led by Joel Charlson, Invitation or Request Required, Members Interest
	CU Wednesdays Team Type: Serving Department: Adults led by Tracy Jones, Invitation or Request Required, Members Interest
	Dinner Club Type: Connect Group Department: Adults led by Marjke Blaisdell, Invitation or Request Required, Members Interest

PEOPLE SEARCH

je cd



Jenny Cordry

I am available anytime to answer questions or show you around this valuable tool. Call or text me at 507-458-6020, or email jenny@cumethodist.com

~ Jenny Cordry, Dir of Operations



FAITH → LIFE: *Learn from Christ's Teachings*

As we adjust to these unprecedented times, the Faith→Life Team is exploring new ways to experience community. We are using digital tools and social media to stay connected. Watch for new offerings of Connect Groups, Classes, and Third Sunday Forums.

Ongoing Sunday Class: *Contemporary Issues*

Host: Joel Charlson • **Time:** Sundays at 10am • **Place:** On Zoom!

Joel emails participants each Thursday the week's current event in the news 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. It's great to see friendly faces, hear music and have stimulating conversation! If you are interested in join the class email Joel Charlson (joel.charlson@gmail.com) or Kathy Estray (rk.estray@gmail.com) or just join via this zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941> on Sunday morning at 10!

Connect Groups:

Gardening Ministry - Host: Mary Schmidt • **Time:** You will be contacted as activities are scheduled • **Place:** CUMC Grounds
Spring has sprung, and the Garden Ministry Team is busy weeding, planting, and making plans for the completion of the pollinator garden in the courtyard! Bring your own gloves and gardening tools if you have them. Contact Mary at oronocombs@yahoo.com if you are interested in opportunities to weed, mulch, and plant!

Knit One Pray, Too - Host: Marjie Blaisdell • **Time:** Wednesday mornings 10:00 – 12:00 • **Place:** Knitting at home at this time

Men's Coffee Group

Host: Dick Estray • **Time:** Thursday mornings 8am • **Place:** On Zoom
Whether you are a long-time member, new to CUMC or looking for a fellowship group, you are invited to join for coffee and conversation. To receive an invite just email Dick Estray at rk.estray@gamil.com.

Ongoing Faith Formation Groups:

While the church is closed groups still find a way to stay connected!

2:00 pm – Monday – Women's Book Discussion Group/CUMC courtyard weather permitting or 3:00 pm on Zoom.

1:00 pm – Tuesday – Covenant Discipleship Group/Zoom

8:30 am – Thursday – Covenant Discipleship Group/Zoom

4:00 pm – Thursday – Women's Group/Zoom

10:00 am – 2nd & 4th Friday – Women and the Sacred/Zoom

Congregational Read

Watch for a new book selected in the Fall

Third Sunday Forum

We will be offering forums online in the near future. Watch for more information in the weekly Fresh Spirit about how you can view and participate.

Watch the Fresh Spirit email, and the New Spirit newsletters for updates on offerings as they become available!



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

Welcome to the World!



Maisie Mei Gregg ~ 4/11/2020
Daughter of Nick & Amy Gregg

*We welcome back
Paul & Bev Allen
as Intentional
Disciples!*

In Memoriam



Lorraine Wondrow
August 23/1927 ~ April 22/2020



Barry Woodle
August 4/1940 ~ January 13/2020



Lucille Tonkin
December 30/1925 ~ April 24, 2020



Dr. George Morrow
November 13/1925 ~ May 5/2020



Richard Wheeler
December 21/1937 ~ May 7/2020

Memorials and Living Gifts

Christ Church exists to share the transformational love of Jesus. Through over 160 years of ministry, lives have been changed through the touch of this Body of Christ.

Christ Church gratefully receives gifts in memory of or in honor of loved ones. When the church is designated as recipient of memorial gifts, the witness of the beloved lives on in tangible ways.

The Memorials & Living Gifts Committee of Christ UMC writes thank-you notes for each gift received. The committee meets quarterly to determine missional uses for memorial gifts. All ministry areas are encouraged to submit requests to the Memorials & Living Gifts Committee. Members of this committee consult the Trustees and the lead pastor as they determine the best uses of gifts given. The purchases listed represent the generous ways that memorial and living gift giving generates ministry into the future.

Christ UMC also is grateful to those who remember the church in their estate plans. Estate gifts are stewarded by the Trustees of the church and will be used to support ministry now and into the future.

Christ is alive! Together we live our gratitude.

Memorials and Bequests Committee

Diane Ilstrup
Suzi Mueller
Jean Dunn

JoAnn Sheldon
Larry Scilley
Pat Feeser

Rev. Nancy Wheeler
Handlon

Gifts Donated in Loving

Memory of:

Amy Wordelman
Iris Pagenhart
Bob Scoggin
Robert "Bob" Gill
Grace Wiggen
Barbara Winter
Charles Pagenhart
Pat Hein
Ardys Bartel

The following ministry areas have been blessed

Thrive Scholarships
Music Ministry
Saturday Noon Meals
Garden Ministry
Live Streaming Technology
Kitchen Food Carts
Larger Popcorn Machine
Text 2 Give System
New Years Retreat
Wedding Banners
Thrift on Fifth signs
"Facing America" Gallery exhibit
Outreach for Fosterfest
Stacking Chairs for Wesley

Immigrant Ministry Report

On any given night, as many as 44 people who live and work in Southeastern Minnesota are being held in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As no lawyers are provided for immigrants, many cannot afford legal representation. It is possible for many to be released on bond, but those amounts range from \$2,500 to \$12,000 and up. Immigrants can often remain in custody for months or years before receiving a hearing before a judge.

Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense (SMIILD), along with other groups, provides advocacy for immigrants in ICE custody. In April 2020, SMIILD began working through the Minnesota Freedom Fund to underwrite part of the cost of release bonds for those that are eligible. Payment of the bonds allows immigrants to return to their families and remove themselves from the risk of Covid19 in jails.

The plight of these immigrants is heartbreaking. Contributions are sorely needed to help fund lawyers and release bonds. The Mission and Social Justice Committee has agreed to match the first \$1000 in contributions from church members. You can make a difference to real people who need your help now. A tax deductible contribution of any amount can be made by check to Christ United Methodist Church with SMIILD in the memo line. Thank you for considering this contribution.



The Christ United Methodist Women should have met on May 7th. We would have honored the following women at our Service of Remembrance: Ardis Bartel, Marsha Brown, Mary Hegge, Lucille Tonkin, Pat Wick, Lois Crouch, Mae DeFosse, Donna Geerdes, Barb Moulton, Iris Pagenhart, and Grace Wiggen. These women served in circles, committees, the church as a whole, here in Rochester and other cities also. John Verona would have played beautiful music, Martha Hendricks would have given a lovely sermonette, Linda Hyde would have prepared a meaningful communion and we would have heard wonderful stories about these women. It would have been a day of celebration. The salad luncheon following would have been memorable. What salad would you have liked to eat that day? Maybe you should make it this week and thank God that he provided these wonderful women to grace our lives here at Christ United Methodist Church. They will be remembered!

Saturday Noon Meals Program Update

The Saturday Noon Meals program has continued to deliver hot boxed meals to the Mayo Civic Center (which is a temporary day center) during the month of May. As of May 23, 2020 – we have delivered approximately 600 meals to the Civic Center during the pandemic!



On May 8, 2020, CUMC was notified by the Rochester Area Foundation that the SNMs program was a recipient of a grant from the TOGETHER Greater Rochester Area COVID-19 Community Support Fund. This community fund was created to support Rochester area nonprofits who were experiencing unforeseen challenges due to the ongoing pandemic and who serve our region's most vulnerable communities.

SNMs would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to CUMC members and volunteers who support the SMNs program. We look forward to seeing our volunteers and guests in-person.

The SNMs Leadership Team – Stew and Carol Swanson & Phil and Kathy Lombardo



Hopeful Earth

We will be doing another training this summer! Because of COVID-19, we will be doing the training via Zoom. This might make it easier for people to attend that have not been able to make it to previous training events.

Would you please copy and paste this announcement and send it to the person at your church that puts together the bulletins and newsletters? Also, if you have met someone or know of someone that might be interested, please invite them!

EarthKeepers Online Training this Summer!

Six Thursdays; June 11th and 25th, July 9th and 23rd, August 6th and 20th, from 7:00-8:30 pm each session.

Join us for a dynamic and experiential leadership development training led by Rev. Susan Mullin and Julia Nerbonne of Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light. Participants in this Be the Spark training will learn and practice leadership skills for building relationships and building community while taking action for a more just and sustainable world. United Methodists attending this training will be commissioned as Minnesota EarthKeepers!

Learn more and register at: <https://mnipl.org/what-we-do/programs/be-the-spark/>

**Dear Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay, Rev. Nancy Handlon, and
Members and Friends of Christ UMC,**

We are writing to express our deep appreciation and thanks to you for your incredible leadership during this unprecedented and challenging time. We know the enormous work it has taken for you to find new ways to be the church during this time of sheltering-in-place, to continue growing in your own faith, and to keep reaching new people.

We rejoice in your generosity to those in your communities as you stepped up to make face masks, stock food shelves and care for the most vulnerable in your midst. We also rejoice in your financial generosity to your local churches and through your faithful apportionments payments. Your generosity is transforming your communities, keeping your congregations stable and allowing the annual conference to continue providing exceptional care and resources to all of our United Methodist ministries in the Minnesota Annual Conference.

We had over 50 congregations apply for the CARES Act stimulus package loans and many have been approved and are receiving this money to help sustain their staffing levels. Many thanks to pastors, gifted lay leaders in our local churches, Barb Brower, Jean Edin, John Mitchem, and Sheri Meister for helping numerous congregations with their applications. We are also very grateful to Katherine Schill and the Minnesota Conference Board of Pensions for providing a three- month holiday for our local churches' portions of the clergy pension and health insurance contributions.

While we have many months to go to get through this pandemic we are impressed and encouraged with all the ways that everyone has stepped up to help and support one another. We are remaining steady and strong during this time because of your hard work and we give thanks and praise to God for you. Let us know how we can continue resourcing our local churches as we are eager to partner with you always but especially during this challenging time.

Bruce R. Ough, Bishop Dakotas-Minnesota Area

Cynthia Williams, Superintendent River Valley District

Cindy M. Gregorson, Director of Connectional Ministries

Susan Nienaber, Superintendent Big Waters District

Laurie Kantonen, Superintendent North Star District

Fred Vanderwerf, Superintendent Southern Prairie District

Dan Johnson, Superintendent Twin Cities District

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

Non Profit Organization

U S. POSTAGE

PAID

Rochester, Minnesota

Permit No. 5

Return Service Requested