

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

August 2021

CHRIST
METHODIST CHURCH
UNITED
Grace, In The City

THE NEW

SPIRIT

RALLY
SUNDAY

Save the Date!
September 12

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Pastor's Pen

WITH REV. KIRKLAND REYNOLDS, EXECUTIVE PASTOR

When I was in seminary I worked for a faith-based youth organization whose motto is “asking questions that shape us.”

Rather than presume youth lack answers that others possess, this organization believes youth are able to engage (and should be engaged) in important conversations ranging from theology and the church to the great challenges and opportunities facing the world today.



Though this youth organization's approach was based in years of research and theory, at the end of the day what we did was not all that different from what young children do often: just keep asking “why?": why do bad things happen to bad people; why is suffering part of the human experience; why are social divisions difficult to dismantle?

I imagine these you are also still asking these questions. Even though I'm a lifelong student of theology and philosophy, I'd be kidding myself if I didn't admit that I'm still asking questions like these.

Thankfully there are other questions that also shape us. Questions such as: what is God calling me to do; where is God's grace transforming lives in my community; what does God want me to learn in this season? In our first month together as pastors and congregation, Jenny and I invited us to explore a series of questions through the sermon series “I've Been Meaning to Ask...A Series for Curiosity, Courage, & Connection.” These questions included: where are you from; where does it hurt; what do you need; and where do we go from here?

Church is home to relationships: our relationship with God and our relationship with each other. And the thing about relationships is they are deepened through conversation, through exploring questions, and through coming to better understand each other. We hope these questions are sparking reflection and conversations that will deepen bonds within the congregation and help us discover God's call to offer grace in the city.

Jenny and I are grateful to be in relationship with you and the Rochester community. We have enjoyed these first weeks of conversation with you over some important and life shaping questions. And we look forward to the conversations we will keep sharing over cups of coffee, zooms, and events with the church.

As we continue exploring life shaping questions together, I pray we also help each other find confidence in some essential answers:

Does God love you? Yes.

Are you welcome here? Yes.

Can you accomplish good and make a difference? Yes.

Is there hope? Always.

Be well and keep the faith,

Pastor Kirkland

Pastor Kirkland

Save the Dates

Christ UMC is gearing up for the program year and we want to share all the goings on so everyone has the opportunity to get involved!

All Church Camp Day Trip Saturday August 14 - everyone is invited to join us at Whitewater State Park for a day of fellowship at Group Area A.

Blessing the Backpacks Sunday August 29 - Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to worship and we will offer a blessing for the new school year.

Rally Sunday September 12 - join us for our annual ministry fair and learn about all the ministry areas of our church. We'll have sign-ups, activities for all ages, food, and **the return of the Arise Worship service in the ECC!**

Farewell to Grace Glover

Hi all, I'd like to thank you for two wonderful years of ministry as I move onto new things. We survived a pandemic, raised money for Thrive, and had boatloads of fun both on Zoom and in person.

I will be working in Operations for Family and Civil Court before attending St. Thomas' Graduate School of Professional Psychology to pursue a masters in Counseling.
~ Grace Glover



Introducing Jack Jefferson!



Greetings to you all! My name is Jack Jefferson. Please let me begin by thanking you for the wonderful opportunity to serve this congregation. I would like to take a moment to share with you a little about my background. I would also like to share some of the many blessings which have been generously bestowed upon me throughout my lifetime.

I come to you, most recently, from the Rochester Post Bulletin. My job there focused on leading digital business development efforts, especially managing the advertising budgets of many clients, and providing them with strategic digital marketing solutions. Previously and throughout my career, I have been responsible for corporate and departmental leadership, including operations and staff management as well as budgeting, assuring exceptional client experience, and revenue growth. My career has led me from La Crosse, WI, to Chicago IL,, Milwaukee WI, back to La Crosse, and finally here to Rochester.

I was born in La Crosse and made a child of God through baptism in my home church of English Lutheran. Later, as a young man, I renewed my vows of Christian faith at that very same place, on my confirmation day. Throughout the years, my life has taken many twists and turns, including the loss of many family members, some at such a young age. But by the Grace of God, these darker days were always made brighter by nothing less than miracles along the way...

The birth of my daughter, Ashley, was one of those shining miracles. Ashley was born in 1992 and has remained a constant source of joy ever since her first moment of life. Ashley presently lives in Minneapolis with her husband Jaysen. It is my privilege to have them in my life, and I thank God for them every single day.

Upon my return to La Crosse in 2016, I met Debbie Schapekahn, the person who would become my constant companion and better half as we continue our journey through life together. Debbie and I moved from La Crosse to Rochester in 2018, when she joined Mayo Clinic and I joined the Post Bulletin. We were very, very fortunate to recently purchase a home here in Rochester.

I have so many blessings to be thankful for, including the blessing of working here, with all of you, at Christ United Methodist Church. I look forward to meeting and exceeding the expectations and challenges of this position, as well as enjoying the benefits and spiritual growth it will surely bring. Again, thank you for the opportunity - it is my pleasure to serve along with you. Please, never hesitate to contact me, at any time.

Sincerely,
Jack Jefferson

August 9am Worship Schedule

August 1 - Communion Sunday

August 8 - Rev. Nancy Wheeler Handlon preaching

August 15 - Rev. Kendall Hughes Preaching - Arise Band leading music

August 22 - 9am Sunday Service

August 29 - Blessing of Backpacks

Volunteer Spotlight!



This is a church that steps up! Join the movement!

Saturday Noon Meals – help prepare a healthy, homemade meal and deliver it to the Landing on Saturday mornings. Contact Kathy Lombardo to get involved.

Sunday School Volunteers – facilitate Sunday school lessons and games for children on Sunday mornings. Contact Jody Peterson to get involved.

Youth Group Volunteers – facilitating discussion and games with middle school and high school students! Contact Pastor Jenny to get involved.

Thrift on Fifth – sort and resell clothing to help support Thrive childcare scholarships. Contact Pam Lund.

Rochester Interfaith Immigrant Rights Coalition & Southeast Minnesota – Attend monthly meetings and help to represent our church in this interfaith effort to protect those among us who are undocumented and/or experiencing ICE detention. Contact Marita Heller for more information.



Thrift on Fifth Sidewalk Sale Update

Thrift on 5th's sidewalk sales have been a HUGE success! We want to thank all of the hard working volunteers, and devoted customers for their continued support.

Our upcoming sales and donation collections are from 9am-12pm on August 7 & 21. Donations accepted include: clothing, accessories and jewelry for all ages and gender identities. Come shop with us!



Hopeful EarthKeepers "Tree Watch" Opportunity

Did you know that Rochester has an Urban Forest Master Plan? The Parks Department's Forestry Division is responsible for the management of a comprehensive urban tree program including the reforestation of park and boulevard areas and the maintenance of more than 100,000 boulevard and public property trees located on more than 4,500 acres. That is a lot of care and stewardship of a community resource! They are asking for our help.

As EarthKeepers we are called to be a part of the larger stewardship of resources like the urban forest in our community. Rochester has three programs to train citizens to help tend the trees of our community. The "Tree Watch" program trains community members in identifying tree concerns like needed pruning, disease, or trees in danger of splitting. **On August 17 at 5:00pm** the EarthKeepers are hosting a training for our church and neighbors to learn how to identify potential tree problems and report them so they can be addressed before the tree is compromised.

We will meet with Allison Lichty from the Forestry Division at the church for a "tree walk" in the church neighborhood. She will teach us how to pay attention to trees and report concerns. When we walk in our own neighborhoods we can be tree watchers! We can become tree guardians! Please join us and invite others for this learning opportunity.

Notes from Pastor Nancy ~ Annual Conference

Every year we United Methodists have an Annual Conference. It is a mixture of worship, family reunion, and business. Delegates are comprised of equal numbers of clergy and laity from the churches and ministries within the Conference, in our case, the state of Minnesota.

This year it was held June 22-24. Our lay delegates were Bobbi Nichols and Dick Estry. Two days were virtual, one hybrid. Christ UMC was a location for the hybrid day. For a more complete listing of events please see the Conference Website at www.minnesotaumc.org. There are also videos from worship and business sessions. We heard reports and learned about the many ways we are united in mission and service in MN and around the world.

We were reminded of the impact of the global pandemic on our churches and mission and heartened by the ways we continued to serve in new ways. There were two major pieces of legislation which were passed: the annual budget for the Conference and Racial Justice Resolution.

Congregational Care

At our denominational website www.umc.org there is a section called, "Ask the UMC." A recent post caught my attention. It is entitled, "Why a Christian funeral?"

In today's society one need no longer turn to the church for having a gathering to remember the life of an individual. More and more people are choosing to simply have a Celebration of Life. People share stories about the one who died. There is usually some kind of food and beverage available.

So why would one choose a Christian funeral? The answer in the post suggests that the main difference between a Christian funeral (or memorial) is that the focus is, "on the proclamation of the Christian hope in the resurrection of the dead and in Christ's resurrection as pledge for that hope." During the funeral or memorial service in which a United Methodist minister officiates, there is the acknowledgment of death, an important part of the grief process. Support for the family and friends is expressed, remembering the person who died is done. The Christian community which gathers for the service is also an important part of the support. When our church family shows up as volunteers to help usher, to greet, to serve food for people whom they may not even know, it means a lot to the bereaved.

Please know that if you have questions about funeral or memorial planning we are happy to talk with you about them. We have a funeral booklet and a funeral planning form (<https://www.cumethodist.com/leadership-board-documents>) for you to read and use. We keep the completed funeral/memorial plans in a confidential file in the church office. It is so helpful for our families to have a funeral plan in place.

2021 InBetweener Corn/Steak feed (this year is the Ice Cream Social!)

This year in 2021, we are going to do something different. We all want to get together and talk and eat. However, we won't have a corn/steak feed. Instead, we will have an Ice Cream Social on **August 22nd, 2021 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.**

Just bring your smile!

InBetweeners is a social group of over 50 year olds. If you would like to attend and are not on our list, call or email Dick and Deedee Odell. 507-281-2755 or ddbells@aol.com. The event will be at the home of the Odell's. We look forward to seeing you in August.

UMW Updates

Did you know there are over 100 United Methodist Women national mission institutions in the United States? The newest mission is Partners in Ministry in North Carolina which was established in 2019.

In Minnesota, we have Emma Norton Services established in 1917. Currently this facility in St Paul is showing its age; therefore, they have received a grant to begin building a new facility for 60 women at Highland Bridge development on the old Ford plant site. We support this mission financially and with household items. There will be more information in the future.

Children's Ministry

Nursery Update!

We are so excited to fill our nursery with new furniture and toys for our families. We would like to invite you to help purchase developmentally appropriate toys and books. We have created an Amazon CUMC Nursery registry of toys, books, and other necessities for the nursery. [tinyurl.com/CUMCNurseryRegistry](https://www.amazon.com/CUMCNurseryRegistry). You can donate money to the nursery by making a check out to CUMC and writing nursery in the memo.

Questions- email Jody Peterson - jody@cumethodist.com

VBS Recap!



Youth Ministry

Youth Memories from VBS & Service Week

This week I had some amazing experiences. I went to VBS Praise, I went to Riverside Elementary to garden, the Soldier's Field Pool, and to Thursdays Downtown for one of the funnest lunches I've ever had! VBS was so fun and my favorite part was after the play when I got to eat my rice krispy treat. My favorite part of Week of Service was when we went to the pool and we made ourselves into a new family just in case anyone asked. I had so much fun. *-Sophie*

This week of VBS was so much fun. My favorite part was the service projects at the end. All of the kids were fun and energetic. I'm excited to do this again next year. My favorite craft was the God's Eye. I had fun and sad this is all ending. *-Maddie*

Youth group is a very fun experience and I like to spend time with the other members. It is fun to help people. I like the supporting staff as well as the members. I like that we can take action as a group against injustice.





Community Healers

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God.
Philippians 4:1 MSG

The weight of the world has been on our shoulders this last year. Particularly for those of us who work in the healthcare industry or for those who were deemed "essential" during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I don't know about you, but I chose my profession because I am passionate about it and love it. Whether it is parenting, teaching, retail, nursing, social work, clergy, IT, Lab, Custodial, etc., we found ourselves in a great big ball of stress with little to no outlets. Because of this, burn out could be the next challenge our nation will face. The World Health Organization defines burn out as a syndrome resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed. It can be feeling exhausted, an increased mental distance from one's job, feelings of negativity or cynicism related to your job, and reduced professional efficacy.

Eugene Petersen said, "In order to be effective, prayer has to be the first thing we do, not the last."

Philippians 4:6 NLT tells us "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

Did you know that behind our beautiful rainbow doors lies a Healing Garden (that our gardening ministry lovingly planted for us)? Your Community Healer Ministry Team wants to invite you to this peaceful haven right in the heart of Rochester. You can pray, reflect, meditate, unwind, find peace, do a walking prayer in the labyrinth and just breathe. All are welcome to come and just "Be Still...hand your burdens over and find rest."

Your Community Healers want to pray for you too. We are looking for a craftsperson among our incredibly talented congregation to create or design a permanent prayer box that we can place in the Healing Garden. That way those who visit can leave their requests and The Community Healers can pray for them at our meetings. If you are interested in helping us, you can contact Daphne Soleil at DaphneSoleil@earthlink.net or Armanda Vanderheiden at justgot2havejesus@gmail.com

~ Armanda Vanderheiden, Community Healers Group



Community Healers July outing to Oxbow Park



Reflection on Vaccination by Dr. Daphne Soleil

It is true that many healthy people can catch the virus and never get sick. They experience no cough, no fever, no body aches—that's being asymptomatic meaning no (a-) symptoms (-symptomatic). That's a sweet deal.

Except, while they have the virus they can give it to other people. And some of those people will get very sick. Some of them might even die.

What makes these two groups of people different? Can you predict who will get sick and who won't? Unfortunately, we don't know. Here's what we do know:

These are the people who got the sickest from the first variant—the virus that ravaged the USA in 2020, causing school closures and public mask wearing:

- People with chronic illnesses, like the elderly.
- Racial minorities, maybe because they had undiagnosed chronic illnesses due to poor access to health care services.
- People taking immunosuppressive drugs. Drugs that suppress the immune system include chemotherapy (to treat cancer), steroids (used to treat inflammation, a symptom common to many diseases including lung disease and rheumatoid arthritis), and antirejection drugs (used to treat people with transplanted organs or tissues). The immune system fights off infections, so having a suppressed immune system is super scary during a pandemic.

These are the people who are getting the sickest from the delta variant—the virus ravaging the world now:

- People who have not been vaccinated. Younger people (18-49 years old) are now the majority of people hospitalized because of the virus. Since the delta variant is more contagious and replicates faster, people are getting really sick really fast.
- People taking immunosuppressive drugs. The vaccine teaches the immune system to neutralize the virus. If the immune system is suppressed, it will put up a weaker fight against the virus. As a result, the vaccine often doesn't work of this population. There are reports of vaccinated people who are immunosuppressed catching the virus and dying from it.

If I've already had the virus, I am immune and don't need the vaccine, right? Wrong. "Natural immunity" from having the virus lasts only three months or so. The vaccine protects much longer and maybe better against new variants. There have been reports of unvaccinated people catching the virus twice, which is scary because the delta variant is deadlier. If you can catch the virus again, you can also transmit it to other people who might be vulnerable due to immune suppression.

Is wearing a mask sufficient to protect other people from me if I catch the virus and don't know that I have it? Probably not. The delta variant replicates so rapidly inside an infected person, that every breath exhaled contains more virus. Simple surgical and homemade masks block only 50% of the virus from reaching other people. N-95 masks (worn properly with two straps and a super tight seal) block 90% of the virus.

If you haven't gotten the vaccine, please find someone with medical training whom you trust to discuss your reasons. Our church is crammed with such people. Ask a member of the church staff to connect you.

Your Community Healers Team is intensely worried for the health of those in our congregation who have not been vaccinated and those who are immunosuppressed. In addition to praying for both groups, we will continue to disprove rumors and allay vaccination fears. During a pandemic, opting out of vaccination can injure other people. Immunosuppressed people have died due to exposure to asymptomatic people unknowingly infected with the virus.



Faith → Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings ~ 2021

“Deep human connection is . . . the purpose and the result of a meaningful life – and it will inspire the most amazing acts of love, generosity, and humanity.” Melinda French Gates

The Faith→Life offers many opportunities to enhance your connectedness to others within your church family. Our hope is that you will find at least one group of interest to grow your relationship with others and your relationship with God. Questions, information, suggested topics for study, want to lead a group? Contact Kathy Estry at rk.stry@gmail.com

Third Sunday Faith→Life Forum Offered in person or via Zoom

Every third Sunday (except December) we offer forums that cover a wide range of relevant topics and are given by insightful guest speakers No registration required. In August you can join in-person in the Education Conference Center (ECC) or by clicking on the Zoom link provided in the Sunday worship reminder the day of the forum.

“Caring Conversations”

August 15, 2021, 10:00am ~ Presenter: Toni Mangskau, CUMC member

Providing care for a loved one diagnosed with a chronic disease, life-threatening illness, mental health concerns, addiction, or other debilitating issues can be challenging. You may be facing these questions: “How much work will I miss?” “How will we pay the bills?” “Can we afford the cost of treatment?” “Who can help if I get sick or need a break?” You are not alone! Join us for an opportunity to learn about numerous caregiving resources in our community.

With a social work degree, Toni brings a vast amount of knowledge to share about caregiving. She has extensive work experiences at the local, state, and national levels in medical research, mental health, correctional programs and immigration and refugee casework. Having cared for family members with significant health issues, Toni has advocated for a variety of health-related legislation at the state and federal level.

If you did not attend the July Forum, you can learn more about the Jeremiah Program Rochester by watching it on YouTube (address above) or you can watch the film that was show about the program at: <https://bit.ly/jprochesterfilm> If you miss a class or forum, don't worry! All past forums are available on our YouTube channel anytime. Type <https://tinyurl.com/Faith2Life> into your browser.

Ongoing Sunday Classes

Contemporary Issues

Host: Joel Charlson Time: Sundays at 10:00 AM Place: Room 146

Each Thursday Joel emails participants the week's topic 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.

If you are interested in joining the class email Joel Charlson at joel.charlson@gmail.com to receive the weekly *Wired Word* or meet us in Room 146!

Inquiring Spirits

Hosts: Ed Shafer and Hank Kliever Time: Sundays at 10:15 AM Place: Room 145

Group members suggest theological topics or books of interest to study. The group is currently reading “*The Tao of Thomas Aquinas: Fierce Wisdom for Hard Times*” by Matthew Fox. New participants are always welcome. For more info contact Gwen at scilleys@charter.net

Connect Groups (View a complete listing and register at cumethodist.com/faith-life)

Breakfast Fellowship

Hosts: Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson ~ Time: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 AM ~ Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center

New members are always welcome to drop in, no age group designation, and no registration required.

Garden Ministry

Host: Mary Schmidt ~ **Place:** CUMC Grounds **Time:** Thursdays, 8:30 – 10:30 AM ~ 2nd Saturday of the month 9:00 – 11:00 AM ~ 3rd Wednesday of the month 6:00 – 7:30 PM

The Garden Ministry Team will be busy weeding, planting, trimming bushes, and mulching. Help care for CUMC's piece of the Earth. Bring your own gloves and gardening tools if you have them. Contact Mary at oronocombs@yahoo.com if you are interested in additional opportunities to beautify CUMC's grounds.

Knit One Pray, Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell ~ **Time:** Wednesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon ~ **Place:** WebEx

Contact Marjie at mablaisdell@gmail.com to receive a link to the WebEx meeting. The group is knitting prayer shawls and scarves and hats for winter.

Men's Coffee Group

Host: Dick Estry ~ **Time:** Thursdays at 8:00 AM ~ **Place:** Room 145

Whether you are a long-time member, new to CUMC or looking for a men's fellowship group, you are invited to drop in for coffee and conversation. For more information email Dick Estry at rk.stry@gamil.com.

All Church Read: Coming this Fall

"Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times"

By Bishop Michael Curry

Watch the Wednesday Connections email, the New Spirit newsletters, and the Sunday worship reminder for updates on offerings as they become available! Also check out cumethodist.com/get-involved/faith-life for a complete listing and registration information.

Complete listing and registration at cumethodist.com/faith-life (or click get involved then faith→life)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN The UMW Rummage Sale Returns!

RUMMAGE
SALE

Save the Date! We are tentatively planning on hosting the UMW Fall Rummage sale **October 8 & 9**. We are still ironing out all the details as the vaccine rollout continues, and will have more details in next month's New Spirit!



We continue to provide 40 individual hot meals each Saturday at noon to The Landing. Since the pandemic began in March 2020 – we have served over 4,000 individual boxed meals each Saturday to various locations in Rochester. We appreciate all of the volunteers that continue to serve within this mission and our community partners that provide generous supplies of fresh food.

Many people have asked when we will be serving again in Wesley Hall in-person. The short-term plan is to continue to serve The Landing through August 2021. The Landing is finalizing their plans for their future location and when we know more of their plans – that will help us determine what will be needed within the Rochester community. We can always use volunteers to assist with meal preparation on Saturday mornings. Please contact Kathy Lombardo at Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or by phone at 507-398-2686 if you are interested in volunteering.

Thank you for your ongoing generous support of this long-standing CUMC mission.

Phil and Kathy Lombardo - SNM Leadership Team





The CUMC Vegetable Garden

The warm weather of June and July and dedicated watering by volunteers has provided great nourishment for our plants, and they appear to be thriving. We remain hopeful that we will be using our produce later this summer and fall with the Saturday Noon Meals program.

Thank you to Dave Erickson for repurposing CUMC wood into a beautiful gardening table. Also thank you to Doug Nichols for watering, Gail Flanders for weeding the squash garden and Phil Lombardo for clean-up of the garden area. All of this work is much appreciated.

If you are interested in volunteering with this ministry – please contact Kathy Lombardo at Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com or by phone at 507-398-2686.

Thank you for your support of this new CUMC mission.

~ Kathy Lombardo



2nd Quarter CUMC Finance Report

Christ UMC continues to be in sound financial condition. Through June we have received gifts of over \$452,000 compared to a budget projection of \$402,000. Our net income after expenses was \$202,583 compared to a budget of \$30,450.

Operating Budget Summary – June 30, 2021

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving	\$452,331	\$402,070	\$ 50,261
Total Income*	\$665,643	\$530,320	\$135,322
Expenses **	\$463,060	\$499,820	-\$ 36,760
Net Income *	\$202,583	\$ 30,500	\$172,083

* \$68,009 of the Total and Net Income positive variances is due to a Cares Act grant for continuing to maintain our pre-Covid employment levels in the 4th quarter of 2020 and 1st quarter of 2021. Because the state has allowed the reopening of all businesses these grants will no longer be available.

** Contributing to the less than expected expenses was our continued inability to fully open the church, therefore we incurred less than expected maintenance and contractual expense.

Assets and Liabilities

At the end of June, the church had cash and other marketable assets of \$1,000,658 of which \$678,210 was unrestricted, enough to fund 7.4 months of budgeted expenses. Our objective has been 3 to 6 months but we continue to believe a more conservative stance is appropriate at least through the end of the year. Liabilities were \$322,449 of which \$305,906 was in restricted accounts set aside by the Leadership Board for specific missions and projects; \$38,295 in the Capital Campaign account, \$54,661 in the Makinen Bequest account, \$100,271 in Trustee restricted accounts managed by the CUMC Foundation (the Foundation's total portfolio at the end of June was \$823,017) with lesser amounts in 36 other accounts. The church has no long term debt.

THRIVE! Scholarships

Through June we have distributed \$10,416 to THRIVE! for Scholarships and have \$4,088 available for distribution in July.

Transform Capital Campaign

All Transform projects are complete! The final payment for the nursery (\$1,739) was made in early July. Please contact Dick Estry (288-5938, rk.etry@gmail.com) with questions or comments.

Camp Highlight

From the Minnesota Annual Conference Communication's News & Events, July 15, 2021, "Gaming Camp Offers Creative Faith-Building, Transforms Lives", by Christa Meland:

"In his 14 years, Cole Belton has never wanted to go to camp out of fear that he wouldn't be accepted. But when another teenager at his church—Park UMC in Brainerd—invited him to a camp for gamers, he decided to give it a try. The week was transformational for him, and its positive impact stayed with him even after returning home.

Belton was among eight youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who participated in a new, six-day 'Games Galore and More' at Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids in June. Led by Rev. Amanda Larsen, a gamer herself, the camp combined gaming and faith and drew connections between the two. Attendees played Magic: The Gathering, Dungeons and Dragons, Pokémon, Pandemic, Silver Bullet, and Spoons, among others, while also enjoying traditional camp activities like archery, swimming, and campfire singalongs. For arts and crafts time, the group painted miniatures and built dice-rolling towers out of Pringles cans.

'Cole has *longed* for a group with which to belong, that shares the things that he loves, and that respects the person he is,' said his mom, Twila Belton. 'He felt all that, and more, the week that he was at camp. He told me that it was a '10 out of 10' and that he would definitely do it again.'"

Read more at <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/news>

Camper Highlight: An Interview with Shaun Larsen

Following his experience with Camp Minnesota, a ministry of the Minnesota Annual Conference, the CUMC New Spirit had an interview with Shaun, one of CUMC's youth who attended camp this summer

New Spirit: Shaun, thank you for sharing your camp experience with the CUMC congregation. Which camp did you attend this summer?

Shaun: I was signed up for the Treehouse camp. It was a lot of fun. We played Gaga ball at least twice a day, slept in a cabin on stilts each night, and there was a lot of diversity in the camp. Because my mom led the Games Galore and More camp, I was able to stay a few more days and participate in that camp too.

New Spirit: What was it like getting to participate in two camps?

Shaun: It was really fun. I was able to do a lot of things. I really enjoyed the friendships I made during my first camp, especially getting to play Gaga ball and going swimming. I also really enjoyed getting to join the gaming camp for two days. We played Magic the Gathering, Dungeons and Dragons, and lots of other games I really enjoy.

New Spirit: How did you experience God and faith at camp?

Shaun: Each day we heard stories from the Bible, prayed, and sang songs together. I believe everyone is invited to God's party at camp.

New Spirit: Is there anything else you would like to share with us about camp?

Shaun: I hope to be a camp counselor when I get older. I also look forward to attending the Discovery Camp because you get to do archery and other outdoor activities. Camp is a lot of fun and I hope more kids and families will sign up next year.



August Events Calendar 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Sanctuary Worship 10am Contemporary Issues 10am Inquiring Spirits	2	3	4 6pm Youth Fellowship 7pm Covenant Bible Study	5 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Gardening Team Work	6	7 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals Prep (serve at 11am) 9am-12pm Thrift on Fifth Sidewalk Sale
8 9am Sanctuary Worship 10am Contemporary Issues 10am Inquiring Spirits	9	10 1pm UMW Quilters	11 8:30am Breakfast Fellowship @ Charles 6pm Youth Fellowship 7pm Covenant Bible Study	12 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Gardening Team Work	13 All Church Camp 10am Rug Hooking Group 10am Women & the Sacred	14 All Church Camp 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals Prep (serve at 11am) 9am Gardening Team Work
15 All Church Camp 9am Sanctuary Worship 10am Third Sunday Forum	16	17 4:30pm Hopeful Earthkeepers Monthly Meeting (youth are invited to attend)	18 7pm Covenant Bible Study	19 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Gardening Team Work 8:30am UMW Circle 2 10:30am UMW Circle 8	20	21 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals Prep (serve at 11am) 9am-12pm Thrift on Fifth Sidewalk Sale
22 9am Sanctuary Worship 10am Contemporary Issues 10am Inquiring Spirits	23	24	25 6pm Youth Fellowship 6pm Gardening Team Work 7pm Covenant Bible Study	26 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Gardening Team Work	27 10am Rug Hooking Group 10am Women & the Sacred	28 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals Prep (serve at 11am) 3pm Apollo Music Festival
29 Blessing the Backpacks 9am Sanctuary Worship 10am Contemporary Issues 10am Inquiring Spirits	30	31	September 1	September 2 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Gardening Team Work	September 3	September 4 6pm Rochester Chamber Music Society Concert

The newsletter will be going digital

Beginning in September we would like to start moving toward a more eco-friendly newsletter! We send out an electronic version of the newsletter on the first of each month as a pdf file. This has many advantages! All email addresses and website links are clickable, and will navigate you to the various forms, websites, and email addresses referred to throughout the issue. The electronic version also arrives before the mail copy. We will continue to send paper copies of *The New Spirit* per request, but are hoping to reduce our paper consumption. **If you would still prefer a paper copy please send us an email to oliver@cumethodist.com or call the church at 507-289-4019. Thank you!**



Upcoming music event: Apollo Music Festival



August 28, at 3:00pm ~ Sanctuary

Every year, for two weeks leading up to labor day, the Apollo Music Festival facilitates concerts for south eastern Minnesota featuring musicians from around the country. This year Christ United Methodist Church are among the proud hosts for these renowned musicians. This concert is free, and made possible through a grant from the MN State Arts Board

This year will feature:

Rebecca Clarke - *Viola Sonata* Valerie Little, viola; Victoria Schwartzman, piano

Antonin Dvorak - *Miniatures, Op. 75a* Robert Hanford and Emily Cole, violins; Valerie Little, viola

Gabriel Faure - *Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor, Op. 15* Robert Hanford, violin; Valerie Little, viola; Ruth Marshall, cello; Victoria Schwartzman, piano



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



In Memoriam



Karen Jean Hamand
October 12, 1942 ~ July 3, 2021

Marilyn Dorothy Houdek
October 4, 1933 ~ July 6, 2021



Lee Alan Hecht
February 28, 1942 ~ July 11, 2021



Melva Jeanne Schmidt
May 18, 1928 ~ July 14, 2021



We celebrate the baptism of Cade Bommersbach on June 27th at the 10 am Parking Lot Worship.

Cade is the son of Carl and Lisa Bommersbach and was born June 26, 2020

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

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Return Service Requested

All Church Campout

Join us for a day trip!

Saturday August 14

Whitewater State Park

Group Area A

Call or email for more info

email@cumethodist.com

507-289-4019

