

SPIRIT

Ash Wednesday February 14th

ABC'S OF LENT 8AM-11AM

Come by the church on Ash Wednesday for some A,B,C's (ashes, bagels and coffee) to start the season in a meaningful way. We'll have bagels, coffee and conversation in the Commons and the Sanctuary will be open for reflection, prayer, and the imposition of ashes.

ASHES DOWNTOWN 12PM-1PM

Look for Pastors Jenny & Kirkland on your lunch break in the Subway near Caribou and Brugger's Bagels. Receive a short prayer and the mark of ashes.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 7PM & LIVESTREAM

A traditional Ash Wednesday Worship service including music, prayers, scripture and the imposition of ashes.



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

<u>Facebook.com/cumethodist</u> YouTube.com/ChristUnitedMethodistChurchRochesterMN

Pastor's Pen with pastor kirkland



So far, 2024 has proven to be a significant year in the life of this congregation. On the first Sunday of the year we celebrated Pastor Nancy's retirement and gave thanks for her 25 years of ministry at Christ UMC and her total of 40 years of ministry in the Minnesota Conference. Then on the second Sunday of the year we celebrated John Varona's ministry as our principal organist as we marked his transition from our weekly organist and accompanist to a guest musician.

Together, Pastor Nancy and John represent nearly four decades of service at Christ UMC. We are richly blessed by the countless ways they invested their gifts in our efforts to be an inclusive and thoughtful community of faith as well as our mission to be grace in the city of Rochester.

If you were unable to attend the worship services celebrating Pastor Nancy or John, I encourage you to check out the worship recordings on our YouTube page.

Good things continue in the second month of this already significant year. On Sunday, February 4 we welcome Peggy Johnson to our church staff as our new Minister of Congregational Care. We are excited to welcome Peggy to our staff and congregation, and we look forward to helping introduce her to everyone. You may learn more about Peggy in an introduction included in this edition of The New Spirit. You may also send a note of welcome to Peggy at peggy@cumethodist.com.

Jenny and I also are grateful for the many people who helped us mark these special occasions. Receptions in early January for Pastor Nancy and John were wonderful times of fellowship that only happened because of many hours of planning, in addition to volunteers who supported these receptions. Jenny and I also want to express our thanks to Katie Imming, Deedee Odell, and Glenn Roberts for serving on our Minister of Congregational Care search team.

We welcome your prayers as we continue our search for our next principal organist. During our search, guest musicians will join us every Sunday during the 9am traditions service. All of these guests are friends of the congregation and excellent musicians. Over the next several weeks we are fortunate to welcome Kristy Giere, Lee Afdahl, Jan Matson, Jeff Daehn, and John Varona (who will join us for our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services).

Along with Jenny and myself, our search team for our next principal organist includes Katie Imming, Rich Frevert, Karen Fields, Ray Hansen, and Diane Shopteau. Together we are reviewing applications and holding initial in-person auditions with candidates. Second auditions with leading candidates will be planned with members of the Sanctuary Choir and additional musicians in the congregation. As we identify a leading candidate, or leading candidates, our search team will also explore opportunities to include the congregation in our discernment.

Church, we have been in mission and ministry in Rochester for more than 165 years. I look forward to experiencing with you all the ways God will further act with us in this already significant year.

Be well and stay encouraged,

Pastor Kirkland

Announcements

Calvin Seminary Worship Survey

Over the last year Pastors Jenny and Kirkland have been part of a small clergy group exploring the current preaching environment and how it relates to our society's increased integration of technology in everyday life—including worship life. The group is funded by a grant from Calvin Seminary and the Lily Foundation and they would love to hear from you. Please take a brief online survey to share your thoughts and experiences regarding your worship experience—both in person and online—at Christ UMC. No identifying information will be collected, and your response is anonymous. The online survey can be accessed here https://bit.ly/CPI-C1030.

CUMC New Members Class February 25 & March 3 12:00pm-2:00 pm

Would you like to know more about CUMC or explore what it means to be a member? Join Pastors Jenny & Kirkland for our next New Members Class. We'll learn more about each other, our church and ways that we get connected. RSVP to the church office at email@cumethodist.com. Lunch and childcare provided.

Rochester Music Guild's Listen and Learn Series

Make plans to join us on Friday, February 16th at 12pm as we feature John Varona! As always, this event is free and open to the public!

Shrove Tuesday

Please join us for pancakes, community, and a chance to help our Appalachia Service Project team travel and serve in Kentucky in July 2024. Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is February 13 from 5-7pm in Wesley Hall. The meal includes pancakes and toppings, sausage, milk and juice. ASP participants past and present will share our best pancake puns and jokes. A freewill offering of \$10 per person is suggested.



Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry

Children and Youth Ministry Updates

What makes you wonder? Does blue snow and ice have you asking "I wonder why that snow looks blue?" Does reading about Jesus healing a child have you curious about how Jesus heals? Do you wonder how eyes work? These are all questions our children and youth are asking along side the "To Tell the Truth" worship series. Children and youth have an amazing capacity for wonder—they have so much to teach adults.

For kids, belief is often concrete and they want to know what is "true." Our preschoolers are experiencing the world and wonder through imagination--like artists. Our elementary students are looking at the world like scientists: evidence, repeat. Middle schoolers put ideas together like engineers, high school students want to think philosophically about the same questions. In Sunday school, Club 6-7 and at Kids With Purpose we are in a season of wonder about faith.

February and March Children and Youth Schedule

4: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

7: CU Wednesday (see schedule at cumethodist.com/cuwednesday)

11: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-Half Time Youth Group Super Bowl Party at Cannon-Reynolds Home

Youth are invited to Pastor Jenny & Pastor Kirkland's house (2822 Sunset Ln. NE) for a viewing party of the Puppy Bowl, Superbowl and of course the commercials. We'll provide drinks and a few snacks (including a special 12 layer dip) so bring your favorite snack to share as well. We'll start the Puppy Bowl viewing at 4:30, kickoff for the game is at 5:30 and we'll wrap up the party after the halftime show. Parents welcome.

13: Shrove Tuesday ASP Pancake Supper!

Please join us for pancakes, community, and a chance to help our Appalachia Service Project team travel and serve in Kentucky in July 2024. Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is February 13 from 5-7pm in Wesley Hall. The meal includes pancakes and toppings, sausage, milk and juice. ASP participants past and present will share our best pancake puns and jokes. A freewill offering of \$10 per person is suggested.

14: Ash Wednesday Worship at 7pm. NO CU Wednesday Activities on Ash Wednesday.

18: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

21: CU Wednesday

25: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

28: CU Wednesday

March

3: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

6: CU Wednesday

10: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

13: CU Wednesday

17: 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

20: CU Wednesday

24: Palm Sunday 9:00am and 11:00am Worship and Sunday School

4:30pm-6:00pm Youth Group

27: NO CU Wednesday Activities during Holy Week

28: Holy Thursday Events

29: Good Friday Events

30: ASP Caramel Roll Prep 6pm-8pm

31: Easter Sunday worship at 9:00am and 11:00am (No Sunday School)

ASP Caramel Roll Sale all morning

Egg Hunt through the morning

No Youth Group

Mark Your Calendar for these Summer Events

June 16-21 Christ UMC at Northern Pines Camp! With three camps to choose from this week, our 3rd-12th graders will be having some great adventures. Discovery 1 is for 9-12 year olds and is a traditional camp. Junior High/Senior High Camp is for 6th-12th grade. Games Galore and More is for 7-12th graders and is a week of board games, Dungeons and Dragons and traditional camp activities with a gamer twist. For more information see www.campminnesota.org or talk to Pastor Amanda.

June 29- July 8 Appalachia Service Project Our team will travel to Kentucky for a week of servant leadership & relational ministry!

July 31-August 4 Christ UMC in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness This is a base camp experience with paddling in the BWCA, hiking to waterfalls and time to connect with God and others. This is an intergenerational all ages trip. Talk to Pastor Amanda to reserve your spot.

August 5-9 Just Like Me Vacation Bible School Potty-Trained through rising 5th graders. 6th grade and up are invited to be servant leaders. We are excited about our gardening themed VBS from the national Reconciling Ministries group.

September 13-15 (tentative) Christ UMC at Whitewater State Park



Did you know the United Women in Faith has a Reading Program? It has been in existence for over 30 years!!

There is a group of readers who read many suggested books and are now reading for the 2026 program year. There are five categories with several books in each. Those divisions are Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing For Community, Social Action & Spiritual Growth.

By reading books on these enlightening subjects in diverse genres, you can receive a certificate (suitable for framing) by participating in the program. By reading one book in each category and the response magazine, you qualify for a certificate in Plan I. The program continues with Plan II, III and IV.

In today's world of internet options, there is a Faith Talks podcast bimonthly that can be included in the program. It is on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 2pm.

Some of the members who have participated for many years are Fran Field, Wailana Barker, Jan Iverson and Grace Swanson. These women are great resources in understanding the program.

We have a cart of books that may be borrowed and returned so other members may read them. The cart is outside the office. The books are labeled by year in program and category. YOU could participate! Talk to Pat Hrabe or email patriciahrabe@gmail.com or speak to any UWF member and they will direct you toward succeeding.

As you read any books in these categories or participate in this reading program, may they nourish your soul, strengthen your understanding & equip each of you for the work the Spirit has placed in your heart.



2024 Minnesota Legislative Session

Our state legislature resumes session on February 12. As you are watching the news and considering the issues, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (<u>mnipl.org</u>) and Isaiah MN (<u>isaiahmn.org</u>) are two of our trusted political advocacy partners. Both will offer email updates and ways to be involved with other faith communities in furthering green initiatives and community wellness.

Materials Recovery Facility

Rochester is in the planning stages of building a Materials Recovery Facility. This would allow local sorting of recycling and other recoverable materials. Currently most of our recycling travels to the Cities for sorting. A local facility will allow us to reduce our carbon footprint as a community. You can learn more about this and get involved in the planning at https://www.olmstedcounty.gov/residents/garbage-recycling/proposed-materials-recovery-facility-mrf

Rochester Public Utilities Rebates

Our local utilities company offers rebates on many kinds of purchases for energy efficient appliances, light-bulbs and more. You can also schedule an energy audit to learn more about how you can make your housing more energy efficient. Learn more at https://www.rpu.org/rebates-programs.php







Saturday Noon Meals

This year the Saturday Noon Meal program is celebrating their 30th year of serving a warm and nutritious meal to those with food and housing insecurity in Rochester. Our focus and mission remain the same - to provide a worthwhile service to those we serve

in a respectful and accepting setting.

We resumed in-person meal service in Wesley hall in November of 2022, after serving meals within the community since March 2020. During 2023 we continued to see growth in the numbers of guests we served each month. We served 3,000 meals at CUMC in 2023. In January 2023 we served a total of 150 guests. This grew to 365 guests during the month of December! With this growth we have experienced the need for additional volunteers and food resources. We essentially have become a very busy restaurant that is open 5 hours per week - typically serving 75 guests a warm homecooked meal at noon each Saturday. We are so thankful for our many volunteers who donate their time and energy each Saturday, for our donations that we receive from CUMC and community members and our community partners.

Our community partners include Rochester People's Co-op, Community Food Response, Red Lobster, Salvation Army, Zumbro Valley Medical Society (socks), Thrift on Fifth (clothing) and Thrive.

We continue to accept food containers, plastic bags, and books. These items can be dropped off in the blue container located near the west door of the church. We are also grateful for additional volunteers.

Please contact Kathy Lombardo at 507-398-2686 or kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions about how you can support this ministry program.

Thank you for your support of the Saturday Noon Meal program - 30 years of service at CUMC.





Join us Sunday, February 25th for a Girl Scout Cookie Sale! Stay tuned for details!





We are pleased to announce that Peggy Johnson will be joining us as our new Minister for Congregational Care beginning Sunday, February 4th. Get to know Peggy below!



I come to Christ United Methodist Church by way of North Dakota, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota...whew! Life is full of zigzags and curves! I grew up in Grand Forks, ND, but I felt a pull to life outside the prairie state and landed in upstate New York, where I attended college. Upon graduation, I worked as a journalist, then taught high school English before I began a long career in higher education, most of which was spent at St. Mary's University in Winona, Minn., where I happily devoted my professional life to ministering to students. Along the way, I earned a PhD., raised a family, and became associated with the La Crosse, WI, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration as an Affiliate.

Like all human stories, my story involves a wealth of joys and sorrows. My second-half-of-life has been less about building a life and more about being present to life. In response to an inner voice, I began the process of becoming a chaplain, work that for me holds incredible value, meaning, and purpose. For the past three years I've served as chaplain at a senior living facility and as a hospital affiliate chaplain, both in the La Crosse, WI area. As a chaplain, it is a sacred responsibility to bear witness to people's big moments and to help them find meaning in those experiences.

I also consider my new role as Minister of Congregational Care at CUMC to be a sacred and holy one—meant to serve congregants by uplifting them, supporting them, offering them compassion and care, and standing alongside them throughout the zigzags and curves of their own unique life journey.

Outside of my ministry role, I reside in Winona, MN, where I enjoy deep friendships, outdoor activities, live music and theatre, reading, movies, and traveling, especially with my adult children. If you'd like to speak to me or send me a note of welcome, my email is peggy@cumethodist.com.

Faith → **Life: Learn from Christ's Teachings**

Third Sunday Forum

February 18, 2024, 10:15am, Wesley Hall
Restorative Justice and Forgiveness - Rev Kendall Hughes



"If punishment of those who caused harm brought healing, then the United States would not only be the safest nation, it would also be the most healed." (Danielle Sered- Until We Reckon)

But the infliction of suffering just does not bring relief from our pain. At its most basic level, forgiveness is relinquishing the desire to see the other person suffer. When we as individuals and as a nation move beyond the belief that punishment will bring healing, we will be able to explore other paths toward peace. This forum will be interactive, exploring harms we've suffered individually. Then asking what practical things we can do to move forward with our lives. The paths we discover may or may not follow our old definitions of forgiveness.

Previous forums are archived at: https://youtube.com/christunitedmethodistchurchrochestermn
Click on our playlists tab, then, "Third Sunday Forum."

All-Church Read and Lenten Study: Forgiveness Sundays during Lent (February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17, and 24)

We'll be using the book <u>"Forgiveness: A Lenten Study" by Marjorie J. Thompson</u> as our guide for the Lenten season this year. Books are available in the office for \$10. Study will be in-person in the Fireside Room Sundays at 10:15 am (between church services) and on Zoom Sundays at 4:30-5:30pm. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87956675126?pwd=dXdsZzNXVFg0Z3B4WEI2SnN3UWsyUT09#success

CUMC New Members Class

February 25 & March 3, 12:00-2:00 pm

Would you like to know more about CUMC or explore what it means to be a member? Join Pastors Jenny & Kirkland for our next New Members Class. We'll learn more about each other, our church and ways that we get connected. RSVP to the church office. Lunch and childcare provided.

Sunday Classes

Contemporary Issues

Host: Joel Charlson

Time: Sundays at 10:10am

Place: In-Person (Room 146) and Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/832924941?pwd=VXFEK3l6UVRWeFRObzRjeGR5VUImQT09

If you are interested, email Joel at joel.charlson@gmail.com to receive the weekly Wired Word or join us on Zoom or drop into room 146!

Faith → Life: Cont.

Inquiring Spirits Hosts: Ed Shafer

Time: Sundays at 10:15am

Place: In-Person (Room 145) and Zoom

CONTRACTOR STREET

Discussion varies on books, videos, and other sources to investigate and challenge theological boundaries. This class is currently reading *Why Christian* by Douglas John Hall. 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

Knit One, Pray Too

Host: Marjie Blaisdell

Time: Wednesdays 10:30am-12:00pm

Place: Skype, 3rd Wednesdays are in-person in the Fireside Room. Contact Marjie at mablaisdell@gmail.com

if interested in joining on Skype or just come on the 3rd Wednesday!

Breakfast Fellowship

Hosts: Amy Humphrey and Dean Swanson

Time: February 14th at 8:30am

Place: Charlie's Restaurant at Hillcrest Shopping Center

Men's Coffee Group

Host: Dick Estry

Time: Thursdays at 8:00am

Place: In person (Room 145) and on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503377386?

pwd=czVQNzIxTTE1eHdvdmgzZIBXdmsxZz09

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: Sunday, February 18th, 4:00 – 6:30pm

Place: Member's Home

Singles and couples are welcome. We chat, play cards (no experience necessary) and share light snacks. Questions or interest contact Brian at bkwebbus@gmail.com or text Millie at 608-212-9706.

CU Wednesdays: BeADisciple Bible Study

Hosts: Pastor Kirkland

Time: Wednesdays, February 7, 21, and 28th at 6:30pm (after CU Wednesday dinner)

Place: Room 145

No Bible Study February 14th due to Ash Wednesday service.

Faith \rightarrow Life: Cont.

Dinner/Lunch Club

Groups of 5-8 people share a meal and conversation 2 or 3 times in each other's homes or restaurants. A great way to build friendships within our CUMC family. Contact Marjie Blaisdell at <a href="mailto:ma

Tea and Tacos

Host: Armanda Vanderheiden

Time: Saturdays, February 3, 17, and 24th from 10:00am-12:00pm; Girls Night out February 10th

Place: Room 145

Book Study (*Womanist Midrash*), 10:00AM- 12:00 PM in Room 145; Girls Night out for Galentine's Day on Feb. 10. For more info about this group and for details on Galentine's Day plans, contact Armanda at 507-261-2123 or email at Justgot2havejesus@gmail.com.

Theology with Pancakes!

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland

Time: Tuesday, February 13, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Place: CUMC

This month, instead of meeting at 507 Pub(lic) House for Theology on Brew, Pastors Jenny and Kirkland encourage you to join us for pancakes, community, and a chance to help our ASP team. The meal includes pancakes and toppings, sausage, milk and juice. ASP participants past and present will share our best pancake puns and jokes. A freewill offering of \$10 per person is recommended.





Mark your Calendars! Easter is March 31st!



In Memoriam



Helen OlsenMarch 25, 1931-January 10, 2024



Gary Prigge March 20 1948-January 12, 2024



Martha Jane Stiller September 1, 1936-December 5, 2023



Darlene Leach MillerDecember 2, 1931-January 10, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	2	3 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
4 Communion Sunday CUMC Annual Meeting 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 12:15pm Church Conference 4:30pm Civil Wars & How to Stop Them Class 4:30pm Youth Group	ъ	6 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group	7 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6pm In the City for Good 7pm UWF Circle 4 7pm Thrive Board Meeting	9 10am Rug Hooking Group	10 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
2	3	20		20	10	17
9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Contemporary Issues 10am Special Needs Ministry Meeting 10:15am Inquiring Sprits	ţ	10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley	8am ABC's of Lent 8:30am Breakfast Fellowship 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study	8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 10:30am UWF Rachel	9:30am UWF Book Group 11am RMG Listen & Learn Concert	7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11:am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group		Hall) 5pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	12pm Ashes Downtown 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	Circle (2 & 8) 1pm Women's Book Group 1:30pm UWF Ruth Circle Meeting 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6pm Leadership Board Meeting 7pm UWF Circle 4		
18 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Third Sunday Forum	19	20 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley	21 10am Knit One Pray, Too 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till	22 8am Thursday Men's Group	23 10am Women & the Sacred 10am Rug Hooking Group	24 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am)
10am Third Sunday Forum 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group		Hall)	7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	HOUR BOING	9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
25 9am Traditions Worship 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group	26	10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters	10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir	29		

Christ United Methodist Church 400 Fifth Avenue SW Rochester, MN 55902 507-289-4019 email@cumethodist.com

Non Profit Organization

U S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rochester, Minnesota
Permit No. 5

Return Service Requested

