

SPIRIT



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

Pastor's Pen with Pastor Jenny



By the time you read this newsletter, we'll be halfway through our Lenten journey. If you've taken on an especially challenging Lenten discipline or practice this season then be encouraged! The hope of Easter Sunday is on the horizon.

We're exploring the concept of forgiveness in depth this Lent and I hope you've had opportunities to reflect on the power of forgiveness in your own life and relationships, as well as the need for forgiveness in the world. We continue to be surrounded by ongoing divisions, deeply embedded cycles of violence and unimaginable suffering.

Perhaps in the face of so much heartache the audacity of forgiveness in our Christian story reminds us of the power of what love can do. Love offered freely. Love that overcomes our fear. Love that brings forth new life even in the midst of death.

This prayer by Walter Brueggemann is a favorite because it reminds us that Easter can be a verb. An action. A way of living. Let every step we take in forgiveness and love, Easter all of creation with joy.

Easter Us - A prayer by Walter Brueggemann

You tamer of chaos and mender of all tears in the canvas of creation,

we ponder your suffering,

your crown of thorns,

your garment taken in lottery,

your mocked life,

and now we throw upon your suffering humiliation,

the suffering of the world.

You defeater of death, whose power could not hold you,

come in your Easter,

come in your sweeping victory,

come in your glorious new life.

Easter us,

salve wounds,

break injustice,

bring peace,

guarantee neighbor,

Easter us in joy and strength.

Be our God, be your true self, Lord of life,

massively turn our life toward your life

and away from our anti-neighbor, anti-self deathliness.

Hear our thankful, grateful, unashamed Hallelujah!

Amen.

Happy Easter!

from Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth (Fortress Press, 2003)

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Announcements

A Note From Pastor Nancy

Thank you to everyone who made the worship service and retirement celebration so meaningful. It was a very special day. I know there were many people who took time, energy and creativity along with heart to pull it all together. I will never forget it. Your kind words and generosity in giving are also much appreciated. You are in our prayers. Warmly, Pastor Nancy and Chuck

Community Reconciliation & Forgiveness in Rwanda with Leilani Henry March 13th at 11am

How does a community recover from genocide and colonialism? What state of mind and heart helps a whole country come together through trauma? Leilani Henry will join us for a zoom event to share her recent experience in Rwanda and provide reflection and conversation about forgiveness. Zoom Meeting ID: 860 1806 9223.

Flower Delivery Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to deliver plants to the home bound on Tuesday, April 2 at 9:00 am. If you are able to help, please contact Kathy Davis at kadavis2220@gmail.com or text at (507) 269-7287.

Still We Rise at CUMC March 24-31

The Rochester Black Legacy exhibit is a traveling showcase of the key leaders and events that have shaped the local community and its history. Created by Pastor Andre Crockett Sr. and CUMC member Nicole Asong Nfonoyim-Hara, this exhibit has been displayed in locations throughout Rochester and we are honored to host it during Holy Week this year. Several CUMC families are also featured in the exhibit including Joyce and George Gibbs and Lew and Sandra Means. Stay tuned for more information about how you can engage with this powerful piece of history.

Database Transition

For the past few months we have been working on transitioning our church management system from Church Community Builder (CCB) to Planning Center. We currently use CCB to manage contact information, online giving, general communication, and many behind-the-scenes processes. In addition to CCB, we currently use Planning Center to plan our worship services.

What this means for you:

Online giving and donations - The biggest change is with online giving. If you currently give online through CCB, we will soon contact you so we may assist you setting up a new giving profile in Planning Center.

Transaction processing change - Online transactions through CCB are currently processed by BluePay. As part of this transition, online payments through Planning Center will be processed by Stripe. In addition to Stripe offering lower transaction fees, you may notice a change in transaction information on your credit/debit or bank statements.

If you have any questions about this transition, feel free to contact the church office at email@cumethodist.com or 507-289-4019.

Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry

Our children and youth are joyfully embracing the opportunities for fellowship, learning, music, art and discipleship that we offer. In February we celebrated the Lunar New Year, partied with the Super Bowl and welcomed the season of Lent.

March and April Children and Youth Schedule

March

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

4:30-6:00 Youth Group

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

8-9: Confirmation Retreat at Koronis

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

5:00pm Intergenerational Event—Trivia at The Workshop!

13: CU Wednesday

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

4:30-6:00 Youth Group

20: CU Wednesday

23: Palm Sunday Lock-In! starts at 6pm (come having had supper)

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

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 9:00 and 11:00 (No Sunday School)

ASP Caramel Roll Sale all morning

Egg Hunt between services

No Youth Group

April

3: NO CU Wednesday (RPS Spring Break)

7: 9:00 and 11:00 Worship and Sunday School

4:30-6:00 Youth Group



Children and Youth Cont.

10: CU Wednesday

14: 9:00 and 11:00 Worship and Sunday School

4:30-6:00 Youth Group

17: CU Wednesday

21: 9:00 and 11:00 Worship and Sunday School

6:30pm ASP Trivia

24: CU Wednesday

28: 9:00 and 11:00 Worship and Sunday School

4:30-6:00 Youth Group

ASP Updates

Thank you for your support! In 2023 we served approximately 100 people at our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. In 2024 we planned to serve 200 and over 250 people showed up! We had guests from church, Thrive and Saturday Noon Meals eating side by side. Thank you for your outstanding support. Our donations were over \$2000, which covers one van rental for our ASP journey. The ASP team had the opportunity to work successfully side by side in a frenetic environment!

Caramel Rolls will be back on March 31! Plan to bring home some ASP famous caramel rolls on Easter Sunday!

Mark your calendar for our Trivia Night! Make plans to join us for our second annual ASP Trivia Night. This event was a success last year with laughter, tough competition, bribes and unique prizes.

Summer Registrations are coming!

June 16-21 Camp Week at Northern Pines 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 7th-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.



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.

Children and Youth Cont.

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

Intergenerational Ministry Opportunities

Trivia at the Workshop! Join your church family for an evening of food and fellowship at the Workshop on March 10. Trivia starts at 5pm; arrive by 4:45 to reserve your table. The Workshop also has foosball, shuffleboard and great food.

Maundy Thursday March 28 dinner at 5:30, service to follow

Experience an evening in the Garden of Gethsemane. Join us for a simple meal, worship, communion and interactive time of prayer, lament and repentance.

ASP Trivia Night April 28, 6:30-8:00pm

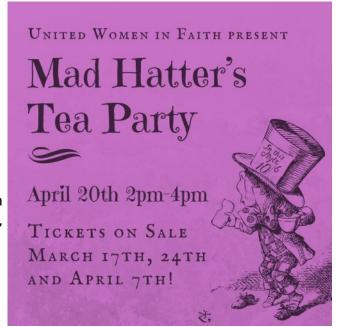


Have you seen the new window display in the Commons put together by UWF Circle 4? It highlights some of the over 500 verses found in the Bible about love, and it is interactive. There are hearts placed on the outside of the window for YOU to write what love is to you, and there is a rubber duckie hidden in the display for you to find. The first 30 people who tell the office staff where it is hidden may claim a piece of Fair Trade Chocolate!

You are invited to the United Women in Faith 2024 Tea. Come to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party on April 20th from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Tickets will be on sale in the Commons on Sundays March 17th, 24th and April 7th for \$25.

Continue watching church communications for further information.

Have questions or would like to help? Ask the committee: Marjie Blaisdell, Susan Duncanson, Rebecca Harrington, Kathy Lawson, Deedee Odell, Jane Schmidt, Daphne Soleil.







3 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ON FEB. 14

5 FILE BOXES WORTH OF PAPER RECYCLED OR SHREDDED (SO FAR!)
BY VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH CHURCH ARCHIVES



10-3 SUPER BOWL HALFTIME SCORE (WITH SAN FRANCISCO LEADING)
WHEN THE YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY ENDED

BY THE NUMBERS

22-25 SUPER BOWL FINAL SCORE (WITH KANSAS CITY WINNING IN OVERTIME) LONG AFTER THE YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY ENDED

100+ ATTENDANCE AT CUMC'S ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE MEETING

1 EXTRA DAY IN FEBRUARY FOR LEAP YEAR

85 PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH ASH WEDNESDAY OFFERINGS

250 PEOPLE SERVED AT THE SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER





Christ UMC named a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Business by the League of American Bicyclists



CUMC has earned recognition as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Business from the League of American Bicyclists!

We've joined the movement of over 1,400 local businesses, government agencies, and Fortune 500 companies across the United States in transforming the American workplace to be more welcoming to our customers and employees who bike. So many more have joined or returned to the bike movement during the pandemic, and we are proud to support the health and well-being of our community by being more welcoming to people choosing to bike.

"We're proud to celebrate this round of new and renewing Bicycle Friendly Businesses who are investing their resources to not only build up bicycling

in the workplace but in their communities as well," said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists. "It takes collaboration to build an America where every person can safely and easily choose to bike, and we applaud Christ UMC pedaling alongside us to power this movement."

CUMC joins a total of 1,480 current BFBs across the country, all united in a commitment to transform American workplaces to be more welcoming to customers and employees who bike. The Bicycle Friendly Business award recognizes an organization's contributions over months and years to the movement to build a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone.

Learn more about the League's Bicycle Friendly Business program at bikeleague.org/bfa/business/.



The large bandage across his left temple covered a wound still oozing, and the scrapes along his forehead and cheek were deep and red. Dennis, my co-worker, laughed off his facial sores after seeing the distressed look in my eyes, offering the excuse that he tripped and fell during his late night walk home that past weekend.

A week later, Dennis didn't laugh off the bruising under his right eye, choosing instead to ignore what appeared to be an obvious sign that he had been purposely harmed.

When Dennis, a fit man in his late-50s, began combing his graying hair to cover marks on his face and calling in sick on a few Monday mornings, I grew worried. Weeks later Dennis confessed to me he had just ended an abusive relationship with a man he had met at a local gay bar.

Dennis and I weren't close friends, but we were more than acquaintances. We shared an easy openness and an intellectual banter, and we swapped stories of the angst of growing into maturity. So when Dennis offered his truth-telling, I held his story with him, acknowledging the courage it takes not to hide our woundedness.

Most of us have a hard time giving others a peek into our woundedness, and for good reason. We don't know who we can trust with such sacred feelings, and we often don't want to admit our hurts even to ourselves. Instead we hide our wounds by presenting an appearance of ease, a not-a-care-in-the-world contentment. It's easier to relate to others by talking about the weather or our recent outings than it is to say, "I'm struggling with what my life requires of me," or "life hasn't always been easy, and I bear the scars of that."

As I reflected on my conversation with Dennis, I came to realize that the wounds we hold within us are where God finds us and where we find one another.

When we have enough self-awareness to know the places in which we have been wounded, the ways in which we are poor, we come to relate to people through those wounded places. Part of the brilliance of compassionate care is bringing to the relationship our own vulnerability as the central part of ourselves. In this way, we create relationships of honesty and healing between authentically imperfect human beings.

This is the message of Easter, isn't it? We learn from Jesus' death and resurrection that when we are brought down, made low, wounded, damaged by the hate and hurts of life, we are saved—made anew—through love.

Service—simply put, doing good to and for another— is our love offering to others. But if acts of service are to result in healing, they require more than our time and effort. They require the capacity to recognize God within the suffering and love we see in ourselves, in others, and in all things. In this way, acts of service become a doorway through which we are always growing into God.

Dr. Peggy Johnson, Minister for Congregational Care

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

Third Sunday Forum

March 17, 2024, 10:15am, Wesley Hall

Work of Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, Presented by Jane Grieling



What happens to the migrants after they cross the southern US border? This presentation, using photos and stories, will show life in a shelter in El Paso, Texas. Annunciation House is a shelter whose mission is to assist newly arrived asylum seekers move on to their US sponsors.

Jane Greiling has resided in Rochester for 15 years. She is a grandmother and retired nurse. For the last 7 years she has intermittently volunteered at a shelter for immigrants in El Paso, Texas, most recently in October, 2023. She is here to tell you about the immigrants she lived with while volunteering at the shelter. She will explain the process of assisting asylum seekers during their first days after crossing the border.

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 (March 3, 10, 17, and 24)

We are using the book <u>"Forgiveness: A Lenten Study" by Marjorie J. Thompson</u> as our guide for the Lenten season this year. 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. Meeting ID 879 5667 5126. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87956675126?pwd=dXdsZzNXVFg0Z3B4WEl2SnN3UWsyUT09#success

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 \rightarrow Life: Cont.

Inquiring Spirits Hosts: Ed Shafer

Time: Sundays at 10:15am

Place: In-Person (Room 145) and Zoom

HOW. COMPANY

Discussion varies on books, videos, and other sources to investigate and challenge theological boundaries. 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: March 13th 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=czVQNzIxTTE1eHdvdmgzZlBXdmsxZz09

Hand & Foot Card Group

Hosts: Brian and Millie Webb

Time: Sunday, March 17th, 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, March 6, 13, and 20th at 6:30pm (after CU Wednesday dinner)

Place: Room 145

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, March 9, 16, and 23rd from 10:00am-12:00pm; No meeting March 2 or March 30

Place: Room 145

For more info about this group , contact Armanda at 507-261-2123 or email at

Justgot2havejesus@gmail.com. You can also join our Facebook group "Tea and Tacos" for more info.

Theology on Brew

Hosts: Pastors Jenny and Kirkland **Time:** Thursday, March 14, 6:30pm

Place: Glynner's Pub (1643 1/2 N Broadway)

Young and young-at-heart adults are welcome. Join others to connect and discuss life, theology and everything! Contact Pastors Jenny and Kirkland with any questions.



Saturday Noon Meals

The Saturday Noon Meal program continues to provide important support to our community members who are experiencing homelessness and food/financial insecurity. We continue to serve approximately 75 guests each Saturday. Thank you

to our dedicated volunteers who arrive each Saturday to prepare a warm and nutritious meal for our guests.

We appreciate the ongoing support from our community partners including Channel One, Community Food Response, Salvation Army, Zumbro Valley Medical Society, Red Lobster and Peoples Food Co-op. We also appreciate CUMC and community members who provide regular donations to our ministry program. We appreciate the donated food items including food containers and books/reading material.

CUMC was fortunate to participate in a presentation on February 7th sponsored by the Rochester Area Foundation focusing on services within our community for those facing homelessness and financial insecurity. Pastors Jenny and Kirkland provided excellent information regarding CUMC's community involvement and support for those within our community facing these challenges.

Please contact Kathy Lombardo at Kathryn.lombardo@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering or would want additional information regarding the Saturday Noon Meal program. Thank you again for your ongoing support of the SNM ministry program and support for those within our community needing your support.



Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

Wesley August He Gregg and Maisie Mei Gregg on February 4th







Carolyn J Chaapel September 14, 1934-February 21, 2024



In Memoriam



Theodore (Ted) Colescott February 1, 1935-January 1, 2024

Gertrude "Trudy" Jewell June 17 1926-January 28, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 9am Caramel Roll Sale 9am Traditions Worship 10am Contemporary Issues 10am Easter Egg Hunt 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Arise Worship 4:30pm Youth Group					1	2 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 7:30pm RCMS Concert
3 Communion Sunday 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 4:30pm Youth Group	4	5 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group	6 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 7pm UWF Circle 4	8 10am Rug Hooking Group	9 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals 8:00am Foundation Meeting (Zoom) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos 7:30pm Choral Arts Ensemble Concert
10 Daylight Savings Time 9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Contemporary Issues 10:15am Inquiring Sprits 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group	11	12 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall)	13 8:30am Breakfast Fellowship 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir	14 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 6:30pm Theology on Brew 7pm Thrive Board Meeting 7pm UWF Circle 4	9:30am UWF Book Group 12pm RMG Listen & Learn Concert	16 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos
9am Traditions Worship 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Third Sunday Forum 11am Arise Worship 11:15am Children's Sunday School 4:30pm Youth Group	18	19 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm UWF Quilters (Wesley Hall) 4:30pm Earthkeepers (Zoom)	10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 4pm Thrift on Fifth Open (till 7pm) 5pm CU Wednesday 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 10:30am UWF Rachel 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	10am Rug Hooking Group	23 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 10am Tea & Tacos 3:30pm ISAIAH Climate 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 4:30pm Youth Group	25	10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Brothers in Christ 1pm Covenant Group 1pm UWF Quilters	27 10am Knit One Pray, Too 1:30pm Women's Study 6:00pm Celebration Bells Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 8am Thursday Men's Group 8:30am Covenant Group 1pm Women's Book Group 4pm Arise Band rehearsal 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Service 7pm UWF Circle 4	29 7pm Good Friday Service	30 7:30am Saturday Noon Meals (Serve @ 11am) 9am Thrift on Fifth Open 6:30pm Caramel Roll Prep

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