

Christ United Methodist Church
S a l t L a k e C i t y
Serving · Loving · Caring

The December 2020 Connection

RUSTY'S REFLECTIONS

Stewardship Telethon - A Resounding Success!

Using the Brainchild of Jay Vestal (CUMC Lay Leader) and with the help of Jackie Hibbard, CUMC Church Council Chair, and the hard working CUMC A/V team, the standard Stewardship Drive turned things head over heels with the first ever CUMC Stewardship Telethon!

Relying on the musical talents of many of the musicians at CUMC, the Telethon presented viewers with a variety of songs and a taste of the music we've been missing over the last 8 months.

From the beginning of the broadcast, when Logan Bingham (CUMC Choir Director) sang John Lennon's "*Imagine*", through an astounding seven minute memorized Beethoven piano piece by Louis McCracken, to the choral performance by "Essere," the young women's choir directed by previous CUMC Choir Director, Austin Thorpe, the evening was filled with beautiful music.

In between the performances, a group of friendly, face masked callers dialed up people who had pledged before and asked if they would commit to pledging again for 2021. At the end of the night we had doubled the number of our commitments and positioned ourselves for a successful 2021.

I can't thank Frank Lengyel, Chuck Mittelstadt, and Barrett Carpenter enough for their work in the Audio Visual booth as they worked to show the Telethon on our CUMC Website and YouTube channel. If you missed the telethon and want to see it it is available both on the Website and on the CUMC YouTube Channel.

It was a wonderful night and a testament to the creativity and work of the people of Christ UMC. I expect more productions like this will be held in the years to come. Thank you to everyone who participated and who pledged to help the church continue our ministry in the year to come.

Wonderful!!

Rev. Rusty



The Church Charge Conference is Dec. 9 at 7:00 p.m. on zoom.
Watch your weekly email for a link.

Merry Christmas!

Longing. Leaning forward with anticipation. Anxiously waiting yet with intense impatience! All of these reflect what Advent is about. These feelings reflect a discontentment with the way things are for the moment. Waiting is not easy! Still, they reflect a sense of hope for change and improvement that might be just around the corner.

This Advent all those feelings seem appropriate as we wait with baited breath for things to improve. That is reminiscent of the people of God in the Old Testament, and the children of God down through the ages. The story of hope continues!



The Old Testament reading for the first Sunday in Advent reflects that longing in a very real way.

*“Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at Your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make Your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at Your presence!”* Isaiah 64:1-2

We long for God to “rend the heavens and come down” and make everything right by destroying the bad guys! — Come and fix this mess!

And that, is the wonder of Advent and Christmas. Instead of the earth shaking coming of God that equates to a world changing coming of God—God has come among us as one of us—through the quiet, unassuming Child of Bethlehem. Quiet change. Subtle difference. Almost imperceptible. Yet, it is the wonder of God’s intervention that somehow, mysteriously and genuinely changes us and the world. The wonder is that it involves and includes us. We are part of the change. We celebrate that!

May the hope, joy and anticipation of that first Christmas spark new life and zest in us this year!
Merry Christmas!

Pastor Bruce Kolasch
pastor of congregational care



**Remember
Prayer**

Deepest Condolences To the Ofa family on the recent losses in their family.

Deepest Condolences to Gary Perryman and the family of his cousin, Linda Aley, of Woodlands, Texas who died of Covid complications.

Deepest Condolences to Deborah and Sal Mendez and family on the death of Sal’s father.

CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR THOSE IN NEED

HERE ARE THE CREATIVE WAYS TO CONTINUE CUMC'S COMMITMENT TO HELPING OTHERS.

Join us on **December 13th and 20th from 10:30 to Noon** for a drive through donation drop off, complete with hot chocolate and Christmas cookies and a honk and wave to friends you have not seen in a while.

You may drop off: **New and gently used warm clothes and new socks for the homeless**

Food for Crossroads

Donations for the Youth Resource Center (see list below)

Your Enchanted Tree Donation

ENCHANTED TREE

In 1989 we started the Enchanted Tree program and each year the dead lifeless tree has been transformed into a beautiful, glowing enchanted Tree. Your donations to these mission projects are even more important this year as we have not had the loose change offerings or monthly mission spotlight. Through the month of December donations to the following missions projects will help our tree blossom with decorations.

CROSSROADS URBAN CENTER EMERGENCY FUND Crossroads Urban Center is an Institutional Ministry of the United Methodist Church as well as a local project of this church. The Emergency Fund program provides assistance to help prevent homelessness for people in crisis.

UMCOR EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS FOR U.S. DISASTER RESPONSE provides assistance and volunteers to communities who have experienced natural disasters such as earth quakes, fires, hurricanes, and pandemics.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRIES PROJECT IN NEPAL helps fund Kathryn Parker and her mission work in Nepal. Kathryn in past years has come to church and talked to us about her work helping those in need in Nepal. She has continued her work in this time of world wide crisis.

FAMILY PROMISE SALT LAKE provides support and a path to housing security for homeless families.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND (CUMC'S HELPING FUND) provides assistance to people who reach out for assistance with emergency needs. The fund has served both members and non-members and funds are disbursed at the direction of the pastor.



Donations for the Enchanted Tree can be given in the following ways:

Electronically on our website, www.christumcutah.org/giving. A link will be sent out via email the first week of December.

Mail a check to the church

Bring a check to a December donation drop off

HOMELESS/AT-RISK YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER

The Youth Resource Center serves at-risk and homeless youth ages 15 - 22. This year has seen an explosion of youth in crisis and without a home while also having a reduction in donations. Please assist by dropping of the following at the drive through drop off:

- Sleeping Bags
- Blankets
- Rain Ponchos
- Coats, Gloves, Hats and Scarves for Men and Women
- Men's and Women's Sweatpants and Hoodies
- Men's winter shoes

The complete list of needs can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Children, Youth and Families



Children's Christmas Virtual Pageant

Be sure to watch the video compilation by children from CUMC and several other UMC churches in the Salt Lake Valley as they retell the Christmas Story from Luke 2:1-20. The video will be shown in worship on December 6th

Advent and Christmas Activity and Fun Gift Bags



This year all children are receiving gift bags with Advent activities, crafts, cookies (since we have cannot have our usual cookie reception), and more. You can pick them up by the West doors during our drive by dates of Sunday, November 29th and December 6th between 10:30 am and Noon. Contact Kelly for additional information or to schedule another time.

Children's Sunday School Zoom – Dec 13th

Our next Sunday School Zoom will be on Sunday, December 13th at 10:40 am. The login details will be sent out in the regular Sunday School emails from Kelly Carpenter. If you are not currently receiving the Children's Sunday School emails, sign up at <https://www.christumcutah.org/childrensnewsletter.html> .



Virtual Sunday School

This 4-week session we are exploring Jesus' birth through the eyes of different animals in the Christmas Story. A fun quick question session where children can earn Bible Bucks for participating and a video reading of the Bible Story can be found at the virtual Sunday School webpage <https://www.christumcutah.org/virtualsundayschool.html> .



Building Better Moms – Zoom Meeting – December 15th



All Moms are invited to join us our next Zoom meeting on Tuesday, December 15th at 8:00 pm. We would love to "see" you, even for a few moments. Please have a favorite Christmas memory ready to share, can be an item or a story. Kelly will send out the login information the Sunday before the Zoom. Contact Kelly if you are not receiving emails from her.

December Youth News

Palmer Court Service Project in November:

Youth families picked up pet food and re-bagging supplies at Patsy's house and re-bagged the pet food and treats at their own homes and took them back to Patsy's house. On November 13th, Mike Hampton, Scott Carpenter, and Patsy delivered 44 Bags of dog food, 11 cans of dog food, 45 bags of dog treats, 34 bags of cat food, 115 cans of cat food, 15 bags of cat treats, and 31 jugs of cat litter so case workers could distribute them the following week to the residents. Thank you to everyone who donated, re-bagged food, loaded and unloaded vehicles, drove, or helped in any way!

Our next delivery will be January 22nd. Youth families may re-bag at their own homes again. All donations especially food and treats are greatly needed. Contact Patsy Simons 801-808-6641 or YouthDirector@christumcutah.org to arrange for donation drop off.

Angel Tree Project:

This program helps provide Christmas for children whose parents are incarcerated, as a way for those parents and kids to stay connected. CUMC Youth Group sponsors several families. This year the youth will be providing gifts and gift cards for 18 kids in 8 families. Cash donations are welcome.

Contact Patsy at 801-808-6641 or youthdirector@christumcutah.org to donate.

Rowland Hall Christmas Dinner Giveaway:

Volunteers are needed to help needy families have a Christmas Dinner by handing out the necessary ingredients on Wednesday, December 23rd. Look for more details in upcoming eblasts. Contact Patsy at 801-808-6641 or youthdirector@christumcutah.org to volunteer. All shifts available.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women's Book Club book for December: *Midnight Teacher* by Janet Halfmann

For more information about the book list or meeting times please contact Bev Mittelstadt at bevjm4287@yahoo.com or 801-272-7137 or 801-755-4115

WREATH SALE - Thank you to everyone who ordered wreaths this year!

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS TEA - Thursday, December 3rd. Members & guests will receive invitations & program materials by mail.

POSSIBLE ALL- CHURCH PROGRAM, 2021 - Stay tuned for this in early 2021.

HOMELESS/AT-RISK YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER



VOA UTAH'S YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER is a drop in resource center and emergency shelter for all youth aged 15-22 along the Wasatch Front who are at-risk or are experiencing homelessness.

THE CENTER PROVIDES essential basic need items, 3 hot meals a day, pantry food, showers, laundry, life-skills groups, housing & employment case management, and dental & medical care assistance, with access to mental health services on-site.

THE CENTER TRANSITIONS into a 30-bed emergency shelter from 7:30 pm - 8:30 am . Youth that are working towards self-sufficiency are encouraged to apply for a first-come, first-serve program named, the "Self-Reliance Program." This program allows for 15 youth to work closely with an LCSW Clinician and Youth Advocate to achieve goals toward self-sufficiency as well as guaranteeing a shelter bed while they are on this program. The other 15 beds are issued through a lottery system where youth are randomly chosen through an electronic system.

*****DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED!***** *****YOU CAN HELP***** by dropping off Wish List item/s to the Youth Resource Center donation bin at CUMC.

WHEN DONATING CLOTHING, please keep in mind these donations are for youth ages 15 - 22 (something your teenager would want to wear). Except where noted, clothing may be used, but clean & in good condition please. M, LG, XL, & XXL sizes

WISH LIST

Sleeping Bags
Blankets
Rain Ponchos
Coats, Gloves, Hats and Scarves for Men and Women
Men's and Women's Sweatpants and Hoodies
Men's & Women's Casual Pants
NEW Men's & Women's Underwear
NEW Women's Bras
NEW Socks
Men's Shoes (Closed Toed)
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Shampoo/Conditioner (Travel Sized Preferred)
Body Lotion (Travel Sized Preferred)
Bar Soap/ Body Wash (Travel Sized Preferred)
Deodorant
Sunscreen, Chapstick, Aloe Vera
Backpacks & Purses
Hair Brushes & Combs
N95 or Surgical Face Masks
Disinfectant Spray & Wipes and Hand Sanitizer
Disposable Gloves
Band-Aids. Gauze Bandages, Ace Bandages, Neosporin
Paper/Plastic Dishes & Plastic Utensils
FOR MORE INFORMATION <https://www.voaut.org/in-kind>

Charitable donations are most welcome during this time.

Donate to Crossroads at

<https://donorbox.org/support-crossroads-urban-center>

**Christ United
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The Wesley Bell Ringers are planning a live stream concert (no audience) for Tuesday, December 22nd at 7:30pm. The concert will be on the CUMC YouTube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIwOT8_Clz9QFXR_OnOkVbQ

Watch the website for any changes.