

## **RUSTY'S REFLECTIONS**



Have you ever been stuck in mud? Many years ago now, my parent's car was stuck on a muddy driveway to my grandparent's farmhouse. The driveway was a narrow dirt road a few hundred yards long and it was a muddy slippery quagmire. The car could not get any traction. No backing up and making a run for it was going to work. My Dad decided that my brother and I were old enough (maybe 12/13?) to get out and push. Which we did. Covered with mud, my mother was not happy and now I can't remember if we were successful or not but it was glorious to be asked to help!

When you are growing up there is a time when you are asked to do something for someone which before you had neither the ability nor the inclination to do. Getting out of the car in the pouring rain and helping push the green Ford LTD station wagon through the mud was a turning of the page. Where before our weight/muscles/probability of getting hurt/etc. prevented or stopped us from helping all of a sudden we got to be a part of a proposed solution.

So many people in the world are helpers. I've seen you and know that so many of you are. I do not know where you got it from. But that you are "helpers," there is no doubt. And while I try to help when I can...there are times when my help seems so little compared to what all of you do. So it was quite a surprise to me when I was recently nominated for an award called "Mazda Community Hero."

Two members of the Family Promise Board of Directors asked if I would allow my name to be submitted for an award. I didn't know anything about it, and figured it might be like the last award I received from helping the Salvation Army Food Bank in Rocky Ford, Colorado...I was awarded a letter opener. So I shrugged and said, "sure." My two colleagues submitted a 1 minute video and I'm not sure what else and around the end of November I received an email from Mazda telling me that I was a "potential winner," and that I needed to send some information in like name, date of birth, address, etc.

I figured that I was one of hundreds who might have got that letter. I told my sons about it and they were convinced it was like the 'Nigerian Prince Scam,' and wanted to see the paperwork. After looking it over they said that I could send in the information. Still expecting nothing, I emailed the information and then put the paper in a pile on my desk and thought nothing else would come of it.

A week after sending that information in, I received a call on my cell phone from a number in Los Angeles...I almost didn't pick it up because I thought it was just a sales call. But when I answered the man on the other end of the line told me I had been chosen to receive one of 50 cars across the USA that were being given out by Mazda and Good Morning America to people who had done something for their community during the pandemic.

I laughed and said, "you've got to be kidding!" This had the making of one of those old Candid Camera scenes..do you remember? The man assured me that it was the case and gave me the

## Finding Hope

*“Simeon...was looking forward to the consolation of Israel” Luke 2:25*



Finding hope presumes that hope is lost. Most have not lost hope, though our current political and social milieu certainly challenges the theme of hope!

I have not lost hope. Yet I also celebrate finding stories, of hope that springs up, fresh and new, even in the most dire circumstances. An example of that is from a recent email newsletter I receive called, “Brainpickings” by Maria Popova. Her email is [newsletter@brainpickings.org](mailto:newsletter@brainpickings.org). Maria shares this story from her archives:

### **The Christmas Truce of 1914:**

#### **A Heartening Story of Humanity in the Middle of War**

*In December of 1914, a series of grassroots, unofficial ceasefires took hold of the Western Front in the heat of WWI. On Christmas, soldiers from an estimated 100,000 British and German troops began to exchange seasonal greetings and sing songs across the trenches, some even walked over to their opponents bearing gifts. The incident became one of the most heart-warming displays of humanity in the history of human conflict and was dubbed the Christmas Truce.*

We are people of hope. Like Simeon in Luke 1:25-35, we look forward with hope. It is that hope within us that keeps us kind, patient, gentle and loving even when we are tempted to give in to being grumpy—to get tired or cynical. God is still at work in our world. God is still at work in us! And the good Lord is still working through us! The candle of hope continues to burn brightly even through the darkest times of the year.

God bless!

Pastor Bruce Kolasch

**There will be NO IN PERSON WORSHIP** at CUMC at least through the end of January. Watch live Sunday mornings at 10:00am on [YouTube](#) and/or on the [Website](#). The service will also be recorded and available on the website. The link to coffee time at 11:00am is sent out each Sunday morning.

directions of what I was supposed to do, when to go to the dealership and so forth. So on the Wednesday before Christmas I went to the Dahle Mazda dealer and received this Mazda Miata. (picture below)

This car, in my mind is not what an old Pastor is supposed to drive!

At any rate, I know there are many more people who deserve that award more than me, I'm fortunate that my friends thought I was deserving. When I've tried to help folks, it was and is simply what we were taught way back when that when someone needed help, you do what you can to help them. Sometimes you can and sometimes you can't, but you can try. I think that is the Christian thing to do.

Anyway, I thought you all might like to know why I'm driving a new car like that around. Let me know when you want a ride, I'll be glad to drive...

Rev. Rusty



Pastor Rusty, picking up the new car, cheered on by Pook Carson and Dave Richardson who were on nominating members of the Board of Family Promise.



Deepest Condolences to the family and friends of Margot Duncan, who passed away in December. Cards may be sent to: John Duncan, 2151 Laver Ct., Sandy, UT 84092

Deepest Condolences to the family and many friends of Carmen Palmer, who passed away November 29th. Condolences may be sent to her children at the following addresses:

Vaughn Palmer, P. O. Box 32, Hailey ID. 83333  
Diane Palmer Nobuyana, P. O. Box 5298, Ketchum ID. 83340

Deepest Condolences to Sharon and Fred Balch and their family on the death of Sharon's mother, Betty Lou Serviss, November 30th.

# Children, Youth and Families

## **Night In with Us**



Christ UMC is updating and combining a few programs as we start 2021. Our first event will be a family-friendly Zoom night, including Zoom games, later in January. More details will be posted at <https://www.christumcutah.org/nightinwithus.html>. Contact Kelly Carpenter via email or call 801-486-5473 ext. 113 for more information.

## **Children's Sunday School Zoom – Jan 10th**

Our next Sunday School Zoom will be on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 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 learning about **Unexplored Bible Stories** that will also help us navigate through the jungles of life. 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>

## **Mark Your Calendars! 9th Annual Chili Bowl Cook-Off Sunday, February 7th at 11:30**

Contact Patsy Simons to enter the competition, and may the best chili win!!! Real prizes this year! [youthdirector@christumcutah.org](mailto:youthdirector@christumcutah.org)

If we can meet in person, everyone is invited to come enjoy the chili and vote for your favorite. There will be opportunity baskets and *Chili To Go* available to purchase. You can pre order your *Chili To Go* online at <https://www.christumcutah.org/chilibowl.html>. This is a combined order and payment form.

**Even if In Person Chili Bowl Cook Off does not happen, the Youth will still be selling To Go Chili!** This event is one of the main fundraisers for the Youth Summer Mission Trips. This summer the Sr High will be working in Alamosa, CO.

## Angel Tree Project:

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Angel Tree Project, especially Tiffany and Kenton Bustin for organizing. We delivered presents to 7 families that included 21 kids and 8 caregivers. All were very appreciative. I know the incarcerated parent will also be grateful.

## Palmer Court.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the November re-bagging and delivering of Pet Food to the Residents at Palmer Court. What a difference it makes in the residents' lives to be able to care for their pets!

**Our next delivery date will be January 22nd.** At this point we need everything including cat food, dog food, and dog treats. Please place your donations in the first bin closest to the kitchen. Any questions please contact Pat-sy. [youthdirector@christumcutah.org](mailto:youthdirector@christumcutah.org) or 801-808-6641.

## United Methodist Women

**United Methodist Women's Book Club will meet on Zoom, January 25th at 1:00pm.**

For more information about the book list, Zoom links and meeting times please contact Bev Mittelstadt at [bevjm4287@yahoo.com](mailto:bevjm4287@yahoo.com) or 801-272-7137 or 801-755-4115.



## Church Women United

A multi faith gathering of Christian Women

You are invited to attend **CWU's Annual Meeting via Zoom**

**Friday, January 29th, 12:30pm**

The Theme for the New Year is **"Becoming One in 2021"**

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqf-qrTlpGNGUBo4jTI2u8yt4e51pr1DE>. **After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.**

CWU Officers will be elected and installed at this meeting.

Your offering, which stays with Local SLC / Bountiful CWU Unit, may be written to **"Church Women United"** and mailed to our treasurer, Desta Aure, 10227 Hickory Pt. Dr., Sandy, UT 84092

## 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>

Thank you as always for your continued support of the church. You may mail a check to the church, give through the [CUMC website](#), or text to give at 801-317-8833.

**Beware of Scammers! SCAM ALERT**

Remember, no legitimate government agency, such as the Social Security Administration, will ever call or email with threats or tell you to wire money, send cash or put money on gift cards. Anyone who tells you to do those things is a scammer. Every time. Even if your caller ID has the correct phone number for the agency or the email address looks legit. Do not give out your personal information or give anyone access to your computer or any online accounts. If you receive a questionable email that says it is from the church send a new email directly to the church office at [officemanager@christumcutah.org](mailto:officemanager@christumcutah.org) or to Rev. Rusty at [pastorrusty@christumcutah.org](mailto:pastorrusty@christumcutah.org).

**Building Use:** If you would like to use the church please make your request to Jeanmarie at [OfficeManager@christumcutah.org](mailto:OfficeManager@christumcutah.org) or Lita Ofa at [Facility@christumcutah.org](mailto:Facility@christumcutah.org). This is for everyone's safety as the space needs to be sanitized before and after each use. That means we are being careful to space the groups to allow for sanitizing. Thank you for doing all you can to keep each other safe and healthy.

**Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (ACA)**

This Meeting is a 12-Step Discussion Format and Open to All. The program is about healing from the effects of having been raised in a dysfunctional family environment and how that has manifested into problems in adulthood (addictions, relationship problems, mood disorders, anger issues, physical illness, etc.)

Until in person meetings resume the Tuesday meetings are on Zoom . The meeting room opens at 6:00pm, with the actual meeting beginning at 6:30.

The Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vJUpf-2trD4oStYMtbn6YW6fYfPadjuDQ>  
Meeting ID: 114-845-252 Password: millcreek1www.adultchildren.org.

**Christ United  
Methodist Church**

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801-486-5473  
[www.christumcutah.org](http://www.christumcutah.org)



**A few REMINDERS about our GreenFiber PAPER recycling bin:**

1. **Break down** all cardboard boxes, cutting them into smaller pieces if necessary.
2. **No laminated** papers of any kind
3. **No wrapping paper ('Tis the Season)**
4. No construction debris
5. Please keep the lids closed to keep the contents dry.

**NO GARBAGE!** Please leave only paper and cardboard. The contents will not be picked up if there is garbage in the bin. This includes tree branches and green waste.