

The Connection, January 2023

January Worship Series: Faith: Not a Spectator Sport!

"The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers." Starting January 8th, our new Worship series focuses on being an active participant in our faith each day, starting with small steps.

Join us for worship and if you want to dive deeper, join us for Sunday School at 9 a.m. Sunday morning in the chapel. See page 3 for more information.

Preamble of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church:

The United Methodist Church, including its predecessor bodies, has a long and rich history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. In addition to carrying out acts of mercy, Methodism's founder, John Wesley, spoke out against the abuse of animals, the exploitation of poor people, and the treatment of human beings as chattel. Following in Wesley's footsteps, some early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners.

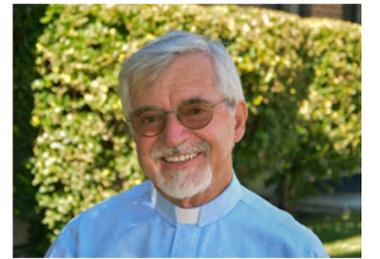
Similarly, the United Brethren strongly condemned slavery. In 1908, The Methodist Episcopal Church (North) was the first denomination to adopt a Social Creed, which called for "equal rights and complete justice for all men in all stations of life." Within the next decade similar statements were adopted by The Methodist Episcopal Church (South) and by The Methodist Protestant Church.

The Evangelical United Brethren Church adopted a statement of Social Principles in 1946 at the time of the uniting of The United Brethren and The Evangelical Church. In 1972, four years after the uniting in 1968 of The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted a new statement of Social Principles, which was revised in 1976 and by each successive General Conference. In 2008, the General Conference added a Social Creed companion litany.

The Social Principles are not church law. Instead, they represent the prayerful and earnest efforts of the General Conference to speak to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist traditions. The Social Principles are thus a call to faithfulness and to social engagement and intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit. Moreover, they challenge all members of The United Methodist Church to engage in deliberative reflection and encourage intentional dialogue between faith and practice.

New Year 2023

Reba and I were recently invited to and provided tickets for the **Christmas with the Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra** at Temple Square. What an exceptional evening it was!



The choir and orchestra—all the music—the choreography and lighting, the whole evening was amazing. My favorite was when Sir David Suchet, a guest performer from England, told the story of England's heroic humanitarian Nicholas Winton. Winton helped to rescue hundreds of children whose families were fleeing Hitler's infamous onslaught against Jewish people. Winton's selfless, courageous efforts saved hundreds of children. Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass had happened. Hitler's intense persecution of imprisoning and exterminating Jews went into full force. Many fled to Czechoslovakia and became trapped because the Nazi forces were there too and began closing the borders. The situation was dire. Winton felt he needed to do something. He could not rescue the parents but decided to save as many children as possible. He found families and homes in England that would take the children in. The British government told him he had to raise thousands of dollars per child in today's currency. He was able to help 669 children escape. They never saw their parents again. It was a heart-breaking time!

Vera Gissing, one of the children Winton saved, and now in her late 70s, puts the rescue mission in perspective: "Of the 15,000 Czech Jewish children taken to the camps, only a handful survived. Winton had saved a major part of my generation of Czech Jews." (quoted from an article written by Foundation for Economic Education, March 18, 2009)

The thousands of us who attended this Christmas Concert were held in rapt silence as Sir David Suchet told this tragic story. Then Suchet introduced Winton's only surviving son to the large crowd. We erupted in a standing ovation. The most moving part of the evening was when Suchet challenged us to hold up our lighted cell phones, sing a modified verse of the carol **Once in Royal David's City** as a prayer, and commit to being lights shining in our world—to be kind, to do good. It was a powerful evening. Tears welled up in my eyes!

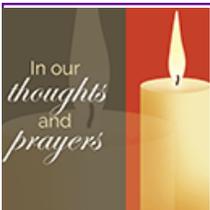
SO...I am passing the challenge on—whether you are young or old, rich or poor, religious or not, no matter what your political preference might be—be a light shining in the darkness this year. Be bold. Seize the day. Take the initiative to be kind and good. Use your voice and actions to influence others for the good. Do not respond with evil for evil. Change the cycle. Do the good. Be the good. God is on the move in our world!

Happy New Year!

Reverend Bruce Kolasch, Pastor of Congregational Care

pastorburce@christumcutah.org

406-891-0434



Deepest Condolences to the family and friends of Tricia Westbrook, who died December 9th. A Celebration of Life will be Saturday, January 7th at 11:00 am at Christ UMC in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow. Condolences may be sent to:

Evette Westbrook Raen, 293 E Regent Park Court, Midvale, UT 84047 and

Jim Westbrook, 1188 South 1200 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84104-2828.

Deepest Condolences to Linda Kreeck, Deborah Kreeck-Mendez, the family, and friends of JC Kreeck, who died December 27th. A Celebration of Life date is to be determined.

Social Justice News

The Adult Sunday School will be hosting the Social Justice Committee, beginning January 8th, with a series of 6 speakers, each focused on different elements of United Methodist Church's Social Principles. Everyone is welcome, we will start at 9:00 in the chapel. For more info go to Umcjustice.org

Jan 8th: Meet Rep. Doug Owens. He represents CUMC (and many in our congregation) in the state legislature for House District #33. He will speak to the importance of being involved citizens and also give us a preview of the upcoming legislative session. We will do a short presentation on how to be involved and follow the legislative session at le.utah.gov.

Jan 15th: Bill Tibbets, Executive Director at Crossroads Urban Center. Along with an interfaith groups, he is working to remove the state Food Tax and provide emergency housing for families without shelter

Jan. 22nd: Wasatch Gardens, "The mission of Wasatch Community Gardens is to empower people to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. We envision a community where everyone values and has access to growing and eating healthy + delicious food."

January 29th: Reproductive Right with Annabel Steinberg, Vice President of External Affairs, Planned Parenthood Utah (PPAU). Their vision is "a world where sexual and reproductive rights are basic human rights, where access to health care doesn't depend on who you are and where you live, and where every person has the opportunity to choose their own path to a healthy and meaningful life."

Feb 5th: Terri Gilfillin, Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Center. The Mission of the GVPC is to prevent the tragedy of gun violence through education and reasonable regulation of firearms.

Feb 12th: Dr. Bonnie K. Baxter, Professor of Biology and Director of Great Salt Lake Institute at Westminster College. The GSL Institute focuses on collaborative research and community connections. Dr. Baxter's research focuses on the lake's extreme microbiology, especially the foundation of the ecosystem-the algae and cyanobacteria that feed the brine shrimp and flies. She has authored more than a hundred publications, including co-authoring the first academic book on the Great Salt Lake's biology and the first children's book about the lake.

The Great Shrinking Salt Lake

Utah State University is conducting a public survey of Utah residents about the future of the Great Salt Lake. The GSL is at a historic low level and salinity is at a dangerously high level, a tipping point. The survey seeks to identify options to benefit the GSL that Utahns are willing to support. Please take the time to complete the survey, using the QR code. Results will be shared in the 2023 Legislative session. It is informative and a way your voice can be heard. Let's speak up and save the GSL.



Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help teach and aid children during Sunday School for the preschool and elementary classes. All materials will be provided. Prayerfully consider your availability, even on an occasional basis, to help with the youngest in our church family. You can sign up in the Narthex before or after service or - contact the Alicias for more information.

children@christumcutah.org or 801-486-5476 ext. 113.



Safe Sanctuary Training Help Day

We will be having a help session for our teachers who need to get Safe Sanctuaries certified on January 22nd after church. If you need help with any part of the training, we will be available to answer questions and assist where we can. We will have computers, but if you are able to bring your own it would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you will be attending so we know how many to plan for.

Acolyte Openings

Your older elementary child in grades 3rd through 6th can serve as Acolyte. This is a great opportunity for your kids to participate in the Worship Services and the training is quick. If you have any questions or to sign up, please contact Kathy Konishi at Kkonishi25@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events (more info to come)

Feb 12: Valentine's Day Family Event

Feb 26: Bible Bucks Store

Apr 8: Easter Eggstravaganza

July 25-28: Vacation Bible School

Explorer Preschool



Explorer Preschool is excited to announce they are expanding their enrollment options. Starting in the Fall of 2023, parents can choose from 2, 3, or 5 half-day options. Enrollment opens at the end of January on our website.

www.christumcutah.org/explorerenrollment.html

Spots fill up on a first come first serve basis.

The preschool will be hiring more teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. If you are interested in joining our fun team, please reach out to Cornel at explorpreschool@christumcutah.org.

Let's grow our amazing, inclusive, exciting community!

Adult Small Group Opportunities

Wednesday Morning Study, 10:00am, Parlor.

For information contact Evelyn Kasworm at 801-942-1383(h) or 801-712-0236(c).

Men's Breakfast Group, Thursdays, 8:00am

This group is open to all men.

For more information talk to Dale McCormick or Larry McGill.

The Witty Knitters meet from 1:30 - 3:00pm on the second Monday of every month in the Parlor. The next meeting is January 9th. We enjoy fellowship while working on our projects for the CUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry. **Newcomers are welcome!!!**

Questions may be directed to Pat Linnebur at 385-237-9476.

Deborah Circle meets the third Thursday of every month at 10:00am in the Parlor.

The next meeting is January 19th.

Questions may be directed to Bev Mittelstadt at bevjm4287@yahoo.com.

United Women in Faith Book Club meets Monday, January 23rd, 1:00pm in the Parlor. The book for January is All We Can Save by Ayana Johnson & Katherine Wilkinson (Leadership Development) For more information please contact Bev Mittelstadt at bevjm4287@yahoo.com or 801-272-7137 or 801-755-4115.

Church Women United Annual Meeting

A multi faith gathering of Christian Women



When: **Friday, January 27, 2023 (Last Friday)**

Time: Afternoon – 12:30 p.m. Registration (\$1)

Where: **Cottonwood Presbyterian Church**

1580 East Vine (6100 South) (SLC)

Keynote Speakers: **Mina Koplin & Kevin Rushforth**
Milestone Transitional Living Program

Election and Installation of CWU Officers

Tea / Social / Fellowship

Community Outreach: **Milestone Transitional Living Program** – Please bring NEW items only: Towels (Bath & Hand), Washcloths, Twin Size Sheet Sets, Twin Size Comforters/Blankets, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Basket.

Cash Donations: Checks Payable to "Church Women United,"
designated for Milestone Transitional Living Program

Free-will Offering: Stays with Local SLC / Bountiful CWU Unit: Checks need to be made payable to **"Church Women United"**



Music at Christ UMC

apPRAISEation, adult bell choir:

Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm

Chancel Choir, vocal choir, middle school through adults:

Sundays 8:30-9:45am &

7:00 pm one Wednesday a month through March

Chimes/Asburys, chime and bell choir for 5th-8th graders:

Sundays 11:30am-12:30pm

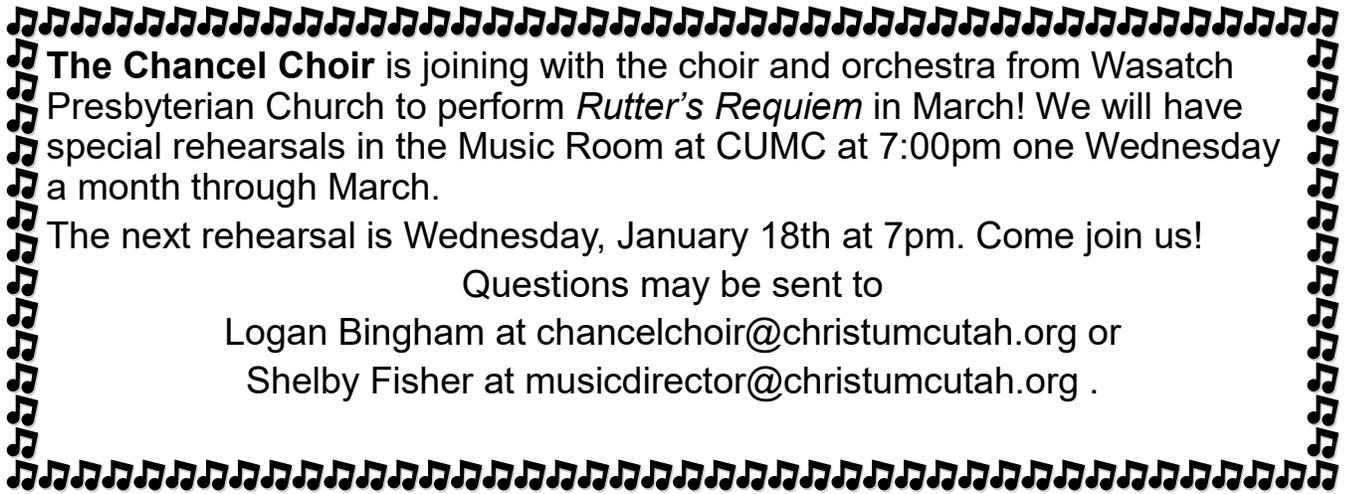
Sloe Jam, bluegrass group: (see below)

Mondays, 7:00-9:30pm

The Wesley Bell Ringers, high school through first year of college:

Sundays 5:00-7:30pm, Tuesdays 7:30-9:00pm

New members are welcome in all of our musical groups!


The Chancel Choir is joining with the choir and orchestra from Wasatch Presbyterian Church to perform *Rutter's Requiem* in March! We will have special rehearsals in the Music Room at CUMC at 7:00pm one Wednesday a month through March.
 The next rehearsal is Wednesday, January 18th at 7pm. Come join us!
 Questions may be sent to
 Logan Bingham at chancelchoir@christumcutah.org or
 Shelby Fisher at musicdirector@christumcutah.org .

Sloe Jam, Bluegrass Group

This group meets every Monday evening at 7:00pm, usually in the Music room, and performs in worship several times a year.

Drop-ins of any age for the Monday night jam are welcome!

Beginners through professionals are encouraged!

Contact Fred Balch, Jon Jolley or
Shelby Fisher with questions.

musicdirector@christumcutah.org





Ukraine Assistance

Christ UMC set up a fund to help provide food, clothing, and other items as needed for the families staying with us. Go to christumcutah.org/Ukraine to donate or to connect with the coordinators to find out how you can help.

VOA YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER FALL/ WINTER WISH LIST

Homeless & At-Risk Youth (ages 15 - 22)

More information can be found on their website
www.voaut.org/utah.



MUCH NEEDED ITEMS

- *Sweat Pants/Joggers for both male and female teens; adult sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL
- *Hoodies for both male and female teens; adult sizes L, XL, XXL XXXL
- *T-Shirts for both male and female teens; adult sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL
- *Leggings for teen girls; adult sizes 8 – 16. Must be NEW.
- *Socks, for both male and female; adult sizes, light – medium weight. Must be NEW.
- *Men’s Boxer Briefs (the kind teens wear); sizes 32 – 38. Must be NEW.
- *Hair Brushes and combs
- *Deodorant (any size)
- *Body wash (any size)
- *Toothbrushes, (Must be individually packaged)
- *Small toothpaste
- *Hair ties and scrunchies (Must be NEW)
- *Small sketchpads
- *Small journals
- *Sleeping Bags; new or gently used
- *Twin size throws and blankets

Diapers and Formula Donations

Through the month of January the Missions Committee is collecting diapers and baby formula. These can be placed in the Narthex, room just outside the Sanctuary, on Sundays.

Warm Clothing Drive

New or gently used coats, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves are needed, along with new long underwear and socks. Look for the snowmen marking the collection point by the west door.



Donation requests

For our food pantries:

- Cereal •Healthy Snacks
- Macaroni & Cheese •Ramen
- Canned Soup • Diapers (size 4, 5 & 6)
- Canned meals (chili, ravioli, beef stew)

For our thrift store:

- Blankets •Towels •Sleeping Bags
- Socks •Men & Women’s Underwear



Learn more: www.crossroadsurbancenter.org

Palmer Court Service Project: The next delivery will be February 10th. All donations, especially food and treats, are greatly needed. Donations may be placed in first bin by the kitchen door at church, or Contact Patsy Simons to arrange for donation drop off.

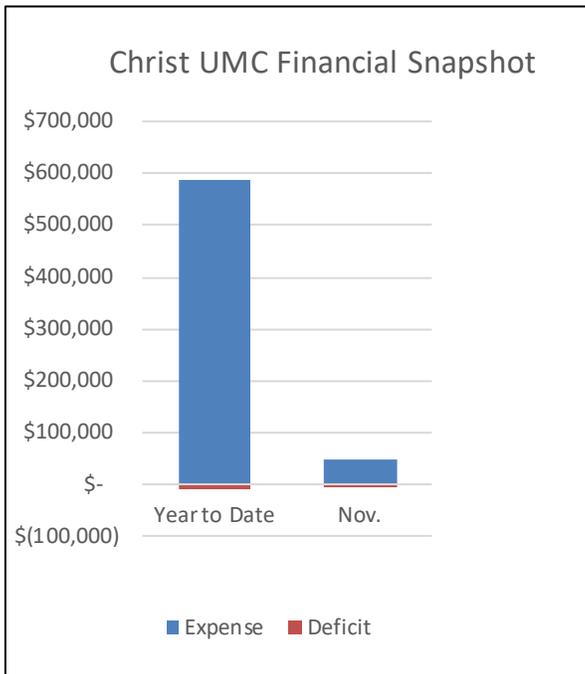
**Christ United
Methodist Church**

2375 East 3300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah
84109

801-486-5473
www.christumcutah.org



Christ UMC Financial Picture through November 2022



In Graph Information:

YTD Expenses	\$ 586,300
YTD Pledges & Other Receipts	\$ 576,100
Nov. Expenses	\$ 47,300
Nov. Pledges & Other Receipts	\$ 42,200
Nov. (Deficit)/Surplus	\$ (5,100)

Other Information:

YTD Actual (Deficit)/Surplus	\$ (10,100)
YTD Budgeted (Deficit)/Surplus	\$ (29,600)
YTD Investment Loss	\$ (28,200)
YTD Budgeted Investment Income	\$ 4,600