

RUSTY'S REFLECTIONS



At the January Church Council Zoom meeting, Jackie Hibbard, our Chairperson, asked us to review 2020 and see what we thought were the high points along the way. I'll just list a few for you to reflect on:

- ◆ Learned how to use Audio/Visual tools like Zoom and increase our presence on the internet through CUMC's YouTube page
- ◆ Hosted Family Promise families through the year and others in difficult situations
- ◆ Continued supporting Crossroads Urban Center and Thrift Shop
- ◆ Largest Enchanted Tree giving ever (allowing us to support a variety of out-reach programs)
- ◆ Came out financially in the black (a few thousand dollars) in our Operating Budget and Building Mortgage Fund
- ◆ Retain staff the entire year at full salaries
- ◆ Held Education Classes on Zoom
- ◆ Produced the first ever Vacation Bible School online (under the courageous leadership of Kelly Carpenter and her volunteers)
- ◆ UMW held successful virtual Christmas Tea Gathering/Wreath Sale
- ◆ Earthkeepers (Jay Vestal and Terry Haven) were successful in helping Calvary Baptist Church & Members with retrofitting energy saving lighting
- ◆ The Wesley Bell Ringers were able to hold virtual Christmas Concert
- ◆ Tons of Firewood taken to the Navajo Reservation (under the leadership of John Lay)
- ◆ Made it through the year!!

In the meeting we started plans for the coming year. We talked about possibly holding in person church as more and more of our congregation gets their first and second doses of Covid Vaccine. While we don't have a date nailed down, we believe we can begin this in March. We talked about Family Night on Zoom (you can find more about that in Kelly's note on page 4).

When Jackie asked me what my vision for 2021 might be, I told her we need to Be The Church. It will look differently than it has before but I believe by using our creativity we can address the issues of this new year. I have great hope that the best is yet to come. I look forward to seeing you all in church in the next few months. Hallelujah and Amen!!

Rev. Rusty

February is a busy month! It is the month of Presidents' Day and Ground Hog Day. Ash Wednesday is also in February this year, February 17th. Valentines' Day is also in February. It is the "love month."



The Jets sang, "Love makes the world go around." Dionne Warwick sang, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." Nearly everyone is familiar with the love chapter in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13—the chapter that defines what love looks like in action.

To love someone and to receive love we must know ourselves and the one we love.

We must be willing to be vulnerable—open and approachable. We must be humble and honest about our frailties and our faults. We have to "be human." And, we must be willing to put our words and feelings into action. We must take the initiative to invest in our relationship with the one we love—to seize the day and do the little things that help to make our love genuine and real.

This indeed, is how God loves us! God became humble and vulnerable—approachable by becoming one of us—one with us. God takes the initiative. Yet, God is not arrogant or forceful. God comes to us, revealing God's divine love and presence to us. Yet, amazingly, God also waits for us to receive and respond to love.

Here are some thoughts on how can we respond and show God our love.

- Speaking and listening to God's voice through prayer.
- Paying attention to God's speaking to us in the Bible, in nature, in each other.
- Doing random acts of love and kindness for each other.
- Generously sharing our time, talents and treasures with our church and volunteer organizations that help to make a difference in our world.
- Getting involved with others in social action and politics.
- Being positive and sharing hope and good cheer in word and action.

"A bell's not a bell until you ring it. A song's not a song until you sing it. Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay. Love isn't love until you give it away."

—Oscar Hammerstein II

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

—1 John 4:7-8

Pastor Bruce Kolasch

Rev. Rusty will host a Zoom Lenten Study on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00pm. **The Bible for Normal People** will be six sessions using videos by Dr. Pete Enns. The study will begin February 21st, with the last class on March 28th.

A link will be sent out in the Sunday email from CUMC.

A recent post by a previous member of CUMC, Lindsay Beacco:

It's easy to let days fly by without taking notice to the world around you. Life is beautiful. Soak it in, think about it and be grateful.

This is the hardest and last post that will come from me. I'm about to embark on an adventure for eternity. Only my family and small group of friends have known about this for the past year. It was never my intention to keep anyone in the dark..I choose to battle in private. My family has been warriors for me through this!

Last February when the pandemic hit the whole world, my life changed for another horrible reason. After feeling my breast become more dense and waiting 2 months to get it checked out due to COVID, the verdict was in that I have Stage 4 breast cancer.

Answers to some questions

~invasive ductal cancer: hardest to find early

~Genetic testing came back negative: happy for my sis& niece

~Estrogen/Progesterone/ HER2 positive: harder to fight

~Did not get a mastectomy

~Did not receive radiation

~Received 7 weeks of chemotherapy/4 different kinds:none of it slowed it down

~Many IV therapies including light and hyperbaric chamber

After receiving my latest PET scan it has shown nothing has worked. I have fought hard and with only 1-2 weeks left I look forward to being in the arms of the Lord and my loved ones that have passed before me.

Each one of you on here has meant something to me and I will always value our friendship. So this isn't goodbye but see you soon on the other side with pure beauty



Deepest Condolences to Jean Thompson on the death of her son, Erik Thompson on December 31st.

Deepest Condolences to Elaine Erekson and family on the death of her husband, Klenner, on Tuesday, January 5th.

Deepest Condolences to Aura Robinson and family on the death from Covid of her nephew, Mike Gilson. Dave and Aura ask for prayers especially for his wife and 4 children, that they might find strength after this unexpected loss.

Deepest condolences to Derek and Mandy Loveday on the death of Mandy's mother, Margaret Mills, on Jan 23rd in South Africa.

Deepest Condolences to Pam, Jeff, Zach and Zoe Tiede on the death of Pam's father, Thomas Hobbs, on January 22, 2021. Cards may be sent to : Tiede Family, 5910 S. Whitewater Cir, SLC, UT 84121

Deepest Condolences to Rod and Judy Babbitt in the death of their son Keefer. Cards may be sent to 3668 South 900 East #501, Salt Lake City, UT 84106.

Children, Youth and Families

Children's Sunday School Zoom – Feb 7th

Our next Sunday School Zoom will be on Sunday, February 7th 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 3-week session we are learning about ***Friends*** that appear in the Bible. 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> .

9th Annual Chili Bowl "To Go Only" Sunday

Order your chili through the website, www.christumcutah.org, by February 4th. In addition to ordering, paying and donating, there will be an opportunity to bid on the 4 Silent Auction items. Chili options are chicken, beef, vegetarian, and special Chili Meal Kits of the award winning chilis of 2019 John Lay's and 2020 Jenn Regnier's. Chili pick up is February 7th 9am -noon. Delivery also available. Contact Patsy Simons 801-808-6641 or YouthDirector@christumcutah.org with any questions.

This event is the main fundraiser for Youth Summer Mission Trips. This summer the Youth will be working in Alamosa, CO.

Palmer Court Service Project in January

Youth families picked up pet food and rebagging supplies at Patsy's house and rebagged the pet food and treats at their own homes. Then dropped them off at Patsy's house. On January 22nd, Mike Hampton, Scott Carpenter, and Patsy delivered 44 Bags of dog food, 19 cans of dog food, 30 bags of dog treats, 40 bags of cat food, 40 cans of cat food, 15 bags of cat treats, 29 jugs of cat litter, 5 carriers, and 5 sets of stairs 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! We are still planning our next delivery for March 26th. Hopefully we will be able to rebag in person in March. All donations especially food and treats greatly needed. Donations can be placed in the first bin by the kitchen at church or contact Patsy Simons 801-808-6641 or YouthDirector@christumcutah.org to arrange for donation drop off.

The 30 Hour Famine was supposed to be February 26 & 27th. The Youth decided to postpone to a later date TBA.



Instead of our traditional Valentine Dinner Dance, the fundraiser will be 4 frosted sugar cookies (from Kneaders) and a single rose delivered by a (masked and socially-distanced) Wesley Bell Ringer for \$20. The order deadline is Monday, February 8th.

You can find more information and how to order on our website, <https://www.christumcutah.org> or call Christa at 801.414.1474

United Methodist Women

The current plan is to hold the annual summer picnic on Thursday, June 3rd, at an outdoor location. Watch for more information closer to the date.

United Methodist Women's Book Club is meeting via Zoom

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

Thank you to everyone who supported United Methodist Women by purchasing a wreath in 2020! This resulted in the ability to cover mission budget items for UMW and also promise \$500 to our Youth to help them with their next Mission Trip.

The Silver Tea, which happened by mail, netted a generous and gratifying \$955. Thank you to all who enjoyed a cup of tea, a quiet moment, and sent a donation to help children and youth.

Our wish to all in this new year, whether active UMW members or friends of UMW, is good health, safety, caring relationships with family and friends, and, above all, access as soon as possible to the COVID-19 vaccine!

Blessings, Sue Nissen

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.

If you have questions regarding your 2020 giving statement please contact Maxine Jones at bookkeeper@christumcutah.org or 801-486-5473 ext. 116.

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 or to Rev. Rusty at pastorrusty@christumcutah.org.

Building Use: If you would like to use the church please make your request to Jeanmarie at OfficeManager@christumcutah.org or Lita Ofa at 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-2trD4oStYMTbnn6YW6fYfPadjuDQ>
Meeting ID: 114-845-252 Password: millcreek1www.adultchildren.org.

**Christ United
Methodist Church**

2375 East 3300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah
84109

801-486-5473
www.christumcutah.org



CUMC HELPS

If you need assistance or would like to volunteer your services, go to the link on our website. Or you may call the church at 801-486-5473 and speak to Rev. Rusty (ext 115) or Pastor Bruce (ext 114) and they can arrange help.

The link is christumcutah.org/cumchelps.