

The Connection, February 2023

Lisa's Lines

Happy February! The month that brings us two separate secular days which seem to have nothing to do with faith – and yet – EVERYTHING is part of our life of faith. February also brings the beginning of the season of Lent - the six weeks before Easter.

Previous years have seen the Superbowl on the first Sunday in February, but in recent years it has moved to the second Sunday. This year it falls on February 12th, which is also the Sunday before Valentine's Day. Originally a feast day for the Orthodox Christian church celebrating a martyr, St. Valentine, who taught Christianity to those persecuted under the Roman Empire.

The word, "love" has many different meanings. We say things like, "I love tacos", but we know it to be a different love, than when we say, "I love you" to another person. Love is so varied and beautiful and we can love more than one person, one thing, one type of food, movie, or even football team, or sport.

Secularly, we celebrate Valentine's Day as a holiday promoting romantic love. However, in the Church, we celebrate this day remembering the unparalleled love of Christ. If we look at the roots of the day, we are reminded that the love Christ has for us is better than any 'love' of another human, or our 'love' of a football team.

On Sunday, February 12th we will celebrate, "I Heart Football Sunday!" because it is fun to root for teams and have friendly competitions. We will also celebrate the great love of Christ for each of us, giving us love to spread to others, that they might know the love of Jesus. I hope you will join in our all church morning of fun! As we pray for the safety of gathered teams and sports fans alike, we also pray that Christ's love for us would be so overwhelming and all encompassing that we will not be able to hold it in, but instead, share it with others.

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday - the day we remember we come from dust and will one day return - the beginning of Lent. This time is set aside for us to reflect on the sacrificial love of Christ and how we may emulate it in the world. I hope to see you at church at one of our times for ashes. (See page 6 for times.) "Get your ash in church!"

Friends, I love you! You make me smile and you remind me of the love of Christ! Thank you for loving each other well.

"We love, because he first loved us" – 1 John 4:18

See you in Worship,
Pastor Lisa

801-486-5473 x 115 office, 385-202-3669 cell, revlisap@christumcutah.org

I ❤️ FOOTBALL SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Football, Love & Jesus! ❤️
What more do you need?

10 am Worship
11:30 am - 1 pm Valentine Chili Bowl in the gym

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME
Suggested donation: \$10/person or \$30/family

Games, crafts, chili and more! Use the QR code to sign up to bring chili, food, or help out.




LENT: 40 DAYS TO REFLECT, PRAY, AND BLESS OUR IMPERFECT LIVES

Join us for a Lenten Journey - 40 Days (excluding Sundays)
Ash Wednesday, February 22 to Easter, April 9
40 days that mirror 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. The practice began during the 4th century as a way to prepare Christians for the holiest days of the year. During Lent, we ask God to show us the world as it is. We begin with the reality of our finitude rubbed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday— from dust we were made, to dust we shall return.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

by Terry Waite

Christ United Methodist Church has so much going on! There are committees doing amazing work that needs to be given more attention. There are so many people who have quietly done important volunteer work for years whose stories should be told. There are opportunities to participate and serve that long time members take for granted, but which need explaining to new members of our church family. As your Lay Leader for 2023, I'd like to use this space to tell those stories. The more you know, the more likely you are to find your place to serve, participate and grow. If you have suggestions for what you'd like to see talked about please let me know.

The Social Justice Committee has been hosting a series of Adult Sunday School Classes focused on the United Methodist Church's Social Principals. The classes parallel the sermon series Pastor Lisa is currently preaching. Because each week is a separate topic, you can jump in any time. Upcoming topics include reproductive rights, gun violence and the Great Salt Lake ecosystem.

I asked those attending the classes what they would say to encourage others to attend and received a lot of good responses. Here are a few:

"The first week, Rep. Owens made me feel as though my voice does matter and that there is a capacity for compromise in our state government."

"Very informative series. Addresses issues that affect everyone."

"Church is about taking care of others. This class instructs us on how to do that. There are numerous ways to help those less fortunate and this class tells us how."

"You get important and informative information about what is happening in the community from those who work with agencies that are serving those in need or working on specific issues."

"Every Sunday, Pastor Lisa implores us to "go and change the world". This class is giving me a lot of new ideas about how I can do that."

Family Promise is a ministry for which we often seek volunteers. If you are new to CUMC (maybe even if you are not) you may wonder what exactly Family Promise is all about.

Family Promise is a network of faith organizations that provide resources for families facing homelessness, with the goal of the families achieving long term stability. For 90 days, as many as four families at a time live in one of two area churches – Christ United Methodist and Hilltop United Methodist. Since not all families enter the program at the same time most will have lived in both churches before they leave the program. Members of twelve area churches rotate responsibility for providing meals and hosts for evening and weekends. Family Promise now has an individual who is a full time overnight host.

During their stay in the program the parent(s)/guardian(s) must be employed or seeking employment and are required to meet weekly with a case manager. The children must be attending school or day care programs made available through Family Promise. A van and driver are available to provide needed transportation. Family Promise also now owns five apartments. Selected families are able to live in those units for a finite period of time after leaving the program allowing them extra time to transition to a stable, long term living arrangement.

Making an Impact

40%
of those experiencing homelessness in Utah are families

800+
families served by Family Promise Salt Lake since 1995

90%
of families still housed 2 years after finishing Family Promise program

2700+
volunteers donate thousands of hours every year

Family Promise of Salt Lake City is still finding out what it looks like post-COVID. Not all churches came out of the pandemic with the same capacity for helping that they had pre-COVID. For now, our congregation will be asked to provide meals and hosts one or two weeks at a time, five or six times each year. Next month we'll go into greater detail about what is required of those who volunteer, and some history of CUMC's more than 25 years of involvement in the program. Our next opportunity to provide meals and hosts will be in March.



I once served in a small town community where one of the local congregations served pork sausage patties and pancakes every February 2nd for Groundhog Day. Ground hog! Get it? It was a big event for that small town where all the neighbors, family and friends could gather, and have a good meal. A common topic was did the groundhog see its shadow? We would then talk about when winter would be over. It was a great fundraiser for the hosting congregation. Will the groundhog see its shadow this year?

We are in a season we could call an “old fashioned winter.” We are getting record levels of snow. The ski resorts and skiers are loving it. Yet, sometimes we want a reprieve and a bit of “old fashioned sunshine.”

Times of hardship and trial sometime seem to never end. Sometimes we survive and enjoy a reprieve. Sometimes we succumb because sometimes the darkness is overwhelming.

The writer of Psalm 27 (presumably King David) knew a little bit about hard times. Yet that writer also knew a little bit about hope in despair and trials, and light in darkness. This Psalm is one of my favorites. Verse one is a classic.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”

Fear. We become afraid when we deal with the unknown. We become afraid when we deal with the known realities that we are powerless to change. Unrelenting and devastating realities.

In contrast to fear, God is mentioned as the source of light, and salvation and our stronghold. The writer of this psalm knew hardships and danger, but also experienced God’s hope and help and presence in the midst of that danger.

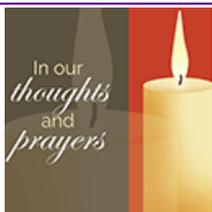
It is still winter, but we are in the season of growing light. The days are growing longer. Spring is on the way, regardless of whether the groundhog sees its shadow or not. Read through Psalm 27. Pause. Contemplate. Pray. Read it again. Pray again.

No matter what 2023 holds in store for us, God’s promises remain true. God does not always protect us from danger, but promises to be with us in the midst of pain, hardships, loss and danger. Trust that Presence. Remember, “The only emotion stronger than fear is hope.” That quote continues to echo in my heart and soul.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”

Pastor Bruce Kolasch
Pastor of Congregational Care
406-891-0434, pastorburce@christumcutah.org



Deepest Condolences to Linda Kreeck and Deborah Kreeck Mendez on the death of husband and father, J.C. Kreeck, December 27th. Condolences may be sent to: Linda Kreeck, 4526 S. Ranchfield Road, Salt Lake City, UT 84117 and Deborah Kreeck Mendez, 2172 Millstream Lane, Salt Lake City, UT 84109-2911. **A Celebration of Life will be held for J.C. Kreeck at Christ UMC February 11th at Noon, followed by a reception in the Gym.**

Deepest Condolences Kay Grimme and family on the death of her husband, Rod Grimme, January 20, 2023. The family will gather to celebrate his life this summer. Cards may be sent to Kay at 1450 Sandpiper Drive #150, Holladay, UT 84117.

Deepest Condolences to Heather Sterner and family on the death of her husband, Kyle on January 6th.

Deepest Condolences to Bruce and Darlene Pulver and family on the death of Bruce's 96-year-old dad, Stirley, Monday, December 26th.

Social Justice News

The Adult Sunday School is hosting the Social Justice Committee, through February 12th with a speaker series 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

January 29th: 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.

Adult Small Group Opportunities

Wednesday Morning Study, 10:00am, Parlor. The Wednesday study group will begin their new study on February 8th. The book is *"What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything"* by Rob Bell

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 February 13th. 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 February 16th. Questions may be directed to Bev Mittelstadt at bevm4287@yahoo.com.

United Women in Faith Book Club meets Monday, February 27th at 1:00pm in the Parlor. The book for February is *The Elephant Whisperer* by Laurence Anthony. For more information please contact Bev Mittelstadt at bevm4287@yahoo.com or 801-272-7137 or 801-755-4115.

Church Women United Annual Meeting, A multi faith gathering of Christian Women: Friday, January 27th, 12:30pm at Cottonwood Presbyterian Church, 1580 East Vine (6100 South). The program will be **Milestone Transitional Living Program, presented by Mina Koplin & Kevin Rushforth**. There will also be the Election and Installation of CWU Officers and Tea / Social / Fellowship.



I ♥ Football Sunday

February 12th is I ♥ Football Sunday from 11:30am—1:00pm. Come as a family, eat chili, and enjoy fun football and Valentine's Day themed activities. We will have games, crafts, and face painting. We are hoping to have enough chili prepared, but if you would like to bring a pot to share it would be welcomed.

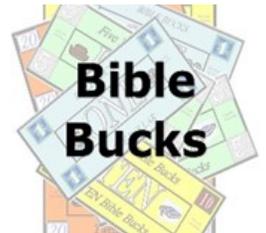


Sunday School Teachers Needed!

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 Alicas for more information. children@christumcutah.org

Bible Bucks Store

February 26th our Bible Bucks Store will be open from 9:30—10:00am and 11:00—11:30am in room 208. Please stop by with your child so they have a chance to shop. Lots of fun items and mission opportunities from Heifer Project will be available. Donations of new toys, games, or other children's items for the store are accepted. Please bring them to the church office any time before February 19th. Children can earn Bible Bucks by attending Sunday School, bringing their Bible, memorizing Bible verses, and good behavior.



Upcoming Events—Save the Dates!

Mar. 3rd – Sunday School Singers Perform

Apr. 8th – Easter Eggstravaganza

Apr. 23rd – Sunday School Singers Perform

HELP WANTED!

We are looking for someone to help lead the Sunday School Singers. They spend 5-10 minutes of their classroom time singing and learning new songs, with the opportunity to perform in service at least once a month.

Music will be provided each week.

You only need to spend 10 minutes of your time away from service on Sundays and be willing to lead them in song on days that they perform.

You don't have to be musical, but enthusiastic to teach!



Please contact the Alicas' for more information or if you would like to help!!

SCAN ME

FALL 2023
OPEN
ENROLLMENT
JANUARY 27, 2023
2, 3 AND 5 DAY
OPTIONS

EXPLORER
PRESCHOOL
learn play grow



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

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

Sundays 11:30am-12:30pm

Sloe Jam, bluegrass group: Mondays, 7:00-9:30pm

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

Beginners through professionals are encouraged!

**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!

Questions may be directed to Shelby Fisher at musicdirector@christumcutah.org.

Requiem by John Rutter

**BAGBY MEMORIAL
CONCERT
WASATCH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 12
4:00 PM
1626 SOUTH 1700 EAST
WPCSLC.ORG**

PRESENTED BY
CHANCEL CHOIRS OF
WASATCH PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
AND
CHRIST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

**GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE
CHRIST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
FRIDAY, APRIL 7
7:30 PM
2375 EAST 3300 SOUTH
CHRISTUMCUTAH.ORG**

**ASH
WED
NES
DAY** *Lent Begins*

February 22, 2023

7:30-8:30 a.m. - Drive Thru Ashes
@ Church in the West Parking lot - free coffee!

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Drive Thru Ashes
@ Church in the West Parking lot

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship
@ Church in the Sanctuary



PALMER COURT
 DOG AND CAT FOOD & TREATS DONATIONS NEEDED
 RE- BAG FEBRUARY 3RD - 9TH
DELIVERY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

CONTACT PATSY SIMONS
 FOR MORE INFORMATION



**VOA YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER FALL/
 WINTER WISH LIST**

Homeless & At-Risk Youth (ages 15 - 22)
 More information can be found on their web-
 site www.voaut.org/utah.

The current list of MUCH NEEDED ITEMS
 can be found on the home page of our web-
 site, www.christumcutah.org and by the col-
 lection bin between the door to the church
 kitchen and the gym.

Warm Clothing Drive

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



**Christ UMC Financial Picture
 through December 2022**

YTD Prelim. Expenses	\$ 662,800
YTD Prelim. Pledges & Other Receipts	\$ 659,500
Dec. Prelim. Expenses	\$ 76,600
Dec. Prelim. Pledges & Other Receipts	\$ 83,400
Dec. Prelim. (Deficit)/Surplus	\$ 6,800
Other Information:	
YTD Prelim. Actual Deficit/Surplus	\$ (3,300)
YTD Budgeted (Deficit)/Surplus	\$ (32,300)
Q1 2021 Employee Retention Credit	\$ 20,000
YTD Prelim. Investment Loss	\$ (41,900)
YTD Budgeted Investment In- come	\$ 5,000



January 13th, 2023

Christ United Methodist Church
 2375 East 3300 South
 Salt Lake City, UT 84109-2796

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for donating to Crossroads Urban Center!
 Gifts such as yours make it possible to help thousands of Utahns
 in need each year.

We received your tax-deductible donation of \$890.36 in
 support of Crossroads Urban Center on January 10th, 2023. No
 goods or services were given to you by Crossroads in exchange for
 this gift.

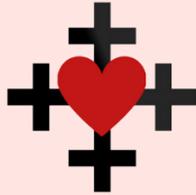
Crossroads operates two emergency food pantries and a
 free/low-cost thrift store. People in need can get help with food,
 clothing, baby formula, diapers, prescriptions, transportation,
 utility shut-offs, and more. We also speak out about the issues that
 make these services so essential in our community, such as the
 crisis in low-income housing and the need for more shelter beds
 for people experiencing homelessness.

Thanks again for being there for the people we serve.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bailey
 Executive Director

The Wesley Bell Ringers
VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE
Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction



Saturday, February 4th - 6pm

\$25 PER PERSON
ALUMNI \$22

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE
\$10 PER CHILD (MEAL INCLUDED)

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2375 EAST 3300 SOUTH · SALT LAKE CITY



Saturday, Feb 4th 6pm

RESERVE NOW!



For Your Convenience

SATURDAY 2/25
9:30AM - 12:00PM

DRIVE-UP & DROP-OFF
RUMMAGE DONATIONS



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2375 EAST 3300 SOUTH
(NORTH SIDE)