Rusty’s Reflections

How is it with you soul?

I just finished a Zoom meeting with Bishop Karen Oliveto and about thirty of my clergy colleagues who serve at larger churches in the Mountain Sky Conference. The Bishop asked us one by one to respond to John Wesley’s question, "How is it with your soul?" It was an eye opening exercise for me.

As you might imagine, the responses were across the board. A few people were invigorated by learning new technologies and doing worship and pastoral care in new ways. It was seen as a grand adventure. Some were angry that they didn’t get to worship with their church in the way they were accustomed. To the extroverts among the pastors, missing Sunday services was crushing as they found themselves staying at home, isolated from the people of their church and the ones they love. Some people found themselves at peace, knowing that faith would pull them through.

For others of us we realized the added number of emails, the learning and implementing of new technologies was exhausting. The changing dynamics of each new day, the news of being in lock down or quarantine, or social distancing in the various places in our conference made us restless and threw us off balance. Add that to the concern that all of us carried about how we would continue to take care of the financial responsibilities of the church and you can catch the drift of where many of us were.

As we shared the answer to the question, "How is it with your soul?" I began to think about all of you. How is it with your soul? Are you doing ok? Are you feeling untethered and riding some strange rollercoaster ride up and down? Are you worried for family members, uneasy about the future? What else is going on inside our souls right now? It’s good to stop and ponder that and share it with each other or with me. Just send me an email..I think it helps.

I share this prayer from Reinhold Niebuhr: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Rev. Rusty
1 Corinthians 15:20 (NRSV) “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.”

A number of years ago I was taking a small group of teenagers on a day hike up a small mountain in eastern Idaho. It was early spring time, still cold, but sunny and warm enough for a day hike.

“Are we there yet?” soon was a repeated question. “You will know when we get there” became the stock response.

We made it to the top, broke out our lunches and were enjoying the view and great conversation. Suddenly, one of the youth noticed a beautiful, delicate flower that had pushed through a crust of rock and hard soil. We gathered around it and admired it’s graceful beauty. It was surrounded by rock and barren soil.

It became an “ah ha” moment! How could such a fragile flower break through such a hard covering? It was close to Easter. This discovery became a great conversation about Jesus and the Easter story.

May the story of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection renew your hope again this year. Life is more powerful than death. Light stronger than darkness. Love greater than hate and fear. His resurrection is reason and hope for ours yet to come!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Pastor Bruce Kolasch
Pastor of congregational care

CUMC HELPS
If you need help during this time of isolation, or are available to help, go to christumucutah.org/cumchelps or call the office at 801-486-5473 ext 113 and leave a voicemail on Kelly's phone.
The Wesley Bell Ringer 2020 Tour

This year’s tour will be to the Pacific Northwest, BC and Alberta.

We are looking for contacts in the following cities/general areas:

- Bend, OR
- Bandon/North Bend/Coos Bay, OR
- Lake Oswego/Astoria/Portland, OR
- Tacoma, WA
- Vancouver, BC
- Kamloops, BC
- Calgary, AB
- Great Falls, MO
- Jackson Hole, WY

If you know anyone in these areas, please send their contact information (including church name and location) to Katie Lay at twbr@christumcutah.org and let them know that she’ll be reaching out to them. Thank you for your continued support of The Wesley Bell Ringers!

Please do not bring donations for The Wesley Bell Ringer Rummage Sale until after the church is re-opened for meetings. Anything left outside the building will have to be thrown away.

Please call the church office to make arrangements if you would like to drop off donations for Crossroads or Palmer Court Pets. Leave a message at 801-486-5473, ext 111 or ext 890 and someone will get back to you. Donations for the Youth Resource Center may be taken directly to the Center. See page 7 for the location.

Our top donation needs

For our food pantries: Juice boxes and snacks like granola bars that can easily be carried by our homeless clients
For our thrift store: Summer clothes and men’s shoes

Donate cash to Crossroads at https://donorbox.org/support-crossroads-urban-center

Donate cash to Family Promise at https://www.fpgives.org/organizations/family-promise-salt-lake

The United Methodist General Conference will be postponed until 2021. Holding the event in Minneapolis is a high priority and negotiations regarding other dates available at the Minneapolis Convention Center in 2021 are ongoing.

About General Conference

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.
Last Minute Changes via Text and App Notifications
Sign up for last minute changes through text or app notifications through GroupMe for Children’s Sunday School. Go to https://groupme.com/join_group/48147308/5BEsu5aL or contact Kelly Carpenter at children.and.family@christumcutah.org to sign up. Your personal information cannot be viewed by others.

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School
July 6 - 9, 2020  Registration begins MAY 15th!
We will delay the opening of VBS registration until Friday, May 15th. Currently, we are still planning on hosting VBS, but will be re-evaluating as we all navigate through COVID-19.
If you would like to volunteer, please let Kelly Carpenter know!
VBS will be held Monday - Thursday (July 6th - 8th) from 9 am to noon each day. Ages 3 years (child must have turned 3 by January 1, 2020 & be potty-trained, please) through 6th grade (Fall 2020) are welcome. The cost is $15/child and must be paid with their registration. Registration begins May 15th! Visit our website and register on-line at www.christumcutah.org/vbs or stop by the church office.

Send Colorful Cheer to Our Congregation
Help brighten the day of our fellow congregation members during our time away from each other. You can email a copy of your child’s artwork to Kelly at children.and.family@christumcutah.org for it to be printed and be shared with others in our congregation.

Attention Families of High School and College Graduates
CUMC will recognize our graduates on Sunday, May 17th during the 10:30 am worship service. Please email Kelly the following information by April 30th. For High School Graduates: High school, future/college/ career plans, early childhood picture, and senior picture. For College Graduates: College graduating from and degree, future plans, and current picture. Contact Kelly Carpenter at Children.and.Family@Christumcutah.org or 801-486-5473 ext. 113 for more information.

TENTATIVE YOUTH NEWS APRIL 2020!!!
(Check with Patsy to make sure events are happening.)
SATURDAY, APRIL 11th, 2:30pm - SANDWICH SERVICE PROJECT
We make LOTS of sandwiches, and then help serve the evening meal at St. Vincents down-town. This is a great HANDS-ON mission project! Need at least 10 volunteers youth or parents. Let Patsy know if you can come—and if your parent can drive.

Sunday, April 12th, Happy Easter! No Youth Group

Sunday, April 19th, 11:30am May Worship Service Planning
Let’s Talk Sunday April 26th Nutrition Field Trip
The Junior High Mission Trip, for those who will be completing grades 6-8, is planned for June. There is ONE spot open for the Senior High Mission Trip to Alamosa, CO, July 12-18. Contact Patsy if you are interested in either trip.

Patsy Simons youthdirector@christumcutah.org 801-808-6641
ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

All Classes are suspended until further notice.
When we can safely gather, these are your opportunities:

SUNDAY MORNINGS

LIFE AND TIMES – (Room 101- 9:00 a.m.) led by David Hoeppner
The Life and Times class generally watches a DVD produced by the Great Courses for about 30 minutes and engage in lively discussion. Their focus is Christian values and how they have evolved in recent history and are still evolving. You are welcome to join the class.

WESLEYAN CLASS - (Parlor – 9:00 a.m.) led by Jay Vestal
The Wesleyan Class will offer a six-week study of Levine’s book “Short Stories by Jesus”. Class participants are encouraged to purchase a copy of the Short Stories by Jesus Participant Guide (Abingdon press) through Cokesbury in advance of the class, which meets at 9 a.m. in the Parlor. All are welcome.

HOLY GROUNDS – Young Adults (Youth Room (Room 200) at 10:30 a.m.)
This gathering does a variety of book studies and/or group discussions tailored for people in their 20’s and 30’s. They also like to drink coffee and/or tea! In addition to meeting Sunday mornings the group plans other activities. Join us on Facebook at “CUMC Holy Grounds Coffee Hour” or contact us at HolyGrounds@christumcutah.org

United Methodist Women

All group meetings are suspended until further notice.
When we can safely gather, these are your opportunities:

DEBORAH CIRCLE: This group meets the third Thursday of each month
at 9:30am in the Parlor. Contact Bev Mittelstadt, 801-272-7137.

LYDIA CIRCLE: This group meets for Brunch! The second Saturday of each month.
Please RSVP to Lorraine Lakey, 801-277-5695

MARTHA CIRCLE: This group meets on the second Tuesday of each month,
at 3:00pm in the Parlor.
Contact Mary Ann Allison, 801-278-9223 or allison13@mindspring.com.

WITTY KNITTERS: Meet the second Monday of each month at 1:30pm in the Parlor.
For info, contact Pat Linnebur, LINNEBURPT@msn.com.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB: The CUMC book club is open to all women. They meet at 1:00pm on the 4th Monday of each month. Contact Bev Mittelstadt at 801-272-7137.
The April book is Goodnight from London by Jennifer Robson

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING is currently scheduled for May 7th, and will likely be an online meeting.

A POTLUCK PICNIC IS scheduled (with much hope) for June 4th. Details will be in the May and June newsletters.

The next planned Saturday Days for Girls Workday at CUMC is May 2nd
Volunteers make cloth drawstring bags. This is an assembly line construction method, with jobs for sewers and non-sewers. New volunteers are always welcome! For questions about this mission opportunity, contact Sue Nissen at soozeyq97@gmail.com
Deepest Condolences to Dianne Stewart & Larry Montgomery and their family on the death of Dianne’s mother, Daisye Stewart, Thursday, Feb. 20th in Oklahoma.

Deepest Condolences to the family and friends of Mary Alice Breitling who passed away Sunday, March 1st. Services were held Saturday, March 7th at Wasatch Lawn Mortuary.

Deepest Condolences to the friends of John and Mickey Wells. John passed away Monday, March 2nd. Condolences may be sent to Mickey Wells at 1010 Laurel Circle, Monteagle, TN 37356.

Deepest Condolences to the family and friends of Eleanor Anderson, who passed away Sunday, March 15th. Services will be scheduled as soon as we can safely meet together. Please watch your email for more information.

A sincere thank you to all of you at Christ United Methodist Church for all of the cards, messages, support and friendship during these past few weeks after the loss of my Mom in Oklahoma. I have not spoken to each of you individually but want you to know that your expressions of sympathy are very much appreciated. Knowing we were in your thoughts and prayers helped us during this time as we grieve our loss and celebrate her life. We are so blessed to be a part of such a great community of caring people.

Dianne Stewart & Larry Montgomery

Thank you for your support and prayers and donations for 30 Hour Famine. We had 11 youth participate; 8 from our congregation, and 3 from Hilltop Methodist Church. We raised around $3000.00. Absolutely Awesome!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Pet Food and Pet Supplies Service Project. Thanks to those who donated, re-bagged pet food, and/ or delivered pet food and supplies. This project is possible through your generous donations and time. It was greatly appreciated by the homeless residents of Palmer Court and their pets.

Our next date for the delivery of pet food and supplies is May 29th.

The Boy Scout Buffalo BBQ has been postponed until Fall.

Watch your newsletter and the church website for more information.
Families Anonymous meetings are suspended until further notice. Families Anonymous is a 12-step program for people who are dealing with a family member who has addiction issues. This group is a safe and confidential place to express your emotions, share your story, and discover the support you need to live your life in a healthy way. Everyone is warmly welcomed!

Contact: Bob Forsey at bob@forseys.com or 801-556-1174.

Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (ACA)
We have temporarily moved our meeting to online video, using Zoom. While the meeting room will be open starting at 6pm, the actual meeting will not start until 6:30 PM. Here is the link, meeting ID, and password (important: copy and paste the link as one single set of characters, no spaces) https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vJUpf2trD4oStYMtbn6YW6fYfPadjuDQ

Meeting ID: 114-845-252 Password: mill-creek1 www.adultchildren.org

Tuesdays at 6:30

This Meeting is a 12-Step Discussion Format and Open to All.

Our 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.)

2020 MARCH - 2020 JUNE WISH LIST
YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER FOR HOMELESS AND AT-RISK YOUTH AGES 15 - 22

**Please note: CLOTHING ITEMS ARE FOR TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS (ages 15 -22) ONLY. Pre-teen sizes cannot be used at the Youth Center. Clothing, etc. can be gently used, but no holes or stains please.
Teen male boxer briefs (must be new) sizes S, M, LG, XL (32 -38)
Teen female underwear (must be new) sizes 5/small - 9/large
Teen male jeans sizes 30 -38
Teen female jeans sizes 5 - 16
Gym/Basketball shorts S - XL
Belts
Teen male short sleeved t-shirts sizes M - XL
Teen male hoodies sizes M - XL
Teen female hoodies sizes S - XL
Teen male shoes/flip-flops, sizes 9 - 13
Teen female shoes/flip-flops, sizes 7 - 10
Beanies (hats) that a teenager would wear

Hotel sized soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion; chapstick
Hair brushes and hair ties
Kleenex packets (purse size)

Hand and Foot Warmers
Umbrellas
Tarps
Rain Ponchos
Blankets
Sleeping Bags

Towels
Flat sheets, twin size; new or used if in good condition

$5 & $10 gift cards to Smith's, Walmart, or Target for miscellaneous items and medication co-pays

VOLUNTEERS are needed!

Meals https://www.voaut.org/volunteer-opportunities/provide-a-meal.
Sorting Donations 801-363-9414

THANK YOU for your donations! You are making the world a better place, one youth at a time.

Until the church reopens, people with donations should take them directly to the Youth Resource Center, south door at 888 South 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT.
Monday - Friday between the hour of 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Families Anonymous meetings are suspended until further notice.

Families Anonymous is a 12-step program for people who are dealing with a family member who has addiction issues. This group is a safe and confidential place to express your emotions, share your story, and discover the support you need to live your life in a healthy way. Everyone is warmly welcomed!

Contact: Bob Forsey at bob@forseys.com or 801-556-1174.
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED is a multi faith gathering of Christian Women.

Their MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATION is currently scheduled for Friday, May 1st from 9:30am to 1:00pm at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 2500 East 3900 South. All women are invited.

The registration cost is $1. Lunch is $5. The theme will be “2020 Vision for the Future – Agree to Differ”. Please make your lunch reservation with Mary Ann Allison at 801-278-9223 by Monday, April 27.

In light of the current environment, we do not know how things will be some 5+ weeks from now. Thus, we are wanting you to get the next CWU Celebration on your calendar and its viability will be determined at a later date.