

Christ United Methodist Church
S a l t L a k e C i t y
Serving · Loving · Caring

*The
Connection
April 2021*

RUSTY'S REFLECTIONS

As I write this, it is the morning after the Boulder shooting. I'm struggling. By the time you receive this newsletter a day or two later, we could have had other mass shootings. Last year over 36,000 people were killed by firearms in the US. A hundred people a day. It just all seems so senseless to me.

The grief and the loss and the tragedy will be etched into the lives of all those people who were there or who are friends or family members of the victims for decades. I was working in Denver as a youth pastor when Columbine happened and felt like we preachers and youth ministers had all failed to address the issues that resulted in that shooting. Then the Aurora Theater shooting happened 13 years later, and every time something happens...like this, all those old feelings resurface.

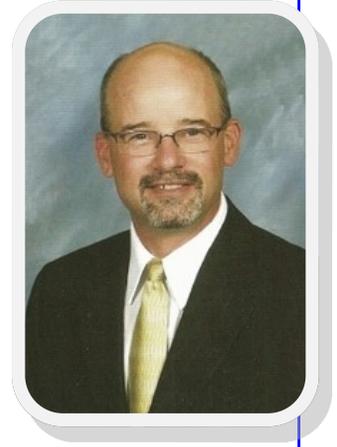
Despair, defeat, depression. It's too much. Really. I suspect it may be the same for some of you. I read some comments and responses on Facebook and Twitter about guns and religion...and it was the same arguments we've been having for years. To not be able to address and solve the problem is so difficult for those of us who like to see ourselves as problem solvers or who believe the people in power (congressional representatives and senators) can solve problems.

This is a problem that doesn't lend itself to being solved. As a country we've decided not to. It's more than frustrating, it's maddening. I hope and pray for a savior to rise from the streets..to show the way.

Before the shooting, I was so looking forward to seeing everyone (or at least as many as possible who've had their immunizations) at the Easter service. We'll still be so grateful for that day because it speaks not only about Jesus Resurrection but about our own. And certainly on a day like today, we need that vision of hope.

See you soon. Peace.

Rev. Rusty



We recently received a donation to the Covid Relief Fund which we set up last year. One of the congregation called me and asked if there was a place where the church could use some of their stimulus check. I told her that we'd spent all the Covid Relief Fund from last year (appx. \$11,000) to help families in the church, strangers who needed help, and the Navajo nation. She told me she would be happy to give some of that check to replenish the fund. If you can give any of your Stimulus Check to the church to replenish that fund, it would be appreciated.

It was early spring 1966. Memory informs me it was a week before Easter. I was in junior high and my family lived on the North Dakota prairie.

We had just endured an intense white out—you could not see two feet in front of you. The three-day blow had dropped volumes of snow along with bitter cold, and unrelenting wind. We hunkered down, only venturing out to check on our small herd of cows. Three days of playing board games, reading books and watching TV.

The fourth morning I woke up to an eerie silence. The wind had stopped. I hurriedly threw on several layers of clothing and tromped outside into a winter wonderland. Everything was white except for the amazing blue sky overhead. The sun was bright. The temperature was slowly warming.

I stepped off the porch, walking on top of the snow toward our east pasture, approximately a football's field length from our front door. The drifts were huge and hard, having been beaten and packed down by the cold and intense Dakota wind.

I walked over a fence buried under the drifts, my feet barely making an impression on the hard-as-concrete snow.

The effect of the dazzling white, the brilliant sun and the clear blue sky, the air sparkling with floating frozen droplets was incredible. I was soaking in the stillness and smiling "out loud." It was great to be alive!

And then I heard it. The melodic song of a Meadow Lark wafting over the frozen tundra. My spirit soared! Music to my ears. I stood still and listened as that harbinger of hope thrilled my soul and assured me—despite wintery appearances—spring is returning.

No matter how dark the night, no matter how bleak or long the winter, no matter how life can throw us curve balls and drain us dry...no matter what, never give in to despair. Never lose hope. God never lets us go. Easter reminds us of that very real hope and promise. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

"Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:5

Pastor Bruce Kolasch
Pastor of congregational care



The Wesley Bell Ringers Rummage News

Rummage donations will resume in April. There will be limited pick up opportunities. We would like to limit contact by picking up items from the garage or driveway as opposed to entering homes.

We are unable to accept the following items: Sleeper Sofas, Recliner Sofas, Extra Long Couches, Tube TVs or Computer Monitors, Entertainment Centers, Mattresses, Clothing, Shoes, Large Appliances, Large Exercise Equipment, Pianos.

In lieu of our Spring Rummage Sale we will be hosting drop-off days at church. You may drop off items directly to The Wesley Bell Ringers on the north side of the church on **Saturday April 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th between 9:00 - 12:00.**

For more information contact Tiffini Adams 801-647-5719. Thank you for thinking of The Wesley Bell Ringers for your donations!

We look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Rummage Sale!



Family Promise Coordinator Needed



Rev. Brian Diggs, former Associate Pastor at CUMC, is the new Executive Director of Family Promise - SLC. Brian recently asked pastors and coordinators of Family Promise from each participating church to join him in an upcoming virtual meeting to begin planning for the restart of welcoming families into the program.

CUMC does not currently have a coordinator. The Coordinator's job is to help organize volunteers through an electronic sign up. The volunteer jobs include: making evening meals, staying overnight with the families, and working with the children after supper. The coordinator will work with Brian and his staff to make sure the families are taken care of.

It is an important job! If you are interested in taking this on, and working with many of our members and Brian, please let Rusty know as soon as possible.

District Gathering: "Where Love Lives,"

All Pastors, Lay Leaders and interested lay people, are called to attend the District Gathering on Saturday, April 17, 9am to 12noon via Zoom.

The program will include leadership from our youth, a program about having conversations about divisive issues, and a message and communion from Bishop Oliveto. We will recognize Quiet Disciples, elect Equalization members, and the District Roundtable and Committees.

Youth especially are invited to this event. The event is free of charge. Online registration can be accessed at <https://mtnsky-reg.brtaapp.com/2021MSCDistrictGatherings>

All zoom gatherings begin at 9am. Each district will host their District Gathering on zoom.

Keynote speaker, Rev. Amanda Henderson, author of Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times, will offer teaching moments with breakout rooms. Henderson recently partnered with Iliff School of Theology to create the Institute for Religion, 2 Politics & Culture as a place for scholarship and research about the way legislative initiatives are shaped by religion.

Children, Youth and Families



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is April 4th. Wishing all of our families a wonderful day as we celebrate the joy of the Risen Christ!

Children's Sunday School Zoom – Apr 11th

Our next Sunday School Zoom will be on Sunday, April 11th at 10:40 am or immediately following the worship service. 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>.



VBS Registration Info

Registration for Rocky Railway VBS opens on Thursday, April 15th. VBS dates will be June 28th through July 1st. The exact format will be determined by early April. More information will be posted at <https://www.christumcutah.org/vbs> as it becomes available.

Virtual Sunday School

After Easter our next Sunday School series will be ***Mission Possible: The Life of Paul***. A video of the Bible Story reading along with a fun quick question session where children can earn Bible Bucks for participating can be found at <https://www.christumcutah.org/virtualsundayschool.html>.



Attention Families of High School and College Graduates

CUMC will recognize our graduates on Sunday, May 23rd during 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 via email or 801-486-5473 ext. 113 for more information.

Scouting at CUMC

Scouting is alive and well at CUMC! Although most of you have not seen or heard much from our three scout troops, we just wanted to let you know how things are going. The Cub Pack, 3410, the Girl Troop, 8410, and the Boy Troop, 410, are all actively involved in online scouting with the occasional social distancing activities. Ranks are being achieved and merit badges are being awarded. We are all growing in numbers, albeit slowly, and expect more rapid growth and activities as COVID begins to be better regulated. Thanks to the many devoted parents, scouts have been able to continue to enjoy scouting and look forward to Eagle Projects, fundraising, and campouts. We will have our first girl Eagle Scout this year as well as up to 8 boys reaching this rank as well! And yes, we may even be having a modified Buffalo BBQ with buffalo burgers and hot dogs in the early summer! Thank you all for the support as members of CUMC. We are extremely blessed to have such a wonderful organization sponsoring the scouting program. For more information please contact kptimm@gmail.com for Cubs and bustinrocks53@gmail.com for Scouts.

Youth News

Palmer Court Service Project Update for March

Youth families picked up pet food and re-bagging supplies at Patsy's house and re-bagged the pet food and treats at their own homes. Then dropped them off at Patsy's house. The pet food and beds, blankets, and carriers were delivered by adults on March 26th 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 May 21st. Youth families may rebag at their own homes again. All donations especially food and treats greatly needed. Contact Patsy Simons 801-808-6641 or YouthDirector@christumcutah.org to arrange for donation drop off. Look for full details in the May Connection.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10th, 2:30pm - SANDWICH SERVICE PROJECT

We make LOTS of sandwiches and then deliver them to St. Vincent's. We are unable to serve the food at this time but we can help in the kitchen prepping food. Need at least 10 volunteers youth or parents. Let Patsy know if you can come—and if your parent can drive to deliver sandwiches.

Please let Patsy know if you are interested in going on Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, CO July 11-17. This trip is for both Junior and Senior High Youth. Invite your friends. Plenty of spots are open!

United Methodist Women

The summer picnic is planned for Thursday, June 3rd, at an outdoor location. Watch for more info.

United Methodist Women's Book Club is meeting via Zoom at 1:00pm. The book for April 19th is The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery. For more information about the book club please contact Bev Mittelstadt at bevjm4287@yahoo.com or 801-272-7137 or 801-755-4115.

Discovery Place Preschool will be holding summer camp this year in June and July. Summer camp is a half-day, three day a week summer program for children ages 2-10. Contact Lori DeSmet at (801)483-2715 for more information.



Accepting donations for Women of the World, an organization in SLC that Improves the lives of refugee women. Please Venmo your donation by April 30 to @KellyMcConkie-Stewart
<https://youtu.be/QIMxoqXRpgw>



This choir has been rehearsing at CUMC, and played for us in worship on March 21st. Be sure to check out their Zoom concert!



2021 SPRING WISHLIST FOR THE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER
FOR HOMELESS & AT-RISK YOUTH IN THE SALT LAKE CITY AREA

Clothing Needs (new or gently used)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Men's Boxer Briefs (must be new) sizes S, M, LG, XL, XXL | Women's Underwear (must be new; teen styles) sizes 30 – 42 |
| Athletic Shorts (men; basketball style), sizes S, M, LG, XL, XXL | Women's Capris (teen styles) sizes 5 – 16 |
| Men's Jeans (teen styles) sizes 30 – 38
XL | Women's tops, long and short sleeves (teen styles) sizes S, M, L, |
| Men's belts sizes 30 – 40 | |
| Men's T-Shirts in assorted colors, sizes M, L, XL, XXL | Women's Leggings |
| Men's Closed Toe Walking Shoes sizes 9 – 13 | Women's Closed Toe Walking shoes sizes 7 – 10 |
| Men and Women Hoodies/Sweatshirts sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL | |
| Sweat Pants, male & female sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL | |

Hygiene Needs

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Large Wide-Tooth Combs | Hairbrushes | Lotion (travel size) | Chapstick |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|

Miscellaneous Needs

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Ready-to-go Meals with Pull Tops | Single Serving Snack Packs | Bottled Water | Water Bottles (new, reusable) |
| | Sleeping Bags | Tarps | |

Gift Card Needs

\$5 & \$10 gift cards to the following:

- Smith's (for miscellaneous items and prescription co-pays)
- Walmart (for miscellaneous items and prescription co-pays)
- Target (for miscellaneous items and prescription co-pays)

Homeless and at-risk youth are offered much-needed services at VOA's Youth Resource Center in Salt Lake City. At first, individuals may come to the YRC for a shower, to do laundry or get some food. But once trust is built, the Center is able to serve them in more meaningful ways, breaking down barriers that led to homelessness and allowing teens to transform their lives. Each year the YRC serves about 800 homeless/at-risk teens. They offer emergency shelter beds, 24/7 assistance, three meals a day and free legal services through their Homeless Youth Legal Clinic, programming dedicated to education assistance, job training, counseling, and other programs.

♥ **Thank you for your donations! They DO make a difference in someone's life.** ♥

Top donation requests for our food pantry this month:

- Size six diapers,
- Shaving razors,
- Water, juice & other healthy drinks, and
- Fresh fruit.

Thank you for caring!
www.crossroadsurbancenter.org



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.



Thank you for your terrific continued support of the Youth Resource Center during this past year of Covid 19 isolations! Your financial and in-kind donations given to help at-risk and homeless youth at the Center are needed and always greatly appreciated.



Current Wish Lists can be found on page 6 of this newsletter, the church website and on the bin in the hall by the kitchen. You can leave your donations in the Youth Resource Center bin and they will be delivered for you or you can take them directly to the Youth Resource Center at 888 So. 400 W. Check on-line or call the Youth Resource Center to schedule a time for your delivery if you choose to take donations directly to the Youth Resource Center. On-line donations can be made at www.voaut.org (please designate your donation "Youth Resource Center").

Movin' On

To all of my friends at CUMC.....

After 39 years of being a member at CUMC, I am leaving Salt Lake City. Melodee and I are moving to Sequim, WA in April. This does not come without a lot of thought, prayers, and soul searching. We had been thinking of moving to a new location once I retired, which happened at the first of the year. You might ask, "why Sequim, WA?" It's temperate, sunny and dry (compared to most of western Washington), at sea level, and "retirement-friendly" with no state income tax. My years at CUMC have been very important to me, and each and every one of you that I have had contact with will be remembered. If you would like more details about this decision, please reach-out to me, and I'm very willing to discuss the details. My best wishes go out to Christ United Methodist Church, and all of the members.

Philip Cardin
270 Choice Loop
Sequim, WA 98382
philipcardin@gmail.com

Deepest condolences to Jean Schwien on the death of her cousin, Terry Lofsvold, on March 9th.

If you are in the church building, be sure to walk down the Gallery Hallway between the Gym and the Chapel to see the beautiful artwork by Helen Nix.

**Christ United
Methodist Church**

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Spiritual Life Retreat: "Resilient Faith"

Scripture: Isaiah 43:19. — "Look! I am doing a new thing! Don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."

Friday April 9, 2021 - 6pm to 8pm

Saturday April 10, 2021 - 8:30 am to 3pm

Gathering and conversation starts Friday at 5:30 pm, retreat continues on Saturday.

Speakers: Pastor Jean Schwien - Cortez UMC
Pastor Norman Mark - Native Grace Intertribal Fellowship

Please register by April 1st. A registration form can be found on the home page of our website: www.christumcutah.org

There is no charge for this retreat.