

RUSTY'S REFLECTIONS

The movement back toward church.

In years past, Summer is usually a bit of a slower time for church and church attendance. But this year may be different considering our average attendance over the last few weeks (not including the Wesley Bell Ringer Sunday which is always our largest attendance) has been around 85 and rising. As more folks are vaccinated, including children, and feeling, hopefully, more comfortable in attending gatherings, I'm expecting to see our attendance surge, maybe even skyrocket toward the 100-125 numbers!

That is about half of what we were averaging prior to the pandemic. People have asked whether or not, or when, we are going to have two services or even three services, but for now, we'll keep with one service at 10:00 and continue broadcasting live, which will be our modus operandi going forward I'm sure.

Some of you have told me you have grown quite comfortable watching the services from the comfortable confines of home. I can understand that totally, however, I want you to know that people miss you and I miss you. There is something intangible about being together in the sacred space of church, whether it is in the sanctuary singing and praying, or in the Narthex conversing with friends and acquaintances, or sharing some coffee and donuts in the gym.

So if you've thought about returning to church but haven't gotten up the gump-tion, I invite you over the next few weeks to make plans to attend on Sunday mornings at 10:00. I think you'll be glad you did.

See you soon!



Rev. Rusty

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

I was able to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that was held on Friday, June 18th for the Gamar Refugee Resources Center located at 415 East 3900 South in Salt Lake City.



The Gamar Refugee Resources Center now houses these agencies: Their Story is Our Story, Lutheran Family Services, Women of the World, and Refugee Justice League. Individuals from each of these agencies and various levels of city, local and state government were there. I even met one of Senator Mike Lee's staff. We exchanged business cards as I told him, with a smile, that Mr. Lee and I disagree on just about everything. I believe my name will now be on Mr. Lee's email list. Maybe one day we can have a face-to-face conversation!

This event reminded me of the story of Jonah and the Whale in the Old Testament book of Jonah. Jonah refused to go and preach repentance to the capital city of Syria, Nineveh (modern day Iraq). Jonah fled by taking passage on a merchant ship that then encountered a violent storm. The sailors on the vessel were very distraught to discovery that Jonah was fleeing from *"the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."* (Jonah 1:9) Their response? *"What is this you have done!"* (v 10). They knew there is no escaping from a god that is not geographically defined. They tried hard to save Jonah, but ended up tossing him overboard as instructed. Immediately the sea ceased its raging. Verse 16 says *"the men feared the Lord even more and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows."*

The message of Jonah? God cares for all people. Period. No exceptions. God is available to all people. Period.

Today there are approximately 84 million refugees who have had to flee their homes. They need places of safety to call home. God cares for them and wants us to care and get involved too. All of us are strangers and foreigners, immigrants and refugees. We are all in the same boat!

Khosrow Semnani, the business man and founder of the Semnani Family Foundation, donated the center naming it in honor of his mother, Gamar. She was also in attendance. They immigrated as a family from Iran. He challenged all of us to do one act of kindness everyday. Speaking as a Muslim, he said that practice has changed his life.

Imagine if we all recognized that we are all in the "same boat" and worked toward being kind and welcoming to each other. Doing one act of kindness everyday could change our entire world.

Pastor Bruce Kolasch
Pastor of congregational care

Children and Families



ROCKY RAILWAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A HUGE Thank You to Kay Grimme (Bible story leader) and Kristin Hunter (science leader), and Shannon Meyer (Audio/Visual support) for helping to create this fun week for the kids!!!

Worship Service Info

Families are welcome to join us for service at 10:00 am and the following fellowship time. Children are recommended to wear their favorite **fun** mask if they haven't had their vaccine. Activity packets are available for kids during service.



Pinecliff Camps



Pinecliff Camps will be held this year. Elementary Camp (grades K-6) is July 19-23 and Jr/Sr High Camp (grades 6-12) is July 26-30. For more information go to <https://www.pinecliffcamputah.org/summer-camps.html>. Registration info can be found at <https://www.pinecliffcamputah.org/registration.html>. There will be links available on the Home page of our website, www.christumcutah.org, under the Announcements section.

Virtual Sunday School

Our July Sunday School series will be **Summer Vacation**. 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>.



Need a Bible?

If your family would like to follow along with the *Deep Blue Bibles for Kids* that we are using during this time and you do not have one, contact Kelly at chil-

Have you ever wanted to sing with the Chancel Choir? Join us for the summer! The choir will sing for the service on July 11 and August 8. Rehearsals will be held at 9:00 AM the day of. Contact Logan Bingham with questions (ChancelChoir@christumcutah.com).

We hope to see you!

July Youth News

Palmer Court Service Project Update for May

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. Mike Hampton, Scott and Nolan Carpenter, and Patsy delivered 40 Bags of dog food, 75 cans of dog food, 40 bags of dog treats, 32 bags of cat food, 43 cans of cat food, 15bags of cat treats, 30 jugs of cat litter, bird food and millet, scratching post, pet bowls, cat and dog toys, brushes, portable waterers, and pee pads 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 August 13th. Hopefully, we will be able to re-bag as a group at Patsy's house.

All donations, especially food and treats, are greatly needed. Contact Patsy Simons 801-808-6641 or YouthDirector@christumcutah.org to arrange for donation drop off.

Senior High Youth Mission Trip – July 11-17.

We have 4 youth and 2 adults from CUMC and 3 youth and Pastor Jean from Cortez, CO who will be working in Alamosa, CO through a service and adventure based program run by Youthworks.

Please keep the participants in your prayers.

From CUMC

Nolan
Barrett
Airica
Andi
Jeff
Patsy

From First UMC in Cortez, CO

Pastor Jean
Caleb
Sammy
Ty

United Methodist Women's Book Club

There will be no meeting in July. Meetings will be in person in the CUMC Parlor August through November. Watch for more details on a December Christmas Party.

For more information about the book club please contact Bev Mittelstadt at bevjm4287@yahoo.com or 801-272-7137 or 801-755-4115.

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.

We bid a fond farewell and happy retirement to Jeanmarie Shingleton, and welcome Tricia Morgan as our new Office Manager. The contact information as listed below will remain the same.

Please continue to send bulletin announcements and building use requests to Tricia, preferably by email. Bulletin announcements need to be to her by noon on Wednesdays!

officemanager@christumcutah.org) (801-486-5473 extension 111

Information for the monthly newsletter, the weekly email and the website should still be sent to Sharon Balch at communications@christumcutah.org.



A Celebration of Life will be held for Carmen Palmer on July 10th at CUMC at 1:00pm.

Dear CUMC

Thank you for all of the get well cards and prayers. It helped me get through the recovery after surgery.

From
Travis



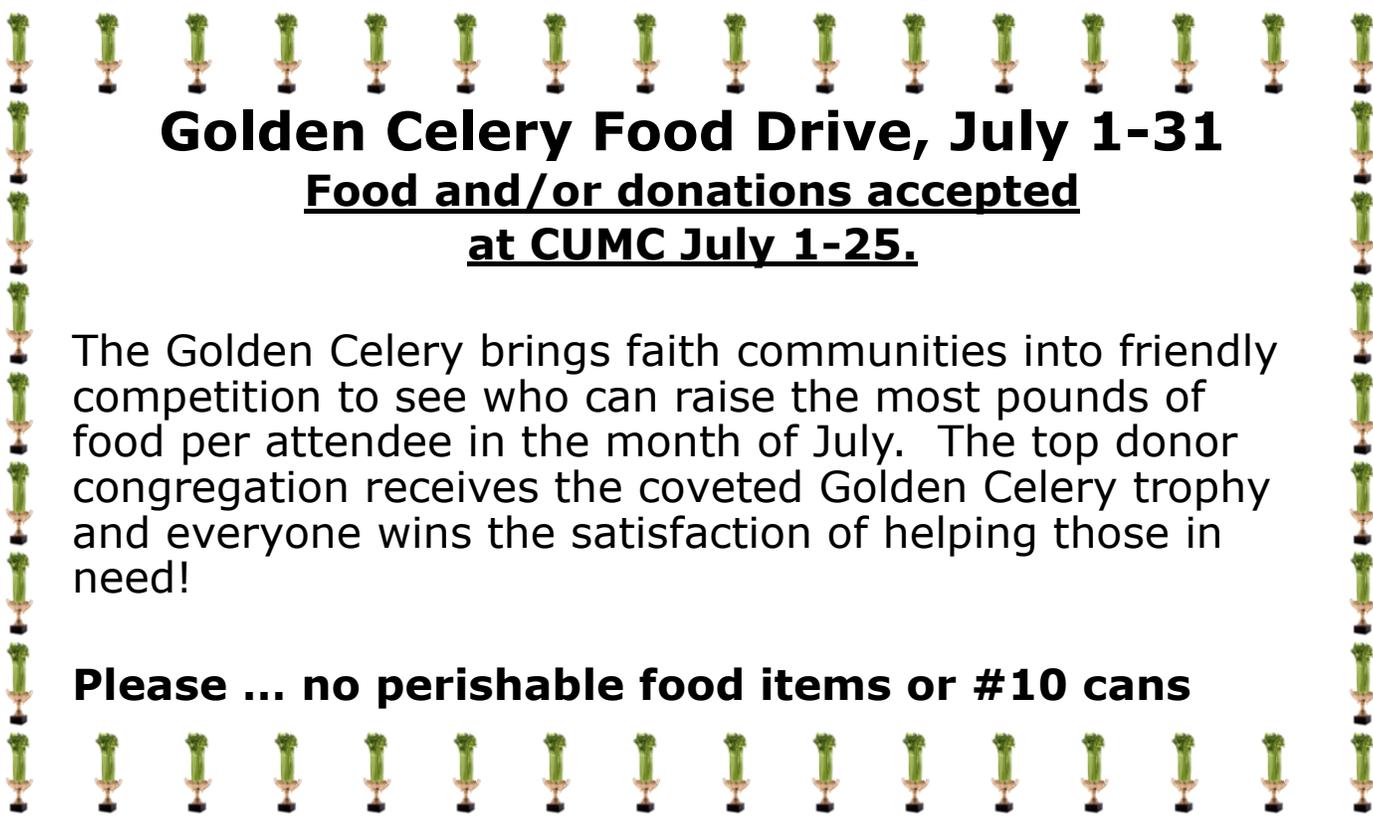
It's been great being a part of the family of Christ United Methodist Church for the past 22 years. When I started here Holy Week of 1999 I wondered what in the world I was getting myself into. But before I knew it, I found myself making friends and feeling like an adopted member of this loving and generous church community. You've lifted my family up through illness, prayed for my children as they served in war zones, and celebrated weddings and grandchildren's births. It has been a privilege and wonderful experience working with and supporting all the Senior Pastors (5), Associate Pastors (5) and other staff members over the years. Now it's time for me to step down, give someone else that experience and spend time enjoying life, grandchildren and my hobbies. Thank you so much for the opportunity of being a part of Christ UMC.

Love, Jeanmarie Shingleton



Top donation requests for our food pantry this month:

- ◆ Healthy Snacks – Granola, Dried Fruit, etc.
- ◆ Drinks – Small Bottles, Juice Boxes, Water, etc.
 - ◆ Crackers or Saltines
- ◆ Snacks That Are High in Fiber and/or Protein



Golden Celery Food Drive, July 1-31
Food and/or donations accepted
at CUMC July 1-25.

The Golden Celery brings faith communities into friendly competition to see who can raise the most pounds of food per attendee in the month of July. The top donor congregation receives the coveted Golden Celery trophy and everyone wins the satisfaction of helping those in need!

Please ... no perishable food items or #10 cans

You may leave your donations in the CUMC collection bins by the west door. Donations may also be dropped off at the downtown Food Pantry (347 S 400 East) without appointment, Monday - Friday 9am-5pm. If you take your donations to the Food Pantry, be sure to tell them you are from Christ United Methodist Church.

Thank you for your support!

**Christ United
Methodist Church**

2375 East 3300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah
84109

801-486-5473
www.christumcutah.org



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 | Women's tops, long and short sleeves (teen styles) sizes S to XL |
| 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 .Walmart and 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.