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Be a part of the worship service

Email Pastor Riva at
leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org for details.

Ambivalence and Change

Hopefully, we all have heard of the phrase ‘the only constant in life is change’. We hear this in many different aspects of life. We actually deal with this almost every day. For folks who are in not pleasant situation, change is needed. For folks who are in life-threatening situations, change is sought after. For folks who are living in comfort, it is dreaded. In all of these circumstances, we see how change can be accepted, but still is needed. But because we are creatures of habit, it is hard for us to jump into change right away. In a couple of months, it will be a year that we were forced to adapt to the change because of the pandemic. Change became very important because our safety dependent on it. As expected, the reaction of folks varied from being willing to jump into the change, to complete resistance and everything in between. Folks have readily accepted the situation that we are in, but unfortunately, there were those up to now refused to follow the changes that we need to do.

I personally love routines and habits. I thrive in both things, which is ironic because as a PK, it is almost difficult to get into the routine. I say this because there were times in my childhood where we only stayed in one church for 12 months and move on to the next appointment. But as I become an adult and started working, I found comfort in developing my own habits and routines. My transition is not complete until I have gotten into a habit and routine. I would feel better if the habits and routines are developed in the shortest amount of time and could be frustrating otherwise. Months in in the pandemic, I still cannot find the routine and habit that I can feel comfortable in. I feel like I am continuously in a state of ambivalence. It is hard to make plans, personal or otherwise, because things change quickly.

Change is part of our lives, whether we like it or not. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, proposed the Quadrilateral as a method for theological reflection. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral as this is simply called, is explained by the Book of Discipline this way:

1. *Scripture – We draw the truth from reading the Scripture. The Bible serves both as a source of our faith and as the basic criterion by which the truth and fidelity of any interpretation of faith is measured.*

(Pastor Riva—Continued on page 7)

Nancy's Niche

Reckoning with Righteousness

But one thing is certain:

If we merge mercy with might, and might
with right,

Then love becomes our legacy

And change our children's birthright.

--Amanda Gorman, "This Hill We
Climb" (Jan. 20, 2021)

Literally, to be antiracist is to fight for our
lives. It is to fight for the life of humanity.

--Ibram X. Kendi (Jan. 20, 2021)

We must end this uncivil war. Love your
enemy, Jesus said. He knew we might not
like them. Liking is an emotion. It's a
reaction. Love is a discipline. It is a
discipline and a decision to live beyond self,
to live for the good and the welfare of others
as well as the self. It is a decision to live by
an amazing grace that can make me more
than I am on my own.

--Bishop Michael Curry (Jan. 23, 2021)

Around the time of the Presidential
Inauguration, there have been many
reflections on the meaning of the political
transition. Social justice activists talk about
the priority of "representation," where the
people we see organizing and speaking and
deciding reflect the wide diversity of citizens
in our nation, not just one dominant race,
gender, age, ability, culture or religion. With
the Inauguration, we have seen this shift in
representation not only in the diversity of
newly elected leaders and political
appointments, but also in the video
celebrations involving poets, musicians,
educators, actors, dancers and "heroes" from
across the towns and cities of the USA.

While one of the words we might associate
with the last administration is
"unprecedented," one of the words we may be

(Nancy's Niche—Continued on page 8)

Mission:

*To bring people into Christian Community, in order
to grow in God's love, as demonstrated by Christ,
for the transformation of the world.*

Vision:

*We are a welcoming, diverse Christian Community,
reflective of our neighborhood, actively working to
serve our community through our demonstration of
God's love. We want to Reach others through
God's love, Grow in faith with God's love, and Send
people out with God's love.*

CUMC's Statement of Reconciliation:

Community United Methodist Church of
Columbia Heights believes that we are all
children of God, individuals of sacred
worth, created in God's image with our
many differences, and that God loves all
people. We recognize that God's love is
not limited by boundaries. Therefore, we
welcome and affirm people of all ages,
races, ethnicities, cultures, gender
identities, sexual orientations, socio-
economic statuses, physical capabilities, or
mental abilities.

We believe that prejudice, hatred, or
discrimination directed toward any
individual or group is contrary to the life,
spirit, and teaching of Jesus Christ. We
have vowed to accept the freedom and
power God gives us to resist evil, injustice,
and oppression. Therefore, we shall work to
eliminate prejudice and discriminatory
practices within ourselves and our
community, and to show God's grace.

We proclaim ourselves a Reconciling
Congregation and welcome all who seek a
relationship with God.

Adopted 11/3/2019

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Hello church family!! Below is a summary of the finances of Community UMC as of December 31, 2020:

INCOME AND EXPENSES

	TOTAL		\$ Over (Under) Budget
	Jan - Dec 20	Budget	
Total Income	189,707	157,464	32,243
Total Expense	204,390	234,422	(30,032)
Net Income (Loss)	(14,683)	(76,958)	62,275

As you can see from the table above, we **budgeted** to have income of \$157,464 and expenses of \$234,422 resulting in an income shortage of \$76,958 at the end of December, 2020.

Actual numbers show that we have had income of \$189,707 and expenses of \$204,390, resulting in an income shortage of \$14,683 to end 2020.

With everything that was going on in 2020, for our church to somehow bring in \$60,000 more than we were expecting to is simply incredible!!! Congratulations to all of us, and again THANK YOU to each and every member of our church for making this possible!!! This \$60,000 was made up of some one time donations as well as the forgiveness of the \$24,700 PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE-PLEDGES

We will be finalizing our 2021 budget in the coming days. If you haven't already pledged and would like to, there is still time! You may mail back your pledge card or call Barb Miller (our financial secretary) to report your pledge or update it as needed. She can be reached at 763-788-8071. You also have the option of going to our website and giving online:

www.communitymethodistchurch.org

We appreciate your prayers as we make decisions for the year ahead. Thank you, all, for your prayers, commitment and generosity to ensure that Community UMC continues to be a beacon of hope in the Columbia Heights community. If you have any questions, please reach out to a finance minded person (Kari Trench or Kristine Rodriguez) or Les Johnson.



- Luke Jones 2/09
- Matt Haag 2/10
- Olivya Chau 2/14
- Meghan Ferrell 2/19
- Mark Mettler 2/20
- Patricia Cruse 2/22
- Jessica Chau 2/22
- Merle Jacobson 2/25
- Corey Zappa 2/26

Ways to Give Your Financial Gifts

There are two options for e-giving:

- 1) Via smart phone (Android or Apple): The **Give+** app. The apps are available from the appropriate places.
- 2) Via our [webpage](#), which will direct you to a secure-site.

On our webpage are video examples of both these e-giving options.

- 3) And you can continue to give via checks and mail. Send them in to:

Community UMC
950 Gould Ave NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Thank you. We appreciate your support.

Le Germe

In October the UMW invited Germaine Benda to speak to the group about the non-profit she started and supports in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

The organization is called "Le Germe". It serves street children and orphans, giving them a safe place to be during the day, feeding them and teaching them life skills. They are taught about the world through field trips and the older ones are taught knitting, crocheting, sewing and woodworking. In the DRC, public education is not free and these children don't have the resources to attend school.

After the meeting, \$110 was donated to the organization. Germaine sent the money to them and the kids received food and shoes as part of their Christmas celebration. Here are pictures of some of the children after receiving their gifts.

Thank you to those who donated. If you want more information about the work of Le Germe, contact Germaine Benda at germainek62@gmail.com.

- Mary Tholkes



From the UMW Corner

Changes are happening. We have chosen to change the salad luncheon to a drive-by bake sale. We plan it will be a pre-order style. If you will be able to bake an item let Mary know. And of course we will need caramel corn. Any interesting baked or no bake food can be offered. If we can get enough made we will include it.

We will be discussing changing **Eve Circle** to a daytime meeting at our January circle meeting. Watch the February Sunday bulletins for the time of the February 25th meeting. It will be at Anna Lexvold's home 4517 4th St Columbia Heights.

- Anna Lexvold

Deaths in our community:

We look forward to a time when we can come together and grieve as a community...

Dick Meixner 4/9/1928-12/04/2020

link to his obituary: <https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Richard-Meixner/>

Nancy French 8/10/1933-1/2/2021

link to her obituary: <https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Nancy-French-3/#!/Obituary>

[EarthKeepers/Be the Spark Training:](#)

Feb. 4, 11, 18, and March 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m., online. Identify the links between climate justice and racial justice, practice community organizing, and take action together. This is one way to become a Minnesota United Methodist EarthKeeper.

Church Gift Shop

If you wish to buy items from the church gift shop, contact Pat Good (phone 651-348-6688). These items can be picked up on Wednesday mornings at 11 A.M.

Masks and Future Worship

When the time is right for us to worship together (safely distanced) at the church, we would like to offer masks to those who may not have brought their own.

If you feel you could donate masks, please bring the masks by the church on Wednesday mornings.

Thanks for helping us keep God's children and our brothers and sisters safe.

Thank You!



Dear friends,

Thank you so much for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, gifts and offers of help. It is heartwarming to know how many friends we have that care. Dick loved his church family.

Thank you again from Dick Meixner's family.

Marilyn, Jan and Jill

SACA

SACA gives thanks for the \$175 given during December. Keep up the good work!

Share and Care

Remember your friends and family in need of support at this time. Call or email Barb Miller (763-788-8071, bem3966@comcast.net) if you need prayers for a loved one. Contact Anna Lexvold (763-572-1437) if you know of someone who needs on-going support from the Care and Share team.

Lent 2021: Growth in Spiritual Learning

Two Opportunities from Feb. 17--March 31

1. Wednesday Bible Study Group starting Feb. 17th, 9:30 to 11am
John Wesley Room, masks and social distancing
2. Sunday Adult Education Group--starting Feb. 21st, 9am to 9:55am
On zoom, link provided weekly in church email

In 2021, the pandemic is still challenging all of us in ways that stretch everything we know about love. This Lent, our two Adult Education groups will be joining in with our whole MN Annual Conference in learning from Bishop Michael Curry's wisdom in his book--*Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*. Maybe you remember Bishop Curry from his stirring sermon at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Bishop Curry is an Episcopal bishop, who believes with all his heart that love has the power to change the world. Recall that John and Charles Wesley, our Methodist founders, were originally Anglican priests in England. After the Revolutionary War, Anglicans in the US organized the Episcopal Church, in 1789, here on this side of the Atlantic (a longer story!).

Rev. Cindy Gregorson, our MN Director of Connectional Ministries, explains the purpose of this conference-wide study:

Wear love. Breathe love. This is what the world needs more than ever: people who know the height and breadth and depth of love, and because of that, choose love as the way they live. If we want a different world, it starts with us and how we love...In each chapter, Bishop Curry—through his practical theology and storytelling from his own life experience—answers a question you might be asking about love: How do I find God's love? Do I have to love my enemy? Can love really change the world?

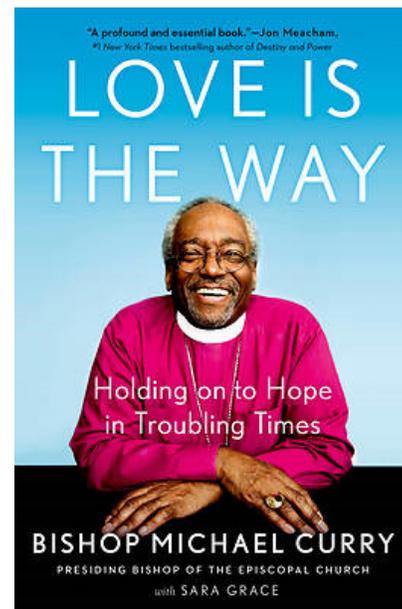
So here's the practical steps for us at CUMC:

1. RSVP to Pastor Nancy, nvictorinvangerud01@hamline.edu, which group you would like to participate in.
2. Free-will offering for the book, which we will order at a discount through a United Methodist source, Cokesbury.
3. Pick up your copy of Bishop Curry's book on Wed, Feb. 17th
 - at 9:30am for the Wed Bible Study group or...
 - at the drive-up offering of Lenten Ashes 11am to 2pm (for Sunday group), that Pastors Riva and Nancy are hosting.
 - or at the church office on days following Ash Wednesday (call first).

Each week, we will have the chance to share and discuss, but also to watch and listen to one of our District Superintendents and other conference leaders through a short video recording that corresponds to two of the chapters (on the day of, or before). So we look forward to an engaging and collaborative connection in spiritual growth across our MN Annual Conference as we seek to stretch ourselves more deeply to love and serve God's world.

For more information, see Rev. Gregorson's article,

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/2021-lenten-study-love-is-the-way-14928461>



Consider Serving on Core Team

Dear Beloveds of Community UMC,

As 2021 is moving along, it is time for our faith circle to look into the transition that we are about to experience. One of the most notable transitions that we are about to embark is the change of the folks who are serving in the CORE Team. For those who are unaware, the CORE Team is the leadership team of Community UMC. It is composed of individuals who are serving in a three-year term to facilitate the 'operating businesses' of the church together with the Pastor/s and the Staff. The current CORE Leadership Team was elected in 2018 through a Charge Conference, and the term will end on June 30, 2021.

To make the transition smooth and easy, we will soon have a Church Conference – date to be announced later, to elect the next group of folks who will serve in the leadership roles in our congregation.

I am writing this note to invite you in a prayerful discernment about the leadership of Community UMC. Here's how:

1. Meditate and contemplate – consider if you would like to serve in the CORE Team. Do not worry about the position at this point. We will discern it together.
2. Email me – leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org to signify your intent between midnight of February 15 – noon of March 31, 2021. All of the emails will be confidential. This will give me and the Nominations Team ample time to converse, pray and discern with you. Members of the Nominations Team will be announced later.

The first year of my appointment is challenging, but I am grateful that you were all there to support me. It is my hope that we will continue to support each other as we navigate the journey of being the church that God is calling Community UMC to be.

Blessings,

Pastor Riva

(Pastor Riva—Continued from page 1)

2. *Tradition – The formulations and practices that grew out of specific circumstances constitute the legacy of the corporate experience of earlier Christian communities. Tradition acts as a measure of validity and propriety for a community's faith insofar as it represents a consensus of faith.*
3. *Experience – Some facets of human experience tax our theological understanding. Many of God's people live in terror, hunger, loneliness and degradation. Everyday experiences of birth and death, of growth and life in the created world and an awareness of wider social relations also belong to serious theological reflection. A new awareness of such experiences can inform our appropriation of scriptural truths and sharpen our appreciation of the good news of the kingdom of God.*
4. *Reason – By reason, we relate our witness to the full range of human knowledge, experience.*

In my opinion, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral gives us space to accommodate our personal beliefs in our faith journey. But more importantly, it allows us to be the church that we want to be in the times that we are 'forced' to adapt – because our lives dependent on it.

In the times of constant and fast changes, it is okay to be in the state of ambivalence and be frustrated. We all experience this. But I would like to invite you to walk with me as we navigate our way in this oblivion. Let us walk through all of these changes, embracing the things that we are comfortable doing and allow for these changes to unfold. If it fails – let us try again, having low expectations of failures and successes. Maybe this can ease our discomfort.

Blessings,

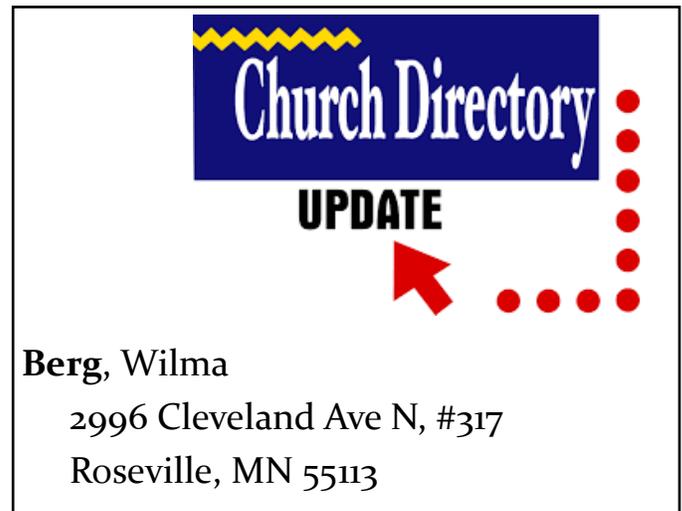
Pastor Riva

(Nancy's Niche—Continued from page 2)

hearing in the early days of the new administration is “reckoning”—the emergent opportunities for reckoning with racial injustice and historical trauma, reckoning with climate change, and reckoning with medical and economic disparities.

As a Christian reflecting on our times, I find one of the verses from the New Testament continuing to stick in my mind. The Apostle Paul used the word “reckoning” in his letter to the church in Rome (Romans 4:22), in which he wrote that Abraham’s faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” I think about the window of opportunity our nation has now to enact righteousness in response to so many reckonings. I don’t think of this challenge as a weakness or loss, but actually a time of courage and accountability. Will we have faith?

But who do we turn to, listen to, learn from in the midst of so many voices? One of the temptations progressive white Christians (like me!) have is we think we already know what is right, that we have the right ideas, the right views. We too easily tell ourselves—and others—that we are “not racists”, or “not sexist” or “not homophobic.” We too easily see ourselves as the ones now with the chance to lead. But Christian faith may call us to a different discipline—the discipline of decentering ourselves in humility to recognize that we don’t have the full view. As Twin Cities author Carolyn Holbrook invites us to consider, there is “More than a Single Story.” This is why we have been reading Ibram X. Kendi’s book, *How to be an Antiracist*, in our



Church Directory
UPDATE

Berg, Wilma
2996 Cleveland Ave N, #317
Roseville, MN 55113

Sunday Adult Ed. Group, and why CUMC is joining in with the MN Annual Conference book study for Lent, featuring Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry’s recent bestseller, *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*.

This Lent, are you up for a little hope? A renewal of faith? Maybe God is nudging you, inviting you to consider learning more about love and how you can be part of the reckoning of righteousness.

Links:

1. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/20/politics/amanda-gorman-inaugural-poem-transcript/index.html>
2. <https://catholicreview.org/ibram-x-kendi-speaks-on-antiracism-at-annual-loyola-university-mlk-convocation/>
3. <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/episcopal-church-executive-council-opening-remarks-from-the-presiding-bishop-10/>
4. <https://morethanasinglestory.com/profile/carolyn-holbrook/>



**Happy New Year
Everyone!**

We would like to thank all of those who helped deliver meals in the year of 2020. We would also like to thank the following for delivering meals the week of January 4-9, 2021:

Pat Cruse, Keith & Carol Felland, Bert & Naomi Jones, Anna & Rena Lexvold, Barb Miller, Mary Tholkes, Jim Reinholdson, Dan Hamernick, Veronica Johnson, Rod & Sylvia Bruns.

Your help and support is greatly appreciated!
Our next delivery dates will be **March 1-5**.
Hope all of you have a safe and happy 2021.

Rod Bruns & Sylvia Bruns

Emergency Phone Number

Please call **612-757-7115** if you have an emergency that cannot wait until the office phone is checked.

Tech support ministry

If you think you need help in checking out your electronic devices as you participate in our virtual service, send us (office@communitymethodistchurch.org or leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org) a note and we can send someone to come check it out for you (following safety guidelines and protocol).

February Calendar

Sunday, February 7

- 9:00 a.m. [Adult Sunday School \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children’s Sunday School

Tuesday, February 9

- 6:30 p.m. Core Team Meeting (Zoom)

Sunday, February 14

- 9:00 a.m. [Adult Sunday School \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children’s Sunday School

Wednesday, February 17—Ash Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Book Study (Wesley Room)
- 11:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Drive thru Intinction of Ashes

Sunday, February 21

- 9:00 a.m. [Adult Sunday School \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children’s Sunday School

Saturday, February 20

Newsletter Deadline for March issue

Wednesday, February 24

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Book Study (Wesley Room)

Thursday, February 25

TBD **Eve Circle**, Anna Lexvolds

Sunday, February 28

- 9:00 a.m. [Adult Sunday School \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children’s Sunday School



**COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

REACH, GROW, SEND WITH GOD'S LOVE

950 Gould Avenue Northeast

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Phone 763-788-9009

Emergency phone 612-757-7115

<http://www.communitymethodistchurch.org>

Lead Pastor Riva Tabelisma

Teaching Pastor Nancy Victorin-Vangerud

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is **February 17th.**

Imposition of Ashes - We will be safely imposing ashes in the parking lot. This will be done in the church parking lot on February 17th, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be a worship service broadcasted on our Facebook page at 6pm.