



Newsletter Index

Birthdays.....Page 3
 Breakthrough PrayerPage 3
 CalendarPage 9
 Cancer Support Group...Page 5
 Community Meals.....Page 4
 Compost & Recycling.....Page 7
 Congratulations.....Page 2
 Cookie Walk ThanksPage 8
 Evelyn Kleine Remembered. Page 5
 Feed My Starving Children ...Page 4
 General Conference.....Page 6
 Llamas Thanks.....Page 7
 Meals on WheelsPage 4
 Mission & VisionPage 2
 Reconciling Statement...Page 2
 Save the Dates.....Page 2
 Sunday School Thanks...Page 7
 Thank Yous.....Page 8
 UMWPage 8
 UMW Sunday.....Page 3

Pastor Linda's Letter

Friends,

we wrap up a phenomenally busy year at Community UMC. We build into the new season we'll call living into 2020 Vision! We anticipate a year of changes, opportunities and growth!

We look back over the 2019 calendar and see highlights and activities that kept us busy! We did: Bowling. Salad Luncheon. Rummage Sale. Plant Sale. Painting. Hosted Shower of Stoles. Mural. Jamboree Parade. Pride. Lasagna dinner. Reconciling Vote! Install cameras. Indoor and Outdoor Movies for families. New AC (old damage). Chair Yoga. Book Studies. Lenten services. Choir. Bells. Soup. Blessing of the Animals. Meals on Wheels. Feed My Starving Children. SACA. Sheridan Story. Camerata Brass. JB and KJ to KC. Special Finance Initiative. Coaching. Community Meals. Good Friday Community service. Easter. Cookie Walk. Gift Shop. Christmas. John Nilsen concert. and more . . . that's not all we did, but a little glance at a busy year at Community!

Be ready. Be prayerful. Be vision focused for a new decade!

Peace in 2020,

Pastor Linda

pastorlinda@communitymethodistchurch.org

January Serving Unit

Naomi Jones
 Kelly and Kay McKee
 Arlene Peterson
 Mike and Angela Forga
 Joannie Anderson
 Randy Rennacker
 Joan Bixler
 Faythe Anderson
 Jessica Perez
 Kathy Davis

A tremendous thank-you to Jan Johnson, she has served as our treasurer for nearly 3 years at Community UMC. We give thanks for her incredible talent and gifting, dedication and commitment to bring us forward in the world of accounting and serving in that capacity! Thank you!

Save the Dates!

- ◆ **January 4 (Sat.)** – Feed My Starving Children
- ◆ **January 16 (Thurs.)** – Core Leadership Team
- ◆ **January 26 (Sun.)** - UMW Sunday & lunch following worship.
- ◆ **January 31 (Fri.)** - Movie Night (6:30 PM)

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.

Congratulations!

Congratulations on deciding to become a Reconciling Congregation from Mosaic UMC in Oklahoma City. It is a joy to welcome you. Mosaic is a relatively new congregation, created by the merger of two progressive congregation in the Oklahoma City area. Our Epworth UMC was the first reconciling congregation in Oklahoma and Clegg UMC was a progressive welcoming church before the merger. So, we welcome you and pray for your continued witness.

In the name of the One Who loves and welcomes all,

Monica Swink,
Mosaic UMC 3131 NW 50th
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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

UMW Sunday

Join us in worship on **Sunday, January 26** to celebrate the work of the United Methodist Women. Sharon Ruhnke will be our guest preacher. Lunch will be served following the service.



Breakthrough Prayer for Our Church

*Good and Generous God,
Your grace and love are an outpouring for me; I give thanks for all that you have given me and our church. O God, we thank you for the presence of our congregation in this community for 112 years. We are blessed to be a blessing to others. Continue your guidance and wisdom for the hope and future of our congregation. Grant us leaders who are faithful. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us. Create a deeper spirit of stewardship for time, talents, treasures, and giving that will change the world. Bless us with opportunities to grow more in love with you God, and more in love with our neighbors. Breakthrough our comfort and complacency zones with bolder faith. Enlarge our territories, guide us to take risks in your name and for Your Kingdom. Amen.*



- Marc Porter 1/01
- Jordan Havelak 1/01
- Brock Havelak 1/01
- Nathaleah Chau 1/01
- Kathryn Johnson 1/03
- Fortunate Mafisango 1/04
- Aspen Donovan 1/06
- Logan Perez 1/06
- Tamra LeBlanc 1/08
- Beglad Kasongma 1/08
- Blaine Johnson 1/09
- Kelly McKee 1/09
- Naomi Jones 1/10
- Jeffrey Fisher 1/19
- RaeAnn Hill 1/21
- Tammy Hill 1/23
- Mallery Mueller 1/23
- Sachiko Slaughter 1/26
- Brenda McCoy 1/26
- Katherine Davis 1/31



We would like to THANK those who helped deliver meals the week of December 23rd to the 27th. Thank you to the following:

Keith and Carol Felland, Bert and Naomi Jones, Barb Miller, Pat Cruse, Pastor Linda, Anna Lexvold, Alice Mettler, Jim Reinholdson, Rod and Sylvia Bruns.

Our next delivery dates will be Feb. 24th to Feb. 28th, 2020. We wish all of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Thanks again for your help.

Rod Bruns & Sylvia Bruns



Our next packing day will be
Saturday, January 4
 from 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
 at 401-93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

Watch for a sign up. Thank you.

Dick Meixner



Community Meals Served!

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| December 9 | 66 served |
| December 23 | no meal |

She will be missed...

EVELYN KLEINE at 112 years old was the “Oldest Person in Minnesota”. She was the Aunt and Great Aunt to the Bixler/Anderson family. Evelyn has been a member of our congregation for many years. Even when she was 99, she still drove herself to Sunday morning worship. She has fond memories of her time at CUMC. She remembers many of you, and always welcomes a visit to chat. I want to give a special shout out to Dick Mixner, Donna Staubus and Sandy Langner, who have continued to keep in touch with Evelyn through visits and greeting cards. It is very much appreciated by Evelyn and our family.

Evelyn grew up in Columbia Heights, so there are many CH connections. In 1915, Evelyn “Holm” moved to CH with her parents and 4 siblings, attending local schools and learning a lifelong skill as a dress-maker and seamstress. At 16, Evelyn learned to drive her family’s Model T Ford, shifting gears up Reservoir Blvd., with her Dad at her side. She continued to driving until 99, when she says her car gave out before she did. Evelyn and her 3 sisters were all married in their family home at 3722 Van Buren Street. Also, Evelyn attended one of the first movies ever shown at the Heights Theater when it opened in 1926.

Evelyn Kleine lived in Chippewa Falls, Pittsburgh and Florida. Six years after the death of her second husband, Evelyn returned to her roots in CH in



1977, where she stayed until moving to St. Anthony Nursing Home in 2011, at the age of 104. Evelyn attributes her long life to “clean living and lots of vitamins. I never drank or smoked and stayed out of trouble.” She didn’t take medication until nearly 100.



Cancer Support Group

This group is for those who have received a cancer diagnosis to provide hope and encouragement for each other. We meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1-2:30 pm in the Lounge at St. Matthew Lutheran Church (4101 Washington Street NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421). The first meeting for 2020 will be held on January 15th.

Please contact Sarai Kretschman, Pastoral Care Assistant, at 763-788-9427 or sarai.kretschman@stmatthew-ch.org with any questions or to RSVP.

Meet United Methodists across the globe, volunteer at General Conference 2020

Jan Russell, the volunteer coordinator for General Conference 2020 Host Committee, is on a mission to recruit 1,100-1,200 volunteers to show United Methodists that will gather from across the globe, May 5-15, 2020, extraordinary hospitality. **[Find all of the details to volunteer here.](#)**

“The world is coming to the upper Midwest,” says Russell, “We will be hosting 6,000 United Methodist. We want to show them bold, north hospitality.”

Currently, 600 volunteers have registered. Bishop Bruce R. Ough, resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church, encourages United Methodists to take this opportunity to witness the global church.

“It is our privilege and honor to host visitors from around the world, and to introduce them to this place we call home,” says Ough.

Are you wondering if volunteering at General Conference 2020 will be a fit for you? Here are some frequently asked questions about volunteering to help you find the right volunteer opportunity that fits you.

Why volunteer?

Volunteering at General Conference provides a tremendous opportunity to see the United Methodist connection up-close and welcome siblings in Christ from around the world. This experience will allow you to meet and get to know people from across the globe, and to see firsthand that the body of Christ we are part of is so much bigger than our individual congregations and even our conference.

Do I have to volunteer for all 10 days of the conference?

No. Shifts are three hours long, and you can choose to do one shift on one particular day or multiple shifts over several days. Each volunteer can opt to do up to two shifts in a single day.

Is there a uniform or dress code?

Yes. Each volunteer should come to their shift wearing a plain, light-colored top that covers your shoulders, along with dark pants or a dark skirt that extends below the knees. Upon arriving at their particular volunteer site, every volunteer will be issued a purple vest to help guests identify you during your shift. You will return the vest when your shift is over. Volunteers may not wear or display buttons, stickers, or any campaign material while volunteering.

Is there a minimum age to volunteer?

Volunteers must be at least 16. Volunteer drivers must be at least 25.

Will childcare be available?

Childcare is available April 29, April 30, May 5, May 6, May 14, and May 15. Contact Jan Russell (612-230-6150) to reserve a space.

Can I volunteer for the General Conference Host Team and other groups during the event?

Yes. When your volunteer shift is complete, you will return your purple vest. You are then free to volunteer for other organizations that will be at the conference.

Do I have to drive all the way downtown and park?

No. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to park at one of several park-and-ride lots around the Twin Cities. A circulator van will pick you up from these locations and take you to your volunteer site.

Will meals be provided?

All expenses related to travel, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the volunteer. Given the large number of volunteers needed to provide hospitality for the Hospitality Team, we are unable to provide compensation for these expenses.

I don't live in the Twin Cities. Are there hotel options?

We have negotiated rates of \$99 a night at the following hotels:

- Moxie Minneapolis (1121 W. Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55408)
- Holiday Inn Express (2715 Long Lake Road, Roseville, MN 55113)
- Holiday Inn Express (6051 Golden Hills Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55416)
- Hampton Inn (10600 Wayzata Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55305)

From your hotel, you can go to one of several park-and-ride stations to be taken to your shift.

Can I observe after I volunteer?

You must register as an observer and be credentialed to observe. Registration for General Conference 2020, as an observer, is not currently open. [Watch this website](#) for details on registration.

Russell encourages everyone to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity. “Really big things happen when General Conference takes place in the Midwest,” says Russell. “The last time General Conference happened in the Midwest; we decided to ordain women!”

A WORK IN PROGRESS

I am sure that most everyone at church is aware that we have made a commitment to “Go Green” and do our part in helping to save our planet. We have purchased many recyclable and compostable items over that last several years.

We applied for a grant to Anoka County, which we received in the amount of \$10,000, to purchase compostable paper products, cups and new containers which are color coded – **Blue** for items recyclable, **Green** for compostable products and **Black** for trash. Our kitchen cupboards still hold many items that we will no longer use, and there is quite a bit of confusion over all the various items and what we should be using. Bill, our custodian, has cleaned out these shelves and the only thing left in the cupboards will be compostable items and recyclable plastic cups and a few large paper plates.

- ◆ **All these plastic cups are recyclable and, for now, we will use them and they will be disposed of in the blue containers.**
- ◆ **All other items that are used at the Social Hour after church are Compostable and will be put into the Green Bins. This includes plates, all napkins and paper towels, hot cups and lids, utensils (knives, forks and spoons), wood stir sticks, coffee filters and grounds, tea bags and all food.**
- ◆ **The only thing that has to go in the trash are the empty coffee creamers packets so please keep them separate to place in the trash.**

This holds true for using these items in other areas of the church, as well. The Core Leadership group will be discussing how best to dispose of the other items that we have that will not be used any longer – Styrofoam plates, cups etc. **Please do not bring any paper goods into the church. If there are items that are needed and you can't find them, please let Les Johnson, Bill Burton, or Rondine Mehling know.**

We understand that some of this is confusing, but we are doing our best to simplify the process so be patient and please ask for guidance. We are happy to help. Thank you for helping us make a better world.

Rondine Mehling



The children of our Sunday School presented a great Christmas skit. Firstly, thank you to all that helped make this event for our children something they will always remember participating in. And, we hope that after Christmas you remember the last lines of our skit by Howard Thurman: when the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the real work of Christmas begins. To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoners, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart, remembering our faith, hope, peace and love.



Thank you!!!!

The Sunday School children made and sold items for Christmas. Money raised will be used to purchase llamas. I'm happy to announce that \$414.00 dollars have been collected in the last two weeks. WOW, WOW, WOW.

With that money and with money that the children have been contributing weekly in Sunday School, and with other contributions, I am happy to say we are able to purchase 6 llamas now. Watch for other upcoming ways to be a part of our fund raiser.



Happy New Year Everyone!

Following a colorful and busy cookie walk January will seem quiet. On UMW Sunday, January 26th, we will serve lunch. Everyone is invited. Then join us for our quarterly UMW lunch and program on February 5th at noon. All are welcome.

Thank You

It is with great gratitude that our hearts are filled with love for this church family from the celebration of Joan's 90th Birthday in November. Also for the love extended to our family since 1962 when we came to Community UMC. We extend loads of gratitude for each of you.

Joan Bixler and family.

Thank You!

A Christmas Cookie Thank You

I would like to take a few moments to share some reflections about this year's Cookie Walk. First of all, it seems it was a smashing success as a fundraiser. This was the highest total raised while I have been associated with event. Also, the Holiday Boutique sold many of their festive, beautiful items and the combination of the cookies and boutique grossed almost \$3000. We still have a minimal bill for food and other costs to pay out. Obviously, in spite of this being a United Methodist Women initiative, we could never have achieved this without the help of the whole congregation. And we thank you so much, as the monies will be used to fund our Mission work, some of which are The Sheridan Story, Emma Norton, Meals on Wheels, SACA, helping to pay for Summer Camp Scholarships. Thank You!

However, there is one other thing that came to light, which I hadn't thought of before, which in some eyes, might not seem that important, but which felt very important to me. Quite a few customers talked to me about the Cookie Walk, several asking about how the money we raise is used. After explaining to them about our Mission work, they left feeling good about, not only the great cookies they had, but also had the feeling that they were helping to contribute to our missions.

The other impression that I had, after these conversations, was that we were performing a service. And not just for the cookies, but the fact that for the people who used to do the work of "Christmas Cookies" in the past and are now unable to do so, were so grateful for the opportunity to still savor the sight, smell and taste of what was always so much a part of their Christmas memories.

Again, thank you.

Rondine Mehling

January 2020

January 2020

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

February 2020

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Martha's Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 AM — 4:30 PM | | | Jan 1, 20 | 2 Call to schedule the park for outdoor worship | 3 Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga | 4 11:00am Feed My Starving Children |
| 5 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate Church | 6 Office Closed 4:30pm Women's Meal at Culver's (Culver's) | 7 10:00am Senior Linkage Line Meeting (Asbury Room) 7:00pm Recovery Group | 8 9:45am Adult Bible Study 11:00am UMW Exec 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 9 5:30pm Bell Choir | 10 Office Closed | 11 |
| 12 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:15am Blood Pressure Clinic 12:00pm Elevate Church | 13 Office Closed 5:30pm Community Dinner | 14 7:00pm Recovery Group | 15 9:45am Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 16 10:00am River Rats 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Core Leadership Meeting | 17 Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga | 18 |
| 19 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate Church | 20 Office Closed Newsletter Deadline | 21 7:00pm Recovery Group | 22 9:45am Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 23 5:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Eve Circle | 24 Office Closed | 25 |
| 26 UMW Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate Church | 27 Office Closed 5:30pm Community Dinner | 28 7:00pm Recovery Group | 29 9:45am Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 30 5:30pm Bell Choir | 31 Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga 6:30pm Movie Night | Feb 1 |



**COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

REACH. GROW. SEND WITH GOD'S LOVE

950 Gould Avenue Northeast
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
Phone 763-788-9009

<http://www.communitymethodistchurch.org>

Pastor Linda McCollough

Coming Up:

January 4: Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children (11:00 a.m.)

January 16: Core Leadership Team Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

January 26: UMW Sunday! Lunch served following worship (10:00 a.m. worship)

January 31: Movie Night (6:30 p.m.)

Weekly:

- Worship on Sunday mornings at 10am. Children's programming each week.
- Tuesday evenings 7pm – Recovery Group – open group all are welcome
- Wednesday morning study group – 9:45am
- Wednesday evenings – Sing with our choir
- Thursday evenings – Ring with our bell choir
- Friday mornings – Chair Yoga

Scheduled events:

- Feed My Starving Children – Coon Rapids location – January 4 (Dick M contact)
- Community Meal – free dinner at 5:30 pm on January 13 and January 27
- Family Movie Night – January 31 – 6:30 – Muppets Movie! Free: movie, popcorn, and juice.
- We will begin a new book study on Tuesday evenings – to be determined with the date. Brene' Brown or Deborah Adele.