



The Connection

Seeking to Link Person to Person And All to Christ

May/June, 2016

Christ United Methodist Church
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Members of Our Staff

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Christ Church gathers in the name of
Jesus Christ to worship God, to invite
and nurture disciples, and to send
them into the world.

The Pastor's Pen

Believe! In a time when people struggle everywhere to know what to believe, it is so good for you and me to know that we believe in a Risen Savior. Jesus is in the world today, and daily, Jesus is asking us *to show* that! The Christian faith calls this "believing and living it."

Here at Christ UMC, we simply are following Jesus through connecting with God and others, growing deeper in faith and understanding, and serving others. We are connecting, growing, and serving because we believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's love demonstrated on this earth. The cross is God's expression of mercy and forgiveness. The Church is God's continuation of Jesus' work here!

Our world in which we are now living would have us think that Jesus and the church are irrelevant, that we are hypocritical, and that we don't care. My friends, we cannot let these thoughts cause us to bristle and go inward. Jesus lived with a lot of criticism and push back. With the Lord's help, we can and must continue to be externally focused. Take what people say about the church as helpful, and then do something that makes a difference.

We are here to be like Jesus, grow God's kingdom, and enjoy life. God does not want us to flounder and be aimless. Our world is asking to have purpose and meaning. That is Jesus' favorite work, and we can help. Talk to your non-church friends to get an understanding of what their needs are or what burdens them most. Pray, and then let Christ help you to help them. Our adult ministry, our youth ministry, and our children's ministry are designed to help you in your faith growing. We are here to equip you to be Christian in all your places of living.

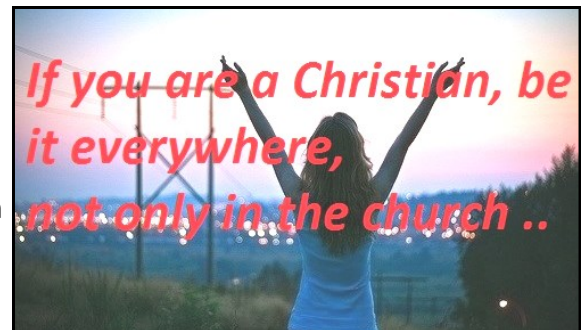
I rejoice with you that in believing in Jesus, we can experience life in its fullness. In this springtime, let the love of God cover you.

Grace & Peace, Pastor David

Healing Service

It pleases me that we are offering a time of prayer and healing on Sunday evenings at 5:30 pm in 105 Market. The Bible exhorts the church to be about this meaningful activity of Jesus. The Book of James encourages the elders to pray for healing. Healing encompasses body, mind, and heart. When we gather in 105 Market to pray, we will be praying not only for specific physical ailments but for broken relationships, for discernment, and for strength during treatments, as well. A healing service is not

(Pastor's Pen, cont. on p. 2)



Equipping People of All Ages

(Pastor's Pen, cont. from p.1)

magical, but we know there is always a mystery to God's working. I know that when there is wonderment or questions, my best response is, "Come and see." May the Lord continue to bless and work through us here at CUMC.

Health Care

I have come to realize one of the greatest concerns facing us today is health care. Are we going to outlive our resources? Is health care going to be available? These are questions being asked by our elderly and their children. I have come to put great value into being proactive. We all must consider the feasibility of long-term healthcare and or home healthcare insurance.

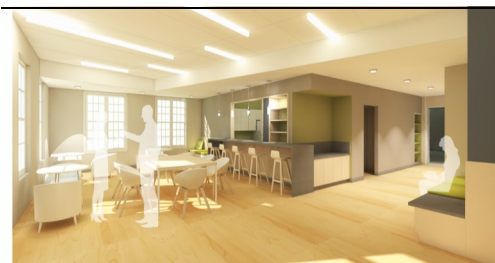
We are blessed in our community with multi-tiered retirement centers, excellent hospitals, and care centers like Ronald McDonald House and SECU House. We have hospice care and other palliative care programs. At CUMC, we have persons who can connect you to any of these agencies as well as agents of long-term or home healthcare insurances. There is no reason for any of us to live in wonderment or fear on matters of aging. Please call me or Pastors Brent and Suzanne, and we can guide you on these matters.



RENO103
room to grow • room for all

Christ Church, why not invest in the future of the church? Your help is needed to raise an additional \$60,000 to pay the balance due on the 103 Market renovation project. We've been renovating the space to accommodate our growing youth and young adult ministries, but it will also be a place that all CUMC members will enjoy—especially the coffee bar and the small and large group meeting spaces. **Stick your head in 103 Market on Sunday, May 22 for a tour, stop by during the week to see our progress, or check out the renderings in Ascension Hall.** If each Christ Church family contributed \$200, we'd meet our goal in no time. If God is calling you to do more, check out the creative giving level incentives the CUMC Youth have crafted to encourage your gifts:

- ♦ **\$100—Thank You Card from the CUMC Youth**
- ♦ **\$250—Musical Gift from your choice of CUMC Music Director/ Worship Leader (i.e., a custom recording of your favorite hymn or worship song)**
- ♦ **\$500—Furniture dedicated in your honor in 103 Market**
- ♦ **\$1000—Invitation to a special banquet hosted by our youth in 103 Market**
- ♦ **\$5000—Opportunity to use the 103 Market space for a private event**



You may give online at <https://secure.accesssacs.com/access/nonmemberlogin.aspx?sn=111708&sc=give>. (Be sure you use the email address the church office has on file for you to log in. Then, "deposit" your funds in the Young Adult Building 103 Reno box.) Checks can also be sent to the church office or dropped in the offering plate **with Reno 103 written on the memo line**. Questions? Contact CUMC youth parent Tom Furr (tpfurr@gmail.com) or Pastor Brent (blevy@christmethodist.org).

Good-bye, thank you, and congratulations! All are in order for our joyful and energetic intern Hope Ledbetter who, along with Hannah Richards & Helen Sawyer, has provided amazing leadership for our youth program and 103 renovation project since September, 2015. This fall, Hope will begin pursuing her Masters of Divinity degree at Duke Divinity School. Godspeed, Hope!

goodbye ♥



Welcome New Staff!



Nick is in the House!

On Sunday, May 8th, we welcomed our new youth pastor **Nick Jonckowski** to Christ Church with a reception in Ascension Hall. Here are some fun facts about our newest staff member that you'll be sure to enjoy.

Hometown: Billings, Montana

Now Living In: Durham (Nick moved from Windsor, CO.)

Family: Dawn Crowther (fiancé) and my 8 year old cairn terrier Chewie
Dawn & Nick tie the knot on October 29th!

Why Youth Ministry? I first felt called to ministry in high school, and I've spent the rest of my life pursuing that calling.

Biggest Thrill in Ministry? Seeing teens own their faith and living a life that is sold out to Jesus!

Person who's had the greatest influence in your life? My dad

Favorite book? *Wild at Heart* by John Eldredge

Favorite movie? *Star Wars (The Empire Strikes Back is my favorite.)*

Favorite website? IGN (Video Game Website)

City I've never been to but want to visit? Jerusalem

Hobbies? Working out, flag football, going to the movies, playing video games, country music concerts, and rooting on my beloved Denver Broncos

If I wasn't a youth pastor, I'd be: Jedi

3 people (living or dead) with whom you'd like to have dinner: John Elway, George Lucas, John Eldredge

... And Bailey!

Bailey Brislin will serve as CUMC's summer and fall Youth Ministry Intern. She has a contagious laugh, a radiant love for God, is an incredible storyteller, and loves our students so well already. A sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill, she is discerning a call to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. Her love for youth ministry has been fostered by her own experiences in youth group at her home church in Charlotte, NC. She started volunteering with our youth group in the fall of 2015, and we are excited for this next step in her journey with us! Bailey's internship begins May 23rd.



... And Justin, too!

In April, we welcomed Justin DeJong as our 7:00 pm Wellspring Worship leader. He is a talented, creative musician who brings a warm spirit & love for the Lord to our evening worship service. Justin, his wife Faith, and their children Isaak, Ella, Zeke, & Zaia live in Durham.



High School

Evan Amico
Daniel Beaton
Grace Brehler
Cassidy Bright
Beth Brownstein
TJ Butcher
Matthew Campbell
Kendall Chan
Connor Cox
Terrence DeWeese
Benton Fine
Elise Gammon
Christian Gibson

Congratulations Graduates!

Maggie Holroyd
Oskar Hutchison
Chloe Hultman
Campbell Isom
Luke Knowles
Justin Laatz
Carolyn MacLeod
Reuben Marlowe
Natalie Martin
Caroline Mattucci
Maggie McClanahan

Quint McFall
Lily Merrigan
Miles Miller
Valerie Moore
Angelina Olson
Mary Gates Pierce
Carly Richardson
Conor Rose
Emily Sanfilippo
Celeste Spector
Matt Streets

Marissa Stephenson
Maley Wagner
Sophia Wilhelm
Kate Wood
Brooke Zeman

College

Henry Branson
Hannah Budd
Madison Gallagher
Grace Hanlon
Emily Mattucci
Carrie Parker
Connor Roach

**SENIOR
RECOGNITION
SUNDAY**
**MAY 22ND
AT ALL
SERVICES**

Welcome New Members!

New Faces @ CUMC

We've welcomed new members to Christ Church in the last several months, and we're happy to introduce them to you here. Take a minute to reach out to them & extend a warm CUMC welcome.

Rick & Jennifer Christenberry

- ◆ Live in Briar Chapel
- ◆ Daughter Hannah (20)
- ◆ 813-928-5275
- ◆ rick.rctrading@gmail.com
- ◆ jwchristenberry@gmail.com

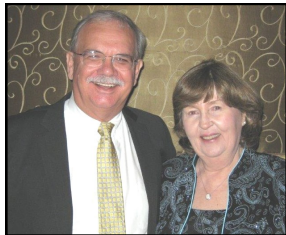


Benjamin & Miah Cooke

- ◆ Live in Briar Chapel
- ◆ Children: Ethan (8), Dylan (6), Hunter (3)
- ◆ 919-240-7940
- ◆ miahv@hotmail.com

Jimmy Garzoni & Amber Smith

- ◆ Live in Mann's Chapel Rd. area
- ◆ Son Gabriel (1)
- ◆ 704-221-0805
- ◆ jpgarzoni@gmail.com
- ◆ am.smith16@yahoo.com



Tony & Carol Iglesia

- ◆ Live in Southern Village
- ◆ 336-288-3047
- ◆ iglesiag1@bellsouth.net
- ◆ cliglesia@bellsouth.net



Bill & Gail Lewis

- ◆ Live in Governors Club
- ◆ 919-929-7658
- ◆ hopelandpa@aol.com

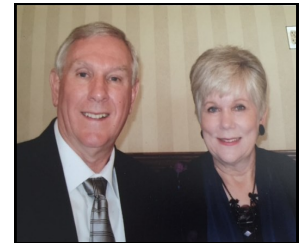
Ron & Teresa Warner

- ◆ Live in Hunters Ridge
- ◆ Children: Sarah (15); Jackson (13)
- ◆ 919-605-6534
- ◆ rgwarner@att.net
- ◆ thwarner@att.net



Tom & Susan Winters

- ◆ Live in Governors Village
- ◆ Daughter Ashley Winters Tate is a CUMC member, too
- ◆ 919-240-4526
- ◆ gtwinters43@gmail.com
- ◆ sww1014@gmail.com



Does Jesus Live in Your Muscle?

Thoughts from Pastor Brent Levy

As I write this, it's Thursday, April 28. We're experiencing our fourth straight 80+ degree day. My allergies are peaking, and I've had to replace four boxes of tissues around my house since Monday. Last night, we wrapped up another season of the Well. Spring is in full swing, and summer is on its way.

I'm still thinking about last night. Pastor Suzanne and I led a discussion at Town Hall Grill – our church away from church – on the book *Rising Strong* by Brené Brown. It's an important book about failure or those times when we're struck by grief or guilt or shame, and we're facedown. And it's about reckoning with the middle – the messy parts – of our lives, and discovering that the middle is where the magic happens – that hanging out there for a season and “rumbling” leads to transformation. If you haven't read Brené Brown or seen her TED Talk on vulnerability, stop what you're doing and Google it. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200. It changes things. (Editor's note: We did it for you—<http://brenebrown.com/videos/>).

In *Rising Strong*, she writes about the importance of practicing what we're learning – of living it out and embodying it. This is part of the rumble. Brown writes: “The Asaro tribe of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea has a beautiful saying: ‘Knowledge is only a rumor until it lives in the muscle.’ What we understand and learn about rising strong is only rumor until we live it and integrate it through some form of creativity so that it becomes part of us.” I think this is a challenge for us, especially as we look to the summer and experience the new rhythms of a new season. It raises questions about how we might integrate what we discover on Sunday mornings or Sunday evenings into who we are at work or at school or at play. The good news of Jesus Christ and what that means for our lives, our relationships, and our world is only a rumor until it lives in our muscle. We have to practice it. We have to live it out.

“Knowledge is only a rumor until it lives in the muscle.”

Strengthen Your Faith Muscle

("Muscle", cont. from p. 4)

So as you lay poolside this summer or feel the sand between your toes or stand in that never-ending queue at Disney World, remember what you've discovered here. Remember what you've sung. Remember the words of hope you've heard. Remember the stories and experiences and phrases and Scripture that have stuck with you from week to week. Remember who you are. Remember who God is calling us to be.

And let that knowledge be more than a rumor. Let it live in your muscle.

Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God.
Author: Billy Graham

joys, and faith. Make sure to spend the bulk of your time praying with one another. Talking about something is not the same as praying about it—unless God is included in that conversation.

- ▶ **Start a prayer group.** If you are feeling the nudge to start a prayer group, pay attention to the current paths you travel and ask God to lead you. Then, wait for the details to form in your mind. You may be led to invite a group to your home, convene parents after dropping children off at school, meet with co-workers during lunch, etc.
- ▶ **Love the ones you're with.** Do you already have a small group such as a dinner group, book club, Bible study, or Sunday School class? Ask the group if they would be interested in devoting the first 5-10 minutes of your meeting time to praying for one another's concerns. You could also bring note cards for each person to write out his/her prayer concerns. These cards can be exchanged for ongoing prayer throughout the week.
- ▶ **Go deeper with your committee.** Spend the first 5 minutes of your committee meeting in prayer. Here is a suggested opening prayer: "In Jesus' Name, we dedicate this time together for your purposes in our lives and in the lives we impact. Sift out any thoughts and concerns which are burdening and distracting each of us, and bring our group together in heart and mind. We ask that you would carry those burdens and distractions for us, and guide our proceedings. Fill us with unity, wisdom, creativity and love. *May the words of our mouths and the meditations of all our hearts be pleasing in your sight, LORD, our Rock and our Redeemer (Psalm 19:14). Amen.*"
- ▶ **Join in.** You are welcome to participate in the small group which meets every Sunday, 5:30-6:45 pm, in 105 Market Street, room 2. Currently, the group is practicing *Lectio Divina*. Using a selection from the weekly Lectionary, we prayerfully listen to Holy Scripture with "the ear of the heart", as individuals and as a group. We are practicing and growing in our ability to hear and share what God speaks to us through his Word. This is a wonderful group of encouragers—no experience required!

Remember... Prayer is holy ground. Praying with others is a sacred trust, and confidentiality and respect are key for long term success. Praying aloud may not be how you pray now. Praying with others may seem awkward at first, but don't stop. Like any new practice, time and dedication create consistency. If you have questions about prayer or want to know more about any of these suggestions, contact Kathy Parker (kpark@bellsouth.net).

Keep Prayer Part of the Rhythm of Your Life

By CUMC Prayer Team Member Kathy Parker

As a faith community, we spent much of the winter focused on prayer. But summer is almost here now, and with work, end of school activities, sports playoffs, and summer planning all filling our calendars, it can be increasingly difficult to find intentional time to stop and connect with the holy. If this is you (and even if it's not!), consider these suggestions:

- ▶ **Seek a prayer partner.** First, ask God for a prayer partner, and then wait for a name to come to mind. God may wish to pair you with someone other than your usual "go to" telephone or coffee buddy. To make a safe space for honesty and vulnerability, it is wise to partner with someone of the same gender. Don't be shy about pursuing this person; God may have already prepared him/her to be open to the opportunity. Covenant to meet regularly to discuss your concerns, challenges,

General Conference 2016

The United Methodist Church's top legislative body will meet at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland on **May 10-20**. General Conference includes delegates from the United Methodist Church world-wide & meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy & economic issues. It also approves plans & budgets for church-wide programs. Pastor David Harvin will be attending as a non-voting member this year, representing Encounter With Christ in Latin America & the Caribbean. For Conference news, visit <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>.

Think you're smarter than the average United Methodist about General Conference? Test your knowledge with our GC quiz on page 6.



General and Annual Conferences

(Look for answers at the bottom of the page.)

General Conference



1. General Conference is the only body that can _____.
(Select all that apply.)
A. Set official policy B. Speak for the denomination C. Appoint pastors
D. Offer discounts on clerical garb.
2. From where do the delegates who attend General Conference come?
(Select all that apply.)
A. USA B. Europe C. Africa D. Philippines
3. The total number of delegates sent to General Conference must fall between _____ & _____.
A. 1 & 100 B. 50 & 100 C. 600 & 1000 D. 2000 & 2500
4. Where are General Conference delegates elected?
A. in designated church polling places B. at annual conference meetings C. at the previous General Conference
D. by letter campaigns
5. Who can propose petitions and resolutions to be voted on at General Conference? (Select all that apply.)
A. individuals B. church agencies C. annual conferences D. other groups within the denomination
6. True or False? Bishops can vote at General Conference.
7. What happens as a result of voting at General Conference. (Select all that apply.)
A. a revision of the Book of Discipline, the UMC's book of law
B. a revision of the Book of Resolutions, the UMC's statements on current social issues
C. The general church budget is set for the next four years.
D. The mission direction for the church is set for the next four years.

Quiz Answers: 1.A, B 2.A, B, C, D 3.C 4.B 5.A, B, C, D 6.False 7.A, B, C, D



North Carolina Annual Conference 2016 Greenville, NC ** June 16 -18

What? Another Methodist Conference? Annual Conference, as the name implies, occurs every year. It's a regional body, an organizational unit, & yes, a yearly meeting.

An equal number of clergy members and lay members attend their conference's Annual Conference session for worship, fellowship, & to conduct the business of the conference. Pastor David and Pastor Brent are our clergy representatives; Pat Brooks and Katherine Kubel are CUMC's lay delegates. During these sessions, members of the conference hear reports of past and ongoing work; adopt future goals, programs and budgets; ordain clergy members as deacons and elders; and elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences (every 4 years). Bishop Hope Morgan Ward presides over the North Carolina Conference which encompasses 56 counties in eastern North Carolina from Elon to the coast, and from the South Carolina border to the Virginia border. The Western North Carolina Conference is the other Conference in our state. Learn more at <https://nccumc.org/about/>.

What happens when someone calls the church for help? CUMC has reorganized its benevolence ministry to provide more effective, caring outreach. When clients/guests call the church for help, they're given an appointment to meet with Pastor David Harvin, Missions Coordinator, for prayer and direction. We do not give money; that is done through the Inter-Faith Council. We do offer a \$25 food card from a local grocery store as a gift.

In the past months, we have averaged 7 appointments per Wednesday meeting date and have distributed an average of four cards. Many of our clients/guests are in recovery, and a phone call to their residence will solve a financial problem. Sometimes we explore a job idea. We always have a prayer together.

We are grateful to CUMC members who regularly donate food cards to this ministry which provides over \$200 worth of cards each month to those in need. Our recent *A Force for Good Concert* raised \$1262 for our benevolence fund, too. The need is great in Orange and Chatham counties. Next time you head to the grocery store, purchase a food card or two and show your love for members of God's family who could use a little help.

BENEVOLENCE

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S FAMILY

Where are YOU doing GOoD WORKS?



Are you ready to make a difference?

Check out all kinds of GOoD WORKS you can do in our community & beyond by visiting this page: <http://christmethodist.org/resources/announcements/spiritual-gifts-inventory/>. Scroll down until you see GOoD WORKS booklet highlighted in blue & click to read.



Christ UMC is once again partnering with Frank Porter Graham Elementary Bilingue School in Chapel Hill to do GOoD WORKS. We'll be providing school supplies for students whose families are not financially able to purchase them. Collection will take place throughout July and early August. Watch for notices in the weekly email newsletter and Sunday bulletin for specific items to bring each week. Financial donations to this cause are also welcome. Questions? Contact Peggy Ising (peggyising@nc.rr.com).

SUMMER TUTORING: We will continue to tutor FPG students on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, June – August, 6:30-7:30 pm in 105 Market Street. Do this GOoD WORK when your schedule is free this summer. Contact Kelly Fuller (fuller3nc@msn.com) to get involved.

Chatham Habitat for Humanity Work Day: Sat., May 14th

Chatham Habitat's next work day is Saturday, May 14 from 9:00 am to noon at Roberts Run, Pittsboro (behind the Piggly Wiggly shopping center). A Subway lunch will be provided. We'll work on the Apostles' Build house that CUMC is sponsoring for the Vazquez Grimaldo family. The family made a Habitat presentation to our congregation last fall, and our church contributed \$5000 to that project. (See picture at right.) To do this GOoD WORK, sign up on the volunteer sheet in Ascension Hall (and grab a map, too), or contact Ed Harland (919-933-4843; EdHarland@aol.com.)



Ed Harland (middle) presents a check from CUMC to Chatham Habitat Exec. Dir. Jerry Whortan and Mechelle Thompson, Volunteer & Church Partnership Manager.

Food Drive

May 1-15



Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids

Ready to do some GOoD WORKS & help hungry kids in our community? Join CUMC's food drive to provide

needed items for SNACK, which feeds local children during the summer months when subsidized school meals are unavailable. SNACK provides a box of food weekly to eligible families, and you can help fill those boxes. Shopping lists of needed food items and boxes are in Ascension Hall now. **Simply grocery shop, pack the box, and return it to church by Sunday, May 15.** If you prefer, checks can be made to CUMC, with SNACK printed clearly on the memo line. \$15 feeds one child for a week. \$150 covers the summer. To serve in other ways (shopping for those who can't, food distribution, etc.) or for more information, contact Shari Ligett (ncshari@bellsouth.net).

June is Paper Drive Month for SECU Family House

SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals is a 40-bedroom house on Old Mason Farm Road that provides an affordable, safe, nurturing home away from home for seriously ill patients and their family members or caregivers from throughout North Carolina and beyond. CUMC is doing GOoD WORKS by collecting paper products for guests of SECU to use while in residence. **Please purchase any item(s) from the list below and place your donation in the bins in Ascension Hall throughout the month of June.** Questions? Contact Martha Risch (therisches@aol.com; 919-929-9723).

- **Kleenex (small, flat boxes)
- **C-Fold paper towels (available at Sam's, Costco, Staples)
- **Post-it Notes
- **8.5 x 11 copy paper – white, yellow, light blue color
- **Napkins
- **Paper towels (all sizes)
- **Plain white business envelopes (No. 10)

SECU House always needs hotel-sized toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, etc.), too. Please donate those any time throughout the year.



As part of our creative new outreach efforts to our neighbors & greater community, we're going to the dogs, literally! We'll be at the Southern Community Park's dog park (enter off Dogwood Acres Dr.) from **9:30-11:30 am on Saturday, May 14.** Join us & bring your dog, too! Help us pass out baggies that contain dog treats along with notes about upcoming events and a brief greeting from the church. Meet Pastor Brent at the park on Saturday, & watch where you step!

CHRIST CHURCH

United Methodist

800 Market Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date!!
VBS is early this year - June 20-24!



Kids and grown-ups together will enjoy a Deep Sea Discovery Adventure through fun worship songs, crafts, outdoor games and science activities. During the week, they'll:

- ◆ Know that God is always with them!
- ◆ Explore God's presence in their lives!
 - ◆ Serve God by serving others!

Ready to register? Want to learn more? Visit <http://christmethodist.org/ministries/vbs/>.

Important Dates!

- ▶ **Sunday, May 22:**
Tour 103 Market Street; Check out our new youth/young adult space
- ▶ **Sunday, June 5:** Teacher/Student Recognition in worship
- ▶ **Tuesday, July 12, 11:30am-3:30 pm:** CUMC Blood Drive (Ascension Hall)
- ▶ **Sun., July 24, 7 pm:** Beer & Hymns (So. Village Green); an inclusive rowdy hymn sing accompanied by beer, fellowship, nostalgia, & good times

Coming Soon!
4 Ways to Give
to
Christ Church

4 WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE



SMART PHONE



MAIL



SUNDAY

Within the next few days, you will have four ways to give your offering to CUMC.

#1: Give on your Smart Phone. We'll soon launch a new smart phone application that allows you to use a credit card & your cell phone to give.

#2: Give online using your bank account. Go to our website, www.christmethodist.org, and look for the Give tab under the home page picture. If you don't have an account, set it up by clicking on "Need a Login?" under the blue box and follow the comprehensive guide. Be sure you use the email address we have on file for you in the church database. Even if you won't be using the online giving service, please check out this new tool. **It allows you to view/print a membership directory, view/update your membership profile, and add family/individual pictures to your profile.** Check out your profile and update it today!

#3: Mail a check to the church office.

#4: Put your gift in the offering plate.

Please contact the office with questions or for help getting started with the app or online giving.

Church Picnic

Sunday, June 5; 3:30-6:30 pm
Southern Community Park

Church Picnic