

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 7, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



“BEING CHOSEN”

1 Peter 2:2-10

A chosen people...
TO SHOW OTHERS THE
GOODNESS OF GOD.

1 Peter 2:9

There is a phrase in our text from 1 Peter this week that has a pretty exclusivist ring to it. Peter describes the Church as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood.” Hearing that we are “a chosen race” is enough to make many among us cringe. It is hard not to think of the many atrocities that were committed by people who believed just that; that they were a chosen race. What could Peter have meant by such a phrase? How exactly is the Church a chosen race?

Peter believes that the church has been chosen by God for a particular purpose- we are chosen to fulfill a mission. The particular mission that God has given to the Church is not an exclusivist one. God calls the Church to proclaim the good news of God’s love and forgiveness to all people- people of every nation, every gender, every status, and station. This good news is to be proclaimed in word and deed- deeds that demonstrate the love of God through loving service of our neighbors. We are not chosen to boast of our superiority, but to proclaim God’s gracious welcome to all. We are chosen to be a new family; a family called from all nations of the earth and given the mission to love and serve God and our neighbors.

If it is true that the Church is called and given a mission by God; it is also true that the members of the Church are called and given a mission. That means you and I. It means that each and every one of us has been called by God to be a part of the Church, to play a role in its mission. My prayer this week is that each of us will ask God and ourselves once more what role we are being called to play in the Church’s mission. How can we best be of service? How can our words and deeds best demonstrate God’s love and grace to the world? For this we have been called and for this we have been chosen. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	5/7	10:15 AM	Sunday School
		11:15 AM	Youth Bell Rehearsal
Mon	5/8	8:00 AM	Gardening Angels
Tue	5/9	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Executive Committee
Wed	5/10	5:30 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	5/11	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Fri	5/12	8:00 PM	Youth Lock In

This Sunday, Communion will be served by passing of the plate. If you prefer prepackaged Communion elements, they are available in the Narthex or from an usher.

The Care Fund is collected on the first Sunday of the month and is used for emergency relief for our members. Please consider making a contribution so that we may continue to respond to the emergency needs of our members during difficult times.



ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES! We want to recognize your efforts toward your education and wish you continued success. Please plan to attend graduate recognition during the worship service on **Sunday, May 14** to celebrate your accomplishments. If you are graduating from high school, vo-tech, college or graduate school, please email church@congoroch.org by noon on **Wednesday, May 10** so we can list all graduates in the worship bulletin. High school graduates, please share your school and plans after graduation. If you are a college graduate, please share the college you attended and the degree you received.



SUMMER CHURCH LIFE - As we look ahead to summer, please provide any **articles** with updates and upcoming events happening during June-August to be included in our Summer Church Life print edition that we aim to send out by Memorial Day. Please send them to Sarah at church@congoroch.org by **Friday, May 19**. Anything submitted in advance would be most helpful. Thank you!



VOLUNTEER AT OUR BOOTH
Saturday, May 20
12-5 PM at Soldier's Field

The Congregational Church is proud to sponsor a booth at this year's Rochester Pride Event. Volunteers are needed to hand out goodies and prizes, answer any questions about our open and affirming congregation, and have a great time. Sign up for a shift using the link on our church website events page at congoroch.org/news-events and help us to celebrate and serve the LGBTQ+ community!

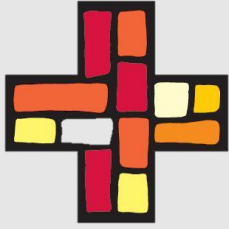
Tweens/Teens, check out the After Pride Party at Old School Entertainment Co. from 5-10 PM! →



BOOK GROUP meets on the 3rd Thursday at 11 AM at church, plus offers a Zoom option for those who wish to join us from home. The book selection for **May 18** is *The Saturday Evening Girls Club* by Jane Healey and is available in the church office.

THANK YOU for your contributions to this year's Easter Offering. Through your generosity, \$1,979 was received. The Stewardship Benevolence ministry team added \$21 from the local benevolence line item to round the total up to \$2,000. This will be divided equally between the Elder Network and the Jeremiah Program. Thank you all for your support.

<u>MONTHLY OFFERING REPORT</u>		<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
April	Estimate of Giving	\$17,555	\$16,756	\$21,463
	Non-Estim. Giving	\$1,975	\$905	\$2,667
	TOTAL	\$19,530	\$17,661	\$24,130
Y-T-D	TOTAL	\$105,009	\$91,734	\$96,520



WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 14, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



It's going to be a fun worship service this Sunday as we celebrate the youth and children of our congregation!

Rev. Kevin Brown, Associate Conference Minister of Faith Formation for youth and children will be preaching,

youth and children will help to lead the service,

recognition of our graduates, and

we will bless our new baptismal font and renew our baptisms.

Cultivating a life of faith is a lifelong endeavor and it is worth celebrating at all phases of life. I am often astonished by the wisdom of the youngest in our community and invite you all to come learn from them and remember your own faith journey. See you Sunday!



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	5/14	10:15 AM	Sunday School
Mon	5/15	8:00 AM	Gardening Angels
Tue	5/16	2:00 PM	NO Bible Study
		6:30 PM	Cabinet - Hybrid
Wed	5/17	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	5/18	11:00 AM	Book Group - <i>The Saturday Evening Girls Club</i>
		12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement deadline
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Fri	5/19	12:00 PM	Summer Church Life deadline
Sat	5/20	12-5 PM	Rochester Pride at Soldier's Field

OUT OF THE OFFICE: Pastor Shannon and Pastor Andrew will be out of town to attend continuing education this week, May 15-19. If you need assistance during this time, please contact Sarah Struwe at church@congoroch.org.



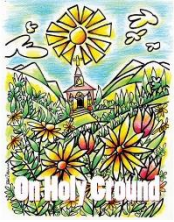
SUMMER CHURCH LIFE - As we look ahead to summer, please provide any newsletter **articles by Friday, May 19** to Sarah at church@congoroch.org with updates and upcoming events happening during June-August.



CONGO ROCH BOOTH AT ROCHESTER PRIDEFEST! **Volunteers are needed on May 20** between 12-5 PM at Soldier's Field to hand out goodies and prizes, do butterfly crafts with kids, answer any questions about our open and affirming congregation, and have a great time. Sign up by using the link on our church website events page at congoroch.org/news-events and help us to celebrate and serve the LGBTQ+ community!

Tweens/Teens, check out the After Pride Party at Old School Entertainment Co. from 5-10 PM! \$10 for pizza, beverage and unlimited arcade play. For an additional \$5, you can have 15 minutes of axe throwing (with waiver).

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 21, STAY FOR ADULT EDUCATION after our service with a presentation by Kathy Scheid from the **Elder Network**. She will present the services that their organization can provide to the elderly in our congregation and the community at large, as well as volunteer opportunities! Please plan to attend!



WE ARE COLLECTING STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING ON MAY 28. Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. This offering helps the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. You can donate by mailing a check to the church OR via the "Online Giving" icon on the church website. Remember to specify "Strengthen the Church" in the memo/notes line.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES CONTINUE THIS SUMMER!

SUMMER PLAYGROUP
SATURDAYS STARTING JUNE 3 10AM-12
OPEN AND AFFIRMING TO ALL FAMILIES
GOOD COFFEE AND SNACKS PROVIDED
ENGAGING PLAY FOR KIDS AND CONNECTION FOR PARENTS
The Congregational Church UCC
974 Skyline Dr SW
Rochester, MN 55902
congoroch.org



HERE on August 14-18

8:30-11:30 AM

Ages 4-11 ~ FREE for all!

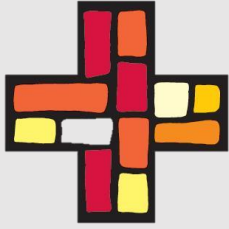
Sign up at congoroch.org/news-events

We will be studying "The Good Samaritan" through art, drama and play. Invite friends!

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - We are always in need of greeters, ushers, lay readers, and coffee hour hosts to help with our Sunday morning services. There are three ways to sign up: at church on the Narthex bulletin board, contact Sarah in the church office, or use the Sign-Up Genius link on the church website (Home page - find link on Volunteer/raised hands graphic, or News & Events page - find link under Sign Up Quick Links).



NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY COMING SOON! It's time for a new church directory; and we want all of our members and church friends to be included. Mark your calendars for **September 28, 29 and 30**. More information coming in August.



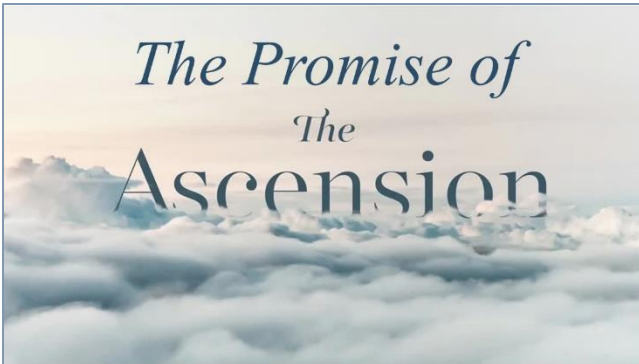
WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 21, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

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Have you ever had the experience of walking into a new place and suddenly seeing a familiar face? The fear and the nerves instantly dissipate as a smile spreads across your face and you are greeted by a friend? This feeling of relief, of welcome, of love- this is the promise of the Ascension of Jesus Christ.

At first glance, the resurrected Christ ascending through the clouds to take a seat at the right hand of God seems to mean that Jesus has left us; that he has broken his promise to be with us always, "to the end of the age." Yet Christians

throughout the ages have claimed that the opposite is true; because he has ascended Christ is even more present to us now. Because he is both human and divine, his physical presence above the heavens does not prevent his divine and spiritual presence being with us at all times and all places. The body of Christ is not only at the right hand of God, it is also spiritually present with us in Holy Communion, and in the life and love shared in the Church; the body of Christ. What is more, the risen Christ gives to us the Holy Spirit, his very spirit. The Spirit of Christ is thus within us, transforming us, guiding us, sanctifying us, and leading us to greater love of God and one another. Because Christ has ascended, he is both spiritually and bodily present to us across time and space. He is always with us, all of us, everywhere we are, until the end of the age.

There is thus nowhere we can go where Christ is not. There is no room that we can enter where Christ is not already present. Even when our mortal lives have ended and we have the opportunity to see God face to face- even then we will see the familiar face of Jesus Christ. In that most unique and transcendent and blessed moment- the humanity of Jesus is there to welcome us, to wipe away all fear and anxiety, and to walk with us into the fullness of God's love and glory. Thanks be to God for the presence of Christ beside us, within us, and waiting to accompany us into the glory of God's presence. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

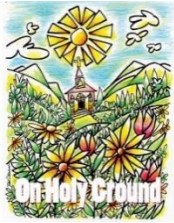
CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	5/21	10:15 AM	Sunday School
		11:15 AM	Adult Education - Elder Network
Mon	5/22	8:00 AM	Gardening Angels
Tue	5/23	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
Wed	5/24	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	5/25	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due

During worship on Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction. If you prefer prepackaged Communion elements, they are available in the Narthex or from an usher.



PLEASE PLAN TO STAY AFTER THE SERVICE for our Adult Education today! We are delighted to have Kathy Scheid from the **Elder Network** presenting the important services this organization provides to the elderly in our community - such as transportation, caregiver respite and caregiver coaching, the friendly visitor program, and more. You don't want to miss this presentation. Perhaps you might be in need of one of these services now or in the future, or perhaps you would like to show God's love to the elderly in our community and volunteer! We hope to see you after the service.



WE ARE COLLECTING STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING ON MAY 28. Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. This offering helps the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. You can donate by mailing a check to the church OR via the “Online Giving” icon on the church website. Remember to specify “Strengthen the Church” in the memo/notes line.



PRAYERS of comfort and God’s presence upon the death of **Edith Boller** on May 10, 2023. A funeral was held on May 12 at Schumacher-Kish Funeral Home in La Crosse, WI. To view her obituary, [click here](#) or visit www.postbulletin.com/obituaries.



In celebration and thanks to all

who make music in our midst

Chancel Choir:

- Catharine Bliss
- Vicki Couch
- Steve Gusa
- Chris Hoppe
- Sarah Keller
- Rick Kvam
- Lauren Nickels
- Kathie Petrie
- Barbara Pike
- Paul Pike
- Bob Richardson
- Jamie Risser
- David Walters
- Jodi Williamson
- Nancy Zaworski

Bell Choir:

- Janet Bartz
- Ellen Bauman
- Vicki Couch
- Carrie Gildner
- Jason Majorowicz
- Paul Pike
- Bob Roediger
- Brielle Schlee
- Andrea Timmerman
- David Walters
- Tammy Williams

Youth Bells:

- Annika Bliss
- Patrick Bliss
- Grace Finke
- Mason Majorowicz
- Sophie Majorowicz
- Caroline Reichard
- Vreni Reichard
- Trent Risser

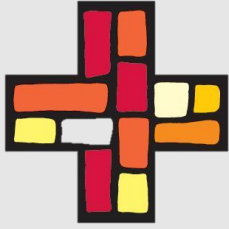
Accompanists:

- Jan Kvam, piano
- Emily Roth, organ
- Cathy Benscoter, violin

Guest Musicians:

- Tommy Rinkoski
- Mary Manges
- David Townsend
- Ralph Schornack
- Bob Gardner
- Alec Tackmann





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PENTECOST SUNDAY

“Still Speaking” - Acts 2:1-21

Try to imagine a long thin insect. Now watch that insect as it slowly, deliberately, and with a great deal of effort, climbs up a screen door. The insect loses its grip and begins to fall what must be a terrifying distance. Then, mere milliseconds after it falls from the screen, two large wings protrude from the insect, start flapping, and allow it to hover in midair. All that struggle and all that fear of falling, only to find out that he had wings all along.

Out of our love and concern for the church we often try to do everything we possibly can to help the church. This is a natural and even praiseworthy instinct. We absolutely should be of service to the church in whatever capacity we feel called. We should take this work seriously and do it well as a service to God. However, sometimes we can get so wrapped up in our work to help the church that we begin to resemble that insect. We struggle and fight to save the church on our own, all the time forgetting that we have wings. The Holy Spirit is present in the Church. God in the Holy Spirit transforms and guides and sustains the body of believers. We have wings because God is not only above us and with us, but also within us.

On this Pentecost Sunday we will celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples' 2,000 years ago. We will also celebrate our belief that the Holy Spirit is working within our congregation and our individual lives today. It is only by relying on the Holy Spirit, trusting in the guidance of God, that we come to be a part of God's mission in the Church. We are called not to rescue God and the Church, but to allow God to rescue us and lead us into God's mission here and now. This Pentecost, let us celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit by letting go of our illusions of control and welcoming God to work within us and guide us along the way. In the Holy Spirit we have wings, let us trust in Her and take flight!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Mon	5/29	-----	Closed - Memorial Day
		-----	NO Gardening Angels
Tue	5/30	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom. Last meeting, then off for summer.
Wed	5/31	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	6/1	2:00 PM	Worship Ministry Team - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sat	6/3	10-Noon	Summer Playgroup - church playground

TODAY WE ARE COLLECTING STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING which supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. You can donate by mailing a check to the church OR via the “Online Giving” icon on the church website. Remember to specify “Strengthen the Church” in the memo line.

SUMMER PLAYGROUP BEGINS JUNE 3 - Families of all kinds are invited to the playground on Saturdays from 10 to Noon for free play, coffee, and fellowship. Caribou coffee and “good” snacks will be served. Please invite anyone who cares for children to come and consider sharing with your friends. This program will run from June 3 to August 12.

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC SERIES IS BACK! Join us Wednesday, **June 14, July 12, and August 9 at 6 PM** on the lower lawn for a moving outdoor worship of music, scripture, preaching, and holy communion. Following worship, we all share in a delicious meal and fellowship with fun lawn games and bounce house for the kiddos! See you there!