



CHURCH LIFE

2023 SUMMER EDITION

THE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 AM
In-Person & Online

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
THE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UCC –
ROCHESTER, MN

OUT OF THE OFFICE

**Pastor Andrew -
Study Leave & Youth Trip**
June 5-7 & June 25-30

**Pastor Andrew and
Pastor Shannon**
July 13-27

EVENT DATES

Summer Playgroup
Saturdays June 3-Aug. 12

**Outdoor Worship
& Youth Group**
June 14, July 12, Aug. 9

Juneteenth
June 17

Hawthorne Collection
August 1-27

Relay for Life
August 4

Paint a Bowl for Ch. 1
August 10

VBS
August 14-18

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC SERIES RETURNS

**Three Wednesday evenings at 6 PM on
June 14, July 12, and August 9**

Our Summer Outdoor Worship and Picnic series is back! Join us on the lower lawn for a moving outdoor worship experience and awesome picnic! Our evening begins with a simple and beautiful 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!



YOUTH GROUP FOLLOWING OUTDOOR WORSHIP

The youth group will be meeting three times this summer. After each of our midweek worship services on June 14, July 12, and August 9, the youth are invited to stick around for a fire pit, s'mores and Life Size Hungry-Hungry Hippos. We will meet until 8:30 PM - bring friends and a helmet! Contact Pastor Shannon with any questions.



SUMMER PLAYGROUP ON SATURDAYS

We are making time for kids this summer! Families of all kinds are invited to the playground on **Saturdays from 10 to Noon** for free play, coffee, and fellowship. It can be challenging raising children and making friends, join us for low pressure social time and coffee. Caribou coffee and "good" snacks will be served. Please invite anyone who cares for children to come and consider sharing the event on Facebook. This program will run from June 3 to August 12.

We are **seeking volunteers on July 15 and July 22** to coordinate this event during the pastor's vacations. All that is required is to bring coffee to the playground and visit with those who come. Please contact Pastor Shannon if you are able to help.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is August 14-18 from 8:30-11:30 AM

Children age 4-10 are invited to come learn about The Good Samaritan through drama, art, and play. Over the week, we will create a play with sets and costumes to be performed on Friday at 11:30 AM. This is a wonderful opportunity to create deeper relationships with some of our youngest members and teach them about God's incredible love. Campers and volunteers can sign up using the link on our church website's events page: <https://www.congoroch.org/news-events> or contact Pastor Shannon. If you know any children or families that might be interested, please share this information widely. If you have Facebook, consider sharing our event.



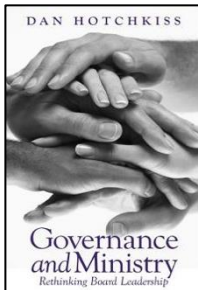


MAKING IT EASIER TO DO MINISTRY TOGETHER!

*Cabinet discusses best practices
for organizing our collective work*

- Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

As with so many other areas of life, our congregation has undergone significant changes during the pandemic. One of the persistent challenges that we face is adequately staffing our Cabinet, committees, and ministry teams under our current structure. We still have unfilled officer roles on our Cabinet, we have multiple ministry teams that consist of only one member, and few people are eager to sign up for a three-year term of formal monthly meetings in the hopes of doing ministry with our congregation.



Over the last several months, Cabinet has been discussing these challenges and researching ways we might streamline some of our administrative work and make participating in ministry easier and more accessible to the congregation. Together the Cabinet read the book, "Governance and Ministry Rethinking

Board Leadership" by Dan Hotchkiss to help us think of potential ways to make our ministry more efficient and effective. We plan to continue these discussions with the goal of creating a proposal for structuring our ministry work in a more accessible and efficient manner. For any who are interested in this discussion we invite you to check out a copy of "Governance and Ministry" from the church office.

The changes we are discussing primarily relate to the "behind the scenes" work of the congregation. We are not discussing any changes to our programming itself—there are no proposals to change our worship, our Christian education, or our youth programming. What we are hoping is to make it easier for the congregation to participate in these ministries and limit the amount of volunteer hours spent on governance and administration. We will continue to inform the congregation as our discussions move forward. Any proposed changes to the structure of our ministry will be presented to the congregation for feedback and discussion before it is given a trial run. We appreciate your trust in the leadership of our Cabinet and we look forward to your input as we seek ways to better serve God and our neighbors.

NEW BAPTISMAL FONT

Our new baptismal font is here! As stated in the 2023 Plan for Ministry, the Worship Ministry Team went ahead with a plan and contacted Nigon Woodworks Inc. of Rochester to design and build a font that would be aesthetic to our sanctuary and easier to move.



The wooden valance that covers the screen in our sanctuary was also built by them and installed in December. Both are beautifully crafted. We dedicated the baptismal font on Sunday, May 14. We are grateful to the donors of the alabaster bowl and the beautiful base to hold it. John Kruesel's General Merchandise and Auction Company has the old font and will find a home for it.

HELP WITH SOME SEWING?



We are looking for several people who would be willing to sew new table coverings for our bell tables. The ones we have are showing their age a bit! It is all straight sewing, and we can use the old coverings as the pattern which makes it easier! If you would be interested in helping do this, please contact Karmen Gusa: karmengusa@charter.net or 507-269-9144. We would love to have these ready by fall. Thank you for considering or letting me know if you know of anyone who might be interested!



COMMUNION SETUP & SERVERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help with communion set up and serving. Education on what to do, how to do, etc. is also readily available. If you would like to be involved in this ministry, please speak to anyone on the Worship Ministry Team: Jean Nordly, Mark Young, Cheryl Roediger or Pastor Andrew. It is not terribly time consuming, there are written directions on how to prepare the communion, and serving is just that -- serving.





SATURDAY, JUNE 17 from NOON - 5

Please join us at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Park as hosts at our booth at this year's Juneteenth event - a fun family and community celebration. Sign up Genius and more details to follow!



FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 4
at the Dodge County Fairgrounds

More details to follow. Colleen Hofer is Captain. To get involved, please text or call 507-272-0747 or email colleenmariehofer24@gmail.com



THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 STARTING AT 6 PM

All church members, friends, and guests of all painting-skill levels will enjoy this evening of fun painting a bowl (or two, or three!) to be later fired and used at **Channel One's Empty Bowl event in October**. Yummy pizza will also be available! There is no cost- we only ask that you **please sign up before July 27** at <https://www.congoroch.org/news-events> so we can order the correct number of bowls.



FAMILY PROMISE FUN NIGHT

Would you like to help host a Fun Night with Families from Family Promise? We welcome and host 1 to 3 families from Family Promise here at our church for an evening of good food, games and activities. We are looking for families and individuals to host a Friday evening in July or August to prepare a meal and/or share a delightful evening with our guests! Date TBD. Contact the church office if you are interested. Watch for updates and details!



Ruth & Andrew Greenhaw at Rochester Pride on May 20

ADULT EDUCATION

BOOK GROUP will hiatus for the summer as usual but check back with us in the Fall!

BIBLE STUDY OFF FOR SUMMER BREAK



After finishing our reading of the Gospel of Luke, our Tuesday Bible Study group will be taking a break for the summer. When we resume in September, we will begin reading the Acts of The Apostles.

UPDATE ON OUR VIDEO SERIES "HOW DID WE GET...?"



As many of you know, we've gone into the movie producing business with Dr. Sarah Ruble and our own member, Ryan Bliss. Dr. Sarah Ruble is the professor of Church History and Theology at Gustavus Adolphus who created the "Race and Christianity" video series we used last year in our adult education hour. We've contracted with her and our videographer, Ryan Bliss, to produce a series exploring six Christian doctrines and historical events in context to explore their relevance for the Church today. We previewed one of the videos this Spring with the Olive Branch worshipping community and will be showing it once more at the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting. With the feedback we receive from these showings, we are diving into final edits of the videos over the summer. All six videos will be ready for our congregation to make use of them in our adult education hour this fall.



DONATIONS DURING AUGUST

Hawthorne Helps is a local ministry assisting students and their families at the Hawthorne Education Center. During **August 1st through Sunday, August 27th** we will be **collecting various personal items** which go to assist students and their families living at or below poverty level, struggling to make a better life for themselves and their families. This includes young teens who dropped out of high school, non-traditional students trying to complete a GED or High School Diploma, those pursuing a health career that will provide a living wage, immigrants and refugees from more than 30 countries learning English, and infants to preschoolers coming with parents who are pursuing further education. Watch for the forthcoming suggested list of items.



LOCAL BENEVOLENCE RECIPIENT

Family Service Rochester was founded in 1965 as a nonprofit organization with a staff of three and the mission to support and enhance the dignity and quality of life for individuals and families in our community. Today, Family Service Rochester provides more than 30 programs across 12 different counties.

The Stewardship and Benevolence Ministry Team, in keeping with our four-pronged benevolence categories of Food, Housing, Disaster Relief, and Social and Racial Justice, donated \$1,000 from the Local Benevolence budget line item to Family Service Rochester to aid their important **Meals on Wheels program**. This program provides home delivered, dietetically correct, hot, nutritious meals and a friendly visit over the noon hour to residents who are not able to prepare or easily access a healthy meal. Volunteers deliver meals seven days a week in Rochester. The meals are prepared under the supervision of a licensed dietitian and special diets are available. Meals on Wheels is also a helpful resource for caregivers looking for support and respite. Visit <https://familyservicerochester.org/> to see all the services that Family Service Rochester provides - they can always use more volunteers!



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES Graduating From & Future Plans

Jack Bauman - Century High School
Will attend the University of Illinois to study
Computer Engineering

Keaton Campbell

Mason Decker - John Marshall High School
Will be playing Junior hockey next year

Cate Stacy - Mayo High School
Will attend Macalester College in the fall

Camden Williams - John Marshall High School
Will attend Riverland Community College

Douglas Sachs, son of Eric and Heather Nordly Sachs, and grandson of Jim and Jean Nordly - Lindbergh High School and St. Louis Community College, Meramec. He will attend the University of Missouri at Columbia majoring in Engineering.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Ethan Bauman – Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University

Elizabeth (Bauman) Klein – In September, she will receive a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy from University of Minnesota

Donal Couch - Bachelor of Science from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities with a major in Chemical Engineering and minors in Computer Science and Chemistry

Ronan Couch - Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin - Madison with double majors in Neurobiology and Psychology, graduating with Comprehensive Honors

Emily Roth – Masters in Music from the University of Minnesota



Summer Hours June - August

Pastors Andrew and Shannon

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

OFF: Monday

Church Office: Tues-Wed-Thu

Sarah Struwe, Admin. Asst.

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

OFF: Monday

Church Office: Tues-Thu-Fri

Home Office: Wed

Andrew Greenhaw

314-496-4534

pastorandrew@congoroch.org

Shannon Smith

504-994-1822

pastorshannon@congoroch.org

Sarah Struwe/Home Office

507-251-4269

church@congoroch.org

Church Office/Voicemail

507-289-4581



- Omitted from online version to protect privacy -



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

COME TO ENJOY OUR SACRED FOREST & MEMORIAL GARDEN



Whether it be nature exploration or peaceful meditation, all are welcome to enjoy our Sacred Forest and Memorial Garden. Walking sticks are available at the path entrance, plus wild flower and forest information can be found in the outdoor brochure rack. Additional nature guides and binoculars can also be checked out in the church office. The Memorial Garden, plus church entry plants and flowers have been carefully selected by master gardeners and are faithfully cared for by our Gardening Angels. Enjoy the summer weather and marvel at God's creation in our own backyard!

