

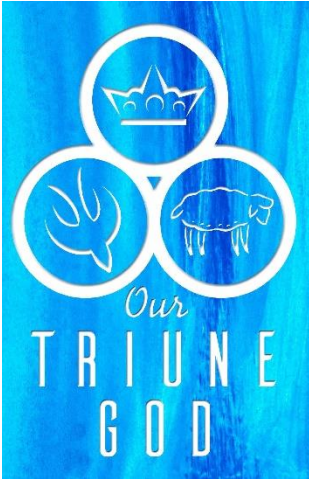
# WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 4, 2023

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



### “A PERFECT LOVING COMMUNION” – Matthew 28:16-20

As many of you know, we’ve partnered with Dr. Sarah Ruble of Gustavus Adolphus College to produce a video series engaging with Christian Doctrine and History entitled, “How Did We Get...?” The first video in our series is on that most confusing and most central of Christian doctrines, The Trinity. In this video, Dr. Ruble acknowledges that trinitarian language and theology can seem overwhelmingly complicated. This acknowledgment leads to the title of her conclusion to the video; after 25 minutes of theological and historical detail, Dr. Ruble asks, “So What?” What does the trinity mean for us? How does it help us to better worship, serve, and understand God?

At the end of Matthew’s gospel, Jesus instructs the apostles to baptize in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We certainly expect that baptism will be in the name of God, so why give all three names, why not just baptize in the name of the Father? One of the claims of trinitarian theology is that there is no God before or beyond the relationship of the trinity. God is first and foremost the perfect loving communion of the three equally divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This means that to baptize in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is to baptize in the name of God, for the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God, and they are all God together in eternal loving relationship.



For we who believe in God as the creator and the redeemer of the world, the trinity means that the world begins and ends in perfect loving communion. We come from such perfect love and it is to such perfect love that we shall return. Our salvation involves being ever more closely united to the loving communion that is the Triune God. We can know something of that love in our lives in Holy Communion, prayer, and service to others. We are called to proclaim this love to the world, welcoming all of creation to return to life within the perfect loving communion of the trinity; or, as Matthew says it, “to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Let us bask in the love of God and heed the call to share it with the world. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

**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.

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Mon	6/5	8:00 AM	Gardening Angels
Tue	6/6	7:00 PM	Stewardship & Benevolence Team
Thu	6/8	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
Sat	6/10	10-Noon	Summer Playgroup – church playground

#### OUT OF THE OFFICE:

Pastor Andrew will be away at continuing education June 5-7 and the MN Conference Annual Meeting June 9-10

**JUNETEENTH - On Saturday, June 17, help The Congregational Church celebrate** with the Rochester Community by taking a shift at our booth. This is a fun family and community celebration. Go to the church website [events page](#) and sign up for one of the shifts to greet people, hand out flyers and candy, and tell folks about our church!

**SUMMER SATURDAY PLAYGROUP** - Families of all kinds are invited to the playground on **Saturdays from 10 - 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 every Saturday through August 12.

**SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND 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!

**VBS - August 14-18 from 8:30-11:30 AM** for ages 4-11 at The Congregational Church is **FREE** for all! Campers and volunteers can sign up on the church website [events page](#). We will be studying “The Good Samaritan” through art, drama and play. Questions? Contact Pastor Shannon Smith at [pastorshannon@congoroch.org](mailto:pastorshannon@congoroch.org) or 504-994-1822.

<b>MONTHLY OFFERING REPORT</b>		<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
May	Estimate of Giving	\$17,155	\$15,131	\$21,463
	Non-Estim. Giving	\$3,270	\$945	\$2,667
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,415</b>	<b>\$16,076</b>	<b>\$24,130</b>
Y-T-D	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$125,424</b>	<b>\$107,810</b>	<b>\$120,650</b>

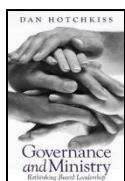
## **MAKING IT EASIER TO DO MINISTRY TOGETHER!**

*Cabinet discusses best practices for organizing our collective work*

- Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

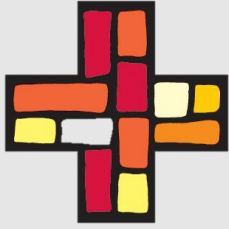


As with so many other areas of life, our congregation has undergone significant changes during the pandemic. One of the persistent challenges that we face is adequately staffing our Cabinet, committees, and ministry teams under our current structure. We still have unfilled officer roles on our Cabinet, 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.



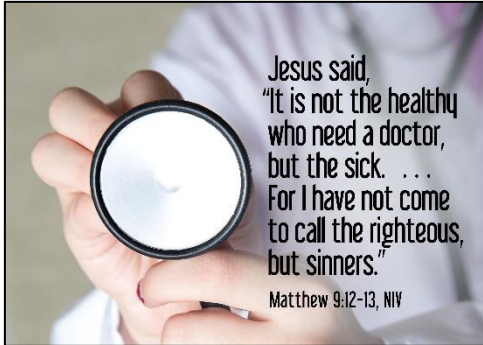
# WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 11, 2023

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



### “WHO IS NEED OF A PHYSICIAN?” Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Some Pharisees observe Jesus eating with some rather shady characters and they question his disciples, asking, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus, having overhead the question, replies, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”

What comes next is an astoundingly clear demonstration that Jesus is indeed good news for those who are sick. A woman who has suffered 12 years with hemorrhages merely touches his cloak and is instantly made well. Next Jesus takes the hand of a girl who has just died and raises her to her feet, alive. Jesus ends 12 years of suffering from chronic illness in an instant; though the young girl had died, she was restored to life when Jesus took her by the hand. Jesus is indeed astonishingly good news for those who are sick, even sick unto death.

How do we figure in these stories? It depends on how we see ourselves. Do we see ourselves as these Pharisees see themselves- as righteous people with no need for a savior? Or can we see ourselves as the woman with the hemorrhage saw herself, as one who suffers a sickness, yet trusts in Jesus’ ability to heal her? If we know ourselves to be perfectly righteous- if we believe we have no need for healing or forgiveness, there is little good news for us in the gospel of Jesus Christ. On the other hand, if we know that we suffer, that we struggle, if we can admit our need for a physician, then there is terrifically good news for us in Jesus Christ. Jesus offers healing, forgiveness, and new life to all those in need of it. Jesus has come to call not the righteous but sinners. That is best of all possible news for those of us who can acknowledge how far short we often fall of true righteousness.

Rev. Andrew Greenhaw

### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Mon	6/12	7:30 AM	Gardening Angels
Tue	6/13	6:30 PM	Executive Committee
Wed	6/14	6:00 PM	Outdoor Worship and Picnic
		7:00 PM	Youth Group (following worship & picnic)
Thu	6/15	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
Sat	6/17	10-Noon	Summer Playgroup - church playground
		Noon-5	Juneteenth at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park



**Pastors Andrew and Shannon**  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
OFF: Monday  
Church Office: Tues-Wed-Thu

**Sarah Struwe**  
8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
OFF: Mon / Home Office: Wed  
Church Office: Tues, Thu & Fri



**FIRST SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC THIS WEEK!** Join us **Wednesday, June 14 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! **YOUTH GROUP will meet afterwards at 7:00 PM** for a campfire, s’mores and games. Save the date and join us again on **July 12 and August 9.**

**JUNETEENTH - On Saturday, June 17, help The Congregational Church celebrate** with the Rochester Community by taking a shift at our booth. This is a fun family and community celebration. Go to the church website [events page](#) and sign up for one of the shifts to greet people, hand out flyers and candy, and tell folks about our church!



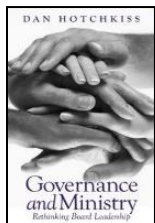
**HELP WITH SOME SEWING?** We are looking for several people who would be willing to sew new table coverings for our bell tables. The ones we have are showing their age a bit! It is all straight sewing, and we can use the old coverings as the pattern which makes it easier! If you would be interested in helping do this, please contact Karmen Gusa: [karmengusa@charter.net](mailto: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!

**SUMMER SATURDAY PLAYGROUP** - 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 every Saturday through August 12.

**VBS - August 14-18 from 8:30-11:30 AM** for ages 4-11 at The Congregational Church is FREE for all! Campers and volunteers can sign up on the church website [events page](#). We will be studying “The Good Samaritan” through art, drama and play. Questions? Contact Pastor Shannon Smith at [pastorshannon@congorocho.org](mailto:pastorshannon@congorocho.org) or 504-994-1822.



**CONFIRMATION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 17** - All young people from 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join our Confirmation class beginning September 17. Confirmation is a year-long journey our young people take with the pastors to go more deeply into the Christian faith culminating in choosing to join (or not join) the Christian tradition, confirming the baptism that took place when they were infants. **Class will be following worship on Sundays from 11:15 to 12:15 in the Chapel, with one field trip to another Christian community each month.** This is an important rite of passage for our young members and we are excited to explore their faith with them. To sign your child up, please contact Pastor Shannon.



### **MAKING IT EASIER TO DO MINISTRY TOGETHER!**

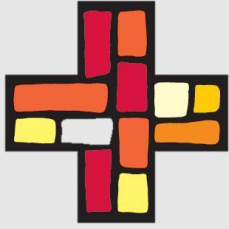
- Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

*Cabinet discusses best practices for organizing our collective work*

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.

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# WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 18, 2023

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



### “BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THINGS”

Genesis 18:1-15

Last Monday, my six-year-old, Ruth, and I went on a hike with the express purpose of searching for fairies. Ruth likes fairies and wants to believe in them, but she’s encountered a great deal of doubt among her kindergarten classmates. So, we hiked down to Quarry Hill and sure enough, right along the path we found the houses of fairies! Two large stumps on the side of the path were decorated with tiny doors and porches and all kinds of cute little fairy knick knacks. Ruth’s face lit up! You could see in



her face her world becoming larger and deeper; beneath the surface appearance of things there lurked a hidden reality. The woods around her were no longer just full of senseless plants, they were now the very dwelling place of fairies!

While Abraham is sitting by the oaks of Mamre, three men appear upon the horizon walking towards him. Abraham rushes to show the travelers hospitality, fetching them bread and water, milk and curds, and even slaughters a lamb for them. As they sit together under the shade of the oaks, one of the men repeats the promise of God that Abraham’s wife Sarah will bear a child. Then, in the 13th verse, a remarkable switch occurs- the man continues speaking, but this time he is referred to as the Lord, as God! What is this? Is this human being God? That is certainly what Abraham perceives- beneath the surface reality of the human man standing before him, Abraham sees the divine presence. God appears to him in the appearance of the stranger sitting before him, receiving his hospitality.

One of the gifts of life in the Church is the opportunity to train ourselves to see the hidden reality of God beneath the surface appearance of things. We learn to trust not only in Abraham’s perception of God in the face of the stranger, but also in our own perception: our ability to see God in the person of Jesus Christ, our ability to see the mystical body of Christ in the bread and the cup shared in communion. This Sunday as we read scripture, hear the preached Word, and **share in holy communion**, we will be training ourselves to see the reality of God in our world. Through our worship God helps us to see the divine presence in the strangers we encounter and empowers us to offer them hospitality and kindness. May God grant us such eyes to see in our worship this week. Amen.

Rev. Andrew Greenhaw

### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Mon	6/19	7:30 AM	Gardening Angels
Tue	6/20	6:30 PM	Cabinet – Hybrid. Please review packet before meeting.
Thu	6/22	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
Sat	6/24	10-Noon	Summer Playgroup – church playground



**HELP WITH SOME SEWING?** We are looking for several people who would be willing to sew new table **coverings for our bell tables**. 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](mailto: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!



**THANK YOU - The Strengthen the Church (STC) offering totaled \$690.** This special offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth in UCC congregations. Of the STC funds collected, 50% stays in Minnesota to help fund various ministries across our state's churches. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, the funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, faith formation, and innovation in existing congregations. Thank you for your generous contributions to support the expansion of ministry and the growth in UCC congregations!

**SUMMER SATURDAY PLAYGROUP –**

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 every Saturday through August 12.



**OUTDOOR WORSHIP & MEAL –**

Mark your calendars for the next two services on **Wednesday, July 12 and August 9** at 6 PM.



**VBS - August 14-18 from 8:30-11:30 AM** for ages 4-11 at The Congregational Church is **FREE** for all! Campers and volunteers can sign up on the church website [events page](#). We will study “The Good Samaritan” through art, drama and play. Questions? Contact Pastor Shannon Smith at [pastorshannon@congorocho.org](mailto:pastorshannon@congorocho.org) or 504-994-1822.



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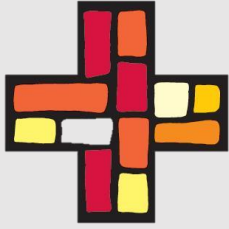


**Pastors Andrew and Shannon**  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
OFF: Monday  
Church Office: Tues-Wed-Thur

**Sarah Struwe, Admin. Asst.**  
8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
OFF: Mon / Home Office: Wed  
Church Office: Tues, Thu & Fri

**FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP** – You can still provide and bring a floral arrangement for Sunday worship to highlight a special occasion or “just because.” If you order through Flowers by Jerry, they can be delivered to the church on Saturday. Contact the church office with your bulletin dedication and inquire about liturgical colors if desired. Following Sunday worship, you may choose to keep the flowers or deliver them to someone special.

**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 under Volunteer/raised hands graphic, or News & Events page - find link under Sign Up Quick Links).



## WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 25, 2023

### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902

**THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 25**, Pastor Shannon Smith's message is "Free" and the scripture reading is Romans 6:1-11.

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Mon	6/26	7:30 AM	Gardening Angels
Tue	6/27	9:00 AM	Early Deadline - Bulletin & Announcement info due
Sat	7/1	10-Noon	Summer Playgroup - church playground

#### OUT OF THE OFFICE THIS WEEK

Pastor Andrew - June 25-30 - Youth Group Boundary Waters Retreat

Sarah Struwe - June 28-30 - Vacation. *Early bulletin deadline is Tuesday, June 27 at 9 AM.*

For assistance during this time, contact Pastor Shannon.

**THANK YOU** - Thanks to all of the volunteers who staffed our event table at the Pridfest and Juneteenth celebrations: Janet Bartz, Cheryl Roediger, Jamie Risser, Pastor Andrew and Ruth, the Bliss's, Bethani Ferguson, Vicki Couch and Nancy Zaworski. We were able to share about our faith community with many, many community members and youth and to share about and invite all to our summer programs and worship.

**SUMMER SATURDAY PLAYGROUP** - 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 every Saturday through August 12.



**NEXT OUTDOOR WORSHIP & MEAL** - Wednesday, July 12 and August 9 at 6 PM.

**Vacation**  
**BIBLE SCHOOL**

**VBS - August 14-18 from 8:30-11:30 AM** for ages 4-11 at The Congregational Church is FREE for all! Campers and volunteers can sign up on the church website [events page](#). We will study "The Good Samaritan" through art, drama and play. Questions? Contact Pastor Shannon Smith at [pastorshannon@congorocho.org](mailto:pastorshannon@congorocho.org) or 504-994-1822.