

# WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 3, 2023

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



**THIS SUNDAY**, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pastor Shannon Smith’s message is “Hold Fast” and the scripture reading is Romans 12:9-21. **COMMUNION** will also be served by passing of the plate. If you prefer, prepackaged Communion elements 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	9/4	-----	NO Gardening Angels
		-----	Office Closed: Labor Day
Tue	9/5	7:30 AM	Men’s Group – Denny’s on S. Broadway
		7:00 PM	Stewardship & Benevolence Ministry Team
Wed	9/6	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
Thu	9/7	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		2:00 PM	Worship Ministry Team - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Fri	9/8	9-11 AM	Volunteer Day at Channel One



**CELEBRATION SUNDAY** - Let’s kick off the beginning of the programmatic year together with **Celebration Sunday on September 10**. We will have a bounce house, lawn games, and an ice cream sundae bar. Please plan to stick around to hear about what we have planned for the coming 9 months and how you can be a part of it.

**CHOIRS BEGIN!** **Bell Choir** begins on Wednesday at 5:15 PM and **Chancel Choir** begins on Thursday at 6:30 PM.

Throughout the year, Youth Bell Choir and Children’s Choir will meet 3-4 times, ring or sing in a worship service, then take a break until the next rehearsal time works for all. We will begin with the following schedule:

**Youth Bell Choir** (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) – Rehearsal on Wednesday evening, September 27, October 4 & 11, from 6:30-7:00 PM (before Youth Group at 7 PM); ring during worship on Sunday, October 15.

**Children’s Choir** (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) - Rehearsal after church beginning on Sunday, October 15, 22 & 29 from 11:15-11:45 AM; sing during worship on Sunday, November 5.

If you are interested in joining or have any questions, feel free to contact Karmen Gusa.



**CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Our next group volunteer session at Channel One Regional Food Bank is **Friday, September 8, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**, and we need you!!! Our group will be working in the Food Bank, usually processing bulk foods into smaller packages for distribution in the Food Shelf and to Channel One’s partnering agencies. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old.

We work hard but have fun too!

Signing up to volunteer must be done via our unique page on the Channel One volunteer site, accessible [here](#). Please click on the “Respond” button to begin. Every volunteer needs to have a sign-in account, which can be created the first time you sign-up. During account creation, you will also electronically sign a waiver and view a 5-minute civil rights video. Once your account is created, you can complete the sign-up.

Our sign-up page contains all the monthly dates that we have scheduled, so you can sign up for as many as you’d like at one time. If you’d like more information, please contact Cheryl Roediger at [cnroediger@gmail.com](mailto:cnroediger@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

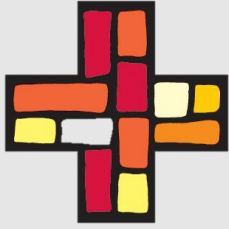


**IT'S TIME TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN!** Whether you're in church on Sundays or watching from home, members or friends, we want you to be part of our new pictorial directory. Photo sessions are **September 28-30** and each family photographed receives a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. **To sign up** go to our church website [www.congoroch.org](http://www.congoroch.org), and under the News & Events page, scroll to Sign-Up Quick Links.

Use Church Code *mn356* and Church Password *photos*.

**HAWAI’I WILDFIRE RELIEF OFFERING** - The emergency relief offering collected on August 20 and August 27 to aid our brothers and sisters in Hawai’i totaled **\$1,860**. The UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team leader, the Rev. Josh Baird, has been working with Hawaii Conference Disaster Coordinator Danny Tengan, in consultation with Hawaii Conference Minister the Rev. David Popham and other leaders, to continually assess the situation and to provide immediate and long-term aid. Your continuous prayers and donations DO make a difference! **THANK YOU!**

<b><u>MONTHLY OFFERING REPORT</u></b>		<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
August	Estimate of Giving	\$10,325	\$17,255	\$21,463
	Non-Estim. Giving	\$2,600	\$3,645	\$2,667
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,925</b>	<b>\$20,900</b>	<b>\$24,130</b>
Y-T-D	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$171,149</b>	<b>\$173,262</b>	<b>\$193,040</b>



## WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 10, 2023

### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902

#### “LOVE THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW”

Romans 13:8-14



In the movie, “Semi-Pro,” Will Ferrel plays the player/coach of a struggling professional basketball team. During the team’s many arguments, Will Ferrel’s character attempts to stop the fighting by shouting his team motto at them, screaming,

“Everybody Love Everybody!” It’s hilarious because of how obviously impossible it is- you can’t force people to love one another no matter how loud you yell. The motto isn’t a bad idea, it’d be great if everybody loved everybody, but this isn’t a state of affairs that one can merely will into existence.



Everybody loving everybody turns out to be what the Apostle Paul believes to be the fulfillment of all the divine laws of the Old Testament. “The one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” To love someone is not just to feel nice and warm towards them- if this were so the commandment to love our enemies would be impossible. No, Christian love involves actively willing the best for someone else regardless of their attitude towards you. If you will what is best for someone, if you love them, then you will never do them wrong; you will fulfill all of your obligations towards your neighbor.

While it's great to know that we can follow the totality of the divine law simply by loving everyone, the fact remains that we aren't particularly good at doing so. A simple reminder is not enough, nor is shouting the command that “Everybody love everybody!” How do we go about fulfilling the law when loving everybody seems to be a little beyond our human capacities? For the Christian faith love is not something that we accomplish, rather it is a gift of God. Love is the gift of God’s very presence, the presence of the Holy Spirit poured out upon us. Through receiving the love of God in the Holy Spirit we come to realize all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ. This inspires gratitude within us and a desire to love others as God has loved us. If God could love us even when we were undeserving, perhaps God can also empower us to love others whether we believe they deserve it or not. May this be our prayer and may we seek to always emulate the love of God.

Rev. Andrew Greenhaw



**IT'S CELEBRATION SUNDAY** and we are kicking off the beginning of the programmatic year. Following worship we will have a bounce house, lawn games, and an ice cream sundae bar. Please plan to stick around to hear about what we have planned and how you can be a part of it.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Mon	9/11	7:30 AM	Gardening Angels
Tue	9/12	2:00 PM	Bible Study Zoom – see article for link
Wed	9/13	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	9/14	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir

**YOUTH GROUP** begins Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 PM for Grades 6-12. Friends are invited and dinner is provided! We will gather in the chapel to eat and share in fellowship.



**WE NEED YOU FOR FAMILY PROMISE HOST NIGHT** - Family Promise is an organization that provides housing and support services to families experiencing homelessness in Rochester. One way that we support their work is by hosting Family Nights at the church which consists of a meal and some games and activities for the children to enjoy. This provides a free meal to the families, space and time for recreation for the kids, and an opportunity to get to know and serve our neighbors. Our next Family Night with Family Promise is scheduled for **Friday, September 22**. If you're able to help with dinner, provide a ride, or hang out and play with some children, email Sarah at [church@congoroch.org](mailto:church@congoroch.org).

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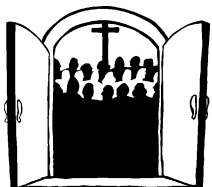
## ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMING BEGINS

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**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** resumes on Tuesday afternoons at 2 PM beginning September 12. This will be offered via Zoom: find link at [www.congoroch.org/adult-education](http://www.congoroch.org/adult-education) (passcode: congo). We will be reading the Acts of the Apostles together, moving through one chapter each week. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us on any Tuesday they are available, and no prior knowledge or attendance is needed to participate and enjoy our Bible study.

**BOOK GROUP** meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 10:30 AM at church, plus offer a Zoom option for those who wish to join us from home. Book selection for **September 19** is "The Distant Hours" by Kate Hudson and is available in the church office.

**5-WEEK BOOK STUDY** - Reserve your spot now to participate in the 5-week book study and discussion series entitled **Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ**. **The dates for the sessions** are September 26, October 3, October 10, October 24, and October 31 at 6:30pm on Zoom and will last for 75 minutes. The study will feature the book "Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the UCC" by Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk. You can pick up a copy of the book from the church office. See the fall edition of Church Life for details. Please use [this link](#) to indicate your intention to participate: as participation will be capped at 20 people. Signup can also be found at [www.congoroch.org/news-events](http://www.congoroch.org/news-events)



**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** -Our Semi-Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, September 24** following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting will be to present and discuss our 2024 Plan for Ministry and proposed budget.



**IT'S TIME TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN!** Whether you're in church on Sundays or watching from home, members or friends, we want you to be part of our new pictorial directory. Photo sessions are **September 28-30** and each family photographed receives a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. **To sign up** go to our church website [www.congoroch.org](http://www.congoroch.org), and under the News & Events page, scroll to Sign-Up Quick Links.

Use Church Code **mn356** and Church Password **photos**.

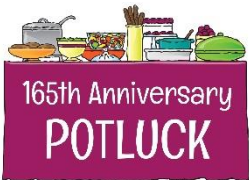


**YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Throughout the year, choirs will meet 3-4 times, ring or sing in a worship service, then take a break until the next rehearsal time works for all. We will begin with the following schedule:

**Youth Bell Choir** (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) – Rehearsal on Wednesday evening, September 27, October 4 & 11, from 6:30-7:00 PM (before Youth Group at 7 PM); ring during worship on Sunday, October 15.

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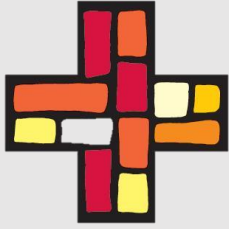
If you are interested in joining or have any questions, feel free to contact Karmen Gusa.



**WE'RE GOING TO CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH'S 165TH BIRTHDAY!** Members and friends – both old and new – are invited to join us in **worship and a potluck after, on Sunday, October 1**. We are clearing all after church activities that day, in the hope that we can all gather for a wonderful worship experience and then follow with fellowship and great food! Bring your favorite hot dish, side dish/salad, dessert, or buns for pulled pork. Volunteers are also needed on Saturday for room set-up, and on Sunday for room re-set and dishwasher. To help us plan, please **signup** to attend and/or volunteer on the poster in the Narthex or online at [www.congoroch.org/news-events](http://www.congoroch.org/news-events).



**PARTNER KIDS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** - This program at Elton Hills School is focused on mentoring the reading skills of 2nd graders. According to the principal, this program has played a part in an "off the charts" improvement in second grade reading levels this past year. This fall, all mentors will have two 2nd grade students for 30 minutes each week, focused on reading. We will no longer be following a single student through subsequent grades at the school. An advantage here may be that new mentors can be comfortable with an initial one-year commitment. If you would like to join for this school year or have any questions, please contact **Greg Caucutt** at [gcaucutt@gmail.com](mailto:gcaucutt@gmail.com) or 507-250-1760.



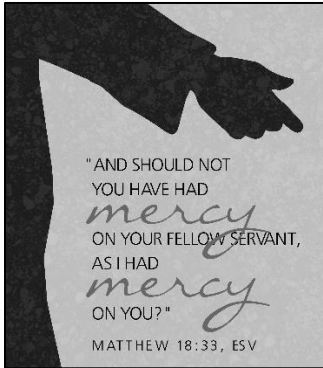
## WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 17, 2023

### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



#### “THE OUTPOURING OF GRACE”

Matthew 18:21-35

I often peer over the bridge on Broadway Avenue that crosses Silver Lake and look at the dam attempting to stop the flow of the Zumbro River there. I say attempt because the dam slows down the flow of the river, but it doesn't completely stop it- there is always excess water pouring over the top of the dam, refusing to be fully contained.

In our text this week, Jesus tells the story of the ungrateful servant. This servant owed a large debt to his lord which he could not pay. To avoid being sold along with his entire family, the slave begged for forgiveness, “Have patience with me and I will pay you everything.” His lord felt pity for him and forgave all his debt. Yet as he was leaving his lord's chamber, he ran into another servant that owed him a debt and he demanded payment. When this servant couldn't pay, he refused to forgive him and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

The story makes me think a little bit about that dam at Silver Lake. The Lord of the ungrateful servant has decided to shower him with grace, to forgive all his debts. This unbelievable good news, this new lease on life, has been poured out upon the servant. The recipient of grace and generosity and forgiveness this servant now has the opportunity to be a part of the continued flow of grace through the world. He has been made new and empowered to show grace and forgiveness himself, to be a part of what God is doing in the world, and instead he tries his very best to stop this outpouring of God's grace, to dam up the flow of forgiveness. He refuses to show to another the grace he has received.

Each week in our Sunday worship when praying the Lord's Prayer together we say, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” We pray this to remind us all that God has forgiven us, to remind us of the grace we have received. And we pray it also to remind us that we are called to be conduits of this gracious love, to aid its flow through the world wherever and whenever we can. If you have an opportunity to show grace to someone in the coming days, welcome the opportunity, allow yourself to be a part of the flowing of God's grace into the world. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

**This Sunday, Communion** will be served by intinction. If you prefer, prepackaged Communion elements are available in the Narthex or from an usher.

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	9/17	11:15 AM	Confirmation
Tue	9/19	7:30 AM	Men's Group - Denny's on S. Broadway
		10:30 AM	Book Group
		2:00 PM	Bible Study Zoom
		6:30 PM	Cabinet - Hybrid. Please review packet before meeting.
Wed	9/20	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	9/21	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Fri	9/22	6:00 PM	Family Promise Host Night

**WE NEED YOU FOR FAMILY PROMISE HOST NIGHT** - Family Promise is an organization that provides housing and support services to families experiencing homelessness in Rochester. One way that we support their work is by hosting Family Nights at the church which consists of a meal and some games and activities for the children to enjoy. This provides a free meal to the families, space and time for recreation for the kids, and an opportunity to get to know and serve our neighbors. Our next Family Night with Family Promise is scheduled for **Friday, September 22**. If you're able to help with dinner, provide a ride, or hang out and play with some children, email Sarah at [church@congoroch.org](mailto:church@congoroch.org).

**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** -Our Semi-Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, September 24** following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting will be to present and discuss our 2024 Plan for Ministry and proposed budget.

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN!** Whether you're in church on Sundays or watching from home, members or friends, we want you to be part of our new pictorial directory. Photo sessions are **September 28-30** and each family photographed receives a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. **To sign up** go to our church website [www.congoroch.org](http://www.congoroch.org), and under the News & Events page, scroll to Sign-Up Quick Links. Use Church Code *mn356* and Church Password *photos*.

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#### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMING BEGINS

Zoom links\* found at [www.congoroch.org/adult-education](http://www.congoroch.org/adult-education)

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**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** meets on Tuesday afternoons at 2 PM. This will be offered via Zoom\* (passcode: congo). We will be reading the Acts of the Apostles together, moving through one chapter each week. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us on any Tuesday they are available, and no prior knowledge or attendance is needed to participate and enjoy our Bible study.

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**WE'RE GOING TO CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH'S 165TH BIRTHDAY!** Members and friends - both old and new - are invited to join us in **worship and a potluck after, on Sunday, October 1**. We are clearing all after church activities that day, in the hope that we can all gather for a wonderful worship experience and then follow with fellowship and great food! Bring your favorite hot dish, side dish/salad, dessert, or buns for pulled pork. Volunteers are also needed on Saturday for room set-up, and on Sunday for room re-set and dishwasher. To help us plan, please **signup** to attend and/or volunteer on the poster in the Narthex or online at [www.congoroch.org/news-events](http://www.congoroch.org/news-events).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED FOR OCTOBER 8** - Pastor Shannon will be worshipping this morning with Wayzata Community Church to observe their Parables ministry and we need someone to teach our kids! A lesson plan will be provided with all the supplies and you will be joined by one of our nursery helpers to pitch in. If you can help out, please contact [pastorshannon@congorocho.org](mailto:pastorshannon@congorocho.org) .



**YOUTH BELL CHOIR** (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) - **We're looking to find some rehearsal times** for the students' schedules, as the proposed Wednesday dates didn't work. We need to fill all the bell spots to ring 2-3 octaves of music. The kids who participated last year did so well, so I'm hopeful we can carve out some time to get the Youth Bell choir up and running! Please contact Karmen Gusa with your availability and stay tuned!

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) - Rehearsal after church will begin Sunday, October 15, 22 & 29 from 11:15-11:45 AM; sing during worship on Sunday, November 5.

**THANK YOU TO CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS!** Many thanks to the 10 people who volunteered their time and energy in our third group volunteer session on September 8: Janet Bartz; Ellen Bolterman; Vicki and Ronan Couch; LuAnn and John Nicholson; Tanner Osborn; Cheryl and Bob Roediger; and Cathy Swessel!



They created food boxes for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). They assembled the boxes, filled them with 23 items of food each, and put 246 completed boxes on 40-box pallets. Food this month: 2 boxes of cereal; 1 bottle of fruit juice; 2 packages of lactose-free milk; 1 jar of peanut butter; 1 package of spaghetti; 1 bag of rice; 1 can each of chicken, chili and applesauce; and 2 cans each of pinto beans, mixed vegetables, potatoes, green beans, tomatoes, and apricot halves. That's a total of 5,658 food items!

CSFP is a USDA program for low-income people over the age of 60 who live in a facility that does not provide meals. Channel One volunteers deliver a monthly food package and a newsletter with healthy eating and other educational information to those who are enrolled in the program.

Our congregation's recurring group sessions in the Food Bank occur on the second Friday of each month from 9:00-11:00 AM. The next one is October 13. You must use [our unique link](https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=823703) to sign up: [https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need\\_id=823703](https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=823703). Hope to see you there!



### THANK YOU FROM HAWTHORNE HELPS

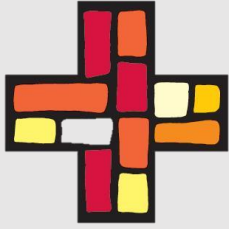
WOW! What a blessing The Congregational Church is to Hawthorne Education Center adult students. 180 essential items were collected and will be distributed through Hawthorne Helps in the next few weeks. The incredibly generous \$1,000 donation will be used to cover the entire cost of 1 full month's service in addition to the purchase of winter gloves to supplement our Fall winter wear distribution. In this past school year 2022-2023, over 21,000 student shoppers received 3-4 essential items per person per visit which represents at least 73,773 items purchased or donated. In Fall 2022, approximately 400 winter items were given out. In Spring 2023, 325 garden plants were shared. Throughout the school year 530 bags of school supplies were packed and distributed to each new student with a welcome note.



Thank you for your continued support,

Sandy MacLaughlin, Hawthorne Helps Program Coordinator





# WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 24, 2023

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



**THIS SUNDAY**, September 24<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Shannon Smith’s message is “The First Will Be Last” and the scripture reading is Matthew 20:1-16. **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP, there will be a Congregational Meeting** to present and discuss our 2024 Plan for Ministry, proposed budget and church governance. A Zoom option is available and a meeting link will be provided to voting members in a separate email.

### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	9/24	11:00 AM	Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Tue	9/26	2:00 PM	Bible Study Zoom
		6:30 PM	Book Study Zoom – 5 <sup>th</sup> Stream of the UCC
Wed	9/27	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	9/28	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir

**PICTORIAL SESSIONS ARE THIS WEEK – Thursday-Saturday, September 28-30 by appointment. If you still need to sign up**, go to [www.congoroch.org/news-events](http://www.congoroch.org/news-events) and scroll to Sign-Up Quick Links. Use Church Code **mn356** and Church Password **photos**. Each family photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a church directory.

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**NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, WE WILL COLLECT A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)**, a special mission of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. **One-third** of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). **Two-thirds** of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. **Special offering envelopes will be available in the chair pocket, or indicate “NIN” in the memo line of your check or PayPal.**

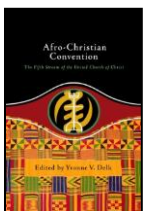


**PRAYERS OF COMFORT AND GOD’S PRESENCE** with the family and friends of **Karen Canzanello** who was born into eternal life on September 16, 2023. Visitation will be on **Friday, September 29 from 5:00-7:30 PM** at Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home (5421 Royal Place NW, Rochester, MN). A private memorial service will be held for family and close friends. To see Karen's obituary, go to [www.ranfranzandvinefh.com/obituaries](http://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com/obituaries)



**PRAYERS OF COMFORT AND GOD'S PRESENCE** with the family and friends of **Sherry Lawrence** who was born into eternal life on September 16, 2023. A Memorial Service will be at The Congregational Church on **Friday, October 6 at 11:00 AM, with a reception immediately following in Fellowship Hall.** To see Sherry's obituary, go to [www.ranfranzandvinefh.com/obituaries](http://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com/obituaries).

**SEVERAL VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED on Friday, October 6** for the luncheon reception, for as little as one hour and most tasks are light in nature. Please use the SignUp link at [www.congoroch.org/news-events](http://www.congoroch.org/news-events) to indicate your participation, OR contact the church office. The signup includes the times needing to be filled and a brief description of the tasks. The ministry of remembrance is an important one for our faith community and the ministry is only possible when many hands work together. Please prayerfully consider how you can assist. If you have questions, contact Cindy Swessel Hofer or Janet Bartz.



**THE 5-WEEK BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES** on the newly acknowledged 5<sup>th</sup> Stream of the United Church of Christ – the Afro-Christian Convention will **begin Tuesday, September 26 on Zoom from 6:30 – 7:45 PM.** If you have signed-up you will be receiving a Zoom link and study guide in an email, and is also available at [www.congoroch.org/adult-education](http://www.congoroch.org/adult-education). There is reading to be done prior to the meeting, and the book is easy to read and understand. New participants, please contact the church office so we can order a book for you.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED FOR OCTOBER 8

Pastor Shannon will be worshipping this morning with Wayzata Community Church to observe their Parables ministry and we need someone to teach our kids! A lesson plan will be provided with all the supplies and you will be joined by one of our nursery helpers to pitch in. If you can help out, please contact [pastorshannon@congoroch.org](mailto:pastorshannon@congoroch.org).



### CHANNEL ONE'S EMPTY BOWLS TO-GO EVENT NEEDS YOU!

It's that time of year again when you can add variety to your take-out options—and also help those with food insecurity – by participating in Channel One Regional Food Bank and Food Shelf's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Empty Bowls fund-raiser. Gourmet soups and bread provided by local restaurants are pre-ordered online and then picked up on **Tuesday, October 10 or Wednesday, October 11.** You have the option to receive a free hand-painted bowl with your food – perhaps one of those that our congregation painted on August 10. There are also special artisan-created bowls you may purchase.

**Ordering online is open now and ends Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 PM.** The details:

- Choose from 8 delicious soups from 8 different restaurants.
- Soups come in two sizes: 12 ounces for \$20 and 16 ounces for \$25.
- Order as much soup as you want. Consider ordering for that day's meal and also some extras for meals to enjoy later.
- Pickup will be at Powers Ventures Catering, 2112 2nd St SW. You choose your pickup date and time when you order. Pickup times are 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
- See the soup choices, place your order and purchase specialty bowls at [www.helpingfeedpeople.org/empty-bowls/order/](http://www.helpingfeedpeople.org/empty-bowls/order/)
- If you prefer not to order soup or a bowl, you can still participate by sending your monetary donation to Channel One at [www.helpingfeedpeople.org/donate/donate-paypal/](http://www.helpingfeedpeople.org/donate/donate-paypal/)

As people of faith, we are called to help our neighbors. All funds raised from Empty Bowls will directly benefit those who are facing food insecurity. In July 2023, Channel One served more than **25,000 households** in the 14 counties it serves. Thank you for participating!